

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

737.00(W)/3-3154

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1184

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 31, 1954

DATE

REF :

25 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	I N F O	OTHER	Action Taken
	REC'D				
	CL-10	DC/R-2			una-2
	13-1	USIA-8			army-35 Navy-34 Air-24 CIA-13

SUBJECT:

Joint Weeka No. 13 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

Action Office Symbol

Part I Name of Officer

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) PARDO LLADA RETURNS FROM EXILE. On March 26 José PARDO Llada, Ortodoxo leader and radio commentator, returned to Cuba from Mexico where he had taken up residence in exile after he had fled the country in August 1953. He was not molested by the authorities upon arrival. He was quoted to the effect that he had returned to fight for Ortodoxo unity and for "lost liberty and democracy". He immediately plunged into conferences with Raúl CHIBAS and Roberto AGRAMONTE.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. While he has been rather vague on the subject, Pardo Llada gives indications of disagreement with Millo OCHOA and dissatisfaction with the Montreal pact and association with PRIO. Urged on by Raúl Chibás, he and other former Ochoa followers who feel as Pardo Llada does are discussing bases for Ortodoxo "unity" with the Agramonte group. It is to be expected that if these groups can agree, an effort will be made to persuade the registered Ortodoxos to join them, with Ochoa possibly left out in the cold.

(UNCLASSIFIED) REGISTERED ORTODOXOS TALK WITH BATISTA REPRESENTATIVES. The registered Ortodoxos of Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling have been discussing with representatives of President BATISTA the demands of the former, satisfaction of which they make a condition of their participation in elections (see Weeka No. 12). The latest word is that Batista's representatives have indicated willingness to consider granting five demands (restoration of principles of the 1940 Constitution; government presided over by a magistrate of the Supreme Court during the electoral period; liberation of political prisoners; return of exiles with full guarantees; complete repeal of the Public Order Law), but balked at the sixth (direct and free vote instead of the direct but party ticket vote provided for in the Electoral Code). The Ortodoxos have told the press that this is enough to convince them that there is no point to further discussion and that they will make

FCFornes, Jr./cv

REPORTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken

This Document Must Be Returned To

737.00(W)/3-3154

CONFIDENTIAL EMB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
(Classification)

known their position in a public statement.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. If the registered Ortodoxos refuse definitely to participate in elections and join with the Agramonte and Pardo Llada groups in abstentionist "unity", there will arise the question of the purpose of such "unity": unity for unity's sake alone? unity for insurrectional purposes? unity with the negative objective of keeping as much of the population as possible from the polls? or unity with the idea of massing pressure on Batista to meet any and all Ortodoxo demands? Only when the Ortodoxos show themselves more capable of real unity than they have been thus far will answers to these questions begin to emerge.

(UNCLASSIFIED) RUMORS OF RESIGNATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE. During the latter part of last week Habana was rife with rumors of the imminent resignation of Brigadier General Rafael SALAS Cañizares, Chief of the National Police. The police chief continues in office, however, and the rumors now seem to have died away completely.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Comment. Graft from gambling, prostitution and unlicensed street peddlers has been widely charged against General Salas for a long time. His resignation or removal has been sporadically rumored for the past year or more, not solely because of graft but also on account of alleged lack of cooperation and failure to get along with ranking officers of other branches of the armed forces. Thus far he has maintained himself in his position in spite of this reported friction and possible behind-the-scenes maneuvers against him. It may be that last week's crop of rumors had some connection with the unexpected and unexplained removal on March 27 of Colonel Manuel UGALDE Carrillo as chief of the Military Intelligence Service (SIM) (see below under Army).

(UNCLASSIFIED) UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AGAIN IN TROUBLE. Nine University students, including two officers of the University Student Federation (FEU), were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace and resisting arrest. According to reports the students participated in the final carnival parade last Sunday night in a rented truck and upon reaching the judges' stand, broke out anti-regime banners and shouted anti-Batista slogans. Upon arrival at the police station they showed, according to the police report, slight injuries that indicated some rough handling when they were arrested. The Urgency Court has confirmed the imprisonment of the students and set their hearing for an early date. The FEU has called a protest strike until April 1, with any further protest action to be decided upon then.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
(Classification)

(UNCLASSIFIED) DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM SOUGHT BY 59 CUBANS SINCE MARCH 10. The United Press office in Habana has compiled information which shows that since March 10, 1952, 59 Cubans have sought asylum in foreign embassies, all of whom were permitted to leave the country and only four of whom have returned to Cuba. Six of the total, including ex-President Prío, sought asylum (in the Mexican Embassy) immediately after the March 10 coup, while the remaining 53 sought asylum after the uprisings in Oriente Province in July 1953. By place of asylum these 53 were distributed as follows up to March 27, 1954: Papal Nunciature, one; Brazilian Embassy, two; Costa Rican Embassy, four; Panamanian Embassy, four; Argentine Embassy, five; Uruguayan Embassy, six; Guatemalan Embassy, twelve; and Mexican Embassy, nineteen. Three women were included in the total (said to be the first time in Cuban history women have sought asylum) and there were two father and son combinations.

