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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA JUL 21 1954 83

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 21, 1954

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	7/22	00/R-2 ARA-2 USIA-8 7-26-54	
		ARMY-35 NAVY-39 AIR-24 CIA-15 OSD-1 OCS	

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 29 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

Part I

Political

(UNCLASSIFIED) MARQUEZ STERLING ON ORTODOXO UNITY; RESIGNS PRESIDENCY OF REGISTERED ORTODOXOS. In his appearance on the revived "Meet the Press" television program (see below), Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling stressed the necessity for Ortodoxo unity in order to participate in elections as an appreciable force against the government. He declared that if Raúl CHIBAS could bring about unification, he would step down from the presidency of the registered party in favor of Chibás and even agree to the latter being the Ortodoxo candidate for President of Cuba. On the other hand Raúl Chibás disclaims any ambition to become President and refuses to be identified with any one Ortodoxo group, Márquez Sterling's included, so long as the various factions remain at loggerheads. He defines his stand as "Unity first; elections afterwards". On July 19 Márquez Sterling submitted his resignation as president of the registered Ortodoxos because of the frustration of his efforts at unification and Chibás' refusal to take over the registered Ortodoxos from him. It is reported that he will proceed to the United States to remain until the end of October or even longer.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. Márquez Sterling has apparently given up hope; AGRAMONTE and OCHOA continue adamant in opposing the elections and the registered Ortodoxos; and Raúl Chibás regards his role as that of intermediary between warring factions with which he will not be identified but which he has thus far been impotent to bring to a reconciliation. As the time set for elections draws closer, hope for forceful Ortodoxo participation therein can hardly sink lower.

(UNCLASSIFIED) PRIO AUTENTICOS CONFIRM ABSTENTION FROM ELECTIONS. The result of "Tony" VARONA's activities after his return to Cuba (see Weeka No. 28) was a public statement in which

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the National Executive Committee confirmed the refusal of the Prio Autenticos to participate in the elections scheduled for November first. Their abstention was based on the same argument many times before advanced by this Auténtico faction: lack of true democratic institutions and rights make only for an electoral farce.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. The names appended to the statement made public gave it an appearance of unanimity of thought among the leaders of the Prio Autenticos. However, some observers feel that there is outward unanimity only and that some of the group are like to break out of line in an attempt to satisfy personal ambitions, probably by joining Grau.

(UNCLASSIFIED) "MEET THE PRESS" PROGRAM RESUMED. On July 15 the CMQ television network resumed the popular and at times controversial "Meet the Press" (Ante La Prensa) program which had been the forum for the expression of the views of both opposition and government representatives. The program had been suspended in June 1953 after government figures had been prohibited from appearing on it (see Weeka No. 23, 1953). The first guest on the resumed program was Carlos Marquez Sterling, head of the registered Ortodoxos (see above).

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. The "Meet the Press" program was probably resumed at this time to serve as a vehicle for active electoral campaigning available to all parties. That the question of participation by members of the government is still unsettled is indicated by the closing words last Thursday of Jorge MAÑACH, the program moderator: "Next week we hope to have the attendance of a government figure."

(UNCLASSIFIED) ATTEMPT TO STEAL EXPLOSIVES FROM MINE. On the night of July 14 a few unidentified armed men attempted to steal dynamite from a mine near El Cristo, ten miles from Santiago de Cuba. The group was driven off after an exchange of gunfire with two military guards during which a guard and a civilian mine employee were wounded. Four men were arrested as suspects in the case.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. An armed attempt to steal dynamite strongly suggests that explosives were wanted for terroristic or revolutionary activity.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SUSPENSION OF TEACHERS UNDER ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. The Ministry of Education announced that 14 school teachers (six men and eight women) and a school janitor, all employed in schools in the interior, had been suspended from their jobs under anti-Communist Law-Decree No. 1456 of June 3, 1954 (see Weekas Nos. 22 and 23). Dismissal formalities must now be complied with.

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(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. This is the first application (with the possible exception of a previous case involving a single individual) of the Law-Decree prohibiting the employment of communists in government positions. It remains to be seen whether all the persons now suspended will finally be discharged.

(UNCLASSIFIED) WOMAN BECOMES MINISTER OF JUSTICE. The Minister of Justice, Gaston GODOY y Loret de Mola, relinquished his post on July 16 to Rosalia CAMIN de Gaytán who had been Under Secretary of Justice since March 10, 1952. Godoy went on electoral leave of absence as required by the Electoral Code to run for election in November to the House of Representatives as a candidate of BATISTA's Partido Acción Progresista. Dr. Camín is the first woman in Cuban history to hold a first-rank cabinet post although there already were two woman Ministers Without Portfolio in Batista's cabinet. (See despatch No. 77, July 19, 1954).

(UNCLASSIFIED) CTC LEADER VISITS GUATEMALA. On July 17 Raúl VALDIVIA Perez, of the central office of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), left for Guatemala, where, according to a CTC release, he will see Col. CASTILLO de Armas and together with Serafino ROMUALDI of the AFofL "work out formulas that will permit not only the obtaining of guarantees for the social advances won for the workers and the peasants, but the organization of the Guatemalan working class with the total elimination of the Communists not only ideologically but as union leaders also".

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. The CTC had felt that a visit to Guatemala by representatives of the American and Cuban labor movements was urgent, in order that the Government might be advised against any reactionary policies in the social field that might hurt the anti-Communist cause. After consultation here with Romualdi on July 15, Valdivia's trip was speedily arranged. The CTC announcement contemplates sending to Guatemala after Valdivia reports back "several activists who during some months will travel throughout Guatemala for the proper and necessary democratic and anti-Communist organization of the unions".

Army, Navy

Negative.

Air

(UNCLASSIFIED) INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF CIVIL AIR PATROL CADETS BETWEEN U.S. AND CUBA. On July 21 five U. S. Civil Air Patrol cadets are scheduled to arrive at Campo Colombia military airport. These cadets will be guests of the Cuban Army and Army

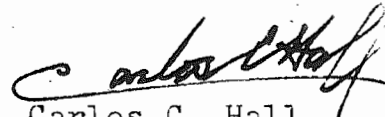
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Air Force during their three-week stay in Cuba. Five Cuban CAP cadets and one escort officer will depart Cuba by USAF aircraft on 24 July for Washington, D. C. to commence a well-programmed tour of USAF and CAP installations in the United States for approximately three weeks.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Comment. This is the first exchange of CAP cadets between the United States and Cuba, and the Cuban Army is enthusiastically programming details to insure the success of the U. S. CAP cadets' visit while in Cuba. It is believed that international exchanges of this nature do much to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

For the Ambassador



Carlos C. Hall
Counselor of Embassy

Participants:

CCHall, HMRandall, PJReveley, FCFornes, Jr., JdeZengotita, WBCaldwell, ACertosimo, JCanter, Rakow (NA), Mason; Krisel (AA)

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- NA (4) For Guantánamo.
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