

**Air Priority**  
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737.00(W)/5-1553

**FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH**

FROM: AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1795  
DESP. NO.

Action Assigned to *Vincette*

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Action Taken *2/10/53*  
May 15, 1953  
DATE

REF: hm

18 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION OLI REC'D MAY 18	DEPT. I N O ARA EUR GER IBS RE I IPS OTHER ARMY CIA NAVY AIR OSD	Date of Action 5-18-53
504			Action Office Symbol 140

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 20 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA  
Name of Officer *Vincette*  
Direction to DC/R *He*

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) Labor Cuts to Rehabilitate Bus Line. Heavy personnel cuts and wage reductions were announced on May 13 by the management of Autobuses Modernos but have so far resulted in no public reaction from organized labor. Although labor leaders have long expressed bitter opposition to any changes affecting the personnel of this Habana bus line, the Cabinet on May 12 granted the line's management powers to "reorganize" on a loss-free basis, in exchange for a \$1,200,000 loan to the enterprise by the Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Cuban Exiles Call on Guatemalan Official. Cuban sources here report that on May 12, 1953, Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango, Enrique C. HENRIQUEZ and Miguel Angel RAMIREZ called on Guatemalan Foreign Minister OSEGUEDA with the request that the latter see President ARBENZ on their behalf. No information was available regarding the reason why Arbenz was approached.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Senator McCarthy Visits Habana. Senator Joseph R. McCarthy made a 24-hour visit to Habana on May 10 and 11. The Embassy was informed that the Senator spoke with President BATISTA and with some of the President's friends upon subjects which the Senator did not reveal. It was also reported that the Senator said his visit was mainly for pleasure but that there were one or two items of business to take care of.

The visit was noted in several of the local newspapers. There was no comment except by the Communist daily Hoy which speculated that this visit by the "most notorious fascist in the United States" must have been motivated by one or all of these reasons: to give impulse to the "aggressive plot against Guatemala"; to give impulse to "anti-Communist hysteria in Cuba"; or to prop up the "reactionary pawns of imperialism staggering under the condemnation of public opinion".

FCFornes, Jr. :ep  
REPORTER

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ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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**SECRET FILE**

MESSAGE CENTER

(UNCLASSIFIED) Presentation of Credentials. On May 12 Julio VEGA Battle presented his credentials as Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Cuba.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Cuba-Nicaragua Radiotelegraph Agreement. On May 11, 1953, Cuba and Nicaragua signed an agreement providing for the establishment of a direct, government-operated radiotelegraph circuit between Habana and Managua.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Cuba-West Germany Commercial Agreement. It was reported in the press that on May 11 a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation and a Commercial Agreement between Cuba and the German Federal Republic were signed at Bonn. According to reports, Germany will extend facilities for the purchase of 150,000 Spanish long tons of sugar in 1953, in addition to quantities already purchased, and for buying 175,000 tons annually in 1954 and 1955. Germany will also provide two million dollars annually for purchases of Cuban tobacco, copper, chrome, other minerals, henequen, rum, sponges, fruit, and other products. In return Cuba will make tariff concessions, including the granting of the preferential rate on specified products.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. This agreement replaces that denounced by West Germany early this year. It is part of Cuban efforts to assure its sugar market in Europe. Cuban representatives have already departed for Spain and for Great Britain to undertake negotiation of trade agreements with those countries.  
Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) Commie Newspaper Enlarged. The Communist daily Hoy announced that on its 15th anniversary on May 16 it would enlarge its weekday edition from six to eight pages and that its eight-page Sunday edition would have a magazine supplement in addition to its children's supplement.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. While the precise reason for this expansion in spite of apparent financial difficulties is not known, it seems that the most likely reason is a desire to attract more readers and advertisers. The dearth of advertisers is evident from an examination of the paper. Circulation troubles are indicated by the statement of a Ministry of Information official who, basing his estimate on claimed observance of a press run, informed the Embassy that Hoy's circulation was only about 3,000. The recent change in the Communist magazine, La Ultima Hora, from a weekly to a monthly, may have been a preliminary step to concentrate a greater portion of Communist resources on Hoy.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Military Mission Still Under Commie Fire. The Communists continued their attacks on the presence of two American officers in Cuba to check the receipt and utilization

of equipment supplied by the United States (see Weeka No. 19). The Communist party issued a statement supporting that of the "National Peace Committee" and repeating the latter's charges of violation of Cuban sovereignty and buildup of a force to be used for American purposes. However, the party statement also contrasted the "valiant efforts" of the USSR, Red China and the satellites to achieve peace with this preparation of a "military machine" and called the mission an "affront to the desire and longing of the Cuban people for peace".

