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**FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH**

FROM : **AMCONSULATE, Santiago de  
Cuba, Cuba**

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**

REF : - - -

**2**  
DESP. NO.

**July 26, 1954**  
DATE

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SUBJECT: **Voluntary Report on the Staff of the University of Oriente,  
by Vice Consul Arthur W Feldman**

A voluntary report by Vice Consul Arthur W. Feldman  
is herewith transmitted for the Department's consideration  
and information.

**Harry W. Story,  
American Consul**

**Enclosure:**

**Report**

**Original, paper mat, and other  
copy to the Department  
Copy to the Embassy, Habana, Cuba**

**AWFeldman/AWF**

REPORTER

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Santiago de Cuba, Cuba

VOLUNTARY REPORT ON THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ORIENTE,  
SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA, by VICE CONSUL ARTHUR W. FELDMAN.

July 26, 1954.

Professor Felix MONTIEL Gimenez, teaching International Law at the University of Oriente, requested an interview with the writer on July 2, 1954. He appeared that afternoon with his wife, an instructor of French at the same university who had acted as intermediary since the principals were not acquainted, to give some information about the University and its staff.

He claimed to be a defector from the Communist Party since 1948, at which time he made an open disavowal of its policies. His background will be given at the end of this report.

He stated that the Communist Party had and has plans to convert the University of Oriente into a focal point for the cultural penetration of the countries of the Caribbean and Central America and into a center of diffusion of Anti-U.S.A. and pro U.S.S.R. propaganda. This is to be accomplished by staffing this university with Party members and fellow travelers. He stated that he learned this after his arrival in Cuba. He claimed that the U.S.S.R. planned to invade Latin America not with armies but with Spaniards in their employ who would infiltrate and penetrate the key positions in each country. He said that in Communist circles the Province of Oriente is known as "Retaguardia de Caimanera".

As proof of his hypothesis he claimed that the following university staff members were and still are Communists or fellow travelers:

Jose A. PORTUONDO Valdor, a Cuban, is supposed to be the chief of the intellectual Communists in Santiago. In the year or so that he has been here, after having left the U.S. where he taught at several universities, he has become active in the cultural and intellectual life of the city. It has been observed that he has spoken at the openings of exhibits of the local art school; that he has become a member of the local Rotary club; that he has written an article in the Rotary periodical which used sources attacking the U.S. trade policy with Cuba; that he was elected president of the local Cine de Arte group whose Habana club it is claimed is also run by a Communist, VALDEZ Rodriguez of El Mundo; that the first picture shown under his administration was a USSR film, after the showing of which he spoke in defense of the realism depicted in this film; that he spoke at the inauguration of the Cuban-Haitian Association; that he was a member of the jury with another radical university professor to select the winner of a literary contest run by the Circulo Artistico Literario Heredia; that he acted as mediator in the round table discussion recently held in Santiago during Book Week and that he is sub-director of the University Summer Session, at which institution

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he teaches literature during the year.

Montiel insists that this rapid penetration into the various phases of the city's cultural activities by Portuondo is a result of orders from the Party, so that he will then be in a good position to subvert these organizations at the opportune moment. A factor which Portuondo has in his favor is that many unthinking persons believe that Portuondo is what he claims to be, a lover and advocate of democracy, especially since he has spent several years teaching in the U. S. at our better institutions and must therefore, they surmise, bear the stamp of approval of the U.S. They do not consider why he can not return to the U. S. to continue his teaching. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, it is believed, had refused to grant him a Reentry Permit when he left the U.S. to return to Cuba for a visit although Portuondo claims he is not now nor ever has been a Communist. Montiel affirms that he was so from 1940-1947 and that at present he still is.

Montiel indicated that the following university staff members staff members are Communists or fellow travelers:

Dr. Rafael GRILLO Longorio, Professor of Social Law, Cuban, is an ex-Communist, but still follows the Party line. He is also Director of the Summer Session of the University. Recently Grillo made daily broadcasts over a local radio station, attacking the U.S. at every opportunity. His name appears in the Cuban Military Intelligence list of Communists.

