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FROM: Habana
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 15, July 26, 3 p.m.
NIACT

Control: 8657
Rec'd: July 26, 1953
8:03 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 27 1953
file SLT

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737.00/7-2653

Shooting broke out at Santiago de Cuba 5 a.m. today principally between army barracks and another military building. Several men in uniform reported killed or wounded. Consul Storey stated at 11:30 a.m. by telephone that firing continued fairly heavily until 8 a.m. with desultory shots still being heard. Reportedly civilians not involved (although AP reports rumor from Santiago that civilians dressed soldiers uniform attacked army) and shooting either apparently between army groups or between army vs. navy or navy and police or combination of these. City under martial law. Army Attache informed by Cuban army liaison officer here that outbreak was "small matter" and "under control".

Consular agent Tate was with Governor Camaguey Province and colonel in command troops there this morning when they reported to Habana authorities that all quiet there but were searching cars entering city. Colonel offered send half his troops to Santiago if required.

Batista and Minister Defense at Varadero national rowing races this morning (20 minutes by air). Appeared on live television apparently entirely unperturbed.

At Habana all military posts reportedly being reinforced with sandbags. Slight extra precautions noted at police station adjoining Chancery. Palace blocked off by traffic signs. Army Attache states has been informed confinement to barracks armed forces already lifted.

Ortodoxos and other leaders reportedly being detained. Tate reports Camaguey authorities "invited Tony Varona and brother to headquarters with escort".

Associated Press states no outgoing messages permitted and all broadcasting stations reportedly occupied by government forces. No reports being broadcast locally although stations on air.

Ministry of Information in official statement at 1:30 p.m. said

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various individuals

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-2- #15, July 26, 3 p.m., from Habana

"various individuals in agreement with Prio" had attempted to seize control of the government at Santiago de Cuba. The statement quoted President Batista at Varadero as saying "the government will be inflexible in applying the measures which guarantee the progress of the March 10 revolution.

BEAULAC

AB:MS/12

NOTE: Mrs. Hood (ARA) informed 9:15 pm 7-26-53, CWO-FED.

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FROM: Habana
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 16, July 26, 6 p.m.
NIACT
Re our 15 today.
Official army sources.

Control: 8658
Rec'd: July 26, 1953
10:09 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 27 1953
file SLT

SLT
[Handwritten initials]

(1) Attack on first regiment headquarters Santiago at reveille this morning was carried out by civilians some dressed in army uniforms. Ten soldiers and 27 civilians known dead. Insurgents surrounded in buildings adjacent to regimental headquarters and at Siboney, country place near Santiago.

(2) At Bayamo near Santiago a jeep presumably manned by civilians fired on rural guard squadron headquarters this morning. Five soldiers wounded.

(3) Emilio Ochoa leader of faction of Orthodox Party under arrest at military intelligence headquarters Habana.

Consul Storey reports from Santiago occasional rifle fire still heard and traffic prevented from entering or leaving city. He confirms unusual activity at Siboney.

Havana appears normal.

BEAULAC

AB:DVW/4

NOTE: Mrs. Hood (ARA) informed 11:00 pm. 7-26-53. CWO-FED.

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JUL 29 1953

E.T. Long - ARA - 9/20/78
FOI 820723 Rabasa

Department of State

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FROM: Habana
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 17, July 27, 11 a.m.

PRIORITY

Consulate story reports quiet restored Santiago and military commander there announced 29 army dead. Habana press reports total dead exceeds 80. No (repeat no) reports of disorders in country today. Habana quiet. Martial law decreed throughout country. President addressing country at 11 a.m.

Control:
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July 27, 1953
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BEAULAC

LMS:MTC:NLH/6

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10-21-1953

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FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 19, July 27, 5 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Control: 8991
 BUREAU OF Rec'd: July 27, 1953
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS 7:42 p.m.

JUL 28 1953
file SLT

H. H. H. H.

Batista in long radio address to the country, delivered in front of assembled troops at Camp Columbia, added little to what already known about Santiago incident. He mentioned Prio, Communists and mercenaries as among those responsible for what he referred to as "foolish and useless action". From President's remarks it is deduced 17 armed forces members killed in Santiago in addition to one reported killed in Bayamo.

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RSP:DVW/4

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FROM: Habana
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 20, July 27, 5 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 28 1953
file JLT

Control 8995
Rec'd July 27, 1953
8:22 p.m.

JLT
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Consul Story states no (repeat no) truth to current rumor Luis Casero, former Mayor Santiago de Cuba and Minister Public Works, sought asylum American Consulate Santiago.

BEAULAC

RSP:MEJ/1

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