

to M.I.D.
2/5-DM 2521 N. Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida
ack 2/26/53
DM file

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RECEIVED
JAN 28 1953

The Honorable The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Report of Economical, Political and Social Conditions
in Cuba under the Present Government of F. Batista.

Sir:

The writer of this report, Eliseo Riera-Gomez, a United States citizen and a veteran of World War II, having served for 4 years (1942-1946) in the 31st Infantry Division of the U. S. Army, has compiled the data hereunder after a recent trip to Cuba, his place of birth. This report has the sole purpose of informing every freedom-loving man and defender of democratic principles of the suffering of a liberty-loving nation only 90 miles away from the United States, which finds itself under the yoke of an unmerciful dictator and an old ally of the Communists. It is presented with the hope that an informed public opinion in the land of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln may be aroused to protest the existence, at its very door, of a shameful dictatorship, so in conflict with the principles for which these men stood and for which our wars today are being fought.

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FIRST: After ten years of revolutionary convulsions (1930-1940), Cuba achieved a regime of constitutional and political stability. The 1939 elections gave the people an opportunity to freely elect its representatives to a Constituent Assembly upon which full sovereignty had been vested. All political parties were represented in that Congress, which enacted the new Constitution in effect since October 10, 1940.

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SECOND: Under the above mentioned Constitution, Cuba consolidated its civil and democratic institutions, improved its commercial and industrial ability, heightened its economical and financial progress, and opened new sources of work for the benefit of the working and peasant classes. In the political field, Cuba had six elections, in which the citizens' rights were absolutely guaranteed, having been able to cast their votes without duress and with due respect to the national will. At the same time, the Communist Party lost strength, as a result of a social political intelligence developed by the constitutional governments (1944-1948, 1948-1952), which aimed, too, at taking away from the Communist leaders the control of the labor unions.

THIRD: In March, 1952, Cuba was living in peace and the sugar cane harvest was taking place normally. Politics was causing an upheaval of the passions, but the electoral process was taking place within the structure of the law. The elections were ninety days away. The civic line-up was the following: three forces were striving for power. The government coalition, which had as its nucleus the Cuban Revolutionary Party (A) -- Partido Revolucionario Cubano (Autentico) and whose presidential candidate was the engineer Carlos Hevia, a graduate from the Annapolis Naval Academy and a man of undisputed moral integrity. The government coalition had in its books one million four hundred thousand voters, which was equivalent to over sixty per cent of the total voting population. The strongest opposition force was the Party of the Cuban People (Orthodox) -- Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo), which had no more than four hundred thousand voters. Its candidate for the Presidency was Dr. Roberto Agramonte, a renowned editor, former president of the University of Havana, and a professor at the College of Philosophy of said institution. The third party called itself Unitarian Action (Accion Unitaria), with a total membership under two hundred forty thousand, or less than twelve per cent of the total voting population. The presidential candidate of this party was General Fulgencio Batista, who at that time was a senator for the province of Santa Clara. The Communist Party's manpower was under five per cent of the voting population.

FOURTH: Under the circumstances, and General Batista being convinced of his inevitable defeat in the coming elections, possessed of an incontrollable desire for dictatorial powers, he joined hands with a small group of low-ranking officers in

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the Army, the Police and the Navy, as well as former members of said branches of the armed forces, in order to carry out a plan which he had been harboring for over a year, namely: to take over the most important positions in the armed forces by surprise, and, once this was done, to take for himself and his associates all public authority, for which end he overthrew both the President and Vice President of the Republic, suspended the functions of the legislative power, altered the composition of the judicial power, caused the immediate annulment of the Constitution, and designated himself President of the Republic with unlimited powers, which go from creating and increasing new taxes to the organization and operation of civilian and private institutions.

FIFTH: The most visible effects of the coup d'Etat of March 10, 1952, are the following: (A) From the military standpoint.- Since the present government does not have the least popular support, its mainstay is the Police force, which has been granted unlimited favors and privileges, thus turning it into the foremost power in the State and making an armed political party out of it, which was called by the Army Chief of Staff the "Yellow, White and Blue Party", from the colors of its uniform. This excessive military power entails, by itself, a negation of the democratic system of government. (B) From the political standpoint.- The annulment of the Constitution and the Electoral Code, which have been replaced by statutes and laws drafted and modified to suit the dictator's will; the disintegration of the political parties, and the abrogation of the basic rights of the citizens, plus the unending violence which prevents the normal exercising of the freedom of assembly, of association, of thought, and of the press, the introduction of the postal and telephone censorship, all of which proves that there is in Cuba, against the will of the people, a regime which denies the basic principles which are the foundations of democracy. (C) From the economic standpoint.- The lack of security caused by the annulment of the Constitution, as well as by the fact that all public powers are in the hands of one man -- the dictator --, who makes laws, creates or modifies the taxes, alters the concept of private property, of commerce and of economy in general, to suit his fancy, are the causes of the present financial and economic crisis, which in turn means an increasing let-down of business, increase of unemployment, and lessening of the buying power of the people. This situation is worse as the days go by, due to psychological reasons which ally themselves with the threat of possible revolutionary upheavals, in the fight in which the Nation -- which wants to get its freedoms back -- on the one hand, and the dictator, bent on asserting by all possible means his personal authority, on the other hand, are engaged; for instance: one-sided and trumped-up elections set for the 1st of November, 1953, and frequent acts of violence and duress on the part of the Police.

(D) FROM THE COMMUNIST STANDPOINT.- COMMUNISM, SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PRIO, WHO REDUCED ITS ABILITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO A MINIMUM, HAS RECOVERED INFLUENCE AND POWER UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP OF GENERAL BATISTA. IN FACT: 1.- WHILE ON THE ONE HAND THE DICTATORIAL REGIME LIMITS, IN VARIOUS WAYS, FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF CLOSING UP, MOST REPEATEDLY, NEWSPAPERS, RADIO STATIONS, AND RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS, THE NEWSPAPER HOY (TODAY), OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS EVERY GUARANTEE AND FACILITY FOR ITS PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT HOY GETS AND SPREADS THE PASSWORDS SENT FROM MOSCOW AND, THEREFORE, MOST OF ITS PROPAGANDA IS OF AN INTERNATIONAL NATURE, AIMED AT COMBATING AND DISPARAGING THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. 2.- THESE LEANINGS OF GENERAL BATISTA TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST PARTY ARE NOTHING NEW. THE FOLLOWING TRUTHS SERVE AS EVIDENCE OF WHAT IS SAID HERE: (a) IN 1939, GENERAL BATISTA LEGALIZED THE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH HAD BEEN OUTLAWED, BY COMING TO A POLITICAL AND DOCTRINAL AGREEMENT WITH SAID PARTY. (b) IN 1940, GENERAL BATISTA PUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC COALITION TICKET, WHICH HAD HIM AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND INCLUDED IN ITS PLATFORM MANY OF THE BASIC IDEAS THE COMMUNIST PARTY STOOD FOR, INCLUDING THE FAMOUS MOTTO "CUBA, OUT OF THE IMPERIALIST WAR", WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE CUBAN COMMUNISTS FOLLOWING THE PACT OF AUGUST, 1939, SIGNED BETWEEN BERLIN AND MOSCOW. (c) IN 1943, BATISTA, WHO WAS THEN PRESIDENT, APPOINTED DR. JUAN MARINELLO, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY. (d) SINCE 1939, UNTIL HE LEFT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, GENERAL BATISTA PUT THE COMMUNIST LEADERS IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND OF

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(E) THE PRESENT CUBAN SITUATION AND PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS GOVERNMENT.- The Pan American doctrine which prevents the intervention of a particular people or their government in the internal affairs of another people or government is well known and respected; but for many historical, moral and economic reasons, public opinion in the United States cannot remain indifferent in the face of the present Cuban tragedy. Furthermore, our problems, due to the geographic nearness and because Cuban Independence was achieved in a war which opened to the United States the trails toward its present world leadership, have always to be of live interest for the country of George Washington. The fact that Cuba -- ninety miles from the American shores -- is ostensibly deprived of its public freedoms and under the sway of a military dictatorship, has to arouse in the democratic public opinion of the United States, and of those whose business it is to interpret and direct it, a desire to condemn such a situation. Never was the present time more right, since the United States is constantly calling the free world to oppose and resist the aggression of Soviet totalitarianism, and little could be said of these preachings if some of the peoples appealed to suffer, in their internal life, an oppression and indignity of a nature similar to that which they are requested to fight. Furthermore, her present democratic malformation is one of the causes of the economic crises. One of its effects -- already well visible -- is the lessening of Cuba's buying power. For this reason, both the people and the government of the United States should be concerned, for Cuba occupies an important place amongst the great buyers of the United States, and the policy of commercial reciprocity contemplates the continuation of her financial prosperity.

