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DESP. NO.

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : Embassy D-1869, May 28, 1953

June 1, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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JUN 1 - 1953

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SUBJECT: MONTREAL MEETING OF CUBAN OPPOSITION LEADERS.
CANADIAN EMBASSY EXPRESSES INTEREST.

El Crisol of June 1, 1953 published a U.P. item date-lined Montreal, June 1, under the heading "Ortodoxos and Auténticos Meet in Montreal." It reported that in a meeting being held at the Ritz-Carlton, representatives of the Auténtico and Ortodoxo parties would "determine the course to be followed." It was stated that a statement would be issued later in the day. According to the U.P. item, ex-President PRIO, his secretary, Luis Gustavo FERNANDEZ, Manuel Antonio de VARONA, Guillermo ALONSO Pujol, Eduardo SUAREZ Rivas, Carlos HEVIA and Juan Antonio RUBIO Padilla formed the Auténtico delegation, the Ortodoxos being represented by Emilio OCHOA, José PARDO LLADA 1/ and Isidro FIGUEROA.

A second U.P. item from Montreal dated June 1 reported that a precise statement of objectives would be issued at the termination of the three-day conference. It also reported the following joint statement issued by Prio, Ochoa and Varona (in translation):

"The conference we are holding in Montreal, attended by leading representatives of our parties, tends toward establishment of a national agreement leading to termination of the dictatorship through re-establishment of constitutional institutions. As a result of this reunion, the Ortodoxo and Auténtico parties expect to reach an

1/ It was reported May 29 that Pardo Llada had cancelled his reservation. Nevertheless, it has now been ascertained that Pardo Llada departed Habana for Montreal (via New York, in transit, without U.S. visa) May 28, National Airlines flight 454, along with Antonio Santiago RUIS (or RUIZ), Arcelio AZCUY and Isidro Figueroa (student FEU leaders). Other departures: May 27, NAL 402, Ochoa and Varona; NAL 450, Eduardo Suarez Rivas; May 29, NAL 450, José Manuel GUTIERREZ, LAV 250, Ramiro Angel ARANGO Alsina, José Enrique ALVAREZ Borges.

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REPORTER

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understanding and are sure it will be the basis for a patriotic agreement on the part of all of the opposition. This does not imply plans for future coalitions, fronts or electoral pacts since the common ends which inspire them are of a national character for the defense of the Constitution and laws that have been trampled under foot. We are endeavoring to spare our country the fratricidal struggle toward which the regime of the usurper leads."

The pro-government Alerta indicated on June 1 that Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango might also be at Montreal. The Embassy received a report evaluated B-3 that Sanchez Arango might be in Mexico, or even Cuba.

In its article of June 1 Alerta ridiculed the "gentlemen's agreement" allegedly being reached in Montreal, reprinting previous recrimination between Ortodoxos and Autenticos which includes charges of terrorism, gangsterism and murder.

Pertinent press clippings are enclosed.

Mr. K. C. Brown, Second Secretary of the Canadian Embassy, called at the Embassy May 29 regarding the meeting of Cuban opposition leaders at Montreal where ex-President Prío and several others, reportedly, had already arrived. 1/

Mr. Brown stated his Government was concerned regarding the possibility that these Cubans might endeavor to smuggle arms out of Canada, possibly through the United States, to Cuba. He expressed doubt that an effort along these lines would succeed.

Mr. Brown stated he expected that Prío and others at the meeting would be informed they had been received by Canada in their announced status as tourists and that Canada expected them to refrain from any activity on Canadian soil that could prove awkward or embarrassing to Canada in its relations with the Government of Cuba.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

Press Clippings, Alerta and El Crisol, June 1

cc: Amembassy, Mexico City; Am. Cons.Gen., Montreal

1/ Mr. Brown states that Cubans entering Canada as tourists are not required to present visas.