

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

F780011-0276 RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

25-M  
Action  
ARA

Control: 4146  
Rec'd: March 10, 1952  
4:31 p.m.

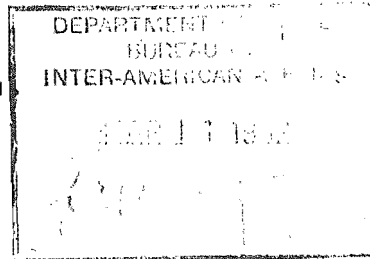
FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 599, March 10, 1 p.m.

NIACT.

PASS ARMY, NAVY, AIR.



Fol mil movement which apparently began about 4 this morning  
Gen Batista has taken over Habana practically without opposition.

Batista is at Camp Columbia and is acting as army chief staff  
while Col Cantillo, former head Air Force, has agreed serve as  
adjutant gen. Col Cantillo states all mil forces in country  
behind Batista. However, at least one radio station Camaguey  
broadcasting in favor Prio an hour ago.

Small mil force in fifth district Habana under Col Perez Alonso  
reported early this morning be still loyal to govt but nothing  
heard recently and apparently no fighting in Habana so presumably  
it also has joined revolt.

Two persons reported killed at Pres Palace early this morning.  
About eight this morning Palace press secy gave me copy declara-  
tion which he said Prio had drawn up in Pres Palace claiming mil  
in provinces loyal to govt and exhorting people resist. However  
Batista forces in charge radio stations and declaration not to  
broadcast. It has just been published by press however.

Pres Prio left Palace 8:30. His present whereabouts unknown.

The four generals of Cuban Army under arrest in Batista's finca  
near Habana. Col Cantillo accepted post adjutant gen after  
consulting former chief of staff, Caberera, who is one of those  
under arrest.

Consulate Santiago and consular agent at Camaguey report all  
quiet. One station Santiago broadcast Commie charge US insti-  
gated revolt to get troops for Korea. Station now off air.

CTC gen strike in favor Prio forecast.

Airport and dockworkers reported ordered out on strike. Jmujal\*  
reported in custody.

Coastguard

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

DC/R 737.00/3-1052  
Central files

HH

F780011-0277

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

-2- #599, March 10, 1 p.m. from Habana.

Coastguard cutter NEMESIS in Habana in connection yacht races returning Key West shortly. Amer yachts being encouraged return home.

Batista has sent me two messages saying he wishes cooperate with US and that his regime will fulfill its international obligations.

BEAULAC

BA:DGP

NOTE: Mr. Wellman (MID) notified 5:35 p.m., 3/10/52 CWO-M.  
Relayed to Army, Navy, Air 3/10/52 5 p.m. CLEM  
\*As received.

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

UNRESTRICTED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TELEPHONE

DC / R

F780011-0284

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: March 10, 1952

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Espinosa, Minister Counselor, Cuban Embassy  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
ARA - Miss Johnston

1-1493

In response to Dr. Espinosa's question, Mr. Wellman informed him of the substance of the reports which had been received from Habana indicating that in most cases the Embassy could not corroborate the information received.

Dr. Espinosa informed Mr. Wellman that he had just had a telephone conversation with Ambassador Camejo in the Cuban Foreign Office in Habana. Ambassador Camejo told Dr. Espinosa that everything was very much confused. Camejo stated that the Foreign Minister was apparently under guard at his home, but he couldn't confirm this.

Control Files

737:00/3-1052

MAR 18 1952

FILED

UNCLASSIFIED

ARA:MID: *[initials]* Wellman:dwm

X 061502

737:00/3-1052  
CS/H

~~RESTRICTED~~  
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MAR 13 1952

DATE: March 10, 1952

*Office Memorandum*  
TO : ARA - Mr. Mayn  
Mr. Miller  
FROM : MID - Mr. Wellman  
SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

We have had confirmation from our Embassy at Habana of the following:

1. The Batista Coup d'Etat occurred about 4 a.m. this morning as far as the Embassy can determine. Batista is apparently in control of all the military services in the Habana area (Army, Navy and Air Force) and of all strong points in that area. By taking over radio and telephone facilities he has been able to insulate Habana from the rest of the country, which is quiet and has only rumors of the revolution.

2. The Palace Press Officer informed Ambassador Beaulac this morning that Prió had come in from his residence at 5:30 a.m. and at 7:15 had left for the Capitol to try to assemble a legislature. Neither the Press Officer nor the Embassy had any further information at that time (9:50 a.m.) of the whereabouts of the President. The Palace Press Officer also stated that two military officers had been killed in the Palace. He also said that the President had issued a statement but had not been able to get it out over the radio. The statement was apparently that Army commanders in the provinces had assured him of their loyalty. The Embassy could not vouch for the accuracy of these statements by the Palace Press Officer.

3. The Foreign Minister, Sanchez Arango, was under house arrest.

4. Hevia had sent his Diplomatic Aide to the Embassy to state that it would be very convenient if Washington made a statement that it does not recognize military coups d'etat. Tom Crain replied that we would be watching developments closely.

5. In Habana the situation was quiet. At strong points, such as Punta and Chorera, many armed soldiers were in evidence but were in relaxed attitudes.

The

X 081567

737.00/3-1052  
Central Files

737.00/3-1052  
CS/H

F780011-0286

RESTRICTED

-2-

The press contains additional reports that the President and cabinet members were under arrest, and that the Presidential Palace was being turned over to Batista. There has been no confirmation as yet from the Embassy of these reports. The press also reports that a Batista man is in command of Fort Cabañas whose guns dominate the capital and also the National Police. The press also states that the Army had taken over the international airport at Rancho Boyeros and that no planes were being permitted to leave, although ~~that~~ in-bound flights continued.

The press reported but could not confirm that Batista had issued an order suspending Constitutional guarantees for 45 days.

Further communications <sup>from</sup> ~~with~~ the Embassy may confirm some of the above press reports and will be transmitted to you as soon as received.

ARA:MID: ~~RA~~ellman:dwm

RESTRICTED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ARA - Mr. Mann  
Mr. Miller

FROM : MID - Mr. Wellman

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

F780611-0287

DATE: March 10, 1952

Ambassador Beaulac gave me the following additional information by telephone at 2:15 p.m.:

1. Batista seems to have the situation well in hand in Habana. He is in control of the Palace, has announced the names of his cabinet (with the position of President and Prime Minister left vacant), and has reportedly issued a decree suspending Constitutional guarantees for 45 days. Batista's Minister of State is Emeterio Santovenia. Moreover, he appears to have gained support of Army detachments all over the island, not merely in Habana.

2. Prio has not been heard from since he left the Palace at 8:30 a.m. (Immigration has just informed us that he is expected momentarily in Miami.) Sanchez Arango continues under house arrest.

3. Batista has sent word to Ambassador Beaulac that he wants to cooperate with the United States and will respect Cuba's international obligations.

4. Batista is speaking to the Cuban people at 4 p.m. this afternoon.

5. Although the situation is quiet in Habana, the dock and port workers have gone on strike against the revolt and there are speeches both for Prio and for Batista at the University.

6. The Cuban armed forces have taken over with great jubilation.

cc - Miss Johnston

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

ARA:MID: Wellman:dwm

737.00/3-1052

CS/H

737.00/3-1052

MAR 18 1952

FILED

X 081566

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 820723 Rabasa

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

F780011-0288

TELEPHONE  
**Memorandum of Conversation**

DATE: March 10, 1952  
(9:50 a.m.)

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Habana

PARTICIPANTS: Tom Crain, American Embassy, Habana  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
ARA - Miss Johnston  
MID - Mr. Nufer

Mr. Crain informed Mr. Wellman that the Embassy had called Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey and everything is quiet there, although they have heard rumors of things happening in Habana. As far as the Embassy can ascertain the coup d'etat took place about 4 a.m. this morning. Batista is supposed to be in control at Camp Colombia. All four generals, including the Chief of Staff, are under arrest and at Batista's farm. The head of the Air Force is supposed to be at his home under arrest. The Army and Navy in Habana at least seem to have gone over to Batista, including Cabañas. Tabernilla, who was at one time Inspector General of the Army and commanding officer of the 7th Artillery Regiment, is reported in command at Cabañas. The man that was there must be under arrest or has gone over. Apparently the 5th Regiment has not indicated which way it is going, but as it is only about a battalion it wouldn't make much difference.

Mr. Crain stated that the Palace Press Officer spoke to Ambassador Beaulac and told him that Prío came from his residence at 5:30 this morning, that at 7:15 he left to go to the Capitol to assemble a legislature. The Press Officer hadn't seen the President since then and doesn't know if he ever got there. There is no rumor or information of any personal harm to Prío. The Embassy heard just recently that a white flag had gone up over the Palace,

but

1-1403  
DC/R Central Files  
737.00/3-1052

737.00/3-1052  
CS/H

X 001615

but had not yet been able to check. The Ambassador was told by the Palace Press Officer that two military officers had been killed in the Palace. Mr. Crain said that the Embassy could not guarantee the accuracy of that statement. The Press Officer told the Ambassador that the President had issued a statement but that he can't get it out over the radio. The radio stations are sending out only music; no news. Apparently the President's statement was to the effect that the Army commanders in the provinces had assured him of their loyalty but he can't get the statement out to the people.

The Foreign Minister, Sanchez Arango, was apparently the first man arrested this morning. He is under house arrest. The whole cabinet was out, although Prime Minister Gans said that he would continue in office until the President chose a successor. The Embassy thought that Gans was just disgruntled because he had been left out of a senatorship candidacy. Upon resigning he made a statement that he had nothing to say yet in response to a question whether he was breaking with President Prió.

Carlos Hevia is near his home, but nothing has happened to him yet. Hevia sent his Diplomatic Aide, Figueroa, to the Embassy to tell the latter that it would be very convenient if Washington made a statement to the effect that it does not recognize military coups d'etat. Crain said that he had informed him that we will be watching developments.

The Ambassador has been very busy getting information since 5 a.m. this morning. Mr. Crain stated there was very little traffic and absolutely no excitement when he came into town. The Punta was full of sailors manning the ramparts with rifles. At Chorera sailors sat around in arm chairs and taking it easy. There is a fairly relaxed attitude. Whether or not this is an accomplished fact the Embassy cannot tell, but it seems to be an accomplished fact.

In response to Mr. Wellman's response, Mr. Crain stated that the telephone and telegraph systems are open. He said that the Army has taken over both the radio and telephone systems and that their telephone conversation was undoubtedly being monitored.



F780011-0290

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 10, 1952

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Beaulac  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
ARA - Miss Johnston

1-1493

Ambassador Beaulac telephoned Mr. Wellman at 6:30 a.m. to state that the Embassy had received reports which were probably true that a bloodless coup d'etat had been executed in Habana. He said that it was reported that ex-President Batista was in control of Camp Columbia and that President Prío was out. He said that the reports were based on information from two sources: (1) a UP press correspondent who had communicated with Tom Crain; and (2) an officer of the United States Naval Mission who had obtained this information from one Calderón in the Navy Department.