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I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,


Eliseo Riera-Gomez

2521 N. Greenway Drive
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January 20, 1953

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I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,


Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
FEB - 6 1953

Honorable John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1953, addressed to the Attorney General by Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez, on the subject of present conditions in Cuba.

Since the subject matter of Mr. Riera-Gomez' communication falls within the jurisdiction of your Department, I am forwarding this copy for your consideration. Mr. Riera-Gomez has not been advised of this referral.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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MAY 15 1953
DIVISION OF ORGANIC INFORMATION

Warren Olney III
WARREN OLNEY III
Assistant Attorney General

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*Enclosure is a palinmic
against Batista written by
a man who says he is a
but obviously emotionally
with Cuban, no answer made*

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : PL - Mr. McNeil
FROM : MID - Insping
SUBJECT: Attached letter

DATE: 16 Dec 53

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As I explained over the phone, it is suggested that an innocuous reply be made, which does not mention or discuss specifically the statements made in the letter, and which does not encourage the writer to continue.

February 27 1953

In reply refer to
PL 737.00/1-2053

My dear Mr. Riera-Gomez:

I have been asked to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 20, 1953 regarding Cuba. Your report has been noted by appropriate officers of the Department.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Grace B. Ruckh
Assistant to the Chief
Division of Public Liaison

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Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez,
2521 North Greenway Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida.

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March 21, 1953

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Honorable John F. Dulles
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The Dictator of Cuba, who took the government by force on March 10, 1952, has long identified himself with the cause of Communism. Now Dictator Fulgencio Batista has hit the jackpot at the risk of letting Communist agents enter the Island, and at the same time enriching himself.

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Under the Dictator's set-up, Cuba is willing to accept as permanent residents of the country a number of Europeans who can qualify "FINANCIALLY AND MORALLY". Resident permits are promised for \$3,500.00 for adults. For minors under thirteen years of age the charge is \$500.00, and for those between thirteen and eighteen years of age the fee is \$1,500.00. This amount does not include traveling expenses and consular fees. But, in return, the displaced person is offered a one-way passport to Cuba from any country in Europe. Cuban consuls will issue transit visas permitting entry to Cuba as permanent residents with all the rights of the Cuban citizens, except the right to vote or to be a candidate for office. This is illegal because it grants Cuban passports to people who are not Cubans. The United States of America should certainly be most concerned with this last trick of Dictator Batista because of the danger of Communist agents coming into a country only ninety miles away from the U. S. A. These visas can be bought and are being bought by the Communists in order to get closer to the United States. For, what guarantee does Dictator Batista have, or ask, that the Europeans buying these visas are not Communist agents?

However, we should remember that it was Batista who recognized the Communist Party in Cuba in 1939, at the time when Hitler and Stalin had signed the Munich Pact and when the slogan of the Communist Party was to keep all the free countries "out of the Imperialist War". It was he, who as President of Cuba in 1943, assigned Juan Marinello, president of the Communist Party in Cuba, to an important cabinet post. It was the Dictator who gave the leadership of the labor unions in Cuba

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Honorable John F. Dulles, Secretary of State

to the Communist Party and kept Lazaro Pena, well known Communist leader, as Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of Workers. In 1940 he was the Communist Party candidate for President, and included in his platform many of the basic ideas and principles of the Communists. It was Batista who as President of Cuba used all his influence to elect three leading members of the Communist Party to the Cuban Senate - Juan Marinello, Cesar Vilar and Salvador Garcia Agüero.

Today the Dictator has as Under-Secretary of Labor, a well known Communist in Cuba, Arsenio Gonzalez.

We in the United States should keep our eyes open and carefully watch this man, who could not live by law and order in his own country, who could not uphold the Constitution which he solemnly swore to defend as Senator, and who led the treacherous blow against the constitutional government of Carlos Prío, establishing a government by force contrary to all the principles of democracy, thus creating a breeding ground for Communism in Cuba.

Very truly yours,

Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:shs

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

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Com. Cuba Dictator
State the U.S. should
be concerned about what
is taking place in Cuba

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March 21, 1953

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Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The Dictator of Cuba, who took the government by force on March 10, 1952, has long identified himself with the cause of Communism. Now Dictator Fulgencio Batista has hit the jackpot at the risk of letting Communist agents enter the Island, and at the same time enriching himself.

Under the Dictator's set-up, Cuba is willing to accept as permanent residents of the country a number of Europeans who can qualify "FINANCIALLY AND MORALLY". Resident permits are promised for \$3,500.00 for adults. For minors under thirteen years of age the charge is \$500.00, and for those between thirteen and eighteen years of age the fee is \$1,500.00. This amount does not include traveling expenses and consular fees. But, in return, the displaced person is offered a one-way passport to Cuba from any country in Europe. Cuban consuls will issue transit visas permitting entry to Cuba as permanent residents with all the rights of the Cuban citizens, except the right to vote or to be a candidate for office. This is illegal because it grants Cuban passports to people who are not Cubans. The United States of America should certainly be most concerned with this last trick of Dictator Batista because of the danger of Communist agents coming into a country only ninety miles away from the U. S. A. These visas can be bought and are being bought by the Communists in order to get closer to the United States. For what guarantee does Dictator Batista have, or ask, that the Europeans buying these visas are not Communist agents?

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However, we should remember that it was Batista who recognized the Communist Party in Cuba in 1939, at the time when Hitler and Stalin had signed the Munich Pact and when the slogan of the Communist Party was to keep all the free countries "out of the Imperialist War". It was he, who as President of Cuba in 1943, assigned Juan Marinello, president of the Communist Party in Cuba, to an important cabinet post.

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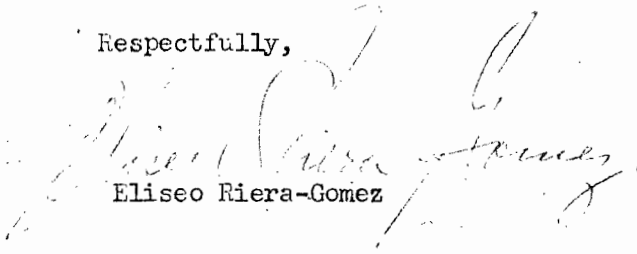
Honorable D. D. Eisenhower, President of the United States

It was the Dictator who gave the leadership of the labor unions in Cuba to the Communist Party and kept Lazaro Pena, well known Communist leader, as Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of workers. In 1940 he was the Communist Party candidate for President, and included in his platform many of the basic ideas and principles of the Communists. It was Batista who as President of Cuba used all his influence to elect three leading members of the Communist Party to the Cuban Senate - Juan Marinello, Cesar Vilar and Salvador Garcia Agueró.

Today the Dictator has as Under-Secretary of Labor, a well known Communist in Cuba, Arsenio Gonzalez.

We in the United States should keep our eyes open and carefully watch this man, who could not live by law and order in his own country, who could not uphold the Constitution which he solemnly swore to defend as Senator, and who led the treacherous blow against the constitutional government of Carlos Prío, establishing a government by force contrary to all the principles of democracy, thus creating a breeding ground for Communism in Cuba.

Respectfully,


Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:shs

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

May 8, 1953

Honorable William Lantaff
United States Representative from Florida
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lantaff:

Upon several occasions I have had the honor of sending you factual articles on conditions in the country where I was born, Cuba. To this day I have not received a reply from your office in Washington. As a man who gave you his confidence to represent me, it is natural that I expect you to do something about circumstances that vitally concern me and the people of this County. There are thousands of American citizens of Cuban ancestry living in this community who are naturally interested and concerned with the deprivation of personal liberty under Dictator Batista. Too, it can be shown that Cuba annually spends about \$10,000,000.00 in the Miami area, and I feel the economic situation should very much concern you.

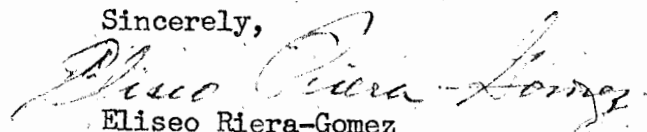
It is possible, Mr. Lantaff, that you have not received all of my articles, and for that reason I am enclosing herewith a copy of each. Please read them carefully, bearing in mind that they were written by a man who is not for or against another man, but only against and ready to fight for the same principles for which the United States asked me to risk my life in the Pacific.

I know that the Pan-American Doctrine ties our hands insofar as interfering officially with the internal affairs of Latin America, but God knows that this country has other ways and means of showing its disapproval of a situation such as exists in Cuba.

Congress, as well as the American public, is rightfully concerned because we are losing the cold war in Latin America, but how naive can we be? The people, not the dictators, cannot respect our pose as prime defenders of democracy when we appear disinterested in their loss of liberty and freedom.

I beg you to read the enclosed articles, that you might be moved to help a country badly in need of assistance.

