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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

937.61/7-2753
25 JUL 1953
25 JUL 1953

FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

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TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 27, 1953

REF Embtel No. 18, July 27, 1953

TO	ATTN	REF
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
RECD JUL 29 1953

SUBJECT: Closure of Communist Newspaper Hoy

Acting on Presidential orders, agents of the Secret Military Police (SIM), the Army and the National Police closed down the Communist newspaper Hoy in a pre-dawn raid on July 27.

The Ministry of Information, in making the announcement, said Hoy played a role in inciting the revolutionary attempt of July 26 at Santiago de Cuba. This dovetailed with the speech of President Batista the morning of July 27 in which he blamed the Communists in part for the abortive uprising.

The Ministry of Information said President Batista "could not permit newspapers serving anti-Democratic and foreign interests, enemies of Cuban ideals, to attack any longer the welfare peace and concord of the Cuban people."

The announcement said a great quantity of subversive leaflet inciting the revolt, as well as other "important documents," were found in the plant of Hoy. The newspaper was described as a "permanent focal point for the inciting of disorder."

Hoy is in its sixteenth year. On its fifteenth anniversary, last May 16, it increased its size from six to eight pages and embellished its Sunday supplement aimed at children. All this was regarded as an attempt to bolster its lagging circulation, which has been reliably reported as low as 3,000.

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It was expected that Hoy's companion piece, La Ultima Hora, which recently changed from a weekly to a bi-monthly, might also be closed. The two publications follow the same Communist-line pattern in attacking the administration, "Yankee Imperialism", labor conditions in Cuba, ad infinitum.

For the Ambassador:

Richard G. Cushing
Richard G. Cushing
Information Officer

RGCushing:ep
REPORTER

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FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 18, July 27.

Control: 8939
 Recd: July 27, 1953
 9:58 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Minister Information announces Communist newspaper HOY raided and closed last night after discovery its complicity in Santiago de Cuba disturbances. Presses reported sealed. Said "Batista's government could not (repeat not) permit newspapers serving anti-democratic and foreign interests, enemies of Cuban ideals, to attack any longer welfare peace and concord of Cuban people".

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EOC:DVW/14

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