A-847, August 4, 1943

In a surprise move, August 3, 1943 President Grau relieved Commodore José AGUILA Ruíz as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Navy. Aguila Ruíz was immediately designated as delegate of the Cuban Government to the Inter-American Defense Council in Washington, replacing Commander Félix CARDENAS Aguilara who died recently. Aguila Ruíz will reassume the rank of Captain in the Cuban Navy.

At the same time President Grau designated Captain Bernadie Pedro Eloy PASCUAL Borges as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Navy and automatically elevated him to the rank of Commodore. The new Chief of Staff has been Chief of the Department of Administration of the Cuban Navy for several years. This department, it is understood, has among its primary duties the acquisition of supplies and materiel.

Commodore Aguila Ruíz was only hold-over from Batista regime. He was made Commodore on December 30, 1943. While there have been occasional rumors in the press that the President-elect, Carlos PRIEO, would replace Aguila Ruíz, it is not yet sure that this is what took place even though Prio visited the President shortly before the announcement of the change was made. It is reported that Aguila Ruíz and President Grau had a disagreement. Reference is made to Confidential Biographical Data report dated November 16, 1943 prepared by this Embassy regarding Aguila Ruíz. Since the date of preparation of this report Aguila Ruíz has demonstrated considerable ability and has cooperated with Naval Attache of this Embassy. It will be recalled, however, that the Cuban Navy, under his direction, took a very active part in the abortive anti-Trujillo expedition in the summer of 1947. It is believed that Aguila Ruíz will cooperate
CONFIDENTIAL

A-847, August 4, 1946
Embassy at Havana

with the United States authorities on the Inter-American
Defense Council. He was especially close to former
Naval Attaché Colonel Booker C. BATTERTON.

Little biographic information is presently available
regarding Pascual who has been accused participation in
questionable ventures. Naval Attaché is preparing bio-
graphic report and further information will follow. Pascual
is personally known to present Assistant Naval Attaché.

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Copy to NA, Havana.
V. Lansing Collins, Jr./dts

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