Sincerely,


Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:shs
Enclosures

May 8, 1953

Honorable George Smathers
United States Senator from Florida
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smathers:

You will find enclosed herewith an article discussing personal insults, tortures, murders and intimidation under Dictator Batista. I have taken the liberty of underlining the word 'murders', for these men suffered death, the greatest violation of personal right, at the hands of a bloodthirsty dictator only ninety miles from the United States.

Mr. Smathers, I have written you several letters concerning the deplorable conditions existing in Cuba under the regime of Dictator Batista, but to date have received no reply. Cuba, the land of my birth, is of concern not only to me but to thousands of American citizens of Cuban ancestry, hence I feel it should be of interest to you. As an American citizen and veteran of World War II I feel I have a right to know what my government is proposing to do about this man, Batista, who has violated all the principles by which we live.

Please read the enclosed article carefully, as well as the others I have previously sent you, bearing in mind that they were written by a man who is not for or against another man, but only against and ready to fight for the same principles for which the United States asked me to risk my life in the Pacific.

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Page 2 - Honorable George Smathers
May 8, 1953

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I beg you to read the enclosed article, that you might be moved to help a country badly in need of assistance.

Sincerely yours,


Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:shs
Enclosure

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

RIVERS OF BLOOD, PERSONAL INSULTS, TORTURE, MURDERS
UNDER BATISTA'S DICTATORSHIP

By Eliseo Riera-Gomez
2521 N. Greenway Dr., Coral Gables, Fla.

The boldness of this dictatorship grows daily in intensity. At first there was some effort on the part of its spokesmen to hide their treacherous designs on the lives of Cuban citizens, but no more. Up to a certain point, the startling coup d'etat of March 10, 1952, generated a feeling among the credulous that Batista's usurping government would not go so far as to employ "black jack" brutality in stifling any lack of conformity that might become apparent in the Cuban people; by now abuse and mistreatment are commonplace throughout the Island. Furthermore, the present unpopular government, forcibly imposed on the people, has failed to guarantee the rights that were so dearly won in the country's historic fight against despotism.

Cuba, under Batista's dictatorship, is now living the terror of its full impact. The Dictator is interested only in repressing the efforts the Cuban people are making to restore their Constitution and their rights; and, as a regime of force, their methods of necessity include the lash, the machine gun, the black jack, torture and beatings. The reign of terror which exists has already produced 11 dead (assassinated for political reasons); 54 insulted, beaten and mistreated; and nine citizens have been imprisoned and tortured merely because they expressed themselves as being against Batista. (There are many more such incidents but the numbers given here have been verified by the writer.) This bloody rule, disguised as a "Benevolent Dictatorship" for the benefit of public opinion here in our country, should be a cause for serious preoccupation to the people of the United States in general and to its government in particular. Constitutional and civil right, identical to our own, are being violated and trampled upon by Batista. And all this is taking place not more than 90 miles from our own shores!

And now to cite definite cases, so that the reader may have a more detailed idea of the ruthlessness now existing in Cuba. Some of the data which follows has been obtained from the Cuban press by the well known and eminent Cuban writer, Aracelio Azcuy, who has courageously presented the true facts to his readers.

The following are dead, assassinated under the dictatorship:

*Sergio Reina	Bernardino Mederes	Antonio Delgado
*Edilberto Cruz Mesa	Angel Gonzalez	Louis Perez
Roberto Palacios	*Ruben Batista (no	Mario Silva
Augustin Riera	kin of the Dictator)	Luis Golote

We will give here the manner in which just three of these men - those marked above with asterisks - met their deaths:

1. May 20th - The assassination (at a sugar plantation near the City of Camaguey) of Sergio Reina, a young 17 year old, who was enacting the role of Marti in a play presented in commemoration of this date. In reciting his lines, he expressed some of Marti's thoughts against dictatorships, whereupon a soldier, Edosio Ramirez, took offense and started a heated discussion. A Lt. Soriado attacked Reina, his sister and others in attendance with the flat of his sword. When the young man tried to defend himself, Soldier Ramirez killed him.
2. July 12th - In the town of Holguin, Edilberto Cruz Mesa was killed by the police. They tied him up, and beat and tortured him, after which they put a bullet through his head and dragged him to a garbage dump where they left him. The hue and cry over this incident was so great that it was necessary to arrest a

policeman by the name of Hector Guerrero. Four other agents went into hiding. However, Guerrero remained at liberty in spite of the fact that he was supposed to have been jailed.

3. January 15th - In the small square in front of the University of Havana a group of students gathered in protestation and in so doing created some disturbance, but without violence of any kind. As a result of their demonstration they were attacked by police using gun butts and bullets. On the same day students, marching peaceably from the University to a downtown spot, were stopped and once more subjected to attack by blows and machine gun fire. Ruben Batista (no kin of the Dictator), who was among the several wounded, later died.

Beaten, tortured and wounded, for having openly declared themselves against the present regime, are:

Manuel Frometa	Ruberto Balmaseda	Eugenio Gomez
Ramon Gomez	Roberto Perez	Emeterio Socorras
Manolo Maza	*Ricardo Grandall	Rene Roque
*Filiberto Lopez Vega	Mario Kuchilan	Martin Lliraldi
Dr. Eduardo Valdes	Zoila Ferrer	*Zoila Tejeda
Fernando Enriquez	*Osvaldo Albuquerque	Miguel Gonzalez
Dr. Rolando Branly	Orestes Perez	Jose Angulo
*Jose Hernandez	*Octavio Hernandez	Julio Cardoso
Dr. Eugenio Codina	*Raul Hernandez	Mercedes Fernandez
Julio Alonso Diaz	Alberto Léaon	Alfonso Fortin
Modesto Jimenez, Jr.	Jose Menendez	Angel Diaz
Manuel J. Perez	Antonio Blanco	Osvaldo Castellon
Joaquin Godoy	Francisco Rodriguez	Bebe Sanchez
Fidalgo Pablo Campos	Eugenio Valle	

Details pertaining to the names marked above by asterisks are given below:

1. July 24th - The President of the Havana Bar Association addressed an open letter to the head of the Department of Justice, Dr. Miguel A. Cespedes, denouncing the following facts:
That he terminate the vicious, harmful and injurious practice, employed with vexatious repetition by public security agencies such as the Military Intelligence and the Bureau of Investigation, of hindering whenever possible any lawyers engaged in the exercise of their profession. Not only does this infringe on Constitutional Rights, but also violates the Criminal Proceedings Law.

The Dean went on to enumerate explicit examples.
 - a. Dr. Ramiro Arango, who was maltreated by members of an investigation organization, subjected to an abusive interrogation, and whose house was ordered searched without a warrant.
 - b. Dr. Jesus Rolando Valera was taken into custody while professionally engaged on behalf of a client.
2. August 9th - The workers on the Havana docks were accused in connection with their union activities and mauled. The group's leader, Gilberto Sandrino, was beaten to a pulp.
3. August 13th - In the city of Nuevitas an enlisted man from the Army named Evelio Nodal Cerdeira, shot and seriously wounded Ricardo Grandall Fernandez, a merchant.
4. August 17th - Several Military Intelligence agents got out of a car and picked a fight with five students who were conversing near the spot where they had parked. The latter were forced into the car amid a shower of blows. One of the group, a young man, 18 years of age, named Filiberto Lopez Vega, was dragged

to Headquarters in Camp Columbia and repeatedly tortured. He was hit in the stomach and choked until he was in a semi-conscious state. Then he was stripped and a knife was passed over various parts of his body, accompanied by threats of emasculation. Finally, he was shoved into a cell and left there.

5. August 24th - In the city of Ciego de Avila Capt. Navarro, Chief of Police, subjected a pharmacist named Eduardo Valdes Figueroa to unspeakable abuse and insults and beat Raul Hernandez, who was left in charge of Dr. Figueroa's pharmacy.
6. August 27th - In the city of Mayari 23-year old Zoila Tejeda was mistreated and beaten for admitting membership in a political group. She was arrested and taken to Police Headquarters, where she was slapped and further mistreated.
7. August 27th - The photographer for the newspaper "El Crisol", Osvaldo Albuquerque, was attacked by members of the Army and Navy while taking photographs on a downtown street corner. As a result of sabre and club blows, he received several deep shoulder wounds.
8. November 14th - Jose Hernandez Cruz and Octavio Hernandez Guevara were being ridiculed by Castor I. Sosa, a watchman. When they answered back, they were carried to the police station in the city of Camaguey where several policemen as well as the station's Chief, Capt. Navarro, gave them a working over with black jacks, rubber hoses and whips. The President of the Cane Growers Association, Dr. Angel Pardo Jimenez, as well as their provincial president, Rogerio Rodriguez Blanca, registered a protest. The victims, according to doctors' statements, were in a serious condition.

