DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE CONFIDENTIAL (Classification) 🏗 🙌 🕯 🦫 737.00(w)/8-1**05**1 FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH HABANA FROM August то THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON RFF Use Only WEEKA NO. 6 FOR STATE, ARMY, NAVY AND AUG FROM SNA 13  $\mathsf{ATR}$ C. CIA pop C  ${ t POLITICAL}$ INFO DCROne of the outstanding political developments of the ARA year was the attempted suicide of Urtodoxo leaderSenator E Eduardo R. CHIBAS on the evening of August 5. The attempt IE took place in a CMQ studio after a radio broadcast by UNA Chibás and while Chibás thought he was still on the air. USUN Actually his time had run out and he had been cut off, P1 3 thus foiling Chibás! attempt to dramatize his own suicide. S/ISA Uhibás had been deeply depressed for several days prior to his suicide attempt due to the unfavorable results of his ARMY polemic with the Minister of Education SANCHEZ Arango (Meeka No. 5, August 3) and to the efforts of his Ortodoxo colleagues to limit or attempt to ontrol his future activities and statements. The results of a private poll, ordered by Chibás himself; showing him to have lost further ground in his campaign for the presidency has also been reported as one of the reasons for Chibás' despondency. Although the bullet which Chibás fired into his body traversed his abdomen wounding two hen standing behind him, Chibás has shown remarkable recuperative powers and, per to late bulletins this morning, has a good New master made photographically according to late bulletins this morning, has a good Schance to survive. Inasmuch as the bullet had touched the spinal cord it was feared that Chibas might be paralyzed. The attending physicians have now announced that these fears were groundless. The long-range results of Chibas! Sact are difficult to assess. The initial impression of the Embassy and of political commentators is that Ortodo chances for victory in the 1952 elections have suffered greatly. It is felt that in future the opinions of Chibás! #colleagues will carry greater weight in Ortodoxo deliberations. This in turn may eventually affect Chibas' policy of political isolation rendering it more likely that the Ortodoxos may join forces with other political groups prior to the 1952 elections. In the international field, the press has continued its full coverage of the Kaesong negotiations. Although headlines this morning reported the resumption of truce talk Z"Crain: JJN COMPIDENTIAL REPORTER(S) ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken

Page ^	2	of .
Desp. No	234	_
	Habai	na

## COMFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page of Encl. No. Desp. No. From

the press continues deeply suspicious of Communist sincerity. The action of the U.S. House of Representatives in approving a record military appropriations bill, and Secretary ACHESON's challenge to the Kremlin to join the U.S. in reaching a full peace agreement through the U.N., were widely reported.

Cuba has formally accepted the U.S. invitation to be present at the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference. Cuba's Minister of State, SUAREZ Fernandez and very probably Ambassador MACHADO at Washington will attend. (A Ministry official informed the Ambassy confidentially this morning that Machado was definitely on the list to go to San Francisco.) Another of the prospective delegates to the San Francisco conference, Dr. Joaquin MEYER, recently promoted to Minister-Counselor in the diplomatic service, may go to the Panama TA-ECOSOC conference as head of Cuba's delegation. Meyer hopes that the Panama conference will be terminated in time for him to go to San Francisco as originally planned.

The Italian Ambassador has approached the Cubans requesting their support in a move to obtain a revision of the Italian Peace Treaty. In reply to its request, the Cuban Ministry of State has been informed of U.S. views on the subject. The Ministry states confidentially that Chile has taken the lead in an attempt to mobilize Latin America in support of Italy's efforts to soften the terms of its Peace Treaty.

Francisco AGUIRRE, former Minister of Labor and a leader in the CTC has informed the Embassy that a group of CTC leaders called on Fresident PhIO last week to ask him to deliver the presses of the now inactive newspaper Hoy (which may resume publication in the next few weeks) to the CTC and to force the closure of the Communist newspaper <u>Ultima Hora</u>. According to Aguirre, President Prio told the group that no further action would be taken against the Communists prior to the June 1952 elections. Aguirre remarked that "there are 100,000 Communist votes, and every political party in Cuba including the PRC(A) is trying to get those votes". Aguirre then stated that since the CTC apparently has little chance of taking over the Hoy presses, the Government may supply the CTC with funds for a newspaper of its own in order to keep the CTC leaders in a reasonably content frame of mind.