Ambassador Beaulac requested that this information be transmitted to the United States Army, Navy and Air Force authorities. (Mr. Wellman communicated this information at about 7:30 a.m. to Colonel Sharp of Army Intelligence upon advice of Colonel Sharkey, and at Colonel Sharp's request repeated it to Colonel Pilliod, Duty Officer at the Pentagon. Colonel Pilliod stated that he had a similar report from General Bolling and also had seen a UP dispatch. He asked if Mr. Wellman could confirm the information that Ambassador Beaulac had asked the Service Attachés to remain in quarters. Mr. Wellman said that he could not do so.)

Ambassador

RESTRICTED  
UNCLASSIFIED

737.00/3-1052

737.00/3-1052  
CS/H

RESTRICTED

-2-

Ambassador Beaulac said that someone in the new faction would probably be approaching him and that he would eventually require instructions.

Ambassador Beaulac pointed out that some persons might attempt to establish a connection between this coup d'etat and the signature on March 7 of the military grant aid agreement with Cuba. He said that the Department should be considering what its position would be on this.

Ambassador Beaulac recommended that the projected visit of the Courier to Habana be cancelled in view of these developments.

Prior to coming to the office, Mr. Wellman informed Mr. Miller, Mr. Mann, Mr. Nufer, Mr. Rubottom and Mr. Jamison of the substance of the communication from the Ambassador.

UNCLASSIFIED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TELEPHONE

DC/R  
file

F780011-0292

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 10, 1952  
2:15 p.m.

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Beaulac  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
ARA - Miss Johnston

1-1403

Ambassador Beaulac stated there is a telegram on its way now on this matter. He said that Batista seemed to be very well in control as far as Habana is concerned and has possession of the Palace. He stated that military detachments throughout the island have now given Batista their support.

The Ambassador stated there is no disorder except for speeches reported in the University grounds. The Ambassador had been told that some of them are on behalf of Batista and some on behalf of Prio. He said that about two hours ago there was one radio station in Camaguey that was broadcasting on behalf of President Prio. There was also a station from Santiago broadcasting on behalf of the communists and claiming that the U.S. had done all this in order to get troops for Korea.

Ambassador Beaulac said that Batista had announced the formation of a cabinet and gave the following names:

Presidency and Prime Minister vacant  
Finance - Garcia Reynery  
Education - Andres Rivero Aguero  
Agriculture - Alfredo Jacomino  
Interior - Ramon Hermida  
Justice - Miguel Angel Cespedes

State

737.00/3-1052  
DC/R Central Files

737.00/3-1052  
QS/H

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

-2-

State - Emeterio Santovenia  
Commerce - Rafael Santos Jimenez  
Communications - Oscar de la Torre  
Defense - Colacho Perez  
Health - Enrique Saladrigas  
Public Works - Mendigucia  
Secretary of the Presidency - Morales del Castillo  
Labor - Marino Lopez Blanco

Ambassador Beaulac asked that the Navy Department hold up visits of warships to Cuba. He said that no Americans were in trouble.

Mr. Wellman asked if the Embassy had confirmation that President Prio and his cabinet are under arrest. The Ambassador replied that Prio, accompanied by his brother, Francisco, an Army colonel, and one other person, left the Palace by car at 8:30 a.m. this morning. The Embassy has no idea where they went.

The Ambassador stated that Alerta, the only paper which had appeared today, had published a statement re the decree suspending Constitutional guarantees for 45 days. Batista is giving a speech this afternoon at 4 p.m.

The Ambassador informed Mr. Wellman that the Coast Guard ship Nemesis and the yachts have been advised to return.

The Ambassador stated the port and dock workers are on strike against the revolt.

Mr. Wellman asked if Batista plans to install Carlos Saladrigas as Provisional President. The Ambassador replied that he wouldn't be surprised if it were true but that there is no announcement of it yet.

Mr. Wellman informed the Ambassador that the Department is being pressed for a statement to the press and that some statement will have to be made later today. He said that the Department had restricted itself to saying to the press this morning that the reports were too fragmentary to make any statement.

The Ambassador stated that Batista had sent a message to him stating that he wants to cooperate with the United States and will respect Cuba's international obligations.

Ambassador Beaulac said he would call Mr. Wellman again this afternoon after Batista's speech.

He

F780011-0294

RESTRICTED

-3-

He stated that the Cuban Army had taken over with great jubilation; the soldiers were cheering, etc.

Mr. Wellman asked if Sanchez Arango were the only cabinet minister under arrest. Ambassador Beaulac stated he hadn't heard of any others being under arrest. He said that Sanchez Arango had sent him a message that he was worried because the military assistance agreement hadn't been sent to the United Nations.

ARA:MID: ~~Wellman~~ :dwm

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 820723 Rabasa

~~RESTRICTED~~  
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE  
**Memorandum of Conversation**

DC/H  
file  
F780011-0295

DATE: March 10, 1952  
6:35 p.m.

SUBJECT: Batista's Address to Cuban Nation

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Beaulac  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
ARA - Miss Johnston  
DRA

1-1493

Ambassador Beaulac first called at 6 p.m. to state that Batista had just begun to speak. He said that there was no particular change since the afternoon and that the country seemed to be under the control of Batista.

Ambassador Beaulac telephoned again at 6:35 p.m. to give the Department the substance of Batista's address as follows:

Batista had been forced by circumstances to take over control of Cuba. His action was a peace-gesture and he had no ambition. He referred on the other hand to his own honest elections in 1944 and to the dishonesty and crime of the Prio Administration which had brought the country to the verge of chaos.

He charged that Prio had intended to suspend elections on April 15 because his candidate could not win. He also charged that a series of attempts against the lives of various persons was to be made. He said that he would give guarantees of order, progress and justice.

Batista pledged that Cuba would carry out her obligations under United Nations agreements and under treaties and pacts of international character.

UNCLASSIFIED

Ambassador

737.00/3-1052

CS/H

X 061653

RESTRICTED

-2-

Ambassador Beaulac stated that as far as the Embassy knows no one had been named President yet. He said that the press secretary of the Palace was reported to have stated that Saladrigas had been named President. There was no confirmation of this and also no confirmation of a report that Saladrigas had refused to become President. Ambassador Beaulac stated that the press had stated Batista would become Prime Minister but that he had said nothing about it in his speech.

Ambassador Beaulac asked Mr. Wellman what he knew about a UP release that the State Department had announced the arrival of Prio at Miami. Mr. Wellman stated he knew nothing about any such release but informed Ambassador Beaulac that the Immigration and Naturalization Service had requested the Department's recommendation regarding the admission of Prio who was expected in Miami without documents. Mr. Wellman told the Ambassador that the Department had recommended that he be admitted as a political refugee. Ambassador Beaulac concurred.

Ambassador Beaulac stated that he ~~has~~ has it from good sources that all enlisted men in the Army, Navy and police have been informed that their pay will be raised by \$50 per month.

Ambassador Beaulac reported that everything was quiet. He said that Camaguey was quiet and that a Prio Colonel had been replaced by a Batista Colonel there. He said there had been no communication with Santiago since that morning. He said that everything was quiet at Nicaro.

Ambassador Beaulac repeated that the events of the day had come as a complete surprise to everyone there.

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

3/11/52, 8:40 a.m.

CORRECTED COPY

U

F780011-0280 RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

Control: 4183

Rec'd: March 10, 1952

7:35 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 604, March 10, 5 p.m.

NIACT

Mujal's arrest ordered but he fled. He sent request to this Emb for asylum which was declined. Ruben de Leon former Minister Defense called on telephone to say he was coming to Emb to speak to me but never showed up. Consuls agent Tait in Camaguey reports colonel in charge garrison there said prior two p.m., he was supporting constitution and Prio. Sugar workers Camaguey province proceeding Camaguey tonight receive orders from syndicate leaders.

Batista broadcast which was announced for 4 p.m., has not yet taken place which may reflect difficulty filling post of provisional President although Palace press officer has said Saladrigas accepted. Nevertheless, this not announced over radio and one rumor is he declined.

No recent news from Santiago, Habana quiet.

BEAULAC

SW:JRL

Note: Mr. Wellman (MID) notified 8:40 p.m., 3/10/52 -CWO-M.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED  
TO DC/R 737.00/3-1052  
Central Files

937.00/3-1052



Department of State

ACTION COPY

F780011-0281

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

26  
Action

ARA

FROM: Habana

Control: 4204  
Rec'd: March 10, 1952  
9:21 p.m.

Info

SS

G

SAM

P

OLI

CIA

ARMY

AIR

NAVY

DCR

DCRM

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 605, March 10, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MAR 11 1952

PRIORITY.

Consular Agent Tate telephoned from Camaguey as follows:

"Colonel who this morning announced support of Prío removed and succeeded by a Lt. Colonel who supports Batista. Army garrison Camaguey now for Batista.

Meeting workers scheduled this afternoon was prohibited. Army ordered stores reopen and striking bus drivers resume operation busses.

Office employees Consolidated Railways on strike and line workers threaten strike. Local labor leaders called on sugar workers to strike tonight but did not (repeat not) know if order will be carried out."

BEAULAC

BA:MAM

Document Must Be Returned to  
DC/R Central Files  
737.00/3-1052

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

HH

Department of State  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

**ACTION COPY**

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
UNCLASSIFIED

7-B

F780011-0282

Action

ARA

Info

SS

G

SAM

PSB

P

IIA

R

OLI

CIA

ARMY

AIR

NAVY

ICR

DC FM

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 607, March 10

Control: 4306

Rec'd: March 11, 1952

2:04 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MAR 11 1952

NIACT.

Batista addressed Cuban people nationwide hookup six p.m. today from Camp Colombia. Said sought not power but peace and end graft and crime which impossible continue tolerate; said Prio, lacking confidence his candidate (Hevia) would win, planned numerous attempts against persons lives suspend election April 15 and perpetuate self in power. Batista said would establish regime based on order progress justice; said government would remain in power only for time indispensable achieve those ends then hold election; said revolutionary movement respected all United Nations commitments and would fulfill all agreements, pacts, obligations and international treaties. He asked support people and press. New Minister Education announced all schools reopen tomorrow. National Airlines announced resumption normal services to United States tomorrow.

