

per E.T. LONG-ARA - 9/20/78

AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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737.00/7-3053

FROM Embassy Habana 179

F780011-0222

DESP. NO.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 30, 1953

REF Despatch 178, July 29, 1953

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SUBJECT:

SANTIAGO DE CUBA INCIDENT: MINISTER OF STATE ALLEGES PART OF ARMS CACHE CAME FROM UNITED STATES...
 EMILIO OCHOA STILL UNDER ARREST...
 COMMUNIST DOCUMENTS FOUND ON PARTICIPANTS

I have the honor to report that during a conversation I had yesterday with the Minister of State, he said that the arms cache that had been discovered on an isolated cay off the north coast, to which President Batista referred in his speech of July 27, contained arms not only from Mexico but from the United States and Canada. I asked the Minister to supply me with full details concerning arms which the Government believes to have been imported from the United States in order that I might transmit them to my Government for investigation and action.

In reply to my question concerning evidence of Orthodox and Communist involvement in the events of July 26 at Santiago, the Minister said that Emilio OCHOA, president of one of the sectors of the Orthodox Party, who apparently is still being held by S.I.M. in Habana, made a trip through Oriente Province shortly before the incident. The Minister admitted, however, that the trip may have been political and not directly associated with the July 26 incident.

The Minister said that Communist documents were found on some of the persons killed or captured following the attack on the garrison at Santiago. He did not go into any more details on this subject.

Willard L. Beaulac
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WL Beaulac/dw
REPORTER

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