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June 11, 1953

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 17 1953

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SUBJECT: REPORTED EFFORTS TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY
INCLINED TOWARD ARGENTINA

The Embassy has received a report to the effect that preliminary plans are being made for the formation of a new Cuban political party which apparently would have rightist and nationalistic tendencies and would be supported by interests inclined toward Argentina and Perón and by others who are disillusioned with existing political groups and alignments.

According to this report, Alfredo HORNEDO Suarez, ex-Senator, publisher of the dailies El Pais, Excelsior and El Crisol, and interested in several commercial enterprises, is proceeding to the Argentine at the invitation of President Perón. Reportedly, those responsible for arranging this trip were Oscar GANS Martinez, ex-Ambassador of Cuba to the Argentine, and Eugenio DE SOSA Chabau, brother-in-law of the director of the Diario de la Marina, both of whom are reputedly friendly with Perón. Gans and de Sosa are said to be associates in a company called the Santa Regina Trading Company and to be using its offices as headquarters for efforts to form a new national party to include Hornedo, ex-Vice President Raúl DE CARDENAS Echarte, former President of the Liberal Party Ricardo NUNEZ Portuondo, ex-Ambassador to the United States Oscar B. CINTAS, and others.

The Embassy is informed that upon Hornedo's return from Argentina, there will be increased activity in connection with the formation of this party which would be rightist in tendency with a program of political regeneration, public order, punishment of embezzlement, fraud, etc., in public office, and greater unity between Cuba and the rest of Latin America.

It is alleged that the backers of the idea of a new party are counting on the support for publicity purposes of Amadeo BARLETTA and his El Mundo and radio and television outlets; of the Argentine news agency, Agencia Latina, and the Argentine magazine Verdad; of Rolando MASFERRER and his daily Tiempo (which is consistently pro-Argentine, possibly for a consideration); Nestor

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SUAREZ Feliú, foreign affairs commentator in Prensa Libre (also a pro-Argentine writer) and Cepero BONILLA, with their weekly Combate; and of several other publications (La Noticia, Finanzas, Comercio, and La Correspondencia of Cienfuegos being among those mentioned) and some radio programs.

Comment

According to his own newspapers, Hornedo left Habana on June 5 for New York en route to Argentina. He was accompanied by his wife. To this extent the report reaching the Embassy is corroborated, but nothing is known to confirm that his trip has political significance in connection with a possible Perón-oriented party in the future in Cuba.

The foregoing report comes from a source close to local press circles. It is doubted, however, that there is much, if any, truth, to the report received by source of the formation of any new party in Cuba having any inspiration in Peronismo. The Embassy believes that most of the persons mentioned as interested in the formation of such a party would not only be personally averse to Peronism, but would also consider such a connection harmful to the new party's success. It is doubted, for instance, that Ricardo NUÑEZ Portuondo or Raul de Cardenas would become associated with any group having Perón inspiration. Raul de Cardenas has personally informed an Embassy officer that he is interested in the formation of a new party which, he stated, was not nationalistic. He said that Amadeo Barletta was not associated with the proposed new party.

For the Ambassador:


Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

cc: Amembassy, Buenos Aires