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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, HABANA

2038

Action Assigned to Violetta
June 26, 1953

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Action Taken _____ DATE _____

REF: _____

5 For Dept. Use Only mi	ACTION OLI	DEPT.	I N F O	ARA	I	IBS	IFI	IPS	Date of Action	6-30-53
	REC'D	OTHER		ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA	OSD	Action Office Symbol	190

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 26 for State, Army, Navy and Air
Departments from SANA

Name of Officer Violetta

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) "Visión" Article on Revolution in Cuba. The issue of June 26, 1953 of Visión (see Weeka No. 25) arrived in Cuba with only slight delay and after a change of the local distributor of the magazine. Its article stating that Cuba was on the verge of revolution and giving details of the military preparations of Batista's enemies received wide publicity which prompted reporters to raise the question of insurrectional plans with President Batista. Batista said that for four months the Government has known of the counter-revolutionary plans of the political leaders who met recently in Montreal. He described these plans as very ambitious but impossible of execution by the plotters. He admitted that money was being spent by the Government on intelligence agents abroad, but that it was far less than the \$25,000 a day mentioned in Visión. He warned that the armed forces are "prepared against those who have threatened to use violence in attempting the impossible return to power". (See despatch 2019, June 24, 1953.)

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. The Embassy agrees that the reports and rumors now in circulation suggest pretentious plans that probably are beyond the capacity of the anti-Batista elements to carry out. However, there is still no means of judging the extent to which serious revolutionary plans on a smaller scale lie behind the reports. The Cuban press this week reported the denial of Guatemala's Foreign Minister, Dr. Raul OSEGUEDA, that Guatemala would permit use of its soil as a base of operations against another country.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Reported Generals' Revolt. Press despatches from Miami reported that Carlos HEVIA had revealed that a well-posted friend told him that a revolt against Batista had been planned for June 15 but did not materialize. Hevia was also reported as saying that a "group of generals" sought the overthrow of Batista and that there are three possibilities: Batista might

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REPORTER

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fear of the military; he might be deposed before he could flee; and there might be a revolution in popular protest against the economic situation.

This report drew varied reaction from Government representatives. Batista said that the country could remain calm since it had nothing to fear from such a "permanent failure" as Hevia. The Minister of Defense cryptically warned against "waking the sleeping giant". The Army Chief of Staff termed the report too foolish to merit a reply. The Minister of Information called Hevia's story "absurd" and "ridiculous", pointing out that a revolt by the generals who helped put Batista in power would be a "revolution against themselves."

This morning's press published a second statement by Hevia accusing Batista of collaborating with the Communists. He charged that everyone on the Island, including the Army, repudiates Batista. He said the people would return to the Constitution and regain liberty through the peoples' own efforts.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. The Embassy has no information to indicate that Batista's generals are dissatisfied or are plotting revolt against him. Hevia's story may constitute a further effort to sow suspicion and distrust. It may also be calculated to alarm prospective investors and tourists, thereby weakening the Batista regime by economic means.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Reported Arrest of Aureliano Sanchez Arango in Jamaica. An American source has submitted a report considered reliable that Aureliano Sanchez Arango, ex-Cabinet Minister under Prfo and prominent in alleged revolutionary plans, was arrested at Kingston, Jamaica, May 22, 1953 (Ref.: Despatch 2037, June 26, 1953) for illegal possession of firearms. Reportedly, he departed Jamaica May 25 for Mexico, via Panama.

(UNCLASSIFIED) The Minister of the Presidency States Prfo Could Return Unmolested to Cuba. Following reports that ex-President Prfo had summoned Cuban doctors to treat an attack of appendicitis, the Presidential Secretary announced (on June 25) that if Prfo should need to return to Cuba for medical treatment he may do so "just like any other enemy of the Government" and may stay as long as he wishes, provided he does not take part in plots against the Government, in which case he would be arrested.