(UNCLASSIFIED) CARACAS CONFERENCE. Editorial comment on the Tenth Inter-American Conference declined still more. Only El Mundo and the Diario de la Marina commented on the Declaration of Caracas, both applauding it as a reaffirmation of the "fundamental principles of America" and of the "principles that constitute the keystone of American institutions". However, Carlos M. LECHUGA, political analyst of El Mundo turned commentator on international affairs for the moment, branded the Declaration as "hypocritical" in so far as it concerned human rights and the effective exercise of democracy, in view of the abuse of the one and the lack of the other in some American countries. Otherwise, El Mundo thought the restatement of the right of asylum of "singular importance" and Información declared that Cuba can feel satisfied with the outstanding role she played in the basic agreements.

Bohemia and Carteles continued their critical reporting of the conference and especially of United States policy there. Returning to a theme aired the previous week, Carteles tried to show that the anti-communist resolution bound none of the parties to concrete action. Bohemia brought out differences between the points of view of the United States and Latin America and called the conference a psychological defeat for our country and a growing success for Guatemala.

Army

(UNCLASSIFIED) CHANGE IN CHIEF OF SIM. On March 27, 1954, Colonel Manuel Ugalde y Carrillo was very unexpectedly relieved as Chief of the Military Intelligence Service (SIM) and transferred to the Office of the Quartermaster General. Lieutenant Colonel Antonio BLANCO y Rico, formerly one of the Presidential Aides, was assigned as the new Chief of the SIM. The announcement was made personally by the Chief of Staff, Major General Francisco

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
(Classification)

TABERNILLA y Dolz, who gave no reason for the change except that it was being made "by order of the President". He implied that Colonel Ugalde's new assignment would be only temporary, saying that "at a not too distant date he will be transferred to an assignment in one of the major commands".

Lt. Col. Blanco y Rico has been closely associated with President Batista personally throughout his Army career. As an enlisted man he was a member of Batista's guard (escorta) when Batista was Chief of Staff of the Army as a colonel. He was later commissioned and served as a member of Batista's personal staff. On March 10, 1952 he was promoted from 1st Lieutenant to Major, and to Lieutenant Colonel on July 10, 1953.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Comment. Sources available to the Embassy, including the Army Attaché, either do not know or have professed not to know the real reason behind Ugalde's sudden transfer, or even the immediate cause of its having taken place at this particular time. There has been considerable speculation on this score as follows:

(1) Ugalde lost out in his longstanding feud with Brig. General Salas, Chief of the National Police, and he was relieved instead of Salas (see political section above).

(2) With the oncoming political campaign, the SIM has been ordered to soften its past strong-armed tactics. Ugalde has been so closely identified personally in the public mind with the SIM's former methods of operation that it was considered desirable to have the SIM turn over a new leaf under the command of someone else. The latest such incident involving the SIM was the detention, and rumored "manhandling", of two Mexican civilian pilots who recently arrived in Cuba as members of a Caribbean goodwill tour.

(3) Ugalde on the night of March 26 had an altercation with a member of the family of a Cabinet Minister in a local night club.

(4) Ugalde is slated to become Quartermaster General since it is common belief that Brig. General ROBAINA, the present Quartermaster General, may soon leave the Army to run for political office.

Of the above entirely unconfirmed versions, the first two or a combination of both are considered to be the most probable.

Navy, Air

Negative.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Page 5 of
Desp. No. 1184
From Habana

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
(Classification)

Page _____ of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

For the Ambassador:

FC Fornes Jr
for Carlos C. Hall
Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

CCHall, HMRandall, PJReveley, FCFornes, Jr.,
JdeZengotita, EMTerrell, JCanter, Elmore (MA), Rakow (NA),
Beckett (AA).

Copies to: AmEmbassies, Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince, Caracas.

MA (4) for USARGARIB and USARFANT.
NA (3) for Guantánamo.
AA (2)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE