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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 30, 1953

DATE

REF : D-178, July 29, 1953

ACTION	DEPT.	
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SUBJECT: President Prio Denies Complicity in Santiago de Cuba Disturbances

A United Press article datelined Miami July 27 reporting an interview with ex-President Carlos PRIO Socarras concerning the disorders at Santiago de Cuba on July 26 was headlined in El Crisol of July 27 "Ex-President Prio Denies His Participation". A subheading stated " 'If I do not place myself in the vanguard I will not give the order' , said Prio".

In the reported interview Prio accused President BATISTA of responsibility in connection with the assault on the military barracks at Santiago. Prio stated that no movement or insurrection in Cuba could be attributed to him. He added "It is a waste of time to accuse me of any uprising. The only time would be when I place myself at the head of it". Prio stated that the only information he had concerning the uprising was that published in the press. He added that "Even in Habana there is very little information due to censorship". Prio said he was unaware of the extent and strength of the movement but that he was not surprised it took place. Prio recalled that on more than one occasion he had declared that the Cuban people would not tolerate the dictatorship.

According to Prio, the Batista regime has been characterized by abuse of power, destruction of the Cuban economy and Batista's intimacy with the Communists. He said that "in Cuba no one is in agreement with what is taking place, even the Army". He prophesied that as long as Batista continued to "usurp the power which the people did not give him there would be other uprisings".

For the Ambassador:

Earl T. Crain  
Acting Counselor of Embassy

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