WOUNDED IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE HAND OF THE POLICE AND ARMY

This writer was unfortunate enough to be in Havana during the events of April 13, 1953, and was present during the brutal attack by the police against the University students. This was an occasion on which the students were on their way to the cemetery for the purpose of honoring a former companion, Ruben Batista, who had been murdered in the streets of Havana for daring to raise his voice against Batista's dictatorship.

As a free citizen of the greatest country in the world, my blood boiled to see before my very eyes a thing that could be classified only as pure barbarism. I saw how those students, united by a peaceable cause into a group headed by the Cuban flag, were disbanded by police cars driven at top speed into the midst of their gathering. The occupants of the police cars then took to their machine guns, pistols and black jacks and attacked the already dispersed students, wounding twelve.

To the Honorable President of the United States, his Cabinet, Congress, the Press and the people in general:- we, who hold in the highest regard liberty and the principles advocated by Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, must not remain indifferent before so desolate a picture as that presented by the Cuban people - the Cuban people to whom we are bound by historic ties and who are enduring the bloody and completely unrestrained dictatorship that exists in their country today. I ask you to join me, an American citizen and veteran of the Second World War, in protesting against the acts of tyranny and bloodshed imposed by the ambitions of one man in the country where I was born.

"NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION"

BY ELISEO RIERA GOMEZ, 2521 N. GREENWAY DR., CORAL GABLES, FLA.

We are witnessing today the psychological breakdown of the Cuban government by force of dictator Fulgencio Batista, in which the economic structure of the island republic of Cuba is on the verge of breaking up. There is a frantic move by Batista's aides to announce to the people of the island a readjustment in the coming national budget, the cutting down of government employees' salaries, and the firing of thousands of them in order to meet the budget. This move will bring hunger to many Cubans' homes, as the government payroll always has been Cuba's second largest, that of the sugar industry being first. In order to raise the national government income, dictator Batista has created many taxes since he took over by force March 10th, 1952.

These taxes are unlawful: A) Because the government which established them does not derive from the consent of the nation; B) Because this is a case where the historic principle of "NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" may be applied, - in a true democratic country any tax measure must have the consent of the people, through its constitutional and democratic institutions, such as congress which Batista has suspended; C) Because these taxes will bear largely on the country's most humble classes, inasmuch as their wages and salaries are diminished, as many of the basic products of Cuba's economy, such as tobacco, cigarettes, coffee, meats, and so popular a drink as beer, are burdened; D) Because some of the new taxes, or some of those which have been immoderately increased, are harmful to the investment of capital and, logically, affect the spirit of free enterprise and cripple the economic progress of the country; E) Because these burdens being illegal, affect, in their economic and psychological consequences, the buying power of the country and bring on the present economic crisis. These circumstances should serve to increase the worry of the people and government of the United States, since Cuba has long occupied an outstanding place amongst this country's best buyers, in many instances second only to England, and the policy of commercial reciprocity, which we enjoy as a consequence of the good neighbor policy, that was evident in the treaty of 1934, contemplated, chiefly, the perdurability of our economic prosperity; F) Because the fiscal taxes of the dictator are used to carry on "luxury" works, social relief and, mainly, welfare which is contrary to the economic principle which states that taxes should take care of, principally, the execution of reproductive works and services; G) Because, in short, the people of Cuba repudiate these new taxes and measures, and, in certain zones, they seem inclined to revolt. This is proven by the recent cases of the increase of the tax on land transportation, head tax of \$15.00 on each Cuban leaving the country, and a new increase for each pack of cigarettes for national consumption, all being recalled by the government after open demonstrations by the people, following certain historical precedents, like those that the people of North America showed against the "Tea Tax", real origin and philosophical cause of the revolution for the independence of the United States.

New Taxes Established by Dictator Batista

- a. Increase in the postal and cable rates.
- b. Increase in the value of the Courthouse stamp until it has been doubled.
- c. Tax upon the salaries of the officials and employees of the State, provinces, municipalities, and self-governing institutions, as well as upon those of the working classes and employees in private industries, according to the following scale:
 - Up to \$100.00 per month, one half of one per cent.
 - From \$100.00 to \$200.00, three fourths of one per cent.
 - From \$200.00 on, one per cent.
- d. Municipal tax, five per cent, three per cent, or two per cent of the budget, according to the rank of the municipality.
- e. A two and half per cent tax on the budget of the provincial governments.
- f. A thirty-two cent tax on each case of beer or malt brewed in Cuba.
- g. A tax of one-day's earnings on the officials and employees of the State, provinces, and municipalities, the Legislative power, the Judiciary, self-governing organizations, and the armed forces.
- h. A tax of one-day earnings on the wages or salary of all workers and employees in private industries.
- i. Two pesos to be paid by every professional, whether a college graduate or not.
- j. Ten cents for each head of cattle killed during the year.
- k. Ten cents for every bale of the tobacco harvest.
- l. Twenty cents for every thousand Havana cigars, manufactured in the course of a year.
- m. One cent for every fourteen cartons of cigarettes manufactured in one year.
- n. Ten cents for every hundredweight of coffee produced in one crop.
- nn. Fifty cents on every rural or city property.
- o. Increase up to ten per cent of the tax rate applicable to dividends and interests on all kinds of securities and loans.
- p. Increase in the tax on profits, up to thirty-five per cent of said profits.
- q. Increase in the tax on net revenues; up to thirty five per cent of said revenues.
- r. Extension of the compulsory use of the stamps of the Palace of Justice.
- s. Surcharge of one cent for every fraction of the tickets of the National Lottery

Others Already Recalled:

- t. New increase for each pack of cigarettes for national consumption.
- u. Tax on travelers, whereby people residing in Cuba, whether Cubans or foreigners, have to pay a tax equivalent to fifteen pesos, payable prior to leaving the country, every time they do so. This tax is to be raised to twenty dollars, when the individual is over forty-five days out of the country; furthermore, in those cases where said absence from the country exceeds sixty days, the amount of one peso and fifty cents will be paid for every additional day.
- v. Tax on land transportation.

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN CUBA

By Eliseo Riera-Gomez
2521 N. Greenway Drive, Coral Gables, Fla.

Before the evident economic crisis engulfing the Republic of Cuba in disastrous ruin, the usurping government of the dictator Batista has no other recourse than to admit the decrease in revenue collections and the deficit in the State Budget.

Immediately after the March coup d'etat, we hastened to predict that if the country did not return to political normalcy, there would be danger of a financial collapse. But turning their backs on the demands of the citizens and refusing to listen, the men who had conspired to overthrow the established government dedicated themselves to the petty task of drawing up an illegal Electoral Code by means of which they could continue in power.

Two months before the general elections, convinced that the votes would not be sufficient to back their ambition for power and in spite of constitutional provisions to the contrary, under the leadership of the dictator, Batista, they attacked and took possession of the government by means of a military coup d'etat, and discarded the Constitution.

The impact of this treacherous blow produced anxiety and terror at all levels of the nation's economic and industrial life, with the picture of economic depression intensified by the irresponsible handling of the measure for limiting the sugar cane harvest. The consequences of these acts began to appear in alarming forms: decrease in all productive activities; lowering of salaries (in the sugar industry alone the wage cuts of the workers reached one hundred and twenty million dollars as a result of the removal of wage controls and the harvest restrictions); wastefulness in the administration which during the time the dictator has been in power has mounted to a thirty million dollar deficit; bankruptcy of innumerable industries; and sections having a concentration of workers, thousands of whom are jobless and on the verge of starvation.

The spokesmen of the regime came forth with a shrewd theory, composed of a mixture of sophistry and untruths, denying the existence of the crisis. The Secretary of the Treasury confused the issue further by publicly refuting the existence of a deficit; and the President of the Tribunal of Audits (government-business auditing bureau) inefficiently discharging his duties of office, with pretended annoyance concealed the Treasury deficit, insisting that all mention of the economic crisis was punishable by law because it was unsettling the country.

But very shortly facts smothered government arrogance. It was officially announced that in seven months only one hundred and sixty-six million dollars in taxes had been collected and that in the ensuing five months it would be necessary to secure no less than one hundred and eighty-five million dollars additional to cover the expenditures of the national budget. Immediately the usurpers hastened to create a growing number of new taxes (without approval of Congress as this body had been nullified), which produced an aggregate levy on the taxpayers of more than twenty seven million dollars and aroused angry protests throughout the nation.

The economic collapse is evident. The new order of things is permeating the country; budget slicing has brought about mass dismissals in government departments; public works activity is paralyzed; many public services as well as payments to government suppliers have been suspended; and veterans and state pensioners have expressed a justifiable alarm over arrears in payments due them.

The present dictatorship sent Dr. Joaquin Martinez Saenz to the United States to negotiate a loan, but the U. S. A. Export Import Bank flatly refused to lend money to the usurpers, who thereupon had to content themselves with small loans illegitimately solicited from the Municipal Government of Havana and the National Bank of Cuba.

