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JAN 9 1953

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : **EMBASSY, HABANA**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED

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

January 9, 1953

REF : **OLI - IAD**
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SUBJECT: **Joint Weeka No. 2 for State, Army, Navy and Air Force Departments from SANA**

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) On the early morning of January 6 there were three separate shooting affrays in Habana and environs between the National Police and the SIM and gangsters. Seven were killed: five men with criminal records; an innocent bystander; and a member of the SIM. Explosives and arms were reportedly found in one of the houses where shooting occurred. The Chief of the National Police and the Minister of Information described the events as part and parcel of the efforts, which the Government was determined to thwart by any means, of the "Miami group" to create alarm and confusion by terroristic bombings and attacks on business houses, newspapers and prominent politicians and government figures. The latest development is a report from Matanzas that more arms and explosives were found on a farm in that Province and that Auténtico ex-Representative Salvador ESTEVA Lora and others were being sought as the "intellectual authors" of the bombings and attacks that were to be perpetrated by the criminals involved in the January 6 shootings.

The Embassy has nothing to confirm that these developments actually are connected with a recrudescence of politically-inspired gangsterism. A spokesman for ex-President PRIO in Miami is reported to have denied any connection between the "Miami group" and the gangsters involved in the battles with the authorities.

(RESTRICTED) January 10th is the date set by the latest of the long series of rumors of armed revolt. That the Government is aware of these rumors and prepared to combat any attempts is evidenced by the continued strengthening of strategic points and the patrolling, according to the press, of the north coast of Oriente province.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Yesterday, with great formality, Ramón GRAU San Martín deposited with the Superior Electoral Tribunal a petition for authorization to form the "Partido Revolucionario Cubano"

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1953

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(Auténtico)", in compliance with the 1952 Electoral Code. He thus took the first step toward participation in the elections scheduled for November of this year and at the same time moved to secure for himself and his faction, as against the Prío-Varona Auténtico group, the legal right to the exclusive use of the party name.

The National Executive Committee of the Prío-Varona Auténtico party adopted a resolution to appoint a committee to draft a manifesto denouncing Grau's maneuvers to strip the "genuine leadership of Autenticismo" of the party name, contrary to the will of the masses of the party. If this faction persists in its refusal to participate in the electoral process under the conditions thus far established by the Government, it would appear that there is little or nothing it can or will do in a legal way to keep Grau from enjoying such advantages as may accrue from the use of the Auténtico name. It is obvious that from now on there will be a "genuine" and a "spurious" Auténtico party, depending on whether viewed from the Grau or the Prío-Varona side.

(UNCLASSIFIED) José PARDO Llada submitted to the Permanent Executive Commission of the Ortodoxo party for its consideration a motion which in essence proposed that the traditional Chibás line of inflexible independence be modified to suit the circumstances created by the March 10 coup and that the Ortodoxo party seek the incorporation and help of all parties in an opposition program of "direct action that unites all Cubans without sectarian or party exceptions." The Permanent Executive Commission, in an action which represented a victory for the Pardo Llada forces and a defeat for Roberto AGRAMONTE who strongly opposed the motion and wanted it killed immediately, voted to refer it to the Directive Council and the National Assembly of the party for consideration in forthcoming meetings.

This action of Pardo Llada brought out into the open the split in the Ortodoxo party between "pactists" and "anti-pactists" that has been soft-pedalled for some time. Many commentators believe that a very grave crisis in Ortodoxo affairs has been provoked which may well result in disruption of the party. In any event, the development is regarded as indicative of the deep-seated internal divergencies of opinion that tend to make the Ortodoxo party a feeble instrument of opposition and create confusion and apathy among the rank and file members.

Psychological

Negative

Army

Negative

Navy

Negative

Air

(RESTRICTED) The Cuban Army published on January 1, 1953 a complete Table of Organization for the Army Air Force. This Table of Organization provides for the manning of the following units:

- (a) Air Force Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron
- (b) A Base Squadron
- (c) A Maintenance Squadron
- (d) A Composite Tactical Group composed of
 - (1) A Fighter Squadron
 - (2) A Light Bombardment Squadron
 - (3) A Transport Squadron

COMMENT

Each of these units was activated in April 1952 when the planning for the Table of Organization began. The publication of the Table of Organization permits the Air Force to actually assign its personnel to specific jobs within each unit. At the present time approximately half of the required number of personnel are available to the Air Force. A relatively small number of Officer Candidates and new enlisted men is being trained by the Army for assignment to the Air Force.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

ETCrain, FCFornes, Jr., HMRandall,
EMTerrell, Elmore (MA), Rakow (NA), Mason (AA)

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Part II

Economic

(RESTRICTED) The past week has seen an increasing number of protests from different trade groups against the Government's recent tax law-decree reported last week. So far no tangible results have been forthcoming from those protests. Detailed information on this subject is contained in specific reports.

For the Ambassador:

Harold M. Randall
Harold M. Randall
Counselor of Embassy
for Economic Affairs

Participants:

HMRandall, ETCrain, FCFornes, Jr.,
EMTerrell, Elmore (MA), Rakow (NA), Mason (AA)

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