

Air Priority
PRIORITY

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
737.00(W)/2-2053

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA 1317
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. February 20, 1953

REF : ACTION ASSIGNED TO *Virellet*

2 For Dept. Use Only el	ACTION OLI	DEPT. I N F O	ARA I IBS TCA RE IPS IFI					Central Files DC/R
	REC'D FEB 21	OTHER	ARMY NAVY AIR OSD CIA					

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 8 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments
from SANA

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) The lying-in-state in the University of the body of Rubén BATISTA (see Weeka No. 7) and his funeral, attended by a large number of students, took place without disorders. A few minor disorders by small groups occurred in the Vedado area of Habana after the funeral. There was some property damage but no arrests or injuries. Scattered disorders were reported from the interior of the island, resulting from sympathy demonstrations by students. Scholastic activities were resumed at the University on Tuesday in complete order. As expected, the dead student is being eulogized, especially by the FEU and the Communists, as a martyr to oppression and a symbol of student opposition to dictatorship.

The question of the autonomy of the University of Habana has come to the fore, undoubtedly as a result of the student riots of January 15. In a recent statement the University Council pointed out that autonomy and the respect of the State therefor were guaranteed by the 1940 Constitution. The Council also visited the Cuban Press Bloc and the College of Lawyers and obtained the endorsement of those bodies of its attitude regarding University autonomy. The FEU declared that the Government intended to violate the autonomy of the University by installing an interventor and warned that entry into the University of Government agents would be "over a pile of students' bodies". The FEU affirmed that a decree had already been drafted to intervene the University and only awaited a propitious moment to be signed. The Minister of Education declared that the Government had not changed its point of view regarding the maintenance of autonomy and professed not to understand the apprehensions on the subject unless something was to be feared under the Social Defense

PCFornes, Jr.:rc
REPORTER

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION

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)/2-2053

LWC
FILED

FEB 21 1953

RECEIVED

Code. The crux of the question is the distinction between University autonomy and sovereignty. While the Government may not do anything to disturb the University's autonomy, it probably could not refrain from corrective measures should the University arrogate to itself such a degree of sovereignty as to constitute a serious threat to law and order.

(UNCLASSIFIED) While the split in the Ortodoxo party (see Weeka No. 6) remained as wide as ever, ex-Senator Federico FERNANDEZ Casas, Oriente leader of the party, announced that he would register the PRC (O) if the Government would reopen the preliminary registration period which ended on January 20 (see Weeka No. 4). It is almost certain that the Government would not be averse to this, provided that reasonably substantial support of such registration seemed likely. Roberto AGRAMONTE, to whose faction Fernández Casas belongs, and Emilio OCHOA both rejected the idea of registering the Ortodoxo party. However, Agramonte couched his rejection in such mild terms, in strong contrast to his denunciations of Ochoa, that there is considerable speculation that once Fernández Casas registered the party, Agramonte would join him.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The Mayor of Habana, who also serves on the Government committee to discuss changes in the Electoral Code that might be proposed by the opposition, announced that President BATISTA had not yet made up his mind whether to run for President in the elections scheduled for November. This was contrary to the impression of many that Batista some time ago actually did reveal his intention to run. The Mayor denied that he would or in view of his political activities could act as provisional President to supervise elections should Batista resign in order to be a candidate.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Miguel A. SUAREZ Fernández resigned as Minister Without Portfolio and Carlos A. FERNANDEZ Campos was appointed Minister Without Portfolio. The latter had just resigned as Administrator of the Habana Customs (see Weeka No. 7). Raúl LORENZO Ruiz, new Minister of Commerce and a protege of Suárez Fernández, insisted that the latter's resignation had been due to health reasons and the need for a rest. Suárez Fernández had been on leave of absence for some months and Lorenzo had held his position as Minister Without Portfolio on an interim basis.