In the meantime, the present head of the State, Dictator Batista, raised his own salary to astronomical proportions and squandered millions of dollars acquiring old pursuit planes, armored cars and tanks from the United States and organizing a unit of one hundred "commandos" whose sole mission in life is to guard Batista's residence.

The economic breakdown brought about by those who engineered the coup d'etat has reached such an extreme that a government spokesman as important as Mr. Otto Meruelo classifies the financial policy of Dr. Marino Lopez Blanco, Secretary of the Treasury, as "An archaic theory, outside the limits of good financial practices and the cause of a crisis which will become worse", he affirms, "in the days to come." Mr. Meruelo, when the reorganization reached the Department of Commerce where he functioned as Publicity Director, cloaked his resignation in a euphemism saying, "I am leaving a post which budget cutting made inefficient." and continued further by maintaining that "The directors of the Treasury are not anxious to make any real effort. They prefer to improvise everything, impose ridiculous taxes, issue dismissals en masse, create monstrous financial amnesties. They draw huge salaries, enjoy pleasant afternoons on their country estates and are never in to anybody." Here is an excellent summing up, which we applaud, by an individual within the government administration; who knows it inside out and who admits he is disillusioned: "I had too many illusions, but now that I have committed such a naive error I should emphasize that what is happening is not for the best." In other words, the failure is so resounding that even those most responsible for the regime's propaganda publicly admit it.

The inevitable economic depression has been brought about by the political upheaval engendered by the coup d'etat of March 10, 1952. Only by restoring the Republic of Cuba's democratic institutions and Constitution and urging the return of a government freely elected by the people can the economic stability of Cuba be reestablished.

Those who promised "Peace, Employment and Progress" have instead produced misery and an economic crisis with only a dismal and ruinous outlook for the future.

Dictator Batista of Cuba, an old ally of the Communist Party, once more lends a helping hand to Communist agents wanting to come into Cuba.

By Eliseo Riera-Gomez, 2521 N. Greenway Drive, Coral Gables, Fla.

The Dictator of Cuba, who took the government by force on March 10, 1952, has long identified himself with the cause of Communism. Now Dictator Fulgencio Batista has hit the jackpot at the risk of letting Communist agents enter the Island, and at the same time enriching himself.

Under the Dictator's set-up, Cuba is willing to accept as permanent residents of the country a number of Europeans who can qualify "FINANCIALLY AND MORALLY". Resident permits are promised for \$3,500.00 for adults. For minors under thirteen years of age the charge is \$500.00, and for those between thirteen and eighteen years of age the fee is \$1,500.00. This amount does not include traveling expenses and consular fees. But, in return, the displaced person is offered a one-way passport to Cuba from any country in Europe. Cuban consuls will issue transit visas permitting entry to Cuba as permanent residents with all the rights of the Cuban citizens, except the right to vote or to be a candidate for office. This is illegal because it grants Cuban passports to people who are not Cubans. The United States of America should certainly be most concerned with this last trick of Dictator Batista because of the danger of Communist agents coming into a country only ninety miles away from the U. S. A. These visas can be bought and are being bought by the Communists in order to get closer to the United States. For, what guarantee does Dictator Batista have, or ask, that the Europeans buying these visas are not Communist agents?

However, we should remember that it was Batista who recognized the Communist Party in Cuba in 1939, at the time when Hitler and Stalin had signed the Munich Pact and when the slogan of the Communist Party was to keep all the free countries "out of the Imperialist War". It was he, who as President of Cuba in 1943, assigned Juan Marinello, president of the Communist Party in Cuba, to an important cabinet post. It was the Dictator who gave the leadership of the labor unions in Cuba to the Communist Party and kept Lazaro Peña, well known Communist leader, as Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of Workers. In 1940 he was the Communist Party candidate for President, and included in his platform many of the basic ideas and principles of the Communists. It was Batista who as President of Cuba used all his influence to elect three leading members of the Communist Party to the Cuban Senate - Juan Marinello, Cesar Vilar and Salvador Garcia Aguero.

Today the Dictator has as Under-Secretary of Labor, a well-known Communist in Cuba, Arsenio Gonzalez.

We in the United States should keep our eyes open and carefully watch this man, who could not live by law and order in his own country, who could not uphold the Constitution which he solemnly swore to defend as Senator, and who led the treacherous blow against the constitutional government of Carlos Prío, establishing a government by force contrary to all the principles of democracy, thus creating a breeding ground for Communism in Cuba.

BATISTA ATTACKS THE PRESS

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, THE BULWARK AND FOUNDATION OF
DEMOCRACY, IS SUPPRESSED BY DICTATOR BATISTA OF CUBA

By Eliseo Riera-Gomez
2521 N. Greenway Dr., Coral Gables, Fla.

The unbridled phobia on the part of the usurpers against the dissemination of free thought has now reached such proportions that the journalistic profession in Cuba has become an activity plagued with dangers and threats. The Cuban newspaperman works in an atmosphere of anxiety and terror.

After the traitorous coup of March 10, 1952, all radio programs of a political nature were suspended and political gatherings forbidden. On March 14th a soldier literally broke into the offices of radio commentator Jose Pardo Llada to tell him that he was under arrest by orders of Major Caballero. That same day several citizens who were in front of station Radio Cadena Havana, from which Pardo Llada broadcast, were severely beaten. On March 18th Army forces, with the aid of firearms, broke up a peaceful group in front of the C.O.C.O. Broadcasting Station.

Sunday, May 4th, 1952, there was a brutal assault against the participants in a radio program known as "The University of the Air" at the studios of C.M.Q. Several girls and young men were hurt and the blame laid directly on various active members of the "Juventud del PAU", Batista's political party. The actual perpetrators of this outrage, although known, have not been apprehended.

On Monday, June 9th, Jose Pardo Llada was again taken into custody just as he began his commentaries over network Cadena Oriental de Radio. Imprisoned with him were several employees of a printing firm which published a newspaper called "La Palabra". On July 21st there was an attempted assault on a newspaperman, Jesus Melon-Ramos, by putting a bomb in his car. The near victim accused ex-Captain Leopoldo Cadenas of being the perpetrator. Cadenas is now occupying the post of Director of National Defense, and as such is leader of Batista's party, PAU.

In the first part of August the Ministers of Information and Communication officially announced that, "The government of Fulgencio Batista, although mindful of the freedom of the press, will energetically proceed against those who indulge in the propagation of lies. . . . for the purpose of upsetting the tranquility of the social order." This warning was nothing short of useless and ridiculous in the light of the series of outrages already committed against the freedom of the press.

On August 5th the network "Union Radio" was suspended, also the broadcasts of commentator Pardo Llada.

In this same month Army Captain Filiberto Navarro, of Ciego de Avila, persecuted newspaperman Diego Vicente Olivert for what he had written and threatened to kill him. The latter was compelled to leave town under the protection of a group of respectable citizens in order to avoid the possibility that the boasts of the irascible military man might become a reality.

On August 13th the journalist and lawyer, Dr. Carlos Manuel Rubiera, was arrested without cause. August 16th the premises of the newspaper "La Calle" were broken into and that day's editions confiscated. As of this date circulation of this paper is forbidden on the pretext that it is illegal, although the manager has met all the requirements necessary for publication.

On the early morning of August 17th a brutal attack took place against commentator Mario Kuchilan of newspaper "Prensa Libre". (Time Magazine carried the story and picture.) This act has as yet remained unpunished. Three days later another newspaper man, also of "Prensa Libre", Martin Lliraldi, was manhandled by the police at the police station. His aggressors continued their hostile attitude toward him for several days.

On August 27th photographer Osvaldo Albuquerque of "El Crisol" was beaten by some soldiers and sailors when, as part of his work, he took a picture at Prado and Virtudes Streets. On September 10th Mr. Emilio Ochoa was fined for his opinions, expressed on the radio program "Before the Press" when answering the questions of newspapermen appearing thereon.

On the First of October the television time allotted to "Before the Press", a radio program similar to "Meet the Press" in this country, was suspended for about five months because some opposition leaders had appeared on it and openly criticized the usurping government.

On November 4th reporters for the rotogravure sections of various newspapers were taken into custody when they tried to photograph the deplorable condition of a main thoroughfare of Havana where public work had been stopped for months. On November 12th, Anibal Maestri, Rodolfo Rodriguez and Antonio Martin, along with the cameraman Eduardo Hernandez (Guayo), were arrested when they got off a plane at Rancho Boyeros on their return from a business trip to Miami. On the 10th of December news broadcasts on station Radio Continental were silenced. The same happened to "Radio Mambi" and the radio-newspaper news broadcast "La Palabra" of Pardo Llada, on December 17, 1952. This time Mr. Jose Antonio Alonso, manager of "Radio Mambi" and Jose Anibal Maestri, journalist, were arrested.

