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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FEB 13 1953
737.00/2-1353
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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1278

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 13, 1953

REF : Habana D-1193, Feb. 4, 1953

DATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF OLIVER
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FEB 13 1953
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SUBJECT: Alleged Plans for Revolt Activities Against Batista Regime.

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A U.S. Air Attaché report from Guatemala dated February 6, 1953 reports apparently increasing activity on the part of Cuban exiles in Guatemala and Mexico to bring about a planned revolt against the BATISTA Government in Cuba. Reportedly, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Dr. Raul OSEGUEDA, former Guatemalan Ambassador to Cuba, is interested in assisting PRIO and his group in their alleged plans. Reportedly, Prío arrived in Mexico City on February 2 to confer with Caribbean Legion General Miguel Angel RAMIREZ, Prío's brother-in-law Enrique C. HENRIQUEZ, and others. Henriquez is reported to have stated that the plan to overthrow Batista was set for March 3, 1953 but has been postponed until April or early May 1953. Henriquez also reportedly stated that Prío had made available \$3 million to finance the plan.

The plan allegedly is one of internal insurrection.

Reportedly, the Ortodoxo party and an individual named Rafael GARCIA BARCENA 1/ are active in planning a revolt. Garcia Barcena reportedly told General Ramirez recently that he had 3,000 students in Cuba prepared to revolt. General Ramirez reportedly told Garcia Barcena that Caribbean Legion arms would be available for revolt against Batista, provided the Caribbean Legion was asked to participate. These arms are reportedly stored at Matamoros, the Guatemalan army arsenal.

1/ Embassy despatch No. 45 of July 9, 1952 reported Dr. Rafael Garcia Barcena, prominent University of Habana professor and journalist, as being involved in an alleged plot against the Batista regime. He is the reported head of a splinter group of the Ortodoxo Party and the student federation (FEU) known as the MNR (Movimiento Nacional Revolucionaria). Up to November 1952 he allegedly was not allied with Prío against Batista. Garcia Barcena allegedly controls several hundred students who might take part in revolt activities.

ETCrain:ep
REPORTER

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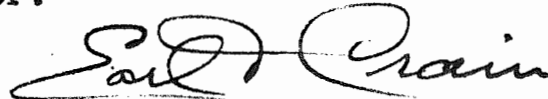
The revolt plan reportedly contemplates infiltration of arms, riots, sabotage and instigation of riots and disorders. Henriquez reportedly stated that a large quantity of arms had already been successfully infiltrated into Cuba for such riots and disorders.

Press service dispatches of February 12 from Dallas, Texas reporting U.S. court action against twelve persons accused of smuggling arms valued at \$185,000 into Mexico during the past five years were headlined in today's Habana press, presumably on the theory the report is of significance to Cuba.

Today's press also features press service reports of February 12 from Mexico that the Mexican Government is warning exiles who have been granted hospitality in Mexico that they are not to abuse that hospitality by using Mexico as a starting point ("base de partida") for possible revolutions in their respective countries. Reportedly, the Mexican Minister of Interior, Sr. Angel CARVAJAL, personally warned Romulo BETANCOURT *Gallegos* and Andres Eloy BLANCO and plans to issue a similar warning to ex-President Prfo.

The Mexican Ambassador, Lcdo. Benito COQUET, who is reportedly returning to Mexico "to occupy a high post near the President of that sister Republic," was feted by President Batista at a Palace luncheon yesterday. The luncheon was probably a routine courtesy.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

cc: Amembassies: Mexico City
Guatemala City
Ciudad Trujillo
Caracas