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FEB 13 1953

737.00(W)/2-1353

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1271  
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.  
REF :

Action Taken *[Handwritten]*

February 13, 1953  
DATE

Date of Action 2-18-53

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	REC'D FEB 16	OTHER	ARMY NAVY AIR OSD CIA	NAME OF OFFICER <i>[Handwritten]</i>

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 7 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments.  
from SANA

Part I

Political

(CONFIDENTIAL) It was reported over the radio that Rubén BATISTA, the student seriously wounded in the riots of January 15 died this morning. The Embassy had been informed that some University students planned to stage demonstrations upon his death but at the moment the situation is reported tense but quiet. It was also reported that in agreement with the student's family the authorities had arranged to fly the body to the young man's home in Oriente Province but that the students hoped to obtain the body and have it lie in state in the University and if possible to have the funeral cortege routed to pass the Presidential Palace. It is known that representatives of the Cuban Press Bloc conferred with the University Council and this was said to have been done at BATISTA's request in an effort to secure Council action to prevent the expected agitation.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Regarding TRUJILLO's warning of revolutionary activities by the Caribbean Legion, Cuban Minister of State CAMPA limited himself to commenting that Cuba maintains the friendliest of relations with all countries. However, another Ministry of State official was reported to have said that Cuba would have as much information regarding Guatemala as Trujillo but that the latter's public warning would have to be taken into account. The Communist Hoy published a statement by a so-called "Committee for the Unity of Dominican Exiles" in Habana that "unmasked" Trujillo and was couched in typically Communist-line terms.

(UNCLASSIFIED) It was reported today from Mexico City that the Mexican Minister of the Interior had already warned Rómulo GALLEGOS, ex-President of Venezuela, and was about to warn ex-President Carlos PRIO, against using Mexico as a

FCFornes, Jr.:rc  
REPORTER

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base of operations to regain power or foment revolutions in their respective countries.

(UNCLASSIFIED) On February 12, Raúl LORENZO Ruiz took oath as Minister of Commerce to replace Oscar DE LA TORRE. The latter was named Administrator of the Habana Customs to succeed Carlos FERNANDEZ Campos who had resigned, reportedly to devote himself to politics and further his ambition to become mayor of the Habana suburb of Marianao. Lorenzo is a journalist by profession and in November 1952 had been named ad interim Minister Without Portfolio to replace Miguel SUAREZ Fernandez who has been on extended leave reportedly for health reasons.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Immediately after her arrival in Cuba and her failure to have her entertainment contracts reinstated, Josephine BAKER found that "conditions" in Cuba were such that they called for her best "antidiscrimination" efforts. She called a press conference which was ignored by the international press services and reported only sparsely in the non-Communist press. She then proceeded to picket for several hours the entrance to the television station on one of whose shows she was to have appeared. She announced that she would give at least three "anti-discrimination" lectures. Her anti-Americanism has been evident even in the few extended reports of her statements that appeared in the responsible press. The Communist Hoy seized gleefully on her story and gave it an all-out play on the theme of "shameful American discrimination and abuse of a great artist and fighter for human rights". It quoted her today as being ashamed of her American birth and ridiculing a "democracy in which millions of negroes are exploited, discriminated against and sent to die in Korea". The Communists allege that all of her troubles in Cuba are the result of "American imperialist pressure".

### Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) With the announcement that the ROSENBERGS would not be granted presidential clemency, the Communists again called for a "bombardment" of appeals for mercy, this time directed to the Supreme Court. Judging by the past Communist activity in the Rosenberg case as shown by communications to the Embassy, it seems unlikely that this final effort will be aided to any significant extent in Cuba by persons or groups not readily identifiable as Communist, fellow traveler or sympathizer.

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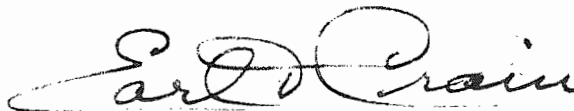
(UNCLASSIFIED) Communists and fellow travelers, principally delegates returning from the Vienna Peace Congress, continue to be detained temporarily by the SIM upon arrival in Cuba and to have their passports confiscated. It is evident from the unabated Communist outcry that this restriction on travel is beginning to hurt.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The SIM is keeping up its raids on Communist offices (see Weeka No. 6). The latest to be visited was the Habana headquarters of the FDMC, the Communist-dominated women's organization. The FDMC offices were partially wrecked.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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

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