Immediately after the student demonstration of January 15, 1953, during which Ruben Batista (no relation to the dictator) was shot to death, the rolls of film pertaining to the event which had been taken by Manuel Alonso's "Noticieros Cinematograficos" were confiscated so that it would be impossible for the public to see on the screen the happenings of that tragic afternoon when the defenseless University students were attacked with machine gun fire.

On January 18th of this year the sports commentator "Pincho" Gutierrez was suspended for denouncing the shameful scandals existing in the administration of the government's Department of Sports.

The 21st of January the newspapermen's association of the City of Moron protested the unjust detention of the director of the news broadcasting station C.M.J.X., Dr. Pablo Castellanos, and an announcer, Gustavo Mazorra. A few days later all broadcasts of the station were suspended as having criticized the present government. On January 22nd a reporter for the magazine "Bohemia", Mr. Cristobal Zamora, announced that police bearing heavy firearms had broken into his house in the middle of the night, searched the premises, rousing the entire neighborhood, and had teased and scoffed at his elderly seventy-six year old father who was home alone with only a youngster for company. On February 2nd the New York Times correspondent in Havana, Mrs. R. Hart Phillips, made known that foreign newspaperman Ted Scott (of the Havana-Post) and Earl Coperland (correspondent for NBC of London) had been assaulted by members of the police force. On February 4th Dictator Batista decreed the so-called "Radio Broadcasting Law", a new pettyfogging hindrance to freedom of expression and factual news reporting.

On February 13th the FEU (University of Havana Students Association) announced that students Roberto Pellon and Pedro Silva had been beaten and arrested for the sole reason that they had been selling the University newspaper "Alma Mater". The Association of Law Students made the statement that "both were taken in a police patrol car to the Ninth Precinct Police Station" where Lt. Colonel Martin Perez by kicks and blows forced them each to swallow one page of "Alma Mater". Many other University students have been molested, insulted and placed under arrest because they, too, were distributing their school's official publication.

On February 14th the woman journalist, Olga Espigul, made it known that members of the Bureau of Investigation were harassing her, having already searched her house.

On the night of February 23rd, while trying to report the happenings in Zapata Street, the police reporter for "El Mundo", Manuel de J. Zamora, and another reporter from "El Pais", Miguel A. Diaz, were violently set upon by Major Rey Castro and forcibly prevented from carrying out their professional duties. In condemning these events, the Dean of the College of Journalism, Jorge Quintana, remembered the case of the reporter Jose M. Buesa Garcia, who was relieved of his notebook by Lt. Mario Brito while in the midst of jotting down notes on an accident caused by a police patrol car. On March 10th the correspondent for various Havana dailies, living in San Fernando de Camarones, Mr. Angel Alvarez Quintana, asked for personal protection in order to freely exercise his profession. This was brought about by the hostile attitude on the part of one of the policemen in the town, Arnoldo Chongo Leyva, who was preventing him from carrying out his duties as correspondent.

The latest aggressions against freedom of thought and the press have taken place in the space of a week. On March 10th two policemen appeared at broadcasting station "Radio Wambi", and alleging an unusual superior order, obliged the operators to cease transmitting. Later, radio commentators Guido Garcia Inclan, Jose C. Rumbaut, Armando Garcia Sifredo and Jose Pardo Llada were silenced, along with the talks of Louis Conte Aguero and Primitivo Rodriguez. Upon expressing their justified protests at such excessive actions, Garcia Inclan and Pardo Llada were given even longer suspensions.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 11, 1953, 195

Respectfully referred to

Mr. Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Thruston:

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
THE CLERK
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

This constituent takes me to task because I have not written him about the articles he sent me. Since they were not accompanied by a letter, they were never brought to my attention.

Would it be possible for you to ask someone in State to review these articles and make some written comment on them, so I may reply to Mr. Riera-Gomez.

Regards.

Event on
Bill

Very respectfully,

174558

Bill Lantaff, M. C.

PHOTO
To: MID

20 May

Winnett (H)

agree to reply
within "a week
or so"

May 13, 1953

737.00

W

Dear Mr. Lantaff:

Upon receipt of the articles by Eliseo Riera-Gomez,
which you transmitted with your note of May 11, I asked
the appropriate officials in the Department to review and
comment upon their contents. After this has been done, I
shall write you further.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Bill Lantaff,
House of Representatives.

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A true copy of
the signed origi-
nal.

Handwritten initials and scribbles

Handwritten signature: E. Belle

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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May 11, 1953 1953 MAY 14 PM 4 18

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TO MID
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIV. OF PUBLIC LIAISON

DK

Honorable John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Mr. Secretary, I do not wish to take your very valuable time as I have written you previously about the Cuban situation, however, I am deeply concerned, as an American citizen of Cuban birth, with the situation there. On my last visit to Havana, April 13, 1953, I was a witness to an act which prompted me to compile the data enclosed herewith. Unfortunately, I witnessed with my own eyes a brutal attack upon the students from the University of Havana, an occasion upon which the students were marching to the cemetery to honor a former companion, Ruben Batista (no relation to the Dictator) who had been murdered in the streets of Havana for protesting against Dictator Batista. The students were disbanded by police cars driven at top speed into their midst: then the police attacked the already disbursed boys with machineguns, pistols and blackjacks, wounding twelve. My blood boiled to witness such unprovoked brutality.

I know that the Pan American Doctrine prevents the intervention of a particular people or their government in the internal affairs of another people or government, but for many historical, economic and moral reasons, public opinion cannot remain indifferent in the face of this Cuban tragedy. The fact that Cuba is deprived of public freedom and under the sway of a military dictatorship should arouse democratic public opinion in the United States, and of those whose business it is to interpret and direct it, a desire to condemn such a situation. Never was the time more ripe than at present, since the United States is constantly calling the free world to resist totalitarianism, and little could be said of this preaching if some of the people appealed to suffer in their internal lives and operation the indignity of a nature similar to that which they are requested to fight.

Cuba is now a fertile ground for the Communists, aided and abetted by Batista in his appointments of known Communists as cabinet members and Communistic control of labor unions. This was most recently

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Page 2 - May 11, 1953

Honorable John Foster Dulles

evidenced on Friday, May 8, 1953 when Arsenio Gonzales, a prominent member of the Cuban Communist Party who had held the position of Undersecretary of Labor, was promoted to the position of Minister of Labor.

You will find enclosed herewith an article discussing personal insults, tortures, murders and intimidation under Dictator Batista. I have taken the liberty of underlining the word 'murders', for these men suffered death, the greatest violation of personal right, at the hands of a bloodthirsty dictator only ninety miles from the United States.

This lack of liberty and freedom, and the Dictator's brutality should be of concern to us here in the United States, and no doubt it should be of particularly great concern to our government in the interest of seeing justice and freedom restored to our neighbors in the Republic of Cuba.

I myself, as a veteran of World War II, cannot separate in my own mind the despotism shown by this Dictator in Cuba from that against which the United States sent me to fight in the Pacific. And that, Mr. Secretary, is why I am attempting to inform the American public and our government of the deplorable conditions in Cuba, conditions which are contrary to all the principles for which we stand.

Very sincerely,

Eliseo Riera-Gomez
Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:shs

Enclosure *AT*

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

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PL

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M19/C

3: Cuba
Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., May 15, 19 53

Respectfully referred to

Office of Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I have assured the writer of the
attached letter that I would be
happy to bring his comments to the
attention of the proper officials
in our Department of State.

*Mr. Riera-Gomez
letter dated 5/14/53
re: [unclear]*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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George Smathers

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In reply refer to
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Dear Senator Smathers:

With your letter of May 15, 1953, you enclose a letter from Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez dated May 8, with which he sent you a copy of a mimeographed statement concerning Cuba.

Other copies of Mr. Riera-Gomez' statement have been received, some addressed directly to officers of the Department and others by reference from the officials to whom they were originally mailed. They, as well as yours, have been referred to the officers handling Cuban affairs, for their information and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
George A. Smathers,
United States Senate.

HA
MAY 21 1953

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[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

Stamp: MAY 18 1953, with handwritten '58' and 'E.M.M.'

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ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS., CHAIRMAN
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FRANCIS O. WILCOX, CHIEF OF STAFF
 JULIUS N. CAHN, COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

~~BP~~
ACTION
 is assigned to

~~ARA~~

May 28, 1953

Mr. Thruston B. Morton
 Assistant Secretary of State
 Department of State
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Thruston:

About two weeks ago, I received the attached letter from Eliseo Riera-Gomez. The letter is self-explanatory.

I have no way of knowing as to the reliability of the writer of the letter. However, I am deeply concerned over its implications and the charges contained therein.

I call your attention particularly to the third paragraph on page one. Just what is the situation in Cuba? What, if anything, can we do about it?

I would deeply appreciate any advice and counsel you might be able to give me.

