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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1910
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : D-1901, June 3, 1953.

DESP. NO.

June 5, 1953

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SUBJECT: MANIFESTO ISSUED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS AT MONTREAL

The Habana press of June 4 covered at length a manifesto which it was reported had been signed by Auténtico and Ortodoxo leaders on June 2 as the culmination of a three-day conference held in Montreal. The manifesto agreed on a "united front" against the BATISTA regime, and in an open letter to the Cuban people proposed "a national formula for Cuba based on the re-establishment of the Constitution of 1940."

The manifesto was signed in the following order:

Carlos PRIO Socarras, as "ex-President, deposed March 10, 1952"

Emilio OCHOA y Ochoa as "Partido Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo)"

Manuel A. VARONA y Loredo as "Partido Revolucionario Cubano (Auténtico)"

José PARDO LLADA "(Ortodoxo)"

Guillermo ALONSO PUJOL as "ex-Vice President of Cuba "(Auténtico)"

Isidro FIGUEROA "(Ortodoxo)"

"Engineer" Carlos HEVIA "(Auténtico)"

José Manuel GUTIERREZ "(Ortodoxo)"

Eduardo SUAREZ RIVAS "(Auténtico)"

The manifesto outlined four points:

1. Solution of the national crisis by re-establishment of the Constitution of 1940.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 11 1953
OFFICE OF REGIONAL
AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

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2. The Batista regime is "incapacitated" to hold elections.

3. It is indispensable that a Provisional Government be organized to re-establish the Electoral Code of 1943 and to guarantee complete official neutrality in order to hold, within a very brief period, elections for all State offices.

4. The signatories emphatically reject and condemn personal attacks, gangsterism and terrorist activities as political weapons. The Auténtico and Ortodoxo parties will appoint liaison committees for the attainment of the above objectives while maintaining organic individuality and reiterating their lack of interest in electoral coalitions or understandings.

The signers called "on all democratic sectors to strengthen the unity of the people for the recovery of Constitutional institutions and . . . liberties."

It was stated that, despite reported threats of the Batista Government that it would "make it hot" for those who attended the Montreal conference and who returned to Cuba, those who left Cuba to attend the conference would return to their country. Ortodoxo groups, supporters of the Ochoa sector of the party, have announced plans to welcome Ochoa and Pardo Llada back to Cuba.

The Habana press reported that the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Sr. Delfin H. PUPO, and the Cuban Consul in Montreal, Guillermo ESPINOSA, had been recalled to Habana to explain "why they were at the airport to receive ex-President Prío and other revolutionary leaders when they arrived in Montreal recently for a meeting to agree on plans for the overthrow of President Batista's Government." According to the Havana Post of June 4, it was reported that "there is another reason for the Government's attitude, which is that the Cuban Ambassador and the Consul allegedly helped to persuade the Canadian authorities to permit the meeting . . . in Montreal." An A.P. dispatch from Ottawa quoted Ambassador Pupo as denying he had met Prío in Montreal. He reportedly stated he had not been in Montreal for more than a month.

The Montreal conferees have been subjected to both ridicule and criticism by Government supporters.

President Batista said on June 4 that the conference "only represents shame and dishonesty . . . the Cuban people can expect no good from that extraordinary alliance . . . in the face of that monstrous abortion, our determination to defend order and decency in Cuba is firmer than ever . . ."

Minister of Information Ernesto de la FE was quoted as stating that "these people were not even the representatives of

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the political parties they mention, because their present leaderships are non-existent and even the principal leaders of the organizations they say they represent have repudiated them . . . What has really been agreed upon in Montreal is to intensify terrorism and create an atmosphere of insecurity in the nation, in order to precipitate chaos and try to facilitate in this way the return of those who are now plotting to restore in Cuba the days of shame and crime." He announced that "the Government is alert to see that the peace of the nation is not disturbed . . ."

Heavy criticism has also emanated from the AGRAMONTE sector of the Ortodoxo party. The Ortodoxos who went to Montreal have been termed "deserters" by the Agramonte Youth Group. Agramonte himself described the Ortodoxos who went to Montreal as guilty of treason which set them "beyond the pale of orthodoxy."

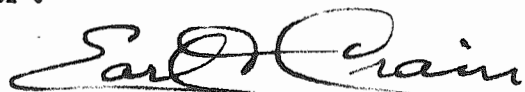
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Embassy Comment

There has been no clear-cut reaction in Cuba to the meeting of opposition leaders at Montreal. Among the Ortodoxos, approval or disapproval of the meeting depends largely on the Ortodoxo faction to which the person in question belongs. Those opposed to the Batista regime are in general pleased at what they consider an important step toward opposition unity. Those favoring the Government term the meeting a futile gesture on the part of discredited politicians. There is some suspicion in Cuba that the manifesto may be merely a cover to a secret agreement. Any estimate of the long-term results of the conference must await further developments.

Pertinent press clippings are enclosed.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:
Press clippings

cc: Cons. Gen., Montreal

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EL MUNDO

JUN 4 - 1953

Agramonte Dice:



“La reunión de Montreal sitúa a los ortodoxos asistentes definitivamente fuera de la Ortodoxia. La masa de nuestro Partido, fundado para tareas de honestidad, repudia tales contubernios. Han asumido la grave responsabilidad de ligarse a los asaltadores del tesoro público y a los que entregaron mansamente las instituciones democráticas al dictador y destructor de las libertades ciudadanas”.

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Cuba Envoy In Canada Recalled

Through the Ministry of State, the Government has called Cuban Ambassador to Canada Delfin Pupo and the Cuban Consul in Montreal, Guillermo Espinosa, to Havana, to explain why they were at the airport to receive ex-president Prio and other revolutionary leaders when they arrived in Montreal recently for a meeting to agree on plans for the overthrow of President Batista's government, it was learned extra-officially yesterday.

It is understood the Ambassador is being called to Havana to be relieved of his appointment, while Consul Espinosa will face dismissal proceedings because of his attitude, which is considered improper.

It is also reported that there is another reason for the government's attitude, which is that the Cuban

Ambassador and the Consul allegedly helped to persuade the Canadian authorities to permit the meeting of Carlos Prio and his followers and other Cuban opposition elements in Montreal.

OTTAWA, June 4. (AP)— Delfin Pupo, Cuban Ambassador to Canada, today denied having welcomed ex-President Dr. Carlos Prio Socarras in Montreal last week, during a political conference.

"I have not been in Montreal for more than a month," the Ambassador said.

A report from Havana said today that the Minister of the Presidency Dr. Andres Domingo Morales del Castillo, had announced that proceedings for removal from office had been instituted against Ambassador Pupo and the Consul General, Guillermo Espinosa, for having welcomed Prio Socarras and other Cuban politicians at the conference.

The report quoted the Minister of the Presidency as having said that "it was improper that an ambassador of President Batista should have welcomed Prio and his group when those gentlemen were in that city to conspire against the Batista government."

The Ambassador was appointed by Prio Socarras before the latter was overthrown by a military "coup" in March, 1952.