BEAULAC

SMD:RMO

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED  
TO DC/R  
CENTRAL  
FILES  
737.00/3-1052

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Department of State  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
TELEGRAM BRANCH  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

**ACTION COPY**

**F780011-0283**

6-B  
Action

ARA

Info

SS

G

SAM

PSB

P

IIA

OLI

CIA

ARMY

AIR

NAVY

DCR

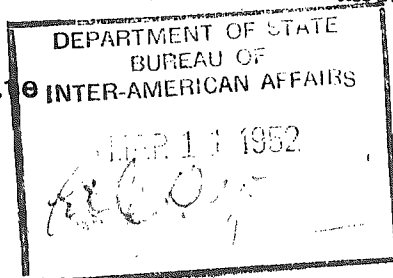
DCRM

**FROM: Habana**

**TO: Secretary of State**

**NO: 608 March 10.**

**NIACT**



**Control: 4305**

**Rec'd: March 11, 1952  
2:04 a.m.**

Controlled Radio announced tonight Batista new Prime Minister General Francisco Tabanilla new Army Chief of Staff; latter commanded Cabanas fortress in former Batista regime.

Was announced also salaries policemen raised to 150 pesos and army and navy enlisted men up 10 pesos per month.

**BEAULAC**

**JAK:CWW**

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
**737.00/3-1052**

**PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

**REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED**

Department of State  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

**ACTION COPY**

26 F780011-0279

Action  
ARA  
FROM: Habana  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 602, March 10.

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
TELEGRAPH ROOM  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
Control: 4151  
Rec'd: March 10, 1952  
4:47 p.m.  
MAR 11 1952  
302

Info  
SS  
G  
SAM  
P  
OLI  
CIA  
ARMY  
AIR  
NAVY  
DCR  
DCRM

Controlled radio announces following cabinet: State: Emeterio Santovenia; Defense: Nicolas Perez; Interior: Ramon Hermida; Justice: Miguel Angel Cespedes; Finance: Justo Garcia Reynery; Education: Andres Rivero Aguero; Commerce: Rafael Santos Jimenez; Communications: Oscar de la Torre; Propaganda: Ernesto de la Fe; Labor: Mario Lopez Blanco; Health: Enrique Saladrigas; Agriculture: Alfredo Jacomino; Public Works: Jose A. Mendigutia; Secretary to President: Andres Domingo Morales del Castillo.

BEAULAC

AB:KL

NOTE: Mr. Wellman (MID) notified 5:55 p.m. 3/10/52 . CWO-M

This Document Must Be Returned to  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1052

HH

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

**UNCLASSIFIED**

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

Department of State

ACTION COPY

25-M  
Action  
ARA

F780011-0278

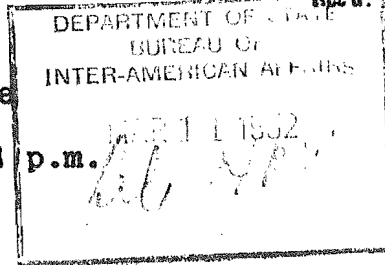
TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

Control: 4150  
Rec'd: March 10, 1952  
4:44 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 601, March 10, 3 p.m.



NIACT.

Batista will broadcast at 4. He has made statement promising maintenance order, compliance internatl obligations, announcing suspension constitutional guarantees 45 days.

Grau arrested by Navy and taken Camp Columbia where Batista released him.

Whereabouts Prio still unknown. Presidential Palace and presumably all other govt buildings Habana in charge "revolutionary govt of Gen Batista".

Despite numerous rumors Carlos Saladrigas wld be named acting Pres no announcement to that effect has been made.

City quiet.

BEAULAC

AB:RAW

NOTE: Mr. Wellman (MID) notified 5:35 p.m., 3/10/52, CWO-M.

This Document Must Be Returned to  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1052

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

EMBAJADA DE CUBA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAR 15 1952

AM

*Delivered to Mr.  
Wellman by Mr.  
Espinoza on informal  
unofficial basis 3-13-52.*

*ALT*

ACTION  
is assigned to

*ALT*

RECEIVED  
DEPT OF STATE

MAR 15 AM 11 17 '52

RECORDS BRANCH

PROCLAMA SOBRE LOS PROPOSITOS Y ESTATUTOS  
DEL NUEVO GOBIERNO

*7th -  
no action necessary*  
*DR*

"La Junta Revolucionaria ha resuelto que asuma la Jefatura del Estado y que me haga cargo de organizar y dirigir los Poderes Ejecutivo y Legislativo, resignando en mí, asesorado por el Consejo de Ministros, todos sus poderes y funciones.

"He aceptado el imperioso mandato después de haberseme notificado por la propia Junta Revolucionaria de la inminencia de un Golpe de Estado fraguado por el Presidente saliente para el día 15 de abril próximo, con objeto de evitar la decisión electoral señalada para el primero de junio del corriente año, a cuyo hecho se une el hondo malestar de todas las autoridades civiles, los institutos militares y la opinión pública por la connivencia de altos jefes del Gobierno, con conocidos delincuentes.

"Repetidas veces advertí al ex-presidente doctor Carlos Prío Socarrás la gravedad de la situación que creaba su ligera actitud echando de lado la majestad del poder moderador y de solidaridad nacional que le venía impuesto por la Constitución, y lejos de atender a la voz que lo llamaba al cumplimiento de su deber, cada día tomaba mayores relieves su disolvente actuación, convirtiéndose de hecho en el eje y centro de todas las perturbaciones que han venido desorganizando al país.

This Document Must Be Returned to  
DO/R  
Central  
737.00/3-1052

3 / MD

"Preocupado por la falta de garantías para la vida y hacienda de los habitantes de este país y la corrupción política y administrativa imperantes, y solo por eso, he aceptado la responsabilidad de permanecer en el Poder por el tiempo indispensable para restablecer el orden, la paz y la confianza pública, a fin de que, tan pronto se logren esos objetivos, pueda resignar el Poder en los mandatarios que el pueblo elija.

EN TAL VIRTUD

"Primero: Asumo la Jefatura del Estado y declaro cesado en sus cargos a las personas que ejercían el Poder Ejecutivo. Este Poder se ejercerá mientras dure la situación y sean electos por el Pueblo sus gobernantes y mandatarios -por un Consejo de Ministros, en el que el Primer Ministro asumirá la Jefatura del Estado y del Gobierno, con todas las facultades que le están atribuidas al Presidente de la República por la Constitución y por las Leyes.

"Segundo: En consecuencia, el Poder Ejecutivo quedará integrado de la manera siguiente:

Primer Ministro:	General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar.
Ministro de Estado:	Dr. Miguel Angel de la Campa.
Ministro de Justicia:	Dr. Miguel A. Céspedes Cásado.
Ministro de la Presidencia:	Dr. Andrés Domínguez y Morales del Castillo.
Ministro de Defensa:	Dr. Nicolás Pérez Hernández.
Ministro de Trabajo:	Dr. Marino López Blanco.

Ministro de Salubridad:	Dr. Enrique Saladrígas y Zayas.
Ministro de Gobernación:	Sr. Ramón Hermida.
Ministro de Agricultura:	Dr. Alfredo Jacomino López.
Ministro de Obras Públicas:	Ing. José A. Mendigutia.
Ministro de Educación:	Dr. Andrés Rivero Aguero.
Ministro de Comunicaciones:	Dr. Pablo Carrera Justiz.
Ministro de Comercio:	Sr. Oscar de la Torre.
Ministro de Hacienda:	
Ministros sin Cartera:	Dra. María Gómez Carbonell; Dr. Santiago Alvarez; Sra. Julia Consuegra; Sr. Ernesto de la Fé; Sr. Justo Salas.

"Los Ministros del Gobierno y las entidades y corporaciones autónomas que nazcan de la ley, continuarán funcionando de acuerdo con su organización y las autoridades provinciales y municipales seguirán en el desempeño de sus funciones propias mientras otra cosa disponga el Consejo de Ministros.

"Tercero: Se suspenden las funciones del Congreso, pero sus miembros, funcionarios y empleados continuarán percibiendo sus emolumentos legales, hasta que otra cosa se disponga de acuerdo con las circunstancias.

"Cuarto: Se pone en vigor la Ley de Orden Pública y se prohíbe el derecho a la huelga durante cuarenta y cinco días.

"Quinto: Las familias no abrirán las puertas de sus casas, a ninguna persona que no esté revestida de autoridad competente.

"Los que posean armas clandestinas, quedan autorizadas para llamar a las Estaciones de Policía y entregarlas sin que esté obligado a dar su nombre, exonerándolos del delito



cometido por tenencia de armas de fuego sin licencia. Esta promesa estará en vigor durante cinco días, pasados los cuales caerá sobre el culpable todo el rigor de la ley.

"Sexto: Las Obras Públicas que se realizan actualmente mediante subasta pública, continuarán su realización y los contratos que amparan las contrataciones serán respetados y cumplidos.

"Septimo: "El Gobierno cumplirá los convenios y acuerdos internacionales tanto bilaterales como multilaterales o emanados de acuerdos en las Naciones Unidas, así como los compromisos contraídos por la República en el orden interior, siempre que unos y otros estén de acuerdo con la Constitución o emanen de las leyes."

"Octavo: Continúan vigentes la Constitución y las Leyes en todo cuanto no se opongan al régimen que por el presente se establece, a reserva de las modificaciones que las necesidades públicas demanden y acuerde el Consejo de Ministros.

"Inspirado en el propósito patriótico de mantener con firmeza la garantía de todos los derechos, para traer la paz, el orden y el sosiego público a la familia cubana contrabada y anheloso de prestarle un nuevo servicio a Cuba en esta hora de tribulaciones, pedimos cooperación al pueblo de Cuba en general, y especialmente a las fuerzas armadas de la Nación, a los organos manuales e intelectuales, campesinos, educadores, profesionales y patronos, al comercio, la industria y la banca, para que todos, por el bien de Cuba, nos unamos para salvar las instituciones republicanas y democráticas.

La Habana, 10 de marzo de 1952.

F780011-0300

~~RESTRICTED~~  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

## Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MID - Mr. Nafer  
ARA - Mr. Mann  
Mr. Miller *cc read*

FROM : MID - Mr. Wellman

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

DATE: March 11, 1952

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 920723 Rabasa

The following information contained in recent Habana telegrams is additional to that given in memoranda of telephone conversations on March 10 which have already been supplied you:

1. The controlled Cuban radio announced that Batista will be the new Prime Minister and that General Francisco Tabanilla (who commanded Fort Cabañas under a former government of Batista's) will be the new Army Chief of Staff.

2. Colonel Cantillo, former Chief of the Air Force, agreed after consultation with former Chief of Staff Cabrera, who had been arrested, to serve as Adjutant General of the Army.

3. In his address to the Cuban people last night Batista promised that his Government would remain in power only for the time indispensable to achieve its objectives (order, progress and justice) and then would hold elections.

4. Grau San Martin was arrested by the Navy but subsequently released by Batista.

5. Mujal, Secretary General of the Confederation of Cuban Workers, was ordered arrested but successfully fled. He sent a request to the Embassy for asylum which was declined.

6. In Camaguey there is apparently labor opposition to the revolt. Some railway workers were out on strike, others threatened strike and local labor leaders had called upon all sugar workers to strike. However, Batista elements had taken control of the Army garrison there and had prohibited a scheduled workers' meeting.

