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DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED

SECTION I

POLITICAL SEP 10 1951

OLI - IAD

The MESSAGE CENTER Ambassador Willard L. BEAULAC would arrive at Habana on September 6 was prominently published in the press of August 29. Government officials have expressed their gratification that the Ambassador will soon be in Cuba.

The Cuban press has ridiculed communist claims of a UN airplane attack on Kaesong as merely another attempt by the reds to stall the Korean negotiations. UN firmness in dealing with this matter was applauded, and skepticism was again expressed as to the use of further discussions. This morning's press head-lined a report that Chinese and North Koreans are divided over policy regarding the armistice talks.

Dr. Oscar GANS, Minister of Justice and ex-Ambassador to the United States, was sworn in as Minister of State on August 29. He took over officially on August 30 at which time he stated he would carry on Cuba's traditional policies of friendship with friendly countries not forgetting the special handling required in Cuba's relations with neighboring countries. Whether this cryptic remark referred to the United States or the Dominican Republic, or both, is not clear.

Gans stated his first act as Minister would be to announce Cuba's delegation to the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference. He stated he would head the delegation which would include Ambassador MACHADO, Joaquin MEYER (now at Panama City as head of Cuba's IA-ECOSOC delegation), Nicolas RIVERO and Francisco GUIRAL. The latter two will go as Press Attachés.

After having labeled the Soviet decision to attend the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference as merely another maneuver to attempt to muddle the international picture, the Cuban press turned its attack against India for its refusal to participate in the signing. Editorials condemned India for acting as a "stooge" for the USSR, thus enhancing the growth of Communism in Asia. They pointed out that the argument used by India for refusing to sign the treaty are the same

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as those which it is anticipated Russia will present at the Conference. Meanwhile, the Cuban Government informed the Embassy that it will give full support to the United States should Russia attempt to sabotage the Conference.

The Under Secretary of Justice, Dr. Jorge CASUSO, has taken over the Justice portfolio, temporarily, as Acting Minister. In the meantime interest continues to center on Senator Miguel SUAREZ Fernandez who resigned as Minister of State on August 22. He is currently in negotiations with several opposition leaders and it is rumored he may end up with GRAU in the Cubanidad group. During the past week Suarez has severely attacked the Administration accusing PRIO of heading towards dictatorship. In retaliation, Prio has reportedly declared "war without quarter" on Suarez, the first step being the exodus of hundreds of Suarez' henchmen from government jobs.

While the Prio group is doing its best to break Suarez' power in Las Villas Province, Suarez is bending every effort to prevent enactment of legislation amending the electoral code in such a way as to reduce, or eliminate, the power of provincial leaders to veto coalition candidates. The untimely deaths of two congressmen, Fidel del PINO and Delio NUNEZ Mesa, and the hostility of the President of the House, Lincoln RODON both to the amendment of the Electoral Law and the proposed amnesty bill have helped Suarez in his plans. Whether or not Suarez was personally responsible, the fact remains that, so far, it has been impossible even to get the Special Session of Congress started. Since it is scheduled to close on September 13 (one week before the opening of the regular session) it begins to look as though little will be accomplished by the Special Session.

The Habana press this morning reported that the Cuban Chargé d'Affaires at Ciudad Trujillo has interviewed Cuban crew members of the M/V Quetzal who reportedly stated that with the exception of Tomas ROBLEDO, who was suffering from a "head ailment", they were in good health. The Cuban Ministry of State continues to handle the case with the greatest calm and the Guatemalan Minister here has, in private conversations, indicated that his Government is also anxious to avoid complications. Both Governments appear to view the matter as a "hot potato" to be handled with care. This attitude has aroused suspicions and given rise to rumors as to the reason therefor. One story now circulating is to the effect that Minister of Education SANCHEZ Arango and other high officials had extracted large sums of government funds from Banco Gelats intending to transfer them via the Quetzal to Guatemala manifested as "pineapple slips";

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that BRITO, the Master of the Quetzal, who knew what was going on, offered to turn the ship over to TRUJILLO in return for a full pardon, "re-instatement" into the Dominican Navy and a cut of the cash involved. Reportedly, Prio and others implicated are not anxious for the crew members to return to Cuba. The foregoing is submitted as a rumor which may or may not have any basis in fact, and because it may crop up elsewhere. If the Government wished to transfer funds it is felt a less hazardous means could have been found.

The Dominican attacks against Assistant Secretary MILLER for his statements made in Miami in connection with "Cuba Day" were given considerable local publicity and ridiculed as a ludicrous attempt by Trujillo to complicate Cuban-Dominican relations. It was predicted that this latest move on the part of the Dominican dictator would lower him further in the estimation of responsible peoples since the attack was so preposterous. One editorial suggested that "perhaps Trujillo is finding it necessary to stir up international questions in order to keep attention away from the internal Dominican situation".

The Communist newspaper Hoy resumed publication August 26 after a suspension of one year. At the same time it was announced that Ultima Hora would become an evening paper thus giving the Communists full daily coverage. This unfortunate development resulted from the failure of the Courts to back up Executive action against the communist press and has been hailed by the Communists as a triumph over Government efforts to throttle freedom of speech.

This action has been followed by a Government announcement that the radio hour of Ortodoxo leader PARDO Llada was illegal and had been suspended. This action, apparently based on minor legal points, has been condemned by Pardo Llada, Suarez Fernandez, the Communists and others as a definite move towards dictatorship. Pardo Llada has defied the order and Radio Cadena Habana, which is the station involved, has stated it will continue to give Pardo Llada radio time until it is closed by the Government. The Government's action is considered as highly inadvised and unfortunate.

Valentin GONZALEZ (El Campesino) (Week 8, August 24) was received by President Prio on August 27. Gonzalez was accompanied by Julian GORKIN, Eusebio MUJAL and other labor leaders. According to the press the conversation was confined almost exclusively to a discussion of the police system in Russia. On the following day Gonzalez was received by Minister of Labor TELLAHECHE. Press comment on Gonzalez' visit to Cuba continues severely critical.

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MILITARY


News of the signing of an agreement whereby U.S. Army and Navy Missions will be sent to Cuba was published in all papers during the week. Although favorably received little editorial comment on the subject has been noted.

NAVY

Negative.

AIR

Negative.


DuWayne G. Clark
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Participants:
DWGClark, ETCrain, ETerrell,
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