Dr. Juan CHAEAS Marti, Director of the University Theater, Professor of History and Spanish, French and Italian Literature, a Spaniard, is a militant Communist. His name appears in the Cuban Military Intelligence list of Communists.

Dr. Jose Antonio GRILLO Longoria, Professor of Roman Law, a Cuban, is a Communist but claims to be a member of Orthodox Party. He is also a member of the governing body of the University Summer Session.

Dr. Jose L. GALEE Loshuertos, Professor of Criminal Anthropology and Criminal Politics, a Spaniard, is an active Communist. Listed as a Communist in the Consulate files.

Dr. Julio LOPEZ Rendueles, Professor of Physical Chemistry and Colloidal Chemistry, a Spaniard, and an active Communist. Montiel claims that Mrs. Lopez is a member of the USSR police; is an old functionary of the Spanish Communist Party and is a very dangerous person while her husband is a coward.

Dr. Roberto SOTO del Rey, Professor of Superior Physics and General Physics, Secretary of Industrial Chemical Engineering,

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Mechanical Engineering, Physico-Chemical Sciences and Natural Sciences Schools, Cuban citizen, and an active Communist. He is also a member of the governing body of the University Summer Session. Listed in Consulate files as considered to be a Communist.

Dr. Emiliano RAMOS Rodriguez, Director of Chemical Engineering School and Chemical Investigations Laboratory, Professor of Organic Chemistry, Organic Synthesis and Industrial Analysis, is a Cuban, and may be a fellow traveler. His wife is a Communist dating back to her student days at the University of Habana. She is perhaps not active now.

Dr. Maz Enrique FIGUEROA Araujo, Director of Social Activities and Publicity, Professor of History of Education and Science of Education, a Cuban, and an active Communist.

Dr. Faustino Quinidio ARMAIGNAC Dupin, Assistant in French, is a Cuban, violently anti-U.S.A., very good friend of Dr. Juan Chabas Marti, and may be a fellow traveler.

Dra. Hilda OROSA Travado, Assistant Professor of Cuban and Hispano American Literature, a Cuban, fellow traveler.

Dr. Baudilio CASTELLANOS Garcia, Instructor of Commercial Law, Cuban, active Communist.

Dr. Leonardo GRINAN Peralta, Professor of History of Cuban Law, a Cuban, and a militant Communist. Listed as Communist in Consulate files.

Engineer Luciano ARMAIGNAC Dupin, Assistant Professor of Electric Machinery, a Cuban, and possible Communist.

All of the above names were supplied by Montiel. To this list should be added the following whose names appear in the Consulate files:

Dr. Ronald K. ELAIR Lyon, Director of the Institute of Languages, Professor of English, a Cuban, commonly considered to be a Communist.

Dr. Juan DE MOYA Flamand, Director of Audio-Visual Techniques, Director of Department of Physical Education, Professor of Physical Education, a Cuban, claims to be pro-U.S. but listed as Communist in Cuban Military Intelligence files.

Dr. Pedro CANAS Abril, Dean of Faculty of Philosophy and Education, Professor of Geography, described by controlled American source as representing leftish wing of the Oriente professional group.

Dr. Carlos PENA Justiz, Dean of the Faculty of Law and

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Commercial

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Commercial Sciences, Professor of Political Economics and Commercial Law, a Cuban, is listed in the Consulate files as somewhat pro-Franco.

Dr. Alfonso TALLET Grenier, Professor of Applied Statistics to Education and Psychology, Educational Measurements and Evaluations, Educational and Vocational Orientation, a Cuban, listed as fellow traveler in Consulate files.

Dr. Francisco PRAT Puig, Professor of Philology, History of Culture and Appreciation of Plastic Arts, a Spaniard, may be a fellow traveler. He is also Secretary of the University Summer Session.

Although the above comprise a minority of the staff they have managed to occupy key positions. The rest of the staff have made no effort to date to negate the indoctrination of the students by their radical co-workers. The student organization is also anti-U.S. and has lately shown its feelings in the Guatamalan affair.

