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FROM : Embassy Habana

1517

March 18, 1952

DESP. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

AIR POUCH

MAR 19 1952

PRIORITY

REF F780011-C 107

SUBJECT: COMMUNISM: STATEMENTS VARIOUS GOVERNMENT LEADERS RE

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In response to my request, the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of State sent me a number of newspaper clippings containing statements of government leaders on the subject of Communism. Statements of interest are as follows:

In a report published in EXCELSIOR of March 13 of a press interview with General Batista, the latter is quoted as having said that (translation) "with respect to the Communists, if their policy is one of support of, and adherence to, the United Nations - that is, to the conduct of the Cuban Nation - they (the Communists) will have the same considerations as the other parties are entitled to.

"But, in the contrary case, their policies would be incompatible with the nationalist orientations of the Cuban Government and of the Cuban people; and the duality of attitudes of the Nation and of those who, influenced by their loyalty to the world cause, go against the interests of the Nation could not be reconciled."

In a report published in DIARIO DE LA MARINA of March 14, International News Service said (translation),

"The Prime Minister, Fulgencio Batista, who took the reins of government last Monday, declared today, through the correspondents of the foreign press, that 'Communism is very weak in Cuba.'

"Upon being questioned as to whether he would accept the support of the reds, Batista replied that his Government would have nothing to do with the Communists.

"'Communism' - he added - 'is a foreign ideology which goes against our ideals. We will be careful to see that they do not disturb the peace.'

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"Batista pointed out, nevertheless, that he does not plan to outlaw the Communist Party, although its activities will be closely observed."

An International News Service item dated March 16 in DIARIO DE LA MARINA says (translation),

"The Minister of Propaganda, Ernesto de la Fé, pointed out today that the Prime Minister of Cuba, General Fulgencio Batista, has said repeatedly that Cuba will never be a Communist base. Commenting on the signed statement made in Mexico yesterday to I.N.S. by the ex-President of Cuba, Carlos PRIO Socarrás, to the effect that Batista was closely tied up with the Communists, the Minister of Propaganda said that last Friday Batista declared before a group of foreign newspapermen that his firm intention was to watch closely the activities of the Communist Party in order to prevent with all the means in his power any action or recurrence of the tactics which could affect Cuba's international relations, particularly as a member of the United Nations. Batista also would prevent with the same energy any action which might affect the national interests of Cuba or its relations with neighbor countries of the Caribbean, added the Cuban Minister of Propaganda, promising that Cuba will never be a focus or base of Communist action."

A story published in EL MUNDO of March 15 says (translation),

"The Minister of Labor, Dr. Jesús PORTOCARRERO, said yesterday that the Government will maintain its anti-Communist line and will not permit infiltration of theories and practices contrary to the democratic regime and to national sovereignty."


Willard L. Beaulac

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*Jlli**Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MID - Mr. Wellman *W*

FROM : MID - Ambassador Nufer

SUBJECT:

DATE: March 20, 1952

With reference to the attached draft airgram to Embassy Habana regarding the recent articles which appeared in the communist daily Hoy, accusing the Embassy of conspiring to assassinate a communist leader, I am not at all sure in my mind whether the suggestion made in the last paragraph is a good one. While I realize that it is difficult to let libelous accusations of the kind made by Hoy go unchallenged, I am reluctant for our Embassy to dignify such accusations by a denial or to stoop to what might become a polemic with a newspaper of the category of Hoy. I fear that Hoy would probably be delighted if we took cognizance of libelous statements of the kind under reference and that it might spur them on to bigger and better efforts. On the other hand, the silent treatment might, in the long run, be more irksome to them and perhaps more effective.

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