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PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, Habana

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF - -

August 30, 1955

DATE

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5 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
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	01-10	R MTR-2 ABA-2 ICA-10
	8/31	ARMY-35 NAVY-39 AIR-24 CIA-16 OSD-2

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 35 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA. officer

00B-2 USIA

(UNCLASSIFIED) PRIO LIEUTENANTS COME OUT OF HIDING. On August 24 and 27, respectively, Cándido DE LA TORRE and Menelao MORA Morales, came out of hiding and presented themselves to the Urgency Court of Havana. Both are PRIO followers whose names have long been connected with revolutionary activities and both of whom are named in accusations of terroristic and insurrectionary plotting pending hearing before the Court. In the absence of arrest orders against them, the two men remain at liberty, subject to their appearance in court when summoned in connection with the charges against them. Both made similar statements to the press to the effect that they were respecting Prío's new "peace line" and that they would participate in the "civic activity in which their party is now engaged".

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. The emergence from underground of these additional Prío followers strengthens optimism that the ex-President's faction has in fact abandoned revolutionary tactics, at least until the new line is tried out.

(UNCLASSIFIED) ORTODOXO "UNITY" AGAIN THREATENED. The precarious "unity" of the Ortodoxos, jolted once before by internal strife (see Weeka No. 27), was again threatened last week. Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling and five other members of the "unified" Ortodoxos' Directive Council publicly charged that within the party there reigned "the rule of moral and material coercion" and that the party statutes and the bases of the "Unity Charter" were being violated, with Raúl CHIBAS, the president, in particular being biased in his leadership. The six declared their intention to boycott a Council meeting called for the 28th