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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM

AMEMBASSY, HABANA

552 DESP. NO.

TO

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SUBJECT:

Joint Weeka No. 14 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from S

Part I

Political

(RESTRICTED) During Holy Week, characterized by extreme quiet in political circles, the only event of significance was the filing of a petition to the Constitutional and Social Guarantees Court to declare unconstitutional the Constitutional Statute of 1952 which replaced the 1940 Constitution following the March 10 coup. The appeal was made by a group including Cosme DE LA TORRIENTE and well-known, anti-Batista members of the Ortodoxo, Autentico, Liberal and Democratic parties. While the argument against the constitutionality of the Statute and other measures of the present Government is doubtless well-reasoned and probably sound, it seems improbable that the judges who have sworn to uphold the Statute will declare it invalid. It is interesting to note that, in reviewing the constitutional history of Cuba, the petition points out that Cubans have always appealed first to the judiciary to correct unconstitutional acts of the government and that only when the judiciary rejected their demands did the people have recourse to force.

Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) Blas ROCA, the secretary-general and probable real leader of the Cuban Communist party, has issued a long analysis of the Communist program and course of action. This was evidently based on the recommendations to Communist parties outside the Soviet orbit that were made at the XIX Congress of the Soviet Communist Party (which Blas Roca attended), and included a certain amount of the recommended "autocriticism". It devoted much space to the Communist interpretation of the Cuban economic and political

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

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FCFornes, Jr.:rc

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION (Classification)

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situation which it described as critical, not basically because of the Batista regime but because of American colonization and imperialistic exploitation of the country. The heavy accent was on the theme that Americans were solely to blame for all Cuba's troubles, operating through their "domestic stooges" whom they had placed in power.

(UNCLASSIFIED) A group of so-called labor leaders under Communist domination addressed an open letter to the CTC (Confederation of Cuban Workers) proposing joint celebration of the May First Labor Day. The proposal was, of course, made with a view to exploiting CTC-organized parades or other celebrations for Communist propaganda purposes or even provoking trouble. The CTC has not yet replied to the Communist letter but it would appear highly unlikely that it will allow itself to be taken in.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Ambassador:

Carl Train

Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:
ETCrain, FCFornes, Jr., ETerrell

Copies to:

Amembassies Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince

MA (4) for USARCARIB and USARFANT

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