A-479, March 9, 9 a.m., 1945.

Captain Leopoldo CADENAS Aguilera has formulated charges against the designation of Colonel Chehyavo PÉREZ Domner as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army. These charges, dated March 6, 1945, were addressed to President Grau and extracts thereof have subsequently been published in the local press. Cadenes was under arrest for twenty-four hours, but according to the press has now been released pending trial by Court-Martial.

Cadenas was Cuban Military Attache at I.d. for six or seven years, until recalled a few weeks. He is one of three brothers, all of whom are office in the Army. Felipe, one of the brothers, is Cuban Naval Attaché in Washington.

Cadenas charges Pérez with usurpation of powers, grave disobedience and unauthorized use of insignia. It appears that Pérez has been given only a temporary appointment as Chief of Staff as he was not at the time of his appointment of sufficient grade to receive such assignment on a permanent basis. Officially he was not given the grade of Major General but he has since assumed that grade. The Penal Code for members of the Armed Forces does not authorize the grade of Major General except for an officer who has been two years in the grade of Brigadier General.

During the afternoon of March 6 (probably after Pérez had learned of the charges against him), the new Chief of Staff issued orders placing officers of his own choosing on the Military Supreme Court. It is this court which (according to present plans) will try Cadenes and it may therefore be assumed that it is "packed" in favor of the Chief of Staff.
While it does not appear that this action will
touch off any movement against the Government, Cap-
tain Cadenas and his three brothers enjoy popularity
in the Armed Forces and the family is generally es-
teemed by the Cubans, so it may be expected that the
bold move on the part of Captain Cadenas will further
crystallize the unpopular reaction against the naming
of Pérez to such a high office. It would appear that
Grau is placed in an embarrassing position, as there
seems to be legal foundation for the charges yet he
cannot now remove Pérez without a considerable loss
of prestige to the Government.

Pérez took the oath as Chief of Staff on March
7. President Grau was present and was effusive in
the warmth of his congratulations, thus seeming to
indicate that, despite the accusations of Cadenas,
he intends to give Pérez his full support.

BRADEN