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FEB 6 1953

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 6 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA  
Action to DC/R [Signature]

Part I

Political

(CONFIDENTIAL) On January 24, five persons aboard the yacht "Bonita" were rescued by the Dutch vessel "Mare-Liberu" in the Yucatan Channel and taken to New Orleans. There they gave their names as Tulio PRIETO, naturalized American citizen; Wilhelm SPARR, German citizen; Guido GONZALEZ de Bustamante, Cuban; Raul RODRIGUEZ, Cuban; and José V. SANCHEZ, Mexican (and bearer of a Mexican passport). After routine examination at New Orleans, the five departed. Three went to Miami while Rodriguez and Sanchez proceeded to Mexico. These two have since been identified as Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango, one time Minister of State in the PRIO regime, and as Sanchez Arango's former Aide, ex-Captain of the Cuban National Police, Raul Rodriguez. Statements made by Tulio Prieto since have indicated that Sanchez and Rodriguez boarded the "Bonita" at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on January 17, 1953. It will be recalled that Sanchez Arango and Rodriguez departed Miami in early May 1952 with the notorious alien smuggler and pilot, Edward William MURPHY, in a private plane. Thereafter, they were supposedly landed in a clandestine manner in Cuba by Murphy.

(RESTRICTED) Further evidence of the close relationship between the CTC and the BATISTA Government is seen in a \$100,000 Government donation to the CTC. A CTC official said that the money was to be used toward completion of the Labor Palace. Under the Prio regime there were regular Government payments to the CTC, but the present gift is believed to be the first since the coup of last March 10. This donation plus the permission to form the Partido Laborista probably means that the Batista forces no longer meet political opposition from the CTC. Many believe that Labor will actually be a major supporter of Batista in the promised elections of next November.

FCFornes, Jr.:rc  
REPORTER

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(UNCLASSIFIED) Hopes of political solutions by way of any conciliation formula were dimmed by a Government pronouncement during the week. With particular reference to a proposal by Raul G. MENOCAI designed to satisfy some opposition demands while not putting Batista in a position of simply surrendering to the opposition, Government spokesmen declared that the Constitutional Statute of 1952 was "untouchable", that the 1952 Electoral Code would be maintained although it could be amended, and that Batista would not relinquish the right that pertained to every qualified citizen to run for President.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The battle in the Ortodoxo ranks continues unabated. The latest development was a decision by the Minister of the Interior to refuse to authorize meetings for which Roberto AGRAMONTE and Emilio OCHOA, both signing as President of the Ortodoxos, might request permission. The Minister said that his decision would hold until it was clarified which of the two is actually President.

There have been indications that an Ortodoxo group of undetermined size and importance, is considering registering the party under the 1952 Electoral Code. Some arrangement would probably be made to permit this, even though the time for doing so has expired, and Batista would undoubtedly welcome some Ortodoxo participation in the electoral process.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The Superior Electoral Court approved the applications and registered as national political parties Batista's PAP, GRAU's PRC (A), MUJAL's Laborista, GUAS Inclán's Liberal, and the splinter Demócrata (see Weeka No. 4).

Government spokesmen have just announced that these parties will be permitted to engage in political propaganda and recruit adherents. It was also announced that President Batista wished that those groups that did not register as political parties should also be permitted to engage in political activities, subject to provisions of law in force. This is a further indication of Batista's desire to obtain maximum participation in the elections scheduled for November and is probably aimed at elements of the warring Ortodoxos.

(UNCLASSIFIED) A student seriously wounded in the January 15 riots (see Weeka No. 3) is reported today to be in dying condition. This raises the prospect of a martyr being provided for those bent on inflaming the public against Batista and of possible disorder attending the student's funeral, if he should unfortunately die.

(UNCLASSIFIED) It was reported that an interview granted by President Batista to a Mexican newspaperman appeared in a Mexican publication. Batista was said to have again declared that ex-President Prio could return to Cuba without fear of reprisals provided that he observed the law and to have added that Prio "undoubtedly paid for the arms and munitions discovered in the United States". Prio was reported from Mexico City to have declined the invitation, preferring "to live in free countries, like Mexico" rather than living in Cuba "as a prisoner, humiliated and constantly watched".

(UNCLASSIFIED) A "Radiobroadcasting Law" came into effect on January 29, 1953. One of its articles provided that "from 11 a.m. on Sunday to 11 a.m. on Monday there may not be transmitted information programs nor questions of a political character or on other themes that involve or stimulate passions or excite the spirit of the public".

Psychological

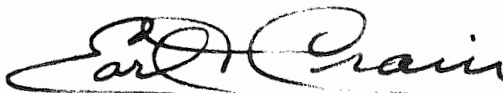
(UNCLASSIFIED) Raids by the SIM on Communist and associated activities (see Weekas Nos. 4 and 5) continued. Hoy protested bitterly at these "undemocratic" proceedings and ran pictures (with no guarantee against faking) showing the "devastation and vandalism wrought by the SIM".

(UNCLASSIFIED) Josephine BAKER arrived in Habana and let it be known that she was willing to give lectures on racial discrimination, if requested to do so.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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

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