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SECURITY INFORMATION  
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MAY 29 1953

737.00(W)/5-2953

DC/R  
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA  
TO : *Assigned to [unclear]*  
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.  
REF : Action Taken *not*

1870  
DESP. NO.

May 29, 1953  
DATE

*6-2-53*

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SUBJECT: Action ~~Weeka No. 22 for State, Army, Navy and Air~~  
Departments from SANA

Name of Officer *[unclear]*

Direction to DC/R *File* Part I

Political

(CONFIDENTIAL) Revolt Rumors. Previously reported rumors of revolt against the Batista regime (see Weeka No. 21 and Embassy despatch No. 1709 of May 27, 1953) have multiplied and been amplified in the last day or so. The Auténtico-Ortodoxo meeting is now apparently scheduled to be held in Montreal due to the inability of certain participants to obtain visas to enter the United States in time for the meeting. The meeting and its possible conspiratorial purpose have been taken up in the press, with one report claiming that terrorism is plotted with "personal attempts against Agramonte, Grau San Martín and Batista."

Confidential reports reaching the Embassy state that agreement has been reached on the plan of operations for the rumored revolt and that revolution on a large scale will break out between now and mid-June. An organization in Cuba headed by Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango is said to have been alerted and to be well-equipped with arms. Certain Ortodoxo and Auténtico leaders, labor groups, military men displaced by Batista, and others, are reported to have been alerted for immediate action at any time. The University Student Federation is said to be prepared to undertake all methods of active opposition, including bombing and killing. According to the Embassy's informant, the plan of operation includes kidnapping military men outside Camp Columbia and using their uniforms and credentials to gain access to the Camp; seizing police stations, some Ministries, radio stations and other key posts; and sending planes from Yucatan to bring leaders and arms to bomb various points. (B-3).

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. With the publicity that is now attending the Auténtico-Ortodoxo meeting, the Government undoubtedly continues very alert to combat a revolutionary attempt. It would appear that such an attempt could not succeed without defections

FCFornes, Jr. :ep  
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in the armed forces. President Batista appears to retain the loyalty of a substantial majority of those forces, although should he be removed from the scene, there would probably be great confusion in the armed forces with results incalculable at this time. More details of the rumored revolt and more extended comment are contained in the Embassy's despatch No. 1869 of May 29, 1953.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Pelayo CUERVO on "Meet the Press". Pelayo CUERVO Navarro, an ex-Senator and apparently an Ochoa Ortodoxo, appeared on May 26 in the "Meet the Press" television program. He attacked the Batista government as no less administratively corrupt than its predecessor, naming names and citing cases to prove his point. He charged that high Army officers enriched themselves from the national lottery and accused the Army of finance irregularities. He delivered himself of statements that left little doubt that he personally favored and was prepared to participate in violent measures to overthrow Batista and that may have been intended to win the support of the people and of the armed forces for the revolt rumored in connection with the Auténtico-Ortodoxo meeting in Montreal. Cuervo was arrested immediately after the program but subsequently released. He was re-arrested yesterday morning, reportedly on orders of the Army General Staff. He has been challenged by the authorities concerned to prove his accusations and the Minister of the Interior is said to be preparing charges of defamation to be brought against him in the Urgency Court. High government and military officials have been prohibited from appearing on the "Meet the Press" program for the announced reason that the journalistic interviewers "pick on" government representatives while opposition interviewees have no restrictions placed on their attacks.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. Since Pelayo Cuervo was supposed to have been one of the participants in the Auténtico-Ortodoxo meeting in Montreal, the timing of his explosive interview may have been significant in connection with the rumored purposes of that meeting.

(RESTRICTED) Student Reaction to Verdict in Conspiracy Trial. The verdict in the Easter Sunday conspiracy trial (see Weeka No. 1) brought protest action from the students of the University. A minor affair at the School of Medicine resulted in police shooting out with no serious consequences. The FEU called a 48-hour strike for May 25 and 26 but this was disapproved by the University governing Council and apparently did not have the support of the majority of the student body. A mass meeting within the University grounds, summoned to approve the strike call, was broken up by shots fired by a student and a non-student. The strike was duly held, although it was observed by probably the majority of students only because they wished to avoid trouble. The Council initiated disciplinary proceedings against officers of the FEU and others involved in agitating for the strike against Council disapproval.

