Date:       June 5, 1946

To:         Mr. Frederick B. Lyon
            Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation
            Department of State

From:       John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:    Seizure of Cuban Ministry of Education by Revolutionary Groups -
            May 10, 1946

As of possible interest to you, reliable sources in Havana, Cuba, have reported
that the Cuban Ministry of Education, since the beginning of
the Grau regime, has been the source of thousands of political jobs. At one
time there were reportedly 9,000 "botelleros" or holders of sinecures attached
to this Ministry. For some months, the Ministry of Education has been paying
out salaries far in excess of its financial appropriation and the Government
realized that this situation could not continue. Accordingly, some 4,000
employees were forced to resign during April, 1946, and 1500 more were to be
cut off the payroll in May to enable the Ministry to operate within its budget.

On May 9, 1946, Diego Vicente Tejera, Minister of Education, was
called to the Presidential Palace to discuss the financial problems of the
Ministry with President Grau and Florentino Martinez, Minister of the Treasury.
It is reported that Tejera placed the entire blame on President Grau for con­
ditions in the Ministry of Education, stating that Grau and other Autentico
Party leaders had sent orders to Tejera to appoint thousands of political
followers to "botellas." The argument became so heated that Grau asked for
Tejera's immediate resignation.

As soon as the results of the conference were known, various revolu­
tionary groups prepared to seize the Ministry of Education. At approximately
5:00 A.M. on May 10th, a group of about 35 revolutionary organization members,
armed with machine guns and small arms, took over the Ministry without resis­
tance from the Police who were assigned to guard the building. The revolutionaries
held the building until approximately 11:00 A.M. that morning, at which time
they were assured by President Grau that none of them would lose their jobs.
They then turned the Ministry over to the proper officials. It is interesting
for note that, according to one confidential reliable source, President Grau
gave instructions that members of the Partido Socialista Popular (Communist Party),
who are holding sinecures in the Ministry of Education, should not be removed
from their positions.
The general consensus of opinion among reliable sources in Havana contends that the Grau Government is rapidly losing in popularity. Many essential foods are unavailable except through the black market; other staple goods are selling openly at above ceiling prices; most Cubans are conscious of the lack of public safety prevalent at the present time which has been demonstrated by the numerous unsolved political crimes, and the public is also aware of the fact that while Grau, himself, has not been accused of graft, many of his officials and especially his sister-in-law, Pauline Alsina, are generally regarded as dishonest.

Various persons considered reliable state that a full-scale revolution will take place in Cuba within the next few months; however, no facts have yet been secured to substantiate these allegations.

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