Prensa Libre on August 5 stated bitterly that while the world War II veterans and the Acera del Louvre committee are signing up volunteers for Koréa, local merchants, in cowardice, have given the Communists 100,000 pesos for the rehabilitation of Hoy: Prensa Libre called on the people to boycott these merchants.

Page 3 of	
Desp. No. 234	
From Habana	· (,,*

•	•	7 .
CO	NETE	ENTIAL
-00	TAT. T.	<u> </u>
	(Class	ification)

Page	of
Encl. 1No	
Desp. No	
From	

The World War II veterans and the Acera del Louvre are now winding up the campaign to register Cuban volunteers for service in Korea. The decision to terminate was reached in view of the fact that over 1,500 volunteers have registered and that the special session of Congress is now expected to convene on August 20. The register of volunteers may be offered either to the hinisters of Interior or Defense or to General CABRERA, Cuban Army Chief of Staff.

The Frime inister has announced that Congress will convene in a special session opening August 20 and closing September 13, after which the regular session will commence. It has been announced that the special session will consider:

- 1) Amending the electoral code to eliminate the right of provincial assemblies to veto the agreements of national party assemblies on national coalitions of political parties. (a move which would reduce the power of Suarez Fernandez, Mead of the PRC(A) Assembly for Las Villas Province.)
  - 2) The establishment of Labor Courts
  - 3) The establishment of the "Administrative Career".
  - 4) Regulating the slaughter of bulls.
  - 5) Nationalization of the United Railways.
- 6) The granting of amnesty under certain conditions to persons convicted of common crimes (should this amnesty result in the release of gangster elements, as is considered probable, an upsurge in gangster warfare may ensue).

Consideration of the foregoing will depend on both the Senate and House obtaining legislative quorums, a very difficult undertaking in a pre-electoral period and especially so during the summer holidays now in full swing.

The Student FEU, supported by the Communist press, continues to call for a mass mobilization on August 17 to protest "U.S. economic aggression against Cuba", under the slogan "Cuba in Danger". The Communists, independently, are also calling for a preliminary meeting August 12, ostensibly to celebrate the fall of former President MACHADO. Actually the August 12 ceremony may be planned to whip up feeling for the "March of the Masses" August 17. (Neeka 5, August 3). The "aggression" referred to by the Communists and the FEU is based on current U.S. legislative action involving a reduction in the Cuban sugar quota. Originally the protest movement was strictly an FEU affair. However, the Communists have moved in and are using it for their own purposes.

Page_	4	of		•
Desp.	No. 2	34	•	•
Érom	Ha	bana		

CONFIDENTIAL (Classification)

Page	of
Encl. No.	
Desp. No	
From	·

The Mayor of Camaguey, Francisco ARREDONDO, has publicly retracted his signing of the Communist peace petition. dondo took this action after the motives behind the Communist peace campaign had been explained to him by U.S. Consular Agent TATE.

## AHAY

Negative.

## VAVY

The Ministry of State feels that a simple exchange of notes between the U.S. and Cuban governments would be desirable in order to finalize the agreement on Air-space darning Area off the Maval Operating Base, Guantanamo Bay. The Embassy anticipates no difficulties will arise in this matter, which has been previously described in weekas 14 and 15, April 6 and 13, 1951.

The Cuban Navy frigate "José Martí" will visit Miami, Florida August 16 to 19 to participate in the annual celebration of Cuba Day at Miami Beach. Captain (Capitán de Navío) Casanova GONZALEZ. Chief of the Direction Department, will represent the Wavy at this event.

## AIR

Colonel Eulogio CANTILLO, Chief of the Cuban Army Air Comps. has presented a formal request to the Office of the Air Attaché for authorization to send 2 Cuban Army pilots to units of the USAF for training in Military Air Transport operations.

Colonel Cantillo is desirous of forming a transport and troop carrier squadron in the Cuban Air Corps and is anxious to obtain some experienced personnel to use as a nucleus.

This training is in addition to the short indoctrination course given to 4 Cuban Army pilots by the USAF at Kelly AF Base, recently (Reference Weeka 3, July 20).

Charge d'Affaires ad interim-

Participants:

DWGClark, ETCrain, RGomez, Ryan (NA), Mason (A).

Copies to Amembassies:

Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince, Santiago

NA (4) for USARCARIB AND USARFANT, AA (1), NA (2) for Guantanamo

CONFIDENTIAL

Mun