(RESTRICTED) Comment. It is doubted Prfo would accept this offer.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Authorities Seize Dynamite. A store of dynamite was seized by police June 25. It was hidden near the newly constructed tunnel under the Almendares River.

(RESTRICTED) Comment. A usually reliable source states that the dynamite was stolen by one of the workers on the tunnel project, and hidden by him for resale or possibly for some other use. Source states the dynamite was not to be used to blow up the tunnel.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Pelayo CUERVO Trial. The trial of Pelayo Cuervo Navarro before the Urgency Court on charges of contempt of authorities and public disorder arising out of his appearance on the "Meet the Press" television program of May 26 (see Weeka No. 22), was suspended. Cuervo had been granted provisional liberty on June 10 and his trial postponed because of the sick leave of one of the judges. With another of the three judges going on leave, the trial has now been annulled and is scheduled to begin all over on July 13.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Liberal Party Sector Signs Electoral Pact With Progresistas. It was announced during the week that the splinter group of Liberals registered for the June 1, 1954 elections had entered into an electoral pact with Batista's Progresistas.

(RESTRICTED) Comment. This action serves to extend to some extent the electoral base of Batista's forces in the event national elections are held. It may presage the entry of Liberals into the Cabinet.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Cuban Delegation to Stockholm ICFTU Conference. The Cuban Federation of Labor (CTC) on June 25 selected a nine-man delegation to attend the Stockholm Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions July 4-11. The Cuban delegation is notably strong, including CTC Secretary General Eusebio MUJAL, José Luis MARTINEZ, leader of 500,000 sugar workers, and Francisco AGUIRRE, ex-Secretary General of the ORIT.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. Judging from their statements to other Latin American labor leaders, the delegations's primary objective at the Congress will be to emphasize that the Latin American labor movement must refuse a "subservient" role vis-a-vis United States labor organizations. At the same time the Cuban Delegation is expected to maintain its opposition to the ATLAS labor organization and its strong support of the ICFTU.

(UNCLASSIFIED) University Council Decision in Proceedings Against Students. The disciplinary proceedings against students involved in protest action against the verdict in the Easter Sunday conspiracy trial (see Weeka No. 22) were closed without imposing penalties.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Panamanian Ambassador Presents Credentials. On June 23, 1953, Carlos M. DE LA OSSA presented his credentials as Ambassador of Panama to Cuba.

Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) Korean Truce. The Communist press is following the line that the U.S. is attempting to frustrate the armistice and that Syngman Rhee is acting as a mere puppet under U.S. direction.

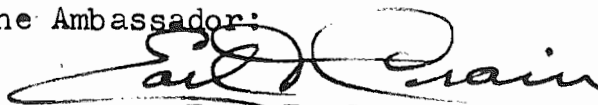
(UNCLASSIFIED) Anti-Communist Riots in East Berlin. Non-Communist analysts generally agreed that the riots were the spontaneous outburst of enslaved masses which afforded the outside world a view of the nature of the Soviet dictatorship. One commentator (L. R. Velarde, in Alerta) stated that the riots, by showing that Soviet control over the satellite countries was not as complete as avowed, afforded President Eisenhower a solid basis, in the coming Bermuda conference, for resisting British pressure to reach an agreement with Russia at all costs. Another analyst (Francisco Parés, in Información) considered that the relatively moderate reprisals showed that the Soviet peace offensive would be maintained. Parés chided the West for not capitalizing on an "immense Russian defeat" by pressing now for the unification of Germany.

(RESTRICTED) Rosenberg Execution. The execution of the Rosenbergs was reported factually by the non-Communist press. The Communists denounced the "crime" as a "legalized lynching" and headlined an alleged statement by Justice Frankfurter that the action of the Supreme Court in the Rosenberg case was "illegal." An apathetic demonstration before the Embassy of a group of less than 50 people after the execution indicated that the Communist version of the Rosenberg case obtained only limited acceptance and aroused only insignificant public protest. (See despatch 2023 of June 25, 1953.)

ARMY, NAVY, AIR

Negative.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

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