



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEC 19 1947

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Rec'd No. 4555
Dec. 3

American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba, November 28, 1947

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Subject: Plans to Begin Publication of New Afternoon
Newspaper in Habana Entitled "Critica".

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

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Sir:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE
ATTACHÉ
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I have the honor to report that plans are under way at present to begin publication in February of a new afternoon newspaper in Habana, with indications that it will be strongly pro-Perón and pro-Trujillo.

According to information obtained by the Embassy, the newspaper will be named Critica and will be printed either in the shop of Diario de la Marina or Información. It is being promoted by Eugenio DE SOSA, Jr., formerly editor of Diario de la Marina (refer Embassy's telegrams Nos. 686, July 23, 1944, and 696, July 27, 1944; Embassy's despatches Nos. 7495, July 24, 1944; 7516, July 27, 1944; 7524, July 28, 1944; 7538 and 7540, July 31, 1944; 7597, August 5, 1944; 7613, August 8, 1944; Department's Memoranda of Conversation March 10-11, 1947, and related reports). De Sosa is a close personal friend of President PERÓN of Argentina, and while he was connected with Diario de la Marina strongly sided with Perón when the Argentine strong man had any differences with the United States.

De Sosa is scheduled to leave for Buenos Aires on November 30 and will return by way of Ciudad Trujillo, arriving there on December 9 or 10.

While De Sosa appears to be acting independently of the Rivero family, which controls Diario de la Marina, its members are fully aware of the project. However, the plans to inaugurate the new publication are generally being carried out with utmost secrecy. A recent meeting was held at De Sosa's home with the representative of an American firm which sells mechanical equipment. The representative was instructed to take a taxi to a certain street corner, where he was met and taken to the De Sosa home. In addition to De Sosa, members of the Rivero family were present, as well as the mechanical superintendent of Diario.

It is understood the new paper will probably utilize Información's plant at the start, perhaps because Diario now prints another afternoon newspaper Alerta. However, Diario has fourteen new linotype machines installed and awaits delivery of four more machines from the Habana docks before placing them in operation. For several months, Diario has utilized its other seventeen linotypes and does not plan to use

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November 28, 1947,
American Embassy, Habana.

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its new battery of eighteen machines until all are installed. When this occurs, it is believed Critica will be published in Diario's shops.

The Embassy's informant is of the opinion that Critica is being established because of the wide-open political situation now prevailing in Cuba, and may not continue after the 1948 presidential election. De Sosa's sympathies, as far as Cuban politics are concerned, are not known. If the paper is a success, however, professed plans to purchase \$250,000 worth of United States printing equipment may be carried through.

De Sosa has stated that the new paper will have a regular news section of sixteen pages, with a sixteen-page offset insert, which has been decided upon in place of a rotogravure section. This section can be printed in colors.

De Sosa has indicated to the Embassy's informant that newsprint is not a problem by stating that Diario has a \$100,000 reserve supply of this commodity sufficient for three years, and that Información also has plenty on hand. This would indicate that De Sosa already has arranged for this scarce article.

It is likely Critica will go to press around 2:00 p.m., which would not place it in competition with Alerta which comes out at 11:00 a.m. It probably will cut into the sales of Avance and El Pais which publish late in the afternoon.

In view of De Sosa's background and the fact that the Rivero family is aware of, if not aiding, the formation of the new afternoon paper, it seems safe to predict Critica will mimic Diario's policy, which is pro-Franco, pro-Perón, pro-Trujillo, and which acts as spokesman for the Catholic Church and wealthy Spaniards. De Sosa's trip to Argentina ostensibly is to arrange for the shipment of some race horses to the United States, but, coupled with a stopover in the Dominican Republic, leads one to suspect that he may consult Perón and Trujillo about support for his projected publication.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


C. Allan Stewart,
Public Affairs Officer

File No. 891

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Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ARA - Mr. Woodward
RPA - Mr. Tewksbury
CRB - Mr. Hauch
FROM : CRB - Mr. Walker

AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

DEC 8 1947

DATE: December 8, 1947

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SUBJECT: Eugenio De Sosa Plans to Publish in Habana a New Afternoon Newspaper Called "Critica"

Embassy Habana reports the receipt of information that Eugenio De Sosa, close friend of Perón, plans to begin publication in February of a new afternoon newspaper in Habana called "Critica". Indications are that it will be strongly pro-Perón and pro-Trujillo. There has been speculation that De Sosa's recent trip to Argentina and the Dominican Republic was to confer with Perón and Trujillo regarding support for his projected publication.

Embassy Habana's informant believes that "Critica" is being established because of the wide-open political situation in Cuba and may not continue after the 1948 presidential election. In this connection, it is significant to mention that De Sosa in a conversation with an officer of the Department last summer stated that he was a bitter foe of the Grau administration and that he was considering taking an active part in the 1948 presidential campaign in an effort to defeat any candidate sponsored by the Grau coalition.

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OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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