Sincerely yours,

Hubert H. Humphrey
 Hubert H. Humphrey

Enclosure

June 2, 1953
Reply drafted 6/18/53
J.L. Topping
ARA: MID

SECRETARY
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 FOREIGN RELATIONS BRANCH

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*ack aka: MID-JL Topping: Cdb.
6/29/53*

IL/R

June 4, 1953

Honorable John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As one who directs the foreign affairs of the greatest democracy in the world, you must of necessity be concerned with the abrogation of democratic principles and the increase of Communist activities in Latin American countries.

For your information, herewith enclosed you will find an article which describes the latest outrage perpetrated by the Communist dictator of Cuba, Batista, who has denied his people all basic freedoms.

Very sincerely,

Eliseo Riera-Gomez
Eliseo Riera-Gomez

ERG:s
Enclosure

cc: Honorable John M. Cabot
Honorable Thomas C. Mann

2521 North Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, Florida

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Rev. <i>1</i>
Cat. _____

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June 24 1953

In reply refer to
ARA: MID 737.00/5-2853

My dear Senator Humphrey:

With your letter of May 28, you attach a letter dated May 12 from Eliseo Riera-Gomez, and mention your particular concern over statements made by Mr. Riera-Gomez that "Cuba is now a fertile ground for the Communists, aided and abetted by Batista in his appointments of known Communists as cabinet members and communistic control of labor unions." Mr. Riera-Gomez adds that Arsenio Gonzales was made Minister of Labor in Cuba on May 8, 1953, and identifies Mr. Gonzales as a prominent member of the Cuban communist party. Mr. Gonzales is frequently alleged to have been a communist or communist sympathizer. The information available to the Department does not show that he was ever publicly known as a member of the Cuban communist party, the Popular Socialist Party. He is at present Undersecretary of Labor, in charge of that ministry during the temporary absence of the Secretary.

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As you know, the question of communistic influence is of continuing concern to the Department, and is followed closely in each foreign country. The situation in Cuba has been watched and considered constantly, both before and since Batista came to power. The most recent study of that situation is dated June 16. Pertinent sections of it read as follows:

"The allegations that Batista has maintained close relations with Cuban communists, that he has aided the communists in various ways, and that there are communists in important positions in his present Government,

have been

CSJEC

The Honorable
Hubert H. Humphrey,
United States Senate.

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"have been made by various opponents of Batista, and have been carefully considered both at the time of the coup and subsequently by the Department. They are felt to deserve particularly close attention in view of Batista's former friendship for known communists such as Juan Marinello, and the fact that persons who were formerly communists but who now claim to have abandoned that ideology have achieved positions of a certain prominence and influence in the present government, particularly in the Ministry of Labor. In view of the radically changed world situation since Batista was last in power in 1944, consideration has been limited to statements and events since the date of the coup, March 10, 1952.

"The evidence available to the Department does not support the allegation that Batista is pro-communist. Among the factors influencing that conclusion are the following:

1) The Batista regime gave satisfactory public and private statements concerning its intentions to take steps to control international Communism in Cuba prior to recognition by the United States on March 27, 1952.

2) Since that time, Batista has continued to take an anti-Communist position in public utterances. In a broadcast on June 12, 1952 he stated that he would 'fight Soviet ideology with the same energy as that with which (he) previously fought the Nazi-Fascists'. On March 10, 1953, he called for vigilant activity 'against Communism that receives orders from Russia', and against those who abet its agitation and encourage dissension within the country.

3) The Cuban representative to the United Nations has consistently aligned his country solidly with the United States against Communist attacks, and has been prominent in the refutation

of many

"of many Communist allegations. Following Batista's speech of June 12, 1953, he stated (in the United Nations) that in the event of a new world war 'Cuba will occupy her place of honor' on the side of the free nations, and that Batista is fighting with all his energy to eliminate Communism in Cuba.

4) The breaking off of relations with the USSR on April 3, 1952 was forced by the Batista administration in refusing to permit diplomatic couriers of the USSR to enter Cuba with diplomatic pouches on March 21, 1952, at a time when the USSR had not recognized the Batista administration. The note of April 3, 1953 from the Cuban Ministry of State to the Legation at Habana of the USSR denied that the couriers had had the right to any other treatment.

5) A bill to establish a committee to investigate Communist activities in Cuba was introduced at the first session of the Consultative Council, on May 22, 1952. The bill was unanimously approved in plenary session of the Council on August 14, 1952. In February, 1953, a three-man commission of the Cuban Cabinet was designated to draft a law controlling Communism in Cuba. It is understood that such a law has been drafted and is now under consideration by the Cabinet. The reaction of the Communist press against this activity has been violent.

6) The administration has so altered the electoral code that the Communist party will almost certainly be unable to qualify for the elections, now scheduled for June 1, 1954. The electoral code of 1943 (which Mr. Nevia wishes to see restored) required that a party have 2% of the registered voters as party members in order to participate. In the last general elections, those of 1948, the Popular Socialist Party polled 2.54% and thus qualified. The code, as modified on March 7, 1953, requires that a party obtain 4% of the registered

electorate,

"electorate, which is almost certainly a larger figure than the PSP can achieve.

7) Since March 14, 1952, the Batista administration and the militantly anti-Communist leadership of the Cuban Confederation of Labor have mutually supported each other. The alliance has at times appeared shaky, but is still in existence.

8) At the time of the coup, Communist publications in Cuba attacked Batista violently, calling him a 'fascist puppet of Yankee imperialism' among other things, and those publications have continued in the same vein since that time.

9) Principal leaders of the Communist Popular Socialist Party, such as Blas Roca, have publicly and repeatedly attacked Batista. They have endeavored, so far without success, to form a 'united front of the masses' in opposition.

10) Communist headquarters and publishing establishments have repeatedly been raided, and in some cases damaged.

11) Communists and Communist sympathizers have repeatedly been arrested and detained for questioning by the authorities.

12) Communist, and Communist-infiltrated, meetings have been broken up, and requests for permits to hold meetings denied.

13) Many former Communists and alleged Communists who had joined Batista's Party of Unitary Action, particularly the workers' division of the party, were left out when the party was reorganized in December, 1952 as the Party of Progressive Action. That group has since organized another Party of Unitary Action, in May, 1953, thus becoming completely separated from the administration."

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:

Letter from
(Eliseo) Riera-Gomez.

sgd
Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary

*original
has not been
sent*
ARA:MID:JLTopping:jgh - 6/18/53

H-737

BEWARE AMERICA! BATISTA IS NOW PERSECUTING
RELIGIOUS GROUP IN CUBA

By Eliseo Riera-Gomez
2521 N. Greenway Drive, Coral Gables, Fla.

Batista has proven once more that the path selected by him since he treacherously took the government by force on March 10, 1952, and stepped all over the Constitution which he, as senator, solemnly swore to uphold, is one of oppression and denial of individual liberty. Cuba, under Batista's dictatorship, increases its fear and anxiety as the dictator is interested only in repressing the efforts the Cuban people are making to restore the Constitution and their rights. As a regime of force, Batista's methods of necessity include the lash, the machine-guns, the blackjacks, torture and murder. Batista began by denying the people their Constitution and right to self government; then "Freedom of the Press" and "Freedom of Assembly" was denied; now he is attacking "Freedom of Religion".

On May 20, 1953, the Cuban Catholic Youth Association was holding a patriotic meeting at the public square of the City of Guanajay in commemoration of Cuban Independence which is celebrated there in the same fashion that we celebrate our Fourth of July -- with patriotic speeches, parades and fireworks. This group had held this meeting every year on Independence Day to honor the founders of the Republic; and had received permission from the City of Guanajay to meet in the public square on that day. The town's highly respected and beloved priest, Father Trinidad Torrebaja, presided.

This meeting was not a political one as it was not held by a political group, nor had it a political purpose. The feeble arguments that the government has many times used in order to forbid political meetings has no application here.

Brilliant young men followed each other as speakers. Dr. Andres Valdespino spoke on Marti's idealism. Amalio Fiallo spoke of the letters sent by General of the Cuban Liberator Army, Maximo Gomez, during the Cuban Independence War, 1895-1898. The people were applauding the sentiments that had been invoked in their minds by happenings of the last century - remembrances of clean, brave and patriotic citizens of the past were all that was discussed by these speakers.

Suddenly a strong voice giving an order was heard by the crowd. "Five minutes more is all I give you to finish this", shouted Lieutenant Angel Leon of the Cuban Army. One of the Catholic members of the Association yelled "Long live Freedom!" "Long live Cuba!" Amid applause and tears, the loss of freedom and liberty was reflected in the sighs of everyone present there.

Only one minute had passed since the order from the Lieutenant when he and his men began arresting the leaders of the Association, effectively breaking up this civic religious meeting that was held that day. Among the arrested were Mr. Fiallo, Mr. Valdespino and the President of the Association, Angel del Cerro.