7. All schools were ordered reopened today. National Airlines announced resumption of normal service to the United States today.

~~RESTRICTED~~  
**UNCLASSIFIED**ARA:MID: *Wellman*:dwm737.00/3-1152  
DC/R Central Files

CS/H

737.00/3-1152

X 081400

INCOMING TELEGRAM

# Department of State

ACTION COPY

25

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
RESTRICTED

R

N

Action

ARA

FROM: Bogota

TO: Secretary of State

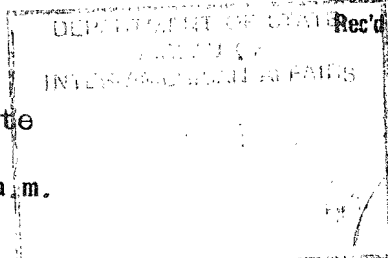
NO: 585, March 11, 10 a.m.

Control:

4647~

Rec'd:

March 11, 1952  
1:50 p.m.



Yesterday afternoon this morning papers carry lengthy UP despatches from Havana Wash NY re Cuban coup d'etat but little editorial comment so far. EL TIEMPO today carries small item deploring this victory for Amer dictators. Short facetious art edit page EL SIGLO no serious comment. No comment re recognition.

WAYNICK

PAL:MLB

This Document Must Be Returned To  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

RESTRICTED

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

HH

~~7380011-0223~~

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

UNCLASSIFIED

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

737.00/3-1152

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Embassy, Habana ~~7380011-0223~~ 1472

March 11, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embtel 599, March 10, 1 p.m. & subsequent

SUBJECT: BATISTA'S MARCH 10, 1952, COUP D'ETAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF AIR PRIORITY  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 11 1952  
enclosure

MAR 13 1952

5  
For Dept.  
Use Only

R  
E  
C  
D  
MAR  
14

A  
C  
T  
I  
O  
N  
ARA

DCR  
OLI  
IIA  
UNA  
S/S  
G

sch  
Central  
737.00/3-1152

UNCLASSIFIED

I have the honor to refer to numerous telegrams to the Department and telephone conversations with Mr. Harvey Wellman of ARA, and to enclose a brief running account of the events of March 10 as they came to my attention.

As of this morning the entire city, and apparently the entire country, is in the hands of the Batista Government. Habana has a normal appearance except for groups of armed service men at selected places and except that there is less than normal traffic on the streets. I would say also that there is much more than normal preoccupation on the faces of Cubans.

Batista's coup took place in the middle of the sugar grinding season, and in the middle of the carnival season. It took place when Cuba was preparing for what it hoped would be its fourth fair election, in June of this year. Batista himself had been largely responsible for the first two such elections, when he was a candidate for the Presidency and when Ramon GRAU San Martin was elected.

There is no doubt that the sins of the Prío Government gave concern to a great many Cubans and constituted a real and insistent provocation to elements in the country, particularly Batista and his military followers, who felt that they had the power to change things.

The impunity enjoyed by gangsters such as Policarpo Soler, the close association between gangsters and politicians, and the difficulty in many cases of distinguishing between gangsters and politicians, constituted a scandal which caused thoughtful Cubans worry and embarrassment.

Prío's Auténtico Party is led by former students of the University of Habana who distinguished themselves for their revolutionary ideas and acts while they were still in the University. Some revolutionary students became gangsters. Many had intimate association with gangsters or with persons who later became gangsters. One of these revolutionary students is Prío himself, and the tolerance that his Government exhibited toward gangsters, most or all of whom have political associations, many of them with government groups, reflected this early association.

WLBeaulac/dw

REPORTER(S)

UNCLASSIFIED

PREPARATION TIME

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 12/8/76  
OFFICE ARA  
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 15-C-544

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
INFORMATION  
(Classification)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On the other hand, it was generally recognized that the Prío regime was better than the regime of Ramón Grau San Martín, which preceded it. Toward the end of the Prío regime there was evidently much less speculation than at the beginning, and much less than during the Grau regime. Prío sponsored some excellent basic legislation which should be helpful to Cuba's economy and politics in the future. His Government, under two successive honest and capable Ministers of the Treasury, collected ample revenues and spent a large part of them in constructing numerous and useful public works. While it was generally alleged that the Government did this for political reasons, the utility of the work accomplished cannot honestly be denied. Furthermore, President Prío supported and obtained the nomination for the Presidency of Carlos Hevia, an honest and capable citizen who promised to bring still further improvement into the conduct of Cuba's Government, if elected.

Also, while the Prío regime cannot be said to have been popular, it is unlikely that Batista could have polled as many votes in honest elections as Carlos Hevia. The group the Government was afraid of from the electoral standpoint was the Ortodoxos, not the Batista group.

Many Cubans undoubtedly feel this morning that the old revolutionary group which was largely responsible for ousting Machado was bound to be thrown out of office sooner or later. The early idealism of the group, to the extent that it existed, had degenerated in many cases into personal self-seeking and license. Public office had been used as a means of advancing the immediate interests of persons and groups, in many cases dishonestly. Democracy had been used and abused, but had not been adequately defended.

Whether the new group under Batista will be any better is a question. Governments in Cuba are made up of Cubans. There is some danger that the moral tone of Cuba's Government will not in fact improve appreciably, and that at the same time the apparent advance toward constitutional government which the country had made will be lost. Perhaps that gain was more apparent than real, of course. Cuba and Cubans had got into the position of thinking that Government is an institution which deals out favors and privileges to people. Until Cubans learn that discipline and sacrifice are a necessary part of democracy, then upsets such as just occurred will be inevitable. Unfortunately from this viewpoint, one of the principal reasons for the evident and unmilitary enthusiasm shown by the Army, Navy, and Police for the new regime seems to be the fact that substantial pay raises for members of those bodies were announced quickly after the regime took over.

Enclosure: 1/1  
✓ Memorandum

Willard L. Beaulac

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
INFORMATION

**UNCLASSIFIED** **CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

~~17:00~~ ~~1750~~

COUP D'ETAT MARCH 10, 1952

6:00 am Commander Ryan called to say that a bloodless coup d'état headed by General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar had taken place. The Chief of our Naval Mission, Commander Benítez, had called Camp Columbia early this morning. He had been connected with a retired naval officer named Rodríguez Calderón, who had explained the situation to him. The naval officer said that President Prío was out of office.

I asked Commander Ryan to get in touch with all our Service Attachés and Military Mission members and tell them to keep away from Camp Columbia until further notice.

Commander Ryan said that he had alerted the naval station at Key West. I asked Commander Ryan to take steps to see that routine visits of naval craft to Cuba were suspended until further notice.

6:20 am Mr. Crain called to say the UP had called him and told him of the report concerning Batista's coup d'état.

6:30 am I talked to Harvey Wellman at his home in Washington and gave him the information available to me. I asked him to pass it on to the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

I asked him to take steps to cancel the trip to Habana of the Coast Guard vessel COURIER.

I said some people undoubtedly would try to associate the coup d'état with the military agreement we had signed on the 7th. I said I had no idea that there was any connection between the two things and I thought we ought to be prepared to combat the idea.

6:45 am Colonel Elmore called. I had reiterated instructions given to Commander Ryan against going to Camp Columbia. I told Elmore it was all right to go to the office.

6:55 am Mr. Brewer of Standard Oil called to say that the Presidential Palace was completely surrounded by soldiers.

**UNCLASSIFIED** **CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

**UNCLASSIFIED** **CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

~~1786 01 0751~~

7:00 am Alfonso Fanjul called. He said Goar Mestre had confirmed the news of the coup d'état. General Tabernilla had taken charge at Cabaña. A man named Salas Cañizari had taken over the police. General Cabrera had been imprisoned.

7:05 am Colonel Mason called to say that he had talked to Colonel Hook at Camp Columbia airfield. According to Hook, Colonel Cantillo had been offered the job of Chief of Staff of the Army. So far he had refused. Col. Cantillo's brother, a retired Colonel, was at the field in uniform. Col. Cantillo had called Col. Hook at his home at 5:30 and said that a revolution was on and he expected to be a prisoner in a few minutes. He asked Col. Hook to go to the field. Col. Hook went.

Col. Mason had asked Col. Hook to go home. He reiterated my instructions to the other Mission chiefs.

A planeload of soldiers had gotten away from the airfield at 4:45. They were presumably loyal.

The military movement started about 4 o'clock.

General Cabrera's son, a captain, is on the side of the revolution. General Cabrera and the three other Army Generals are under arrest.

7:45 am Dayton Hedges called to say that President Prío was a prisoner in Camp Columbia.

7:45 am Mr. Englesby's secretary reported shooting near the Presidential Palace about an hour ago.

7:50 am Col. Hook came in with Col. Mason. The sixth and seventh regiments and the National Police have joined the revolution. Major Pablo Alonso is apparently in command at Camp Columbia Airfield. All the Army Generals are under arrest at Batista's finca. Hook has the impression that most of the officers are in on the coup d'état. Batista asked Cantillo to become Chief of Staff. Cantillo refused. Batista gave him 48 hours to think it over. Pinar del Río is with Batista. Cantillo tried to get a B-25 and a C-47 off to Camagüey, but tanks were run on the runway.

**UNCLASSIFIED** **CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
(Classification)

~~SECRET~~ 0752

Col. Hook was "invited" to go see Batista by two junior officers. He accompanied them to the theater at Camp Columbia opposite General Cabrera's house. General Batista was there. He had a leather jacket on but he was not dressed in uniform. Major Arce was there. General Batista gave him the following message for the American Ambassador:

"Tell the Ambassador I am 100% in accordance with his wishes. All agreements are in effect."

7:55 am The MIAMI HERALD called. I said I was not to be quoted, but it looked as though General Batista was in military command of the city.

8:15 am Evelio Rodríguez, Press Secretary of the Presidential Palace, called in the company of Mr. Pujol of our Press Section. He said President Prío had come into the Palace from his finca about 5:30 this morning. He had left the Palace for the Capitol at 7:15, after talking to some of his Ministers. Rodríguez said the President had issued a statement. Of course, the radio stations had been occupied and it had been impossible to broadcast the statement. He left a copy of the statement, which reads as follows:

"Tengo noticias de que el Estado Mayor ha sido tomado por antiguos oficiales amigos del General Batista.

"Los mandos del Ejército en las distintas provincias han reportado su lealtad al régimen legalmente constituido.

"Al pueblo no le puede pasar desapercibido lo que significaría para la República que se rompiera el régimen constitucional cuando todos los partidos se disponían a ir a una consulta electoral.

"Yo confío en la moral y en el valor del pueblo de Cuba para oponerse a este intento que la ambición de un hombre ha provocado.

"Conmino a los militares todos de Cuba para que mantengan el juramento de fidelidad a la República y a los obreros, a los estudiantes, a los campesinos, a los industriales y comerciantes, en fin, a todos los cubanos para resistir junto al Presidente este alevoso ataque.