(RESTRICTED) Comment. The open break between the FEU and the Council has serious implications for future harmonious relations within the University. Should disciplinary action result in expulsion of FEU officers, the student organization and the students it controls (possibly one-fifth of the student body) may react in such a way as to cancel out the work of the school year.

(RESTRICTED) Acting Minister of Communications. Dr. Pablo CARRERA Justiz, Minister of Communications and Transport, was granted 15 days' leave of absence and Dr. Rafael J. DIAZ Balart, Under Secretary for Transport, was named acting Minister. This minor cabinet crisis is understood to have been brought about by the Minister's strong opposition to a Cabinet-approved plan to reorganize Habana's largest bus company (Cooperativa Omnibus Aliados), and to a quarrel he had with the Under Secretary for Communications, Francisco PALOMARES.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Cuban Named ATLAS Secretary-General. The designation of a Cuban, Francisco PEREZ Vidal, as Secretary-General of the Agrupación de Trabajadores Latino-Americanos Sindicalistas (ATLAS) in Buenos Aires, was regarded by leadership of the Cuban Confederation of Labor (CTC) as without significance for Cuba. The CTC ejected Pérez Vidal from membership when he allied himself with the ATLAS, and thinks that this Perón-inspired "hemispheric" labor organization selected him as its Secretary-General because his nationality lends it prestige -- Cuban labor commands wide union respect in Latin America for the favored status it has secured for itself in this country.

### Psychological

(CONFIDENTIAL) Cuban Delegates to World Congress of Women. The Embassy has learned that the following women left Habana by KLM airline on May 25 and 27 to attend the World Congress of Women at Copenhagen: Zoila CASTELLANOS, Helena GIL, Eloisa MORAN, Magdalena SERRA, Aurelia RESTAÑO, Candelaria RODRIGUEZ, and Amalia CALVO Garcia. The first six of these women are known to have been active in Communist-sponsored or inspired activities over a period of time. The last is unknown to the Embassy but may be safely assumed to be of the same political complexion as her companions.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Communist Propaganda Lines. The Communist Hoy seized upon an article allegedly published in the "U.S. News and World Report" entitled "Inflation Ends, Deflation Begins." Reproducing an accompanying illustrative chart, Hoy interpreted the article to mean and to prove that the "economic crisis in the United States is in full development."

The campaign in favor of the "Big Five Peace Pact" has been stepped up, with the various "peace committees" and their fellow-

traveling heads such as Domingo VILLAMIL addressing letters to various organizations.

The Rosenberg case has been kept alive in the Communist press by occasional articles and "news despatches," although the failure of the Embassy to receive any communications on the subject for some time may be taken as an indication that the case was relegated to second place while pending before the Supreme Court. Now that the Supreme Court has again refused review, it can be expected that more active agitation will be revived.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Newsreel Censorship Order Rescinded. The order requiring prior censorship of newsreels was lifted on May 24 after a meeting between Minister of the Interior Ramón O. HERMIDA and representatives of the Cuban Press Bloc and the Cuban Federation of Broadcasters. Newsreels, both domestic and foreign, were again being shown in Cuban motion picture houses.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Reaction to Dominican Accusation. The attack launched on Assistant Secretary of State John Moors Cabot by the Government of the Dominican Republic for the Assistant Secretary's alleged intervention in Dominican politics and for having supposedly entered into discussions with Communist enemies of the country, brought forth no editorial comment except from Néstor Suárez Feliú, international affairs commentator of the Havana daily Prensa Libre. Suárez Feliú declared that if it were true that the United States was withdrawing its support of dictators, it would earn the applause of millions of Latin Americans.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Reaction to Three-Power Conference in Bermuda. The announced meeting of President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Churchill, and the French Premier in Bermuda evoked a variety of comment. The Communists naturally took the view that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the allies of the United States into line so that the United States could continue its plans of aggression and war. Commentators of the non-Communist press variously felt that the meeting was necessary to bring about complete understanding between the United States and Britain and France; that the real cause of the discrepancy was the economic problems of Britain and France, which could be solved principally through the opening up of more American markets for those countries; and that the meeting would afford President Eisenhower an opportunity to "scold" his British and French allies and to let them know that the United States would not tolerate insults from them or their trading with the enemy.

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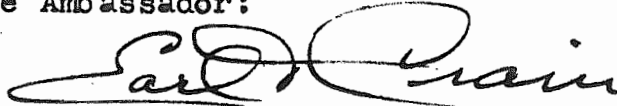
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For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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Elmore (MA), Rakow (NA), Mason (AA)

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