

Air Pouch

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

737.001/2-2653

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1338
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 26, 1953
DATE

REF : Embdespatch No. 248, August 15, 1952

24 For Dept. Use Only mi	ACTION (ARA) REC'D FEB 28	DEPT. I N F O OLI I IBS IFI EUR/X SY OTHER
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

SUBJECT: Cuban Government to Study Anti-Communist Legislation

The Minister of the Interior has announced that President BATISTA has designated him, the Minister of the Treasury and the Minister of Education as members of a commission to draw up a draft of an anti-Communist Law-Decree. According to the Minister of the Interior this legislation would be designed to "avoid the continued infiltration into our midst of Communist ideas that do so much damage to the moral development of education, to the free determination of the proletariat, to public administration and to the ethics of our democratic system". Subsequently the President of the Consultative Council declared that the ministerial commission would take for the basis of its work the measure previously presented by Luis ORTEGA and approved by the Council which he considered "embraces all the necessary measures and repressions against the red menace". He was referring to the Council's approval in August 1952 of a project for the establishment of a Committee to Investigate Communist Activities. This Committee was never actually set up, possibly because of lack of funds. There is nothing at this time to indicate whether direct action, other than harassment, will eventually result from the appointment of the new ministerial committee.

It is reported that the leaders of the Communist party are seriously alarmed at this rebirth of the idea of repressive legislation. The Communist press has already begun the attack on the project, denouncing it as a "fascist" move which would be directed not only against the Communists but also against any other party, against any unity of action by opposition parties, against any group that demands justice, democracy and independence, and against the FEU (the University student organization), student opposition and the University and its autonomy. This catchall denunciation is obviously designed to line up as much support as possible behind the Communist effort to defeat or discourage any legislation directed against Communism. That some success may attend this defense is indicated by the publication in the Communist Hoy of interviews

FCFornes, Jr.:rc
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This Document Must Be Returned To

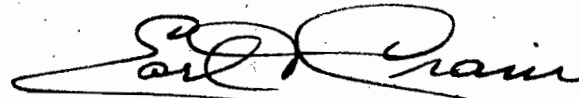
737.001/2-2653

HH

in which some leaders of the FEU were reported variously to have said that this was a "new design of the Government to prevent the unification of the opposition"; that "under the pretext of combatting Communism, democratic liberties are placed at the mercy of the regime"; that such legislation "will try to attack the autonomy of the University"; and that it would be "anti-democratic and against the people since it is the people and not the dictatorship that has the right to end the existence of a political party".

The non-Communist press has not as yet paid particular attention to the anti-Communistic nature of the studies to be undertaken by the new commission of Ministers.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Handwritten initials or mark in the bottom left corner.