It was rumored that Enrique SALADRIGAS, Minister of Health, might resign because his nominee for the job of

chief of the Habana health and sanitation service had been passed over in favor of another appointee (rumors that Enrique Saladrigas would leave the Cabinet have been current for weeks).

(UNCLASSIFIED) Press despatches from Mexico City reported that a Government spokesman there had denied that the Ministry of the Interior had or would issue a warning to the ex-Presidents of Cuba and Venezuela against using Mexico as a base of operations to foment revolution (see Weeka No. 7).

Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) Josephine BAKER managed to obtain an engagement in a fourth-rate, burlesque-type house that operates only intermittently. It is reported that her performances are attended by anti-discrimination audience demonstrations, probably of Communist origin. Miss Baker was picked up by the SIM, held for some hours, and told to stick to her art and refrain from political activity.

Army

Negative.

Navy

(UNCLASSIFIED) A Naval Air Patrol, using Widgeons, has been established by Cuban Navy General Order No. 11 of January 23. Mariel, Cienfuegos and Santiago each have a Widgeon with crew under orders of the respective Chiefs of the three Naval Districts. Their mission is for vigilance of the coastline, to increase the capability of surface units in air-sea rescue and maintenance of aids to navigation.

Air

(UNCLASSIFIED) Brig. Gen. Eulogio CANTILLO y Porras, Adjutant General of the Cuban Army and Lt. Colonel Carlos TABERNILLA, Deputy Chief of the Cuban Army Air Force departed February 20 for Washington, D. C. These officers were invited by the Chief of Staff USAF to visit various Air Force installations in the United States. The tour will require approximately 15 days and includes a visit to aircraft manufacturers in the Los Angeles area and one Air Force jet training base in Arizona.

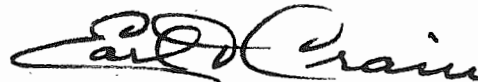
Page 4 of
Desp. No. 1317
From - HABANA

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

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

General Cantillo is to receive the Legion of Merit medal while he is in Washington for his cooperation during the past two years with the U. S. Air Force.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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

Copies to:

Amembassies Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince

MA (4) for USARCARIB and USARFANT
AA (1)
NA (3) for Guantánamo

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~AIR PRIORITY~~
PRIORITY

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
737.00(W)/2-2053

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Habana

12
1318
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 20, 1953
DATE

REF :

2	ACTION	DEPT.	
For Dept.	OLI	I	REP ARA E I IBS IFI TCA RE IPS
Use Only	REC'D	N	
el	FEB 21	F	AG COMM FRB TAR ARMY NAVY CIA AIR OSD
		O	

This Document Must Be Returned To
737.00(W)/2-2053

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 8 For State, Army, Navy and Air Departments
From SANA

Part II

Economic

(RESTRICTED) With the 1953 Cuban sugar crop restricted to 5,000,000 Spanish long tons versus a 7,011,000-ton crop in 1952, it is estimated Cuba will suffer a drop in sugar income in 1953 equal to about 180,000,000 dollars.

As of February 20 all but 9 of the 161 operating mills were in operation, and these 9 are expected to start within the next few days, although the owners of 5 of the 9, or those mills reportedly damaged by the October 1952 hurricane, are said to be holding up grinding operations solely in order to try and obtain an emergency grinding subsidy from the Government, presumably, because of the hurricane damage suffered by them. The Government has threatened to take over the temporary management of the non-operating mills if they do not start grinding immediately. However, it is believed such a drastic step on the part of the Government will not be necessary except possibly in one or two cases.

For the Ambassador:

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

Participants:

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

Copies to Amembassies: Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince
Cuban Desk

- MA (4) for USARCARIB and USARFANT
- NA (3) for Guantanamo
- AA (1)

Action Assigned to *Vincent*

Action Taken *Feb 21*

RECORDS BRANCH

FEB 21 9 24 AM '53

2-26-53

Vincent

Files

CEDavis:eam
REPORTER

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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