

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO : Department of State

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Office assigned to DR7

DEC

FROM : HABANA 1177 November 30, 1950

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no action 2

Enclosure

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action 12-11-50

OLI*

REF : Habana's 892 October 23, 1950

SUBJECT : PRESIDENT PRIO DECORATED BY CHINESE REPUBLIC. RECENT LOCAL ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN NATIONALIST CHINESE TIES WITH CUBA.

Office of DR7

Direction to DC/R 7

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In a ceremony at the Presidential Palace on November 25 President PRIO was decorated by the Republic of China with the Great Special Order of the Propitious Clouds. In presenting the award, the Chinese Minister to Cuba, SHEN Chin-Ting, made special reference to Cuba's support of the Chinese Republic cause in the United Nations and to the protection and help which the Cuban Government has given to Chinese nationals in this country. In his reply to the Minister's remarks, President Prio said that the honor bestowed on him was another tie of affection which consolidates the friendship existing between Cuba and China. He made a toast to the prosperity of the Republic of China.

Although Chinese-Cuban relations have been consistently good, particularly since the arrival of the present able Chinese Minister, it seems apparent that the decoration of President Prio at this time was planned by the Chinese Nationalists as part of a current program to bolster their relations with Cuba. Minister Shen the previous week gave a dinner in honor of the Cuban Minister of State and Justice. In addition several distinguished Chinese visitors have recently arrived in Habana and their activities have been given considerable publicity.

Dr. CHENG Yin-Fun, special representative of CHIANG Kai-Shek, arrived in Habana on November 19. Also arriving during these days were Colonel HAM Hem-Yong, understood to have been a former Military Attaché of the Chinese Republic in Moscow, and Alfredo CHANG, director of the magazine Oriental in Lima, Peru.

Dr. Cheng is understood to be visiting the Chinese colonies in various Republics of Latin America. Press reports state that he is Minister of the High Seas in the Chiang Kai-Shek Government and an adviser to the Nationalist delegation to the United Nations. He is said to have visited Chinese colonies in Mexico, Guatemala, San Salvador,

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Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela before coming to Cuba.

While in Habana Dr. Cheng was feted by the Chinese colony, visited the local newspapers and made several statements to the press concerning the position of the Chinese Nationalists on today's international stage. Dr. Cheng stated that the Chinese Communists do not have any right to be seated in the United Nations and that the campaign to have them become members is merely a move of Russia designed to destroy the United Nations. He added that the Chinese people are united in opposition to communism and that the Communist regime does not represent the people of China. The Nationalist delegate was categorical in his opinion that Mao Tse-tung would not become another Tito. He based this opinion on the assumption that such a change is impossible because Mao does not have the support of the Chinese people and, therefore, cannot afford to do other than blindly follow the dictates of Moscow. Dr. Cheng said that the Chinese people have lost faith in the Communist regime because of its dictatorial methods and the fact that it has not been able to do anything to reconstruct the country.

As to the prospects of Chiang Kai-shek being able to reconquer continental China, Dr. Cheng stated that the Nationalists firmly believe that they can return. He added that the possibilities for such a return depend on three factors: "(1) The activities of the Communists. If they continue to act as they are now, their relations with the people will become worse each day. (2) Our own spiritual and military reorganization in Formosa. (3) The international situation. If the democracies understand that the fight against communism is a universal cause and they help us, our anti-Communist campaign will end sooner."

Clippings from the local press are enclosed.

Comment:

The Chinese colony in Cuba is estimated at some 30,000 persons. Chinese leaders believe that the great majority of the colony is anti-Communist. Most Chinese here earn a fairly good living as small merchants and have had little reason to adopt the Communist cause.

For the Ambassador:

Henry A. Hoyt
Henry A. Hoyt,
Second Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosure: *11*
Clippings

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