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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. - 3 Encls. APR 16 1953

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DEPT. OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR - 7 1953

SUBJECT: Revolutionary Uprising Claimed Frustrated by Authorities

On Easter Sunday the Military Intelligence Service (SIM), the Bureau of Investigations and the National Police made numerous arrests which, according to the official report, frustrated a "conspiracy and movement against the security of the State that had been carefully planned and were to be put into effect on Sunday afternoon with an assault on Camp Columbia and other nerve centers" of the armed forces.

The authorities claimed to have had prior knowledge of the conspiratorial activities. They descended upon the apartment of one Mrs. Eva JIMENEZ Ruiz, described in one press report as the niece of the President of the Court of Accounts. About a dozen people were arrested, including the occupant of the apartment and the University professor, Rafael GARCIA Bârcena, who police alleged was the head of the conspiracy. The authorities reported that they found arms and ammunition, plans of action, layouts of Camp Columbia and La Cabaña Fortress, and a Cuban flag signed by the conspirators!

Later, at the same place, more arrests were made when various individuals brought to the apparent rendezvous more arms which they were charged with having taken from the farm of the director of the daily "Información", said to be a well-known sportsman addicted to shooting.

At about the same time other arrests were made in the environs of Camp Columbia at so-called "concentration points" from which the attack on the Camp was to be launched.

The total number of those arrested was reported to be about 60. Practically all were men and many appeared to be of university age. Assuming the truth of the story of a conspiracy headed by Garcia Bârcena, it would appear that he has been successful in spreading the revolutionary ideas he has been known to hold among a few young men but apparently not among the numbers he has reportedly claimed.

FCFornes, Jr.:rc
REPORTER

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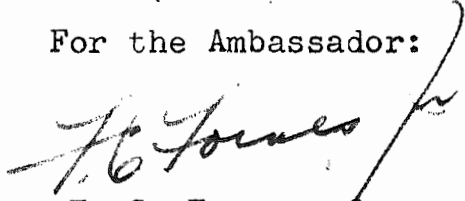
President BATISTA, who was visiting the Isle of Pines over Easter, did not return to Habana because of the arrests. General TABERNILLA, the Army Chief of Staff, did return however, and was quoted as saying that no Army personnel were involved in the matter, although personnel retired after the March 10 coup may have been training the young men.

One report stated that an American was included among the arrested. This report was evidently incorrect and probably arose from the earlier arrest of an American allegedly connected with gambling operations.

The official press release regarding the arrests declared that the Ortodoxos, Autenticos, Communists, FEU (the University student organization) and other groups were involved in the conspiracy, which was financed by ex-President PRIO. This contrasts with the information that has reached the Embassy during recent months to the effect that Garcia Bárcena was receiving little or no support from any quarter because his schemes were considered impracticable. The son of the Rector of the University, who was among those arrested, was reported by the authorities to have said that he wished he had followed his father's advice, who told him: "Abandon Garcia Bárcena, boys; he is crazy and is taking you along as cannon fodder".

There are enclosed a copy of the official press release, together with one set of accompanying photographs; a copy of a statement by the Minister of Information; and a clipping giving details made available to the press.

For the Ambassador:



F. C. Fornes, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

- ✓ No. 1 - Official press release with photographs
- ✓ No. 2 - Statement of Minister of Information
- ✓ No. 3 - Press clipping