

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA *Wesker* Assigned to 934 December 6, 1951  
DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON *Wesker* Taken DEC 9 1951 Air Priority  
PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: WEEKA NO. 49 FOR STATE, ARMY, NAVY AND AIR DEPARTMENTS FROM SNA

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The Communist Ultima Hora stated on December 5 that "neither Korea nor the USSR oppose inspection back of the lines". It added that what they do oppose is the US plan 1) to prevent "reconstruction" of war-torn Korea, and 2) to use the UN as a "giant spy ring" in Communist countries.

Minister of State SANCHEZ Arango returned to Cuba December 5, from Washington where he had gone to confer with members of the OAS Peace Committee relative to the Quetzal case. Dr. Prisco PORTO has been appointed on a tentative basis to replace Dr. SOTOLONGO as Cuban Chargé at Ciudad Trujillo. The date of his departure from Habana is indefinite. Habana's Autobuses Modernos staged a 10 minute strike during the week to protest the imprisonment of Cubans by the TRUJILLO Government. On December 4 the House of Representatives met in secret session to discuss this matter. It was reportedly agreed that House leaders would draft a declaration supporting Cuba's action before the OAS Peace Committee. The declaration will reportedly be brought before the House for consideration and approval at the next open session.

Commentator Nestor SUAREZ Feliú stated in Prensa Libre of December 4 that "if England sells arms to Santo Domingo to be used against us, it immediately suspends such sales or we immediately give instructions to our delegates in the U.N. to support Egypt and Iran..." Since England has not figured prominently in the Quetzal case, and since the Cuban press has dwelt lengthily on the U.S.-Dominican guided missiles agreement, this is probably a suggestion directed towards the United States that Cuba has means of retaliation should the U.S. fail to support Cuba to the extent it considers itself entitled.

Ex-President AREVALO of Guatemala, who arrived at Habana November 14 from Guatemala called November 29 on President PRIO. He later told reporters he planned to Weeka advanced one day due to local holiday  
December 7, 1951.

CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
ETCrain:WJN

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spend several days traveling in Cuba after which he planned to return to Guatemala en route to Mexico. The Embassy is unaware of the reason for his visit. Arévalo described his visit as "private" and himself as a "transient diplomat".

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal officially convoked the June 1, 1952 elections by publication of an announcement to that effect in the Official Gazette of December 4. The "Electoral Period" commences December 14 and terminates June 10, 1952. During this period no government employee may be dismissed. It is understood that a considerable number of such employees will be replaced prior to December 14 in connection with the efforts of various Ministers to shore up their political fences.

Antonio PRIO, who is probably pinch hitting for his brother the President, gained control of the PRC(A) Habana Municipal Assembly as a result of the party primaries November 25. He plans to take over officially December 9. Since it is inconceivable that Antonio would act contrary to the President's wishes, it may be assumed that the Habana Assembly's choice of a party candidate for the presidency will reflect the President's views in the matter. So far, the President appears firm in his preference for Carlos HEVIA. Nevertheless, LANCIS, VARONA, GANS and even CASERO have yet to withdraw their candidacies. During recent months all political posters show Hevia with a broad smile on his face in efforts to counteract the impression he is not "simpático". Hevia's construction activities as head of the National Development Board have helped to popularize his candidacy. Another powerful influence in his favor is that of Senator and labor leader MUJAL who reportedly supports the President's apparent choice. Mujal has apparently decided it is to his best interests to remain a power behind the throne rather than to attempt to run for the presidency in his own right.

Efforts of the various opposition parties to dominate an anti-government electoral coalition are making little progress. The Ortodoxos, who appear gradually to be strengthening their position continue adamant in their refusal to enter into political pacts. They insist that other groups dissolve as political entities and enter the Ortodoxo Party as individual members as the only possible form of political or electoral collaboration. However, there is strong pressure within the Ortodoxo Party for some modification of this policy.

CASTELLANOS continues to ignore his agreement to support BATISTA and is reportedly trying to persuade the Ortodoxos to relax their opposition to party pacts.

At the same time Vice President ALONSO Pujol (Castellanos' political mentor) appears to be negotiating with SUAREZ Fernández who has replaced GRAU as leader of Cubanidad.

ARMY

Negative.

NAVY

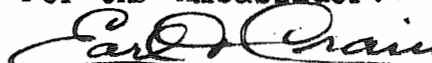
At the invitation of the U.S. Navy two Cuban medical officers visited the U.S. Naval Hospital at Key West on December 6 to acquaint themselves with Navy medical organization and techniques. They are Comdr. Juan LEAL, chief of the Cuban Navy Medical Corps, and Lt-Col. Luis IGLESIAS, commanding officer of the Cuban Armed Forces Hospital in Habana.

Plans are presently underway to construct a modern pier and warehouse on Santa Catalina peninsula in Habana harbor. The installation would comprise a steel-concrete pier and 250,000 square feet of covered warehouse including refrigeration storage space. A U.S. citizen, Mr. U.D. TARRASCA, well-known in Caribbean shipping circles, and Sr. Pablo BEOLA of Cuba are the chief figures in this proposal. Reportedly the Krupp interests in Germany have made a preliminary survey and will submit a bid. It is contemplated that New York banking interests as well as U.S. and Canadian insurance companies would be associated in the deal.

AIR

Negative.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain

First Secretary of Embassy

Participants:

AOPierrot, DWGClark, ETCrain,  
REGomez, Ryan (NA), Mason (AA).

Copies to Amembassies:

Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince,  
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AA (1)  
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