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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : U.S. ConGen, Montreal

12  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 10, 1953  
DATE

REF : Habana despatch 1983, June 19, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 15 1953

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SUBJECT: Aureliano Sanchez Arango Not Believed to Have Been at Montreal Political Meeting.

According to a confidential Canadian source, the Canadian authorities had no knowledge of the alleged presence at Montreal of Aureliano Sanchez Arango during the Cuban political meeting in early June. Certainly, no one was arrested here under that name.

Officers in the Consulate General's non-immigrant visa unit were shown the caricature of Sanchez Arango that appeared in Alerta for June 18 and did not see any similarity between it and any Cuban to whom a visa was issued in May or June.

Cuban Consul William Espinosa y Dominguez has resigned from the Cuban Foreign Service, finding the uproar over his meeting ex-President Prio at Dorval Airport only the last and most intolerable of a "series of incidents" and is now looking for a job. He states that, if Aureliano Sanchez Arango was in Montreal either during the recent meeting, or six months earlier as one of the Cubans told him, he did not make his presence here known to his consular representatives. On the other hand, an officer of the Consulate General who had occasion to mention a "Dr. Arango" to Mr. Espinosa during the Montreal meeting noted that the latter was rather nervous until "Dr. Arango" was further identified as Arango Alsina. His attitude indicated even then that the name Arango had unpleasant connotations for him.

No such organization as "Ferguson Associates" is known to the Consulate General. The word "Associates", however, occurs in the title of two local organizations suspected of being communist fronts (Research Associates, Advertising Associates). The Consulate General further knows from its invoice activities that a Montreal firm does a lively business in surplus rifles and revolvers imported from Great Britain, many of which were shipped to curio shops and other outlets in the United States during the past winter. It is doubtful whether Sanchez Arango would have visited Montreal last November or December merely to obtain a dribble of minor supplies of this nature if the revolutionary plans for Cuba are as extensive as indicated by the sources covered in Habana's despatches.

In the absence of further evidence, the Consulate General feels

A. E. Clattenburg, Jr./sp  
REPORTER

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that the presence of Sanchez Arango at the June Montreal meeting must be considered unlikely and his possible earlier visit must be considered unproven, though less improbable.

Richard P. Butrick  
Consul General of the  
United States of America

cc: Embassy, Ottawa  
Embassy, Habana  
Mr. Jandrey, BNA

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