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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA, 1281  
APR 21 1954 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 21 1954  
DATE

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| 24        | ACTION        | DEPT.       | OTHER                  |
| For Dept. | OLI-10        | DCR-2 ARA-2 | ARMY-35 NAVY-39 AIR-24 |
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SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 16 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA. C/A-15 OS/A-5

Part I Action Office Symbol  
Name of Officer  
Assignment to DC/R

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION BEGINS. On Easter Sunday, April 18, there were held the party primary elections in which the party's ward affiliates elected the executive committee of the "ward assembly" and delegates to the "municipal assembly". Elections by the municipal assemblies of delegates to "provincial assemblies" and election by the latter of delegates to "national assemblies" will follow. With the organization of ward and municipal assemblies the parties are considered definitely organized. Because of a reduced number of affiliations confined to a few localities, the registered Ortodoxos of Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling faced a special problem in this matter of primary elections. It appears that he will try to reinstate the Ortodoxo assemblies as they were on March 9, 1952, although there may be difficulties in the way of this both from the legal point of view and because of opposition by other Ortodoxo segments.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. These party primary elections are traditionally of interest mainly to the professional politicians and are regarded with indifference by most ordinary voters as a mere formality. In the present instance the bosses seemed to have had the elections well in hand, with intra-party conflicts reported in only a few districts. They are probably of significance only in that they mark another milestone in the progress toward the elections scheduled for November which the government insists will be held.

(UNCLASSIFIED) UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SENTENCED. The nine University students arrested on March 28th for an anti-Batista demonstration during the final carnival parade (see Weeka No. 13), were sentenced by the Urgency Court to 31 days in jail, only nine of which remained to be served because of 22 days of "preventive" imprisonment prior to conviction. This case was marked by almost meekness on the part of the accused students, two of whom are members of the

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directorate of the frequently intractable University Student Federation (FEU). A hunger strike was abandoned at the urging of the Rector of the University. After the convictions, the nine sent a message to the FEU urging that nothing be done in their behalf that might "affect the normal development of classes". The FEU has confined itself to denouncing the arrests and convictions and proclaiming that they are part of a scheme to silence the FEU voice of opposition.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. This case adds to the signs that suggest that there continue to be internal differences of opinion as to whether the FEU should pursue the anti-government course that characterized it last year or whether it should adopt more moderate tactics designed to regain prestige as a truly representative student body.

(UNCLASSIFIED) CTC REJECTS GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT LABOR LAW.

After an extraordinary meeting the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) "Bureau of Direction" on April 15 issued a statement, which it inserted as a paid advertisement in several newspapers, declaring that it "rejected emphatically the document published over the signature of Dr. Carlos SALADRIGAS which has been called Law on Discharge with Compensatory Pay, the Right to Strike, and the Right to Lock Out." The CTC repeated, however, that it stood ready to help in every way with plans that would increase investment, but not on the basis of this draft law.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. CTC sources inform the Embassy that Eusebio MUJAL is in favor of some form of discharge with compensatory pay but could find no support for his point of view among the unions.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SECRETARY DULLES' TRIP TO LONDON AND PARIS.

Cuban international affairs commentators expressed conflicting views concerning the results of Secretary Dulles' trip to England and France for the purpose of obtaining "united action" in Southeast Asia. Victor BILBAO in Excelsior, who usually castigates the English and French for their "appeasement" tactics, considered the communiqués issued in London and Paris (according to which the possibility of creating a collective defense in Southeast Asia would be examined) an indication that the Secretary's proposal had been accepted. On the other hand, Francisco PARES in Información and L. R. VELARDE in Alerta pronounced the Secretary's mission a failure since he had been unable to obtain a statement of "united action" before the Geneva Conference.

Army

(UNCLASSIFIED) EX-CHIEF OF SIM GIVEN DIPLOMATIC POST. Col. Manuel UGALDE Carrillo, who was recently relieved as Chief of the

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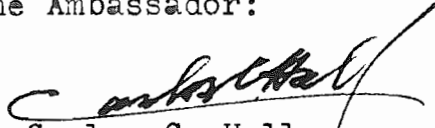
Military Intelligence Service (SIM) (see Weeka No. 13), has been designated Military Attaché in the Dominican Republic, according to a press announcement of the issuance of a presidential decree. Cuba has not heretofore had a military attaché in Ciudad Trujillo although there has been a Dominican military attaché in Habana since shortly after the March 10 coup.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Comment. Removal from the local scene by appointment to a diplomatic post abroad is a system used before by BATISTA and this case strongly recalls that of Jorge GARCIA Tuñon. The latter, after falling from grace with Batista, was appointed abroad. He, as well as Ugalde Carrillo, were collaborators of Batista in the March 10 coup. The Embassy has received no positive information regarding Ugalde Carrillo's current status vis-a-vis Batista but his designation as military attaché suggests that the "out of sight, out of mind" theory is being applied to him.

Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Ambassador:

  
Carlos C. Hall  
Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

CCHall, HNRandall, PJReveley, FCFornes, Jr., JdeZengotita,  
EMTerrell, JCanter, Rakow (NA), Park (AA).

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MA (4) For USARCARIB and USARFANT.  
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AA (2)

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