

Air Priority
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

737.00(W)/9-453

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 4, 1953

DATE

REF : OLI - IAD

SEP 4 1953

18 For Dept. Use Only S	ACTION OLI	DEPT. MESSAGE CENTER	I N F O	ARA I	IBS	IFI	IRS	UNA	Action Assigned to <i>Unclutter</i>
	REC'D Sept 5	OTHER		ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA	OSD	RSB

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 36 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA

Part I

Political

(RESTRICTED) Anticipation Regarding Batista's September 4 Speech. In addition to the announcement of the lifting of censorship and the "relaxation" of the suspension of constitutional guarantees (see Weeka No. 35), it is widely expected that today, the 20th anniversary of his first assumption of power, President BATISTA will propose a "solution" of Cuba's current political problems.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. The observance of the September 4 anniversary seems to be attended with somewhat relaxed precautions on the part of the Government, which is reportedly less nervous than it was some time ago. However, its vigilance probably continues adequate to cope with further disturbances that are generally expected and that could occur at any time without advance warning signs. Among numerous persons leaving, or planning to leave the Island, one political figure, who considers it expedient to be absent from Cuba over the September 4 anniversary, expressed the opinion that any "solution" offered by Batista will be doomed to failure unless Batista reverses his tendency to circumvent efforts to reach some compromise political solution (see despatch No. 358 of September 3, 1953).

(CONFIDENTIAL) Reported Arming of Civilians. Various reports have reached the Embassy to the general effect that the Cuban Government is taking steps to create armed civilian groups. It is said that the Minister of Information is using a rented country estate for training friends in the handling of automatic weapons; that a plan is being developed to create a new armed reserve composed of public employees and others authorized to carry arms and to function to preserve

FCFornes, Jr.:rc
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This Document Must Be Returned To
DC/R
Central
Files

737.00(W)/9-453

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

order and defend the Government; and that Rolando MASFERRER, director of Tiempo, has been supplied with arms and entrusted with recruiting a group for training.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. If these reports are accurate (and this has not yet been determined), the reasons for arming civilians are obscure and subject only to speculation, particularly if, as the Embassy understands, Batista at present can count on the loyalty of the greatest part of the armed forces, hitherto considered able to withstand the attacks that might be mounted against them. In the Embassy's opinion, the release to civilians of weapons of any type and particularly modern automatic weapons could well constitute more of a risk to the regime than a safeguard.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Possible Rift Between Church Authorities and State. A hint that stories circulating regarding Cardinal ARTEAGA's head injury (see Weeka No. 35) are bothering the Government was supplied by a possibly officially-inspired article by Ramón VASCONCELOS, director of the pro-Batista Alerta. He suggested that the reports accusing members of the armed forces of having injured the Cardinal were inspired by "non-Catholic and non-government" elements (evidently a devious expression meaning Communist) attempting to drive a wedge between the Catholic members of the Government and all the other Catholic segments of the population.

The Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba went to Mexico to participate in a religious ceremony and is now rumored to intend not to return to Cuba. The Cardinal himself has obtained a visa to proceed to the United States. Should these prelates absent themselves from Cuba for any considerable length of time, the Government will face the unwelcome prospect of charges that in this Catholic country not even the top members of the hierarchy are safe from political persecution.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Trial of Communists Again Postponed. The trial under the Public Order Law of the two minor alleged Communists (see Weeka No. 34) was again postponed because of the failure to appear of Juan MARINELLO, Blas ROCA, Anibal ESCALANTE and possibly other top Communist leaders charged with them. The court directed the police to arrest the leaders in question.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Pardo Llada Leaves Cuba. On August 28, 1953, the Ministry of State announced that José PARDO LLADA, the Ortodoxo leader and radio commentator who had taken refuge in the Argentine Embassy, left Cuba by air for Argentina. The Under Secretary of State for Administration informed the

press that Pardo Llada had been granted a safe conduct under the usual conditions but in addition with the undertaking by Argentina that he would not be permitted to devote himself in that country to subversive activities against the Government of Cuba.

(RESTRICTED) Comment. The Embassy has heard that Pardo Llada intends eventually to proceed to Mexico.

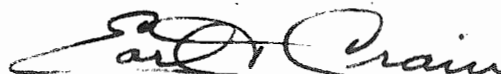
(UNCLASSIFIED) Yugoslav Gestures Toward Trieste. The threatening Yugoslav gestures toward Trieste were viewed by Cuban analysts as a consequence of the Soviet peace offensive, a proof of the insincerity of Tito's friendship for the West, and a deliberate warning that Yugoslavia no longer considers Western aid indispensable.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Korean Political Conference. Cuban commentators generally expressed satisfaction at the results of the UN General Assembly decision excluding India from participation in the Korean peace conference on the grounds that the alleged pro-Communist sympathies of India disqualified it from taking part in the discussions on the side of the West. On the other hand, some commentators felt that for practical reasons it would have been better to allow the participation of India since India might have acted as a conciliator between East and West.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

ETCrain, FCFornes, Jr., ETerrell,
JCanter, Rakow (NA), Beckett (AA)

Copies to:

Amembassies Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince,
Buenos Aires, Mexico, D. F.

MA (4) for USARCARIB and USARFANT
AA (1)
NA (3) for Guantánamo

