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Enclosures 4 (clippings)

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FROM : HABANA 251 August 2, 1950

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REF : Embassy's despatch 226, July 31, 1950

SUBJECT : SECOND AND THIRD UNITED PRESS REPORTS ON COMMUNISM IN CUBA. THE COMMUNIST "PEACE CALL" IS FRAUDULENT. THE COMMUNIST PARTY RECEIVES ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW. REACTION.

Two more articles on Communism in Cuba written by Francis L. McCARTHY, United Press chief in Cuba, have followed the original article which appeared in the Cuban press of July 29 and which reported that Cuban Communist leaders were prepared to flee the country.

McCarthy's second article deals largely with the Communist "Stockholm Declaration" and the "peace campaign" carried on by Cuban Communists. McCarthy states that many citizens who signed their names did so without suspecting the deceit back of the campaign, which he termed a "fraud" and which in his opinion constitutes the most recent proof of the international character of Cuban Communism.

McCarthy states that the strength of the Communist Party is estimated at approximately 150,000 persons, but that less than 10 per cent thereof are considered by the authorities as "militants" or "incorrigibles". Referring to the known Communist leaders, McCarthy states that the authorities consider Blas ROCA as the most dangerous and Juan MARINELLO a mere figurehead. Lazaro PEÑA, the principal Communist organizer and orator, is described as the "Cuban Harry Bridges". Anibal ESCALANTE, director of the Communist newspaper Hoy, and Fabio (or Abraham) Siukovitch GROBART, "a naturalized Cuban", were the other two Communists mentioned by name.

In his third article published by many Habana newspapers on August 1, 1950, McCarthy discusses the Soviet Legation in Habana and the activities of Soviet diplomatic couriers in the dissemination of Communist instructions and propaganda. He states that "investigators" say that the Cuban Communist Party receives its orders from Moscow in diplomatic pouches delivered by couriers. He states that 45 Soviet courier entries into Cuba were made in 1949 and 20 so far in 1950. He recalled that during this period no Cuban diplomatic courier has made the "long and tedious journey from Habana to Moscow".

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He also refers to the entry into Cuba of Red propaganda under diplomatic privilege, indicating that much of the material so imported is used in guiding Hoy's editorial policies (Embassy's despatch 166, July 24). McCarthy states that from Cuba the Communists sell Marxism and anti-democratic sentiments "in a single package" to the rest of Latin America. He reports that Habana is the principal producer of anti-United States and pro-Soviet literature circulating in Latin American countries.

McCarthy states that the "mysterious" Soviet Legation in Habana now has a "visible" personnel of six, although it has been reported as having employed at one time or another as many as 100 "agents". McCarthy states that the reason why investigators consider Cuba as the "key" to Communist penetration of Latin America will be discussed in his next article. In his current article (No. 3) McCarthy again mentions Grobart, referring to him as the contact man between the Communist international and its Cuban affiliate, and the only foreigner involved in Cuban Communism.

As can be imagined, Hoy has not permitted McCarthy's charges to go unchallenged. In its August 1 issue Hoy published an article entitled "The Struggle for Peace Is the Despair of the G-Men", stating that in view of the success of the Communist peace campaign, the odious, blood-thirsty Yankee imperialists have become desperate and are resorting to threats on a grand scale. It stated that these threats did not come from Cuban officials but from "an undesirable foreigner, a spy disguised as a journalist, mouthing lies and the most idiotic threats in the belief that they will give pause to the Cuban people." Hoy "identified" the above-mentioned "G-Man" as being Francis L. McCarthy, "formally, director of the United Press". Hoy stated that despite McCarthy's threats "against the 430,000 persons who have signed for peace in Cuba", the masses will continue their protest against the war of invasion in Korea and will add thousands of new signatures, calling for the prohibition of atomic weapons and classifying as a war criminal the first government to use such weapons.

Newspaper clippings of McCarthy's second and third articles and the Communist reaction thereto are enclosed.

Comment:

With reference to the Communist "peace campaign" the Department is informed that various Habana newspapers (in

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a variation of the action taken by Danish newspapers) have begun to point out that the Cuban authorities either already have or will inevitably obtain in the future lists of the persons who have signed the so-called "Stockholm Declaration" and that such signers place themselves in danger of being considered and treated as Communist militants. One such article was published by Luis ORTEGA Suarez in his Prensa Libre column "Pasquin" on July 30, 1950 and is enclosed. He took the line that the signers of the Communist petition "were really getting themselves into a mess". It is understood that at a later date some patriotic society, possibly the Comité Nacional de la Acera del Louvre, may take it upon itself to provide machinery for the retraction of signatures.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a. i.



Earl T. Crain
First Secretary of Embassy

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1. Newspaper clippings of second article published by Francis L. McCarthy
2. Newspaper clippings of third article published by Francis L. McCarthy
3. Clippings of Hoy article of August 1, 1950.
4. Clippings of Prensa Libre of July 30, 1950.

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