Before such an outrageous act, some of the people that were congregated at the public square brought out Cuban flags shouting, "LONG LIVE FREEDOM! LONG LIVE THE CONSTITUTION! LONG LIVE CUBA!" And then all the people in the small town marched toward the jail demanding the freedom of these honest and brave citizens.

The Dictator's answer to the people's demand was the machinegun, lash and blackjack. In this attack, several were wounded and one elderly woman remains in critical condition.

The pattern followed by Dictator Batista is the same pattern followed by dictators throughout history. Here in the United States we should be very concerned with Batista's persecution of a religious group as the Catholics are one of the most outstanding and organized foes of Communism in Cuba. If we look into Batista's background, we will find how closely he has been connected in his public life with the Communist Party, making understandable such acts against any Association or group that fights Communism.

We must remember that Batista recognized the Communist Party as a legal entity in Cuba in 1938, at a time when Hitler and Stalin were allies and had signed the Munich Pact; a time when Batista and his followers popularized the slogan, "Cuba, Out of the Imperialist War."

It was Dictator Batista who assigned Juan Marinello, President of the Communist Party in Cuba, to an important cabinet post. It was he who then gave the leadership of the labor unions in Cuba to the Communist Party and kept Lazaro Pena, well known Communist leader, as Secretary General of the Cuban Confederation of Workers. In 1940 he, Batista, was the Communist Party candidate for President, and included in his platform many of the basic ideals and principles of the Communists.

Later, as President of Cuba, he helped leading members of the Communist Party to be elected senators, to wit: Juan Marinello. Cesar Vilar and Garcia Aguero. Today, the Secretary of Labor under Batista's usurping government is Arsenio Gonzalez, a leading Communist. Taking all this into consideration, the attack upon the Cuban Catholic Youth Association is not surprising.

As an American citizen of Cuban birth I fought in the Pacific for the ideals of liberty, democracy and freedom as we know them; I can not but decry the loss of liberty and right to self government in my homeland, a country only ninety miles from the United States.

In reply refer to
MID 737.00/5-1153

June 29 1953

Dear Mr. Lantaff:

I refer to your letter of May 11, 1953, enclosing a series of articles on conditions in Cuba prepared by Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez. A provisional reply to your letter was made on May 13, 1953, and Miss Biscle of your staff was later advised that the matter was under study by the Department.

Mr. Riera-Gomez has also written a considerable number of other officials of the Government, including the President, members of Congress, and officers of this Department. The tenor of his correspondence and articles in all cases of which the Department is aware is the same: He makes a number of statements concerning conditions in Cuba, attributing them indiscriminately to the present Government, and concludes with the appeal that the United States take some sort of action to alter the present situation; in effect, to cause the disappearance of the present Cuban Government.

The present Cuban Government came to power by a coup d'etat on March 10, 1952, organized and carried out entirely within Cuba. Diplomatic relations with Cuba were resumed by the United States on March 27, 1952, after this Government had determined to its satisfaction that the new regime was in effective control of the entire national territory, that there was no effective opposition among the people of the country, and that the regime had given adequate assurances that it would respect Cuba's international commitments. It is felt that the situation with respect to those considerations has not appreciably altered since then.

The United States adheres strictly to its international commitment to refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of any American Republic. That commitment as most recently stated is

contained

The Honorable
Bill Lantaff,
House of Representatives.

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contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States, signed at the Bogotá Conference of 1948, and ratified by the United States on June 19, 1951, consent having been given by the Senate on August 28, 1950. Articles 15, 16 and 17 of that document are as follows:

"No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State. The foregoing principle prohibits not only armed force but also any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements.

"No State may use or encourage the use of coercive measures of an economic or political character in order to force the sovereign will of another State and obtain from it advantages of any kind.

"The territory of a State is inviolable; it may not be the object, even temporarily, of military occupation or of other measures of force taken by another State, directly or indirectly, on any grounds whatever. No territorial acquisitions or special advantages obtained either by force or by other means of coercion shall be recognized."

With reference to Mr. Riera-Gomez' allegations that Batista is pro-Communist, as you know, the question of Communistic influence is of continuing concern to the Department, and is followed closely in each foreign country. The situation in Cuba has been watched and considered constantly, both before and since Batista came to power. A recent study of that situation, based on all available information and including the allegations of Mr. Riera-Gomez, was completed on June 16. Pertinent sections of it read as follows:

"The allegations that Batista has maintained close relations with Cuban Communists, that he has aided the Communists in various ways, and that there are Communists in important positions in his present Government have been made by various opponents of Batista, and have been carefully considered both at the time of the coup and subsequently by the Department. They are felt to deserve particularly close attention in view of Batista's former friendship for known Communists such as Juan Marinello, and the fact that persons who were formerly Communists but who now claim to have abandoned that ideology have achieved positions of a certain prominence and influence in the present government, particularly

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in the Ministry of Labor. In view of the radically changed world situation since Batista was last in power in 1944, consideration has been limited to statements and events since the date of the coup, March 10, 1952.

"The evidence available to the Department does not support the allegation that Batista is pro-Communist. Among the factors influencing that conclusion are the following:

1) The Batista regime gave satisfactory public and private statements concerning its intentions to take steps to control international Communism in Cuba prior to recognition by the United States on March 27, 1952.

2) Since that time, Batista has continued to take an anti-Communist position in public utterances. In a broadcast on June 12, 1952 he stated that he would 'fight Soviet ideology with the same energy as that with which (he) previously fought the Nazi-Fascists'. On March 10, 1953, he called for vigilant activity 'against Communism that receives orders from Russia', and against those who abet its agitation and encourage dissension within the country.

3) The Cuban representative to the United Nations has consistently aligned his country solidly with the United States against Communist attacks, and has been prominent in the refutation of many Communist allegations. Following Batista's speech of June 12, 1953, he stated (in the United Nations) that in the event of a new world war "Cuba will occupy her place of honor" on the side of the free nations, and that Batista is fighting with all his energy to eliminate Communism in Cuba.

4) The breaking off of relations with the USSR on April 3, 1952 was forced by the Batista administration in refusing to permit diplomatic couriers of the USSR to enter Cuba with diplomatic pouches on March 21, 1952, at a time when the USSR had not recognized the Batista administration. The note of April 3, 1953 from the Cuban Ministry of State to the Legation at Habana of the USSR denied that the couriers had had the right to any other treatment.

5) A bill to establish a committee to investigate Communist activities in Cuba was introduced at the first session of the Consultative Council, on May 22, 1952. The bill was unanimously

approved

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approved in plenary session of the Council on August 14, 1952. In February, 1953, a three-man commission of the Cuban Cabinet was designated to draft a law controlling Communism in Cuba. It is understood that such a law has been drafted and is now under consideration by the Cabinet. The reaction of the Communist press against this activity has been violent.

6) The administration has so altered the electoral code that the Communist party will almost certainly be unable to qualify for the elections, now scheduled for June 1, 1954. The electoral code of 1943 (which Mr. Hevia wishes to see restored) required that a party have 2% of the registered voters as party members in order to participate. In the last general elections, those of 1948, the Popular Socialist Party polled 2.54% and thus qualified. The code, as modified on March 7, 1953, requires that a party obtain 4% of the registered electorate, which is almost certainly a larger figure than the PSP can achieve.

7) Since March 14, 1952, the Batista administration and the militantly anti-Communist leadership of the Cuban Confederation of Labor have mutually supported each other. The alliance has at times appeared shaky, but is still in existence.

8) At the time of the coup, Communist publications in Cuba attacked Batista violently, calling him a 'fascist puppet of Yankee imperialism' among other things, and those publications have continued in the same vein since that time.

9) Principal leaders of the Communist Popular Socialist Party, such as Elias Roca, have publicly and repeatedly attacked Batista. They have endeavored, so far without success, to form a 'united front of the masses' in opposition.

10) Communist headquarters and publishing establishments have repeatedly been raided, and in some cases damaged.

11) Communists and Communist sympathizers have repeatedly been arrested and detained for questioning by the authorities.

12) Communist, and Communist-infiltrated, meetings have been broken up, and requests for permits to hold meetings denied.

13) Many former Communists and alleged Communists who had joined Batista's Party of Unitary Action, particularly the

workers'

workers' division of the party, were left out when the party was reorganized in December, 1952 as the Party of Progressive Action. That group has since organized another Party of Unitary Action, in May, 1953, thus becoming completely separated from the administration."

Sincerely yours,

Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary

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July 7 1953

In reply refer to
ARA: MID 737.00/6-453

My dear Mr. Riera-Gomez:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letters of May 11 and June 4, 1953, concerning present conditions in Cuba. Your letter of May 11, 1953 addressed to the President was also referred to the Department of State, and the articles which you enclosed with your letters have been brought to the attention of the appropriate officers of the Department.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Charles R. Burrows
Director
Office of Middle American Affairs

Mr. Eliseo Riera-Gomez,
2521 North Greenway Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida.

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