(UNCLASSIFIED) Commie Attack on McCarran Act. Hoy published a version in Spanish of a resolution by the International Union of Transport, Port and Fishing Workers' Syndicates at a conference in Prague, denouncing the McCarran Act as a violation of human rights and an instrument of aggression and preparation for war.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Incitement to Revolt. Clandestine incitement to revolt has recently taken the form of mimeographed slips of paper folded small and tossed into parked cars. One of these described the March 10 "usurpation" as a "loathsome cancer that is killing Cuba" which it was "indispensable to eradicate." It urged Cubans to undermine the "usurpation" and prepare the road for liberation.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Newsreel Censorship. In protest over Interior Minister HERMIDA's order requiring censorship of newsreels (see Weeka No. 19), the three Cuban newsreel companies closed down their operations. The national organization of theater owners agreed that no newsreels, Cuban or foreign, would be shown in Cuban theaters until the censorship order was lifted. On May 11 Hermida prohibited the showing of newsreels on Sundays, applying the law of "Sunday rest" for journalistic activities. The Cuban Press Bloc and the Cuban Federation of Radio Stations appealed to the "good judgment of the Government" to rescind the censorship order. Editorial opinion, both press and radio, has uniformly denounced this "attack on freedom of expression."

(UNCLASSIFIED) Reaction to Churchill Speech. The reaction to Prime Minister Churchill's foreign policy speech in the House of Commons was mixed. Describing Churchill's policy as senile, Juan Luis MARTIN in El Mundo said that the proper place to air the present world issues was in the United Nations and not in another conference with Russia. Néstor SUAREZ Feliú in Prensa Libre said that peace could not be obtained in a Big Five conference, but only through action. On the other hand, Francisco Parés in Información stated that Churchill had seized the initiative from an inert Washington. The Communist Hoy viewed the speech as evidence of the "profound contradictions between American imperialism and its minor partners and satellites" and as evidence of the "strength of the cause of peace."

(UNCLASSIFIED) Argentine Suppression of News Services.  
The suspension of the incoming news reports of the United States news services in Argentina evoked comment only from the daily newspapers, The Havana Post and Información, both of which condemned the measure as an attack upon freedom of the press which would only lead in the end to dire consequences for Perón.

ADDITIONAL POLITICAL

(SECRET) Activities Against Batista Government. It has been rumored that the opposition might choose May 20, Cuban Independence Day, to "move" against Batista. Ex-President PRIO reportedly recently declared that Batista would be assassinated before that date.

(SECRET) A person reported as "well connected" with the Prío group has stated confidentially that five OCHOA Ortodoxos are scheduled to return today from a meeting "outside Cuba" with members of the Prío group at which it was allegedly decided to join forces. The same source stated the two groups would be unable to organize in time "to make an attempt to overthrow the Batista Government on . . . May 20."

(SECRET) Comment: The Embassy has received no confirmation of these rumors. Nevertheless, it is known that the Cuban Government is watching the situation closely.

Army

(UNCLASSIFIED) Rural Guard Liaison Aviation. On May 12, 1953, five Army officers completed liaison pilot training of approximately 60-70 flying hours. These five officers and five Piper Pacer four-place aircraft have been assigned, respectively, one to each of the Rural Guard regiments in Camaguey, Pinar del Rio, Santa Clara, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba, to provide administrative and liaison air travel within the Rural Guard areas.

Navy


Negative.

Air

(UNCLASSIFIED) Aviation Cadets Go to U.S. On May 11, 1953, twelve aviation cadets of the Cuban Army Air Force departed for San Antonio, Texas, to commence a 69-week primary, basic and advanced flying training course at various USAF bases. Selection of 12 students from the present Cuban Air Force cadet class of 23 students to fill the allotted quota was determined by flying proficiency, ground school grades, and the ability to speak the English language.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Pilots Day in Cuba. Sunday, May 17, has been designated by decree as Pilots' Day in Cuba in commemoration of the flight from Key West to Havana by Domingo ROSILLO in 1913. The same decree created a "Medal of Aviation Merit," the first of which will be presented to President Batista this Sunday by Commander Domingo Rosillo. Military, naval and civil aircraft are scheduled to participate in the festival by flying overhead from Castillo de la Fuerza to the Presidential Palace while Army and Navy bands parade below.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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Beckett (AA)

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