"En los cubanos confío."

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION



SECURITY INFORMATION  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
(Classification)

~~SECRET~~ 01-0753

Two police cars had come to the Palace about six o'clock and tried to take over. There had been an exchange of gunfire and two people had been killed.

The President had talked to the military commanders at Matanzas, Camaguey, Santiago and Pinar del Rio, and they had declared their loyalty to the Government.

All the Army units in Habana had gone with the revolution except the fifth district, under Colonel Cecilio Alfonso.

A naval officer had come to the Palace at about four o'clock in the morning to take over. He had been placed under arrest. He is a captain, a dentist.

DoCampo has taken over the Navy.

8:50 am Victor Rey Caballos called at the request of the Minister of State, Sanchez Arango, who sent word that he was detained at his house. The Minister said that he was concerned about the fact that the military agreement we signed recently had not yet been registered in the UN. I asked Mr. Rey Caballos to thank the Minister for his interest and to give him my regards.

10:00 am Mr. Salvatierra said that Evolio Rodriguez, Press representative of the Presidential Palace, had sent word that both the Palace and the Capitol were occupied by forces of the rebellion and that the President was in hiding.

Dr. Miguel Figueroa, Cuban FSO and Protocol Official, assigned as aide to Carlos Hevia, Coalition presidential candidate, called, under instructions from Hevia, who is in a house (Cruz, telephone B-6485) next door to his home. Carlos Hevia wanted to know what had happened. I said all I knew was that the military under Batista seemed to be in control of the city.

Figueroa asked if the Embassy could issue some statement regarding respect for democracy. I said the Embassy was keeping the State Department informed of the situation as far as it could. I said we were not intervening, of course.

SECURITY INFORMATION  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
(Classification)

CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
(Classification)

~~F729 01 0754~~

10:25 am Mrs. Beaulac called from the Residence to say that Burke Hedges wanted to see me with a message from Batista. I told her to send Burke down to the office.

10:45 am Mr. Hedges, who is a Cuban citizen, called at the request of General Batista to tell me that the General wanted to cooperate with the US and that his regime would fulfill its international obligations.

Hedges inquired about recognition of the new regime. I told him that I could not forecast what the attitude of the Department of State would be. So far, I didn't even know that there was a new regime. However, our Government's general policy in such matters is well known: it delays recognition until it determines that the new regime is in control of the country, is not physically opposed by any substantial groups, and is in a position and willing to carry out its international obligations. That is our Government's general policy. Our Government has made exceptions to that policy in specific cases in the past. I could not predict accurately when or in what conditions the US would recognize a new government in Cuba. A lot would depend on what happened here. I said that this was not a message to Batista, but information that I was giving to Hedges; which, of course, I expected he would transmit to Batista. I knew that Batista was quite familiar with our policy with reference to the recognition of new governments.

I asked Mr. Hedges to thank General Batista for his message.

Mr. Hedges said he assumed Batista would want to keep in touch with me, and asked whether I wanted to see Batista personally. I said that I did not at this stage, but I did want to know what was happening in Cuba and that he could tell General Batista that he might communicate with me informally at any time, through Mr. Hedges, either here at the office or at my house.

CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY INFORMATION

E78001-0735

703  
DC/P

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

E780011-0233

TO : MID - Mr. Nuffer  
 ARA - Mr. Miller  
 DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/28/76  
 PER H Ryan OFFICE ARA DATE: March 17, 1952

FROM : MID - Mr. Wellman FADRC  
 FOI CASE NO. 5-C-544 Morley

SUBJECT: Ambassador Beaulac's Account of Batista Coup d'Etat

Reference: Habana Despatch no. 1472, March 11, 1952  
 177-01-1152

Ambassador Beaulac has now followed his telephone and telegraphic reports of the coup d'etat with a despatch. The principal points he makes are the following:

1. The chief concern of the Cuban people with the Prío Administration and its chief provocation was gangsterism and the alliance between the gangsters and politicians.

2. The Prío Administration was generally recognized to be better than the Grau Administration. There was less speculation. Prío had sponsored some progressive basic legislation (the National Bank and Currency, the Development Bank, and the Tribunal of Accounts), useful public works had been constructed, and last but not least a man of honesty and competence had been selected as the Auténtico candidate.

3. In the Ambassador's opinion Batista would not have beaten Carlos Hevia in a fair election.

4. The Cubans get the kind of government they deserve, and until they learn discipline and sacrifice and not to regard government as an institution merely to deal out privileges and favors, the kind of thing that happened on March 10 will continue to happen.

5. The first intermediary between Batista and the American Embassy was Burke Hedges. He brought assurances to the Ambassador from Batista of cooperation with the United States and fulfillment of international obligations and inquired with regard to the United States policy on recognition of the new regime.

This Document Must Be Returned to  
 D/AM  
 Central  
 File  
 FW 737.00/3-1152

UNCLASSIFIED  
 741.737.00/3-1152  
 CS/H

097298

NO/R	5
REV	6
CALL	7

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
 4:10  
 MAR 24 1952  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNCLASSIFIED

ARA:MID: Wellman:dwm

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DC/R

F780011-0314

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 11, 1952  
3:45 p.m.

SUBJECT: Proclamation Issued by Ex-President Batista

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Beaulac  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
ARA - Miss Johnston  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
DRA

1-1493

Ambassador Beaulac stated that the proclamation by Batista referred to by Mr. Wellman in their previous conversation had been issued. He read the following free translation of various provisions:

"The Revolutionary Junta has decided that I should assume the office of Chief of State (Jefatura del Estado) and that I should take charge of organizing and directing the executive and legislative powers, all their powers and functions resting in me, advised (asesorado) by the Council of Ministers.

"Therefore: I assume the office of Chief of State, and I declare that the persons who exercised the executive power have ceased to occupy their positions. That power will be exercised, as long as the present situation exists and until the people elect their governors and representatives (mandatarios) by a Council of Ministers in which the Prime Minister will assume the office of Chief of State and of the government, with all the faculties attributed to the President of the Republic by the Constitution and its laws."

Ambassador

UNCLASSIFIED

737.00/3-1152  
General Files

737.00/5-1152  
CS/H

F780011-0315

RESTRICTED

-2-

Ambassador Beaulac stated that the same proclamation or decree contained the list of cabinet members.

It also contained a provision that the Constitution and laws should remain in effect so far as not inconsistent therewith.

Ambassador Beaulac observed that the Junta must be the group of young officers who led the revolt.

The Ambassador commented that the proclamation did not sound good and would require careful study.

It was agreed that it seemed to resolve the question of the presidency, since Batista as Prime Minister would be Chief of State and Government.

F780011-0311

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DC/R

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 320723 Rabasa

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 11, 1952  
3 p.m.

SUBJECT: Batista Coup d'Etat in Cuba

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Beaulac  
Mr. Wellman, MID

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Mann; Mr. Miller  
ARA - Miss Johnston  
MID - Mr. Nufer  
ARA - Mr. Spalding  
DRA

1-1403

1. Mr. Wellman asked the Ambassador if the Embassy could confirm the press report received in Washington that Batista had issued a proclamation including statutes of government providing for a 45-day suspension of the right to strike, the investment in Batista of all executive and legislative powers, and the designation of his government as a revolutionary junta. Ambassador Beaulac said that there had been, and he had already reported the 45-day suspension of Constitutional guarantees. He said there was no confirmation of the remainder, however; that there had been no such report in the Habana press; and that he had no reason to believe that it was true. He said he would attempt to verify this immediately. He pointed out that a cabinet had been named although had not met and that Batista was Prime Minister in it.

DC/R Central File

737.00/3-1152

2. Ambassador Beaulac confirmed that Santovenia had declined the appointment as Foreign Minister and that Miguel Angel de la Campa had been appointed in his place. He said he could not confirm that Santovenia had requested and had been granted a safe conduct to leave the country.

3. Ambassador Beaulac stated that there had been no announcement regarding a provisional president. He said that rumors persisted that Carlos Saladrigas would be named president and that the latter had visited Batista

at

CS/H

UNCLASSIFIED

X 001500

737.00/3-1152

-2-

at Camp Columbia yesterday. He said that Batista had been quoted over the radio as having stated that he would run the government from the Palace as Prime Minister. Although the logical deduction from this statement is that there would be no president in the new government. Ambassador Beaulac warned against this assumption.

4. Ambassador Beaulac confirmed and stated that it had been reported in the press that Prio and some others, including former Minister of Defense Rubén de León and former Minister of State Sanchez Arango, were in the Mexican Embassy. He said that Sanchez Arango had shot himself in the hand yesterday when taken from his home and had been able to escape to the Mexican Embassy en route to the hospital. He said that former Prime Minister Gans was in the Argentine Embassy and that according to a press announcement Romulo Gallegos, Juan Bosch and Quevedo, editor of Bohemia, were in the Guatemalan Embassy.

5. Ambassador Beaulac could not confirm that safe conduct had been given to any of the above officials. He pointed out, however, that Batista had said publicly that he would give every consideration to the President and his family and to other officials. The Ambassador reported that the passports of the generals, which had been visaed yesterday, had been brought to the Embassy by a Batista man. He said that he thought there would be no difficulty, therefore, in obtaining safe conduct for these persons.

6. Ambassador Beaulac said that he did not know the whereabouts of the Vice President, Alonso Pujol, but that he was reported to be under house arrest.

7. Mr. Wellman asked the Ambassador about the labor situation. The Ambassador stated that as far as is known all sugar mills are grinding today, although yesterday some were idle. He said that Batista had acted energetically and had arrested some leaders. He said that the threatened strike of the railway workers had not come off and that the railways, the airport and the harbors were all running. He said that the threatened general strike had not materialized, although an effort had been made. He said that Mujal was apparently still in hiding.

8. The Ambassador reported that Portel Vilá had just called in to state that Agramonte had been arrested.

RESTRICTED

-3-

9. The Ambassador stated that Batista had been silent about what attitude he would have toward the Congress. The Ambassador said that he believed he could say over the telephone that he hoped Batista would respect the Congress.

10. The Ambassador stated that the Embassy has established an informal liaison with Batista through an intermediary in case it should become desirable to communicate with Batista. He emphasized that this was done on an informal, unofficial basis.



Department of State

ACTION COPY

F780011-0310

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION A

Control: 4556 ~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
Rec'd: March 11, 1952  
11:07 a.m.

FROM: Panama

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 792, March 11, 10 a.m.

Pan officials especially Pres FONMIN Chief Police Vallarino exhibiting phenomenally alert, even ominous, interest Cuban "golpe". Batista known and admired here; Pan officials confident he will impose order and end Commie activities centered Cuba.

FONMIN, who claims advance info Cuban coup and says Ecuador and perhaps Guat next, said he wld phone Pan Emb Habana today banning Pan visas for persons seeking flee Cuba.