From the above information the following breakdown can be made of communist penetration in this institution:

- University Council - 5 out of 12
- Faculty of Philosophy and Education - 9 out of 26
- Law School - 6 out of 17
- School of Commercial Sciences - 0 out of 8
- Faculty of Sciences and Engineering - 5 out of 18
- Dept. of Extension Courses and Cultural Relations - 1 out of 2
- Dept. of Social Activities - 1 out of 1
- Library - 0 out of 3
- Dept. of Audio-Visual Techniques - 1 out of 1
- Music Dept. - 0 out of 1
- University Theater Section - 1 out of 1

The Summer Session also has on its staff 8 known communists out of 22. There are on the staff 7 professors from the University of Habana, one Provincial Inspector from Camaguey, one Normal School Professor from Pinar del Rio and the Director of Latin American Organization of Publicity Technique. This post has no information about them but will request the Embassy to check the files for possible derogatory information.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Felipe SALCINES Morlote, Rector of the University, asked Vice Consul Feldman in June to teach a course in English in the 1954 Summer Session and also in the 1954-1955 scholastic session. He was informed at that time of the regulations prohibiting a Foreign Service employee from undertaking work outside of his official duties. However, in view of the situation existing at the University it was suggested that the matter be

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taken up with the Embassy since this office believed it would be an exceptional opportunity to counteract somewhat the adverse attitude of the members of the staff. The Rector was also advised that if permission should be granted that the salary attached to the position should be used to create a fund to assist impoverished students. Rector Salcines on July 26, 1954, informed the writer that Drs. Juan Chabas Marti and Jose L. Galbe Loshuertos would not have their contracts renewed because they had gone too far in preaching their ideology at the University. When questioned as to whether this was a result of a recent government decree which permits the discharge of communists from teaching positions, he stated that in view of the fact that the University of Oriente is an autonomous institution that law would have no effect on the teaching staff.

Information furnished by Montiel concerning himself is as follows:

Francisco Felix MONTIEL Gimenez was born on Nov. 5, 1908 in Aguilas, Province of Murcia, Spain. He married Madeleine le Vexier in March 1950 in Paris, France. He was a professor of Administrative Law at the University of Murcia from 1932-1937. He was a member of the Socialist Party from 1931-1936, at which time he joined the Communist Party. He participated in the Spanish Civil War as a Republican until the end of the war when he left Spain. He was a member of the Spanish Communist Central Committee from 1937-1948 as a representative of Murcia. He was elected a representative to the Cortes as a Socialist in Feb. 1936, but joined the Communist Party at the end of 1936 after war broke out in Spain. He was a witness to the preparation of the German-Soviet Pact in which he claims Spain was sold out to Germany. He left Spain in March 1939 and went to France and England, where he remained in London from Aug. 1939 to June 1940. He then came to Cuba where he was sent by and worked for the Communist Party from 1940-1946. He returned to Paris and renounced his adherence to the Communist Party in 1948. He was sent prior to his defection to the University of Prague for 1½ months to attend conferences. His reasons for leaving the Communist Party were:

1. He found that the Czech revolt was not of the people but was engineered and run by the USSR. He saw that this same situation might occur in Spain and he was not in agreement with this policy.

2. He previously had disagreements with the "Party line". He evidently believed in the theory but not in the actual practice of communism as carried out by the Communist Party.

Montiel worked as a professor of Spanish in the Lyceum in Paris, France from 1943-1952 when he returned to Cuba to accept a teaching position at the University of Oriente. He obtained this offer through Raul ROA who also was a communist in 1943 but left the party.

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Since his return, he has been subjected to inconveniences by the local communists such as being labeled a U.S. and Franco spy, and having his manuscripts which he submitted for publication mislaid by communists on the staff of the Diario de Cuba. He claims that a series of anti-communist articles which he submitted to that newspaper were mislaid and even lost by Editor Zenin CARNET Diaz, an old communist and by the Chief Editor Ernesto HERNANDEZ Soler, also an old communist. Both are listed in the Cuban Military Intelligence List of Communists. Because of the hardships Montiel has encountered in Santiago de Cuba, he decided to leave his post at the University and to seek employment in Habana.

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