

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1845

May 2, 1952

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Air Pouch

REF Embassy Despatch 1734, April 18, 1952

SUBJECT New Cuban Newspaper Acción Unitaria

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In the reference despatch, reference was made to the appearance of a new Havana newspaper under the name of Acción Unitaria. Acción Unitaria is published by Dr. José Rodríguez Valdés, president of another Havana newspaper, La Campaña Cubana, and is printed on La Campaña's presses.

While the name of the newspaper would imply that it is an official publication of President Batista's Partido de Acción Unitaria, the newspaper has no official, or semi-official connection with that party. It is assumed that Rodríguez Valdés has used the name of the party in order to give support to his request for subsidization by the present Cuban Government. Rodríguez Valdés was considered to be especially friendly to former President Prío, who, it is reported, provided him with equipment and newsprint for La Campaña Cubana. Nevertheless, Acción Unitaria has been attacking the Prío regime and has adopted a generally favorable tone vis-a-vis President Batista.

Rodríguez Valdés is known to have rented his presses to the Communists for the publication of Vanguardia Cubana during the time when Hoy was closed by the Cuban Government in 1950. He is also reported to have sold newsprint to the Communists. The editorial orientation of Acción Unitaria is, however, anti-communist.

The director of Acción Unitaria is Raúl VERDES Plana, who is also sub-director of the Campaña Cubana. Verdes Plana's editorial column, Opinión Libre, appears on the same date in both newspapers.

Thus far Acción Unitaria has been unsuccessful in obtaining any subsidy from the Cuban Government. Possibly only one thousand copies of the newspaper are printed daily, and many of these are distributed free-of-charge in the Ministries, to give support to the paper's request for government financial assistance. Journalists of Havana predict that the newspaper will have a short life.

For the Ambassador:

Jacob Canter
Jacob Canter
Public Affairs Officer

JCanter/fmr
REPORTER(S)

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

PREPARATION TIME

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