Cuba was first country recognize Arnulfo Arias regime 1949. Pan will watch US attitude Cuban situation with possibility in mind Remon may have to resort irregularities in present electoral situation in order obtain presidency.

VRS:RVW

WISE

This Document Must Be Returned To  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

Confidential File

FILED

MAR 21 1952

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

Department of State  
UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION COPY

F780011-0306

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
UNCLASSIFIED

Control: 4812 ~  
Rec'd: March 11, 1952  
8:51 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 616, March 11, 7 p.m.

DEPT. OF STATE  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
*Lib. Rev*

Executive Committee of Orthodox Party released statement published today's press attacking Batista coup d'etat. Statement alleges: Reasons for coup invoked by Batista and his group do not justify coup. Batista's unpopularity no less than that Autentico candidate and Batista's own public record characterized by violence and rapacity so that he completely lacks authority remedy such violence. Doubtful Prio government contemplated coup and in any event suspicion it did was no justification for Batista to do same thing.

Statement says Batista moved by incurable ambition for power and wealth. He saw his candidacy was supported only by minority of Cubans and that Orthodox candidate would win June elections. His only purpose therefore was prevent an Orthodox victory.

Document closes with statement Orthodox party will continue resist with all efficacious means in its power the situation of illegal of\* brutal imposition which is being engendered today in the barracks.

BEAULAC

EL:RVW

\* As received.

This Document Must Be Returned To  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

UNCLASSIFIED

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken • MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

HH

Department of State  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

**ACTION COPY**

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
UNCLASSIFIED

F780011-0304

23-M  
Action

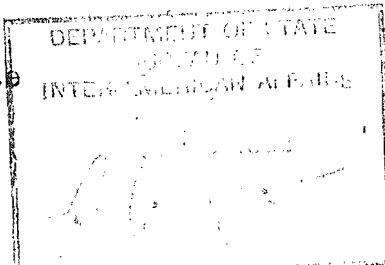
Control: 4792  
Rec'd: March 11, 1952  
7:52 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 613, March 11.

NIACT



In proclamation dated yesterday and published this morning, Gen Batista says "the Revolutionary Junta has decided that I should assume the office of Chief of State and that I should take charge of organizing and directing the executive and legislative powers, all their powers and functions resting in me, Advised by the Council of Ministers".

He says further "preoccupied by the absence of guarantees for the lives and property of the inhabitants this country and the political and administrative corruption which prevail and only for that reason I have accepted the responsibility of remaining in power for the time indispensable for re-establishing order, peace and public confidence so that once these objectives have been attained I may deposit my authority in the officials whom the people may elect".

Batista then says "I assume the office of Chief of State (Asumo la Jefatura del Estado) and I declare the persons who exercised executive power to have ceased to hold their offices. This power will be exercised so long as the present situation lasts and until the people have elected their governors and officials, by a council of ministers in which the Prime Minister will assume the office of Chief of State and of the government, with all the faculties which are attributed to the President of the Republic by the Constitution and by the laws".

The proclamation then lists the members of the new Council of Ministers, with Batista as Prime Minister.

Still later in the proclamation Batista says "the immunities (Fueros) of Congress are suspended; but its members, functionaries and officials will continue to receive their legal emoluments until other dispositions are made in accordance with circumstances. The legislative power will be exercised by the Council of Ministers."

The proclamation prohibits the right to strike during 45 days.

It provides that "the government will carry out its international conventions and agreement, bilateral as well as multilateral, and those emanating from agreements of the United Nations, as well as the international obligations contracted by the Republic, so long as these (Unos y Otros) are in agreement with the constitution or emanate from the laws"

It provides also

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED TO  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

HH

F780011-0305

UNCLASSIFIED

-2- #613, March 11, 1952, from Habana.

It provides also that "the Constitution and laws continue in effect to the extent that they are not opposed to the regime which is now being established, with the exception of the modifications that public necessity may demand and the Council of Ministers may decree".

BEAULAC

CTW:DW

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

**ACTION COPY**

6  
**F780011-0303**

**CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

**Action**

**ARA**

**Info**

**SS**

**C**

**P**

**OLI**

**CIA**

**DGR**

**DCRM**

**FROM:** Habana

**TO:** Secretary of State

**NO:** 610, March 11, noon.

**Control:** 4722

**Rec'd:** March 11, 1952  
4:22 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Fres Prio in Mexican Emb Habana according AP rep and PRENSA  
LIBRE which states photographed him there. Snmter\* reported  
Gans at Argentine Emb.

Chilean Amb called today. Said Aureliano Sanchez Arango  
and Ruben de Leon at Mex Emb; that Romulo Gallegos (ex-  
pres Ven) and wife, Juan Bosch and Miguel A. Quevedo  
(director Bohemia) in Guat Legation.

BEAULAC

ECC:MAM

**NOTE:** \* As received.

This Document Must Be Returned To  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

Confidential File  
HH

FILED

MAR 21 1952

**PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY**

**CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

**REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED**

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 820723 Rabasa

Department of State

*Miss Miller*  
**ACTION COPY**

7  
F780011-0302

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
UNCLASSIFIED

Control: 4616  
Rec'd: March 11, 1952  
12:37 p.m.

RA  
FROM: Habana

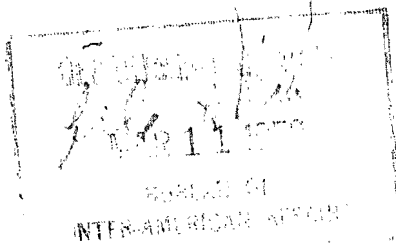
TO: Secretary of State

NO: 611, March 11

Work resumed this morning Habana harbor and airport all sugar mills and railroads operating.

BEAULAC

SW:BK



This document Must Be Returned to  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1152

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

HH

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78  
FOI 820723 Rabasa

INCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

ACTION COPY

23-M F780011-0345

TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
UNCLASSIFIED

Control: 5512  
Rec'd: March 12, 1952  
9:40 p.m.

ARA FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 628, March 12.

REACT.

Press reaction Batista's coup d'etat: ~~Few newspapers~~ published Monday and first considered editorial opinion appeared press Tuesday March 11. In summary, press took view coup had destroyed constitutional process laboriously built up during past 50 years and particularly since 1940; that inconceivable change could have been brought about by mere whim or desire for power; that there must have existed conditions of extreme gravity unknown to public opinion and to press for such a radical remedy to have been considered necessary by military.

MARINA stated Batista's past history forced one to suppose that "in accepting the request by the military to take charge of the government of the republic" he did so convinced that only by this extreme means could the country's illness be remedied.

MUNDC in moderate editorial exhorts people avoid bloodshed and work for return constitutional government. Several papers held that, in absence information concerning reason for coup, would be well reserve judgment. Practically all exhorted Batista to guarantee basic liberties, freedom press, speech, meetings, etc. Press urges Cubans remain calm and asks new regime return to constitutionality at earliest moment. Several editorials state Prio regime tolerated, abetted gangsterism and license.

MANANA defends Batista, saying situation country had become insupportable and democracy had ceased exist in that sacred right to life itself had ceased to exist and gangsters had taken over.

Communist HOY attacked Batista for overthrowing the constitution.

Several editorials took line that while order is important, liberty also important and these should complement rather than infringe upon each other.

Strongest editorial

UNCLASSIFIED

HI

PERMANENT  
RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

This Document Must Be Returned  
DC/R  
Central  
Files  
737.00/3-1252

**F780011-0346**

UNCLASSIFIED

-2-628, March 12, from Habana.

Strongest editorial reaction against Batista's coup came from ALERTA whose editor Ramon Vasconcellos was to have run for Senator on Ortodoxo ticket and which constituted principal organ of publicity for Ortodoxo party. Vasconcellos stated coup had destroyed at a stroke Republican structure so laboriously built up through the constituent assemblies of 1901 and 1940. He said people have awaited with anxiety the explanations which Batista would give for his unexpected action and for his "decapitation of the Congress". He said if Batista had been sure he would win elections he would certainly waited the 2½ months between now and June 1. Vasconcellos devotes today's editorial to blasting Prio and Cuban people, their docility and lack of ideals.

BEAULAC

AB:RAW

UNCLASSIFIED



ORIGINAL  
TELEGRAM

# Department of State

4118

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

**UNCLASSIFIED** SECURITY INFORMATION  
Classification

737.00/3-1252  
E729001-0756

RECEIVED DC/T  
ACCEPTANCE UNIT

SENT TO: Amembassy HABANA PRIORITY 531

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/28/76

MAR 12 7 01 PM '52

Origin

PER H. Ryan OFFICE ARA

Info:

FROM MILLER TO BEAULAC

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-C-544

DEPT receiving numerous inquiries from press and other GOVTS as to our attitude recognition Batista regime. Our replies have been noncommittal. Before taking any action on recognition DEPT will wish to consider carefully your appraisal factual situation with specific reference regime's control machinery GOVT and NATL TERR and GEN acquiescence people. Also we will wish to consider its acceptance and intention fulfill Cuba's INTERNATL obligations. In conformity practice followed cases recognition new AMER GOVTS recent years DEPT will probably inform other AMER GOVTS before taking any action. In present case however it may be desirable to delay recognition somewhat longer than in some other recent cases because of possibility that Cuban case will have repercussions in other countries where elections are being held this year and where situation is not stable especially PAN, ECUAD and Chile.

Note 662 from Campa bears upon Cuba's intention to fulfill INTERNATL obligations but as implied in your 620 MAR 12 there seems to be fairly large loophole. In due course I believe that we will want to ~~determine~~ <sup>determine</sup> more precisely ~~with Batista regime~~ exact meaning of the language contained in Campa's note but my present feeling is to wait until pressure from Cubans builds up and we may be presented with opportunity to exert more influence

over

Drafted by: ARA:EGMiller, Jr.:arp 3/12/52

Telegraphic transmission and  
classification approved by:

ARA:EGMiller, Jr.

Clearances:

MID

**UNCLASSIFIED** SECURITY INFORMATION  
Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS  
COPY, IF CLASSIFIED, IS  
PROHIBITED.

737.00/3-1252

UNCLASSIFIED FILE

CS/H

E729221-0757

Page 2 of telegram to Amembassy HABANA PRIORITY

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~  
Classification

over Cuba's future policies. Meanwhile DEPT and EMB will of course guard against action of any nature which CLD be interpreted as act of recognition. This does not preclude informal <sup>indirect</sup> contacts with Cuban officials. Miller saw Machado at home yesterday. Latter extremely depressed over events and predicted Batista WLD have great difficulty in controlling situation because of opposition of labor and unwillingness of many people such as Santovenia to serve for regime created through illegal means.

Acheson  
(Rau)

ACHESON

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~  
Classification

## En la Embajada de México



El doctor Carlos Prío Socarrás, asilado en la Embajada de México, fué sorprendido por un fotógrafo, en la mañana de ayer, poco después de levantarse. Ningún reportero pudo entrevistarlo allí, por impedirlo las normas diplomáticas.

