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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1266
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 13, 1953
DATE

REF : Embassy Des. 1181, January 30, 1953

20 For Dept. Use Only hm	ACTION	DEPT.										
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	FEB 16											

SUBJECT: Communist Press Protests Confiscation of Passports of Cuban Communists

The Communist press has complained in recent weeks of the Government's action in "illegally and arbitrarily" depriving "numerous citizens" of their passports. An editorial in the Communist Hoy of February 4 bitterly complained that by this action Batista converted the Island into a prison for honest citizens and patriots and that his procedures constituted a "legal" fascism along Yankee lines.

The Communist weekly La Ultima Hora of February 12, 1953 published an article protesting confiscation of the passport of the well-known Cuban (Communist) poet, Nicolás GUILLEN. This article reported that on different occasions President Batista had informed foreign reporters (Fernando JORDAN of the Mexican weekly Impacto and Francia Natera, representing El Nacional of Caracas) when they inquired as to the reasons for confiscation of Guillén's passport that their inquiry was the first news he had of the matter. La Ultima Hora pointed out that President Batista could not sincerely make the same statement on different occasions.

It would appear from the foregoing that the Government is taking steps to curb travel of Cuban Communists and that the Government's action is hurting the Communists.

For the Ambassador:


Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

ETCrain : ep
REPORTER

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