

Air Priority
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SECURITY INFORMATION
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737.00(W)/2-2753

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1343

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 27, 1953

DATE

REF

24 For Dept. Use Only mi	ACTION OLI	DEPT. ARA I JBS IFI S/MSA IPS RE IN F OTHER O	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	OSD	CIA	Action Taken noted 3-3-53	Central Files DC/R
	REC'D FEB 28								

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 9 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) The week was marked by gunplay that allegedly had political implications.

Two men, one a University student and the other an outsider, were wounded by gunshots under circumstances that have not been clarified but involved the University. The FEU claimed that the affray took place in the street outside the University precincts, while the police version was that it occurred in the University where the police have no jurisdiction. In any case, the event evoked a government warning to the University Council to look to the responsibilities involved in autonomy. The Council reacted by ordering that persons not connected with the University be denied access to it.

A pitched battle lasting more than an hour developed between police and gangsters in the Vedado section of Habana. Three wanted men were killed, a sailor assisting the police died of wounds, and police officers were wounded. The police asserted that the gangsters had previously been granted asylum in the University and in fact had been trailed from there to the apartment house where the shooting occurred and that under PRIO direction and with Prio help they planned to make terroristic attempts. Arms, including machine guns, ammunition, and a quantity of dynamite were reported to have been in the possession of the gangsters.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The FEU, the University student organization, issued a call to the leaders of the opposition parties, i.e., the parties that have thus far refused to take organizing steps under the Electoral Code, to meet with it to discuss publicly their points of view regarding the elections scheduled for next November. Those invited were Roberto AGRAMONTE of the Ortodoxos; Tony VARONA of the Autenticos; Juan MARTINELLO of

McPomes, Jr.:rc
REPORTER

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the PSP; José R. ANDREU of the Demócratas; Nicolás CASTELLANOS of the PNC; and Ramón ZAYDIN of the Liberals. The FEU move was greeted enthusiastically by the Communists who saw in it an assist in their campaign for united opposition to BATISTA. The meeting has not yet been held and there is reason to believe that not all the invitees are as delighted with the FEU summons as are the Communists.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Rumors again cropped up during the week to the effect that the elections scheduled for November would be postponed until some time in 1954. Political writers point out that postponement would be likely in the not improbable event that the Government reopens the period that expired on January 20 to permit the preliminary steps for the organization under the Electoral Code of additional political parties, possibly including an Ortodoxo group.

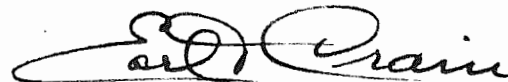
Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) It was announced that Batista had directed three Cabinet Ministers to draft legislation to curb Communist activities. This is evidently a rebirth of the idea that resulted in Consultative Council approval in August 1952 of a proposal to set up a Committee to Investigate Communist Activities. Nothing concrete ever came of the previous proposal. Now as then, Communist reaction was immediate and violent. The Government was accused by the Communists of intending through the projected legislation to repress every conceivable democratic organization and right and to establish itself firmly as a military dictatorship.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

HMRandall, ETCrain, FCFornes, Jr., ISLippe,
Elmore (MA), Rakow (NA), Mason (AA)
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AA (1)
NA (3) for Guantánamo

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From SANA**

Part II

Economic

Negative

For the Ambassador:

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

3-3-53
IAD
Vincent
file

Participants:

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

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