## Recorrido del Dr. Prío Desde Palacio al Exilio

Relató a un Reportero de EL MUNDO sus  
Frustrados Esfuerzos por Consolidarse

Aquel auto que marchaba a toda velocidad por la Vía Blanca siguiendo el recorrido de la costa norte de La Habana y Matanzas, iba ocupado por tres personajes auténticos. Uno de ellos, sin embargo, tenía un relieve singular. Vestía un pantalón y camisa deportiva y su rostro se encontraba semi-oculto por un ancho sombrero guajiro que se lo bajaba sobre los ojos, cada vez que cruzaban una población. Se trataba del doctor Carlos Prío Socarrás, flanqueado por el senador Diego Vicente Tejera y el representante Sergio Megías.

Habían abandonado el Palacio Presidencial en horas tempranas de la mañana del día 10. El doctor Prío, que dormía plácidamente en su finca La Chata, fué despertado abruptamente por un familiar, quien le comunicó el hecho asombroso para él de que el general Fulgencio Batista, en acuerdo con oficiales del Ejército, había dado un golpe de Estado, destituyéndolo de la Presidencia de

la nación. En aquellos momentos con varios mandos militares para investigar la situación y ver si era posible ofrecer resistencia.

Habló primeramente con el general Velázquez, produciéndose el siguiente diálogo:

—General, ¿cómo están las cosas por ahí?

—Muy bien, Presidente...

(Termina en la Página 10, Col. 6)

(Continuación de la Página 9)

—Bueno, entonces voy para allá. Espérame.

—Mire Presidente, es mejor que no venga ahora. Yo le avisaré.

A los pocos minutos de cortar la comunicación, sonó el timbre del teléfono. Era la esposa del general Velázquez, quien, nerviosa, le dijo al doctor Prío que no fuera hacia La Cabaña, pues el general estaba detenido.

Posteriormente, y en medio del nerviosismo y la incertidumbre que reinaba en Palacio, el Presidente logró conectarse, también por teléfono, con el coronel Manuel Álvarez Margolles, jefe del Regimiento Maceo, de Oriente, quien respondió así a su interlocutor:

—Presidente aquí no secundamos ese movimiento. Estamos junto al Gobierno legalmente constituido. Venga para acá que tenemos muchos hombres y montañas y podemos resistir...

No habían pasado quince minutos —y aún sus acompañantes en aquellos difíciles momentos estaban discutiendo lo más acertado a seguir— cuando se presentaron en Palacio los integrantes de la Federación Estudiantil Universitaria.

El doctor Prío relató así la escena al periodista:

—Yo estaba confuso aún, pero optimista por la conversación con Margolles. Además, la actitud firme de la guarnición de Palacio junto a su Presidente, demostrada por el hecho de que tenían detenidos en el cuarto piso a un teniente de la Marina y creo que un sargento, quienes antes de yo llegar allí habían ido a rendir la tropa, me dieron alientos y esperanzas para detener la sublevación.

Haciendo una pausa continuó: Cuando los estudiantes universitarios llegaron hasta mí para decirme que olvidando todas las críticas anteriores estaban dispuestos a luchar, me emocioné en lo más hondo. Yo me vela entre ellos, como cuando en la lucha contra Machado formaba parte del estudiantado universitario y me lancé a todos los riesgos por un ideal. Así pues, les dije que combatiría, ofreciéndoles las noticias que me habían comunicado momentos antes, informándoles que en esas condiciones era más inteligente abandonar Palacio y dirigirme a las provincias que aún no habían secundado a Batista.

Después el doctor Prío Socarrás continuó hablando atropelladamente. Relató el viaje de tres horas desde La Habana a la ciudad de Matanzas y su proyecto de designar al coronel Martín Eleña, jefe de la vecina provincia, jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército.

Y el doctor Prío agregó:

—Por cierto, cuando pasamos por un poblado, después de habernos introducido con la máquina por unos campos henequeneros para evitar ser descubiertos, dos soldados se acercaron al auto preguntándole a Tejera que quién era yo, pues no me reconocían ya que además del ancho sombrero me había puesto la mano con el pañuelo extendido sobre la nariz, que como es una de mis características faciales temí me identificaran. Dieguito, con rapidez, les dijo: "Es que traigo al viejo enfermo y lo llevo para Matanzas a ver a un médico".

Al abandonar Palacio —continuó el Presidente— alguien me aconsejó que me afeitara el bigote y me cambiara el peinado como cuando estaba en el exilio.

que mi rango me impedía tal cosa, además de pensar que al presentarme a las tropas en esas condiciones pudiera dar una sensación negativa.

Desgraciadamente —sigue hablando el doctor Prío Socarrás— en Matanzas me recibió la noticia de que ya Martín Eleña había sido sustituido. Tony Varona, que nos encontró en Matanzas, siguió camino inmediatamente para Las Villas, ya que los informes, hasta ese momento, eran favorables al Gobierno. Sin embargo, no había un minuto que me había despedido de él deseándole buena suerte cuando un telefonema nos anunció que la región central de la Isla estaba también perdida. No tuvimos tiempo de detener a Tony...

Seguí en la casa que me albergó en Matanzas tratando de conectarme con Camagüey y Oriente, pero las comunicaciones ya estaban imposibles. Seguimos también investigando la posibilidad de alcanzar un avión para dirigirnos hacia Santiago de Cuba y pronto supimos que ya Batista había ocupado todos los aeropuertos. En esas condiciones analizamos la situación. Me incliné a regresar a La Habana de nuevo para armar a los civiles y luchar de ser posible. Trataría de esconderme y confiaba en el éxito, pues tengo una gran experiencia en ello desde los días de mis actividades revolucionarias.

Tampoco el proyecto cuajó, pues supimos que Batista había informado a un periodista que me daría toda clase de seguridades y no me perseguiría para que pudiera continuar viviendo tranquilamente con mi familia. Quería humillarme y despojarme del símbolo que aun represento: el de ser el Presidente Constitucional de la República. Entonces, decidí embarcarme para el extranjero, pues aceptar la limosna de Batista hubiera sido cobarde y ridículo. De ahí que regresara a La Habana. Dentro de unos momentos solicitaré asilo al embajador Coquet.

El doctor Prío, cansado, sin afeitarse, vistiendo la misma camisa, pantalones y el jaquet de lana verde que tenía cuando abandonó Palacio, con su característico tic nervioso acentuado, inició una serie de breves consideraciones en torno a la situación de la Isla. Entre ellas intercaló una noticia:

—Millo Ochoa estableció contacto conmigo para conseguirme un avión, pero fracasó.

Y a renglón seguido:

—Estoy satisfecho de los altos oficiales del Ejército. Todos respondieron al Gobierno. El movimiento fué de capitanes para abajo, quienes se sumaron a Batista sin previo contubernio, pues hay que decir que el golpe se dio con muy pocos hombres. Yo tenía perfectamente vigilado a Batista —o creía tenerlo— por hom-

ENC. 2  
D. 1484  
Habana



El doctor Carlos Prío Socarrás, asilado en la Embajada de México, fue sorprendido por un fotógrafo, en la mañana de ayer, poco después de levantarse. Ningún reportero pudo entrevistarlo allí, por impedirlo las guardias diplomáticas.

## Recorrido del Dr. Prío Desde Palacio al Exilio

Relató a un Reportero de EL MUNDO sus  
Frustrados Esfuerzos por Consolidarse

Aquel auto que marchaba a toda velocidad por la Vía Blanca siguiendo el recorrido de la costa norte de La Habana y Matanzas, iba ocupado por tres personajes auténticos. Uno de ellos, sin embargo, tenía un relieve singular. Vestía un pantalón y camisa deportiva y su rostro se encontraba semi-oculto por un ancho sombrero guajiro que se lo bajaba sobre los ojos, cada vez que cruzaban una población. Se trataba del doctor Carlos Prío Socarrás, flanqueado por el senador Diego Vicente Tejera y el representante Sergio Megías.

Habían abandonado el Palacio Presidencial en horas tempranas de la mañana del día 10. El doctor Prío, que dormía placidamente en su finca La Chuta, fué despertado abruptamente por un familiar, quien le comunicó el hecho, asombroso para él de que el general Fulgencio Batista, en acuerdo con oficiales del Ejército, había dado un golpe de Estado, destruyendo de la Presidencia de la República.

El doctor Prío llamó al teniente coronel Vicente León, jefe de su escolta, quien se encontraba en la Mansión Ejecutiva.

En un breve cambio de impresiones, el Presidente de la República le ordenó que se mantuviera firme en su posición y abriera fuego si las tropas insubordinadas intentaban tomar su residencia oficial, anunciándole al mismo tiempo que partía inmediatamente para allí.

Ya en Palacio, discutiendo la actitud a seguir con sus dos hermanos, el senador Tejera, el representante Megías y otros amigos, se produjo el encuentro con los tripulantes de una persecución, resultando muerto un sargento de su escolta que lo había acompañado desde La Chuta y gravemente herido otro militar.

El doctor Prío Socarrás, según informó el mismo a un reportero de EL MUNDO, minutos antes de asilarse en la Embajada de México, en la madrugada de ayer, cuando en un block de papel rasgado escribió unas breves declaraciones apoyado en el guardafango de un automóvil, se en-

en aquellos difíciles momentos estaban discutiendo lo más acertado a seguir—cuando se presentaron en Palacio los integrantes de la Federación Estudiantil Universitaria.

El doctor Prío relató así la escena al periodista:

—Yo estaba confuso aún, pero optimista por la conversación con Margolles. Además, la actitud firme de la guarnición de Palacio junto a su Presidente, demostrada por el hecho de que tenían detenidos en el cuarto piso a un teniente de la Marina y creo que un sargento; quienes antes de yo llegar allí habían ido a rendir la tropa, me dieron alientos y esperanzas para detener la sublevación.

Haciendo una pausa continuó:

—Cuando los estudiantes universitarios llegaron hasta mí para decirme que olvidando todas las críticas anteriores estaban dispuestos a luchar, me emocioné en lo más hondo. Yo me veía entre ellos, como cuando en la lucha contra Machado formaba parte del estudiantado universitario y me lancé a todos los riesgos por un ideal. Así pues, les dije que combatiría, ofreciéndoles las noticias que me habían comunicado momentos antes, informándoles que en esas condiciones era más inteligente abandonar Palacio y dirigirse a las provincias que aún no habían secundado a Batista.

Después el doctor Prío Socarrás continuó hablando atropelladamente. Relató el viaje de tres horas desde La Habana a la ciudad de Matanzas y su proyecto de designar al coronel Martín Elejé, jefe de la vecina provincia, Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército.

Y el doctor Prío agregó:

—Por cierto, cuando pasamos por un poblado, después de habernos introducido con la máquina por unos campos henequeneros para evitar ser descubiertos, dos soldados se acercaron al auto preguntándole a Tejera que quién era yo, pues no me reconocían ya que además del ancho sombrero me había puesto la mano con el pañuelo extendido sobre la nariz, que como es una de mis características faciales temí me identificaran. Dieguito, con rapidez, les dijo: "Es que traigo al viejo enfermo y lo llevo para Matanzas a ver a un médico".

Al abandonar Palacio —continuó el Presidente— alguien me aconsejó que me afeitara el bigote y me cambiara el peinado como cuando estaba perseguido en épocas anteriores, pero estimé

laban imposibles. Seguímos también investigando la posibilidad de alquilar un avión para dirigernos hacia Santiago de Cuba, pronto supimos que ya Batista había ocupado todos los aeropuertos. En esas condiciones utilizamos la situación. Me incliné a regresar a La Habana de nuevo para armar a los civiles y luchar de ser posible. Trataría de escondérme y confiaba en el éxito, pues tengo una gran experiencia en ello desde los días mis actividades revolucionarias.

Tampoco el proyecto cuajó, pero supimos que Batista había llamado a un periodista que me daría toda clase de seguridades no me perseguiría para que pudiera continuar viviendo tranquilamente con mi familia. Quería humillarme y despojarme del título que aún represento: el ser el Presidente Constituido de la República. Entonces me embarcaba para el extranjero, pues aceptaría la limosna de Batista hubiera sido cobarde y dículo. De ahí que regresara a Habana. Dentro de unos meses solicitaré asilo al embajador Coquet.

El doctor Prío, cansado, afeitarse, vistiendo la misma camisa, pantalones y el jaqué lana verde que tenía cuando abandonó Palacio, con su característico tic nervioso acentuado, citó una serie de breves conversaciones en torno a la situación de la Isla. Entre ellas interviene una noticia:

—Millo Ochoa estableció contacto conmigo para conseguir un avión, pero fracasó.

Y a renglón seguido:

—Estoy satisfecho de los oficiales del Ejército. Todos leal al Gobierno. El momento fué de capitanes para ellos, quienes se sumaron a la sin previo contubernio. Hay que decir que el golpe con muy pocos hombres, se realizó perfectamente vigilado. Batista —o creía tenerlo— po-

## En la Embajada de México



El doctor Carlos Prió Socarrás, asilado en la Embajada de México, fué sorprendido por un fotógrafo, en la mañana de ayer, poco después de levantarse. Ningún reportero pudo entrevistarlo. Allí por impedirlo las tropas diplomáticas.

## Recorrido del Dr. Prio Desde Palacio al Exilio

## Relató a un Reportero de EL MUNDO sus Frustrados Esfuerzos por Consolidarse

Aquel auto que marchaba a toda velocidad por la Vía Blanca silbando el recuerdo de la estación de La Habana y Matanzas, ocupado por tres personajes auténticos. Uno de ellos, sin embargo, tenía un relieve singular. Vestía un pantalón y camisa deportiva y su rostro se encontraba semi-oculto por un ancho sombrero guajiro que se lo bajaba sobre los ojos, cada vez que cruzaban una población. Se trataba del doctor Carlos Frio Socarrás, flanqueado por el senador Diego Viente Tejiera y el representante Sergio Mejías.

Habían abandonado el Palacio presidencial en horas tempranas, la mañana del día 10. El doctor Prió, que dormía placidamente en su finca La Chata, fué despertado abruptamente por un familiar, quien le comunicó el hecho ombroso para él de que el general Fulgencio Batista, en acuerdo con el jefe del Ejército, habiendo un golpe de Estado, desalojó de la Presidencia de la República al doctor Prió. El doctor Prió llamó al teniente coronel Vicente León, jefe de su familia, quien se encontraba en la mansión Ejecutiva.

un breve cambio de impre-  
el Presidente de la Repú-  
ordenó que se mantuviera  
en su posición y abriera  
si las tropas insubordina-  
tentaban tomar su residen-  
cial, anunciándole al mismo  
que necesitaba un

(Continuación de la Primera Parte)

—Bueno, entonces voy para allá.  
Espérame.

—Mire Presidente, es mejor que no venga ahora. Yo le avisaré.

A los pocos minutos de corta la comunicación, sonó el timbre del teléfono. Era la esposa del general Velázquez, quien, nerviosa le dijo al doctor Prió que no fue a hacia La Cabaña pues el general estaba detenido.

Posteriormente, y en medio de nerviosismo y la incertidumbre que reinaba en Palacio, el Presidente logró conectarse, también por teléfono, con el coronel Manuel Alvarez Margolles, jefe del Regimiento Maceo, de Oriente, quien respondió así a su interlocutor:

—Presidente aquí no secundamos ese movimiento. Estamos junto al Gobierno legalmente constituido. Venga para acá que tenemos muchos hombres y montañas y podemos resistir...

No habían pasado quince minutos —y aún sus acompañantes en aquellos difíciles momentos estaban discutiendo lo más acertado a seguir— cuando se presentaron en Palacio los integrantes de la Federación Estudiantil Universitaria.

El doctor Prió relató así la escena al periodista:

—Yo estaba confuso aún, pero optimista por la conversación con Margolles. Además, la actitud firme de la guarnición de Palacio junto a su Presidente, demostrada por el hecho de que tenían detenidos en el cuarto piso a un teniente de la Marina y creo que un sargento, quienes antes de yo llegar allí habían ido a rendir la tropa, me dieron alientos y esperanzas para detener la sublevación.

Haciendo una pausa continué:—Cuando los estudiantes universitarios llegaron hasta mí para decirme que olvidando todas las críticas anteriores estaban dispuestos a luchar, me emocioné en lo más hondo. Yo me vela entre ellos, como cuando en la lucha contra Machado formaba parte del estudiantado universitario y me lancé a todos los riesgos por un ideal. Aun pues, les dije que combatiría, ofreciéndoles las noticias que me habrían comunicado momentos antes, informándoles que en esas condiciones era más inteligente abandonar Palacio y dirigirse a las provincias que aún no habían secundado a Batista.

Después el doctor Púa Socarrás continuó hablando atropelladamente. Relató el viaje de tres horas desde La Habana a la ciudad de Matanzas y su proyecto de designar al coronel Martín Elina, jefe de la vecina provincia, jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército.

Y el doctor Prio agregó:  
— Por cierto, cuando pasamos  
por un poblado, después de haber  
nos introducido con la máquina  
por unos campos benegueneros pa-

por unos campos minados para evitar ser descubiertos, dos soldados se acercaron al auto pro-

guiándole a Tejera que quién era yo, pues no me reconocían ya que...

además del ancho sombrero m  
había puesto la mano con el p  
bucle extendido sobre la nariz qu

fuelo extendido sobre la nariz, que  
como es una de mis característi-  
cas faciales tenía me identificó.

ran. Dieguito, con rapidez, les dijo: "Es que traigo al viejo enfermo y lo llevo para Matanzas a ver a un médico".

Al abandonar Palacio —contó el Presidente—, alguien me aconsejó que me afeitara el bigote y me cambiara el peinado como cuando estaba perseguido en épocas anteriores, pero estimo

mi rango me impedía tal cosa, además de pensar que al presentarme a las tropas en esas condiciones pudiera dar una sensación negativa.

Desgraciadamente --sigue hablando el doctor Prio Socarrás-- en Matanzas me recibí la noticia de que ya Martín Elena había sido sustituido. Tony Varona, que nos encontró en Matanzas, siguió camino inmediatamente para Las Villas, ya que los informes, hasta ese momento, eran favorables al Gobierno. Sin embargo, no había un minuto que me había despedido de él descándole buena suerte cuando un telefonema nos anunció que la región central de la Isla estaba también perdida. No tuvimos tiempo de detener a Tony...

Según en la casa que me albergó en Matanzas tratando de conectarme con Camagüey y Oriente, pero las comunicaciones ya estaban imposibles. Seguíamos también investigando la posibilidad de alcanzar un avión para dirigirnos hacia Santiago de Cuba y pronto supimos que ya Batista había ocupado todos los aeropuertos. En esas oraciones anhelamos la situación. Me inclinaba a regresar a La Habana de nuevo para armar a los civiles y luchar de ser posible. Trataría de esconderme y confiaba en el éxito, pues tengo una gran experiencia en ello desde los días de mis actividades revolucionarias.

Tampoco el proyecto curajo, pues supimos que Batista había informado a un periodista que me daría toda clase de seguridades y que no me perseguiría para que pudiera continuar viviendo tranquilamente con mi familia. Quería humillarme y despojarme del símbolo que aun represente: el ser el Presidente Constitucional de la República. Entonces decidí embarcarme para el extranjero, pues aceptar la limosna de Batista hubiera sido cobarde y ridículo. De ahí que regresara a La Habana. Dentro de unos momentos solicitaré asilo al embajador Coquet.

El doctor Prio, cansado, sin afeitarse, vistiendo la misma camisa, pantalones y el jaquet de lana verde que tenia cuando abandonó Palacio, con su característico tic nervioso acentuado, inició una serie de breves consideraciones en torno a la situación de la Isla. Entre ellas intercaló una noticia:

—Millo Ochoa estableció con-  
tacto conmigo para conseguirme  
un avión, pero fracasó.

Y a renglón seguido:  
— Estoy satisfecho de los altos oficiales del Ejército. Todos respondieron al Gobierno. El movimiento fué de capitanes para abajo, quienes se sumaron a Batista sin previo contubernio, pues hay que decir que el golpe se dio con muy pocos hombres. Yo tenía perfectamente vigilado a Batista —o creía tenerlo— por homi-

bres de mi entera confianza, pues nunca utilicé para esa labor miembros regulares de las Fuerzas Armadas. Sin embargo, el engranaje falló en un punto: el capitán Leopoldo López Coujil Jere del Buró de Investigaciones, quien estaba autorizado para hablar con Batista. Ese oficial nos traicionó.

Ya en marcha hacia la Embajada, —eran cerca de las dos de la madrugada del lunes— el doctor Carlos Prío manifestó:

—Hace como diez días reuní al Palacio a los generales y coronales con mando directo en las tropas para decirles que tenía noticias de ciertos rumores y conversaciones entre la tropa, solicitando de ellos que estuvieran alertas e investigaran. Me respondieron que no había ningún problema y algunos informaron que siempre en los centros del Ejército, como en otros lugares, había individuos a los que les gustaba hablar mucho, pero que los tenían vigilados.

Finalizando así su charla:

—¡Ah, se me olvidaba un detalle, periodista! Estando ayer por la mañana en Palacio recibí un telefonema del doctor Grau Sureda Martin, quien me comunicó estaba dispuesto a remirarse conmigo y afrontar todas las consecuencias. Yo le dije que era mejor permanecer en su hogar, pues si me pasaba algo, él debía vivir tranquilo que el Partido no quedara afectado.

El doctor Prió se alejó rápidamente y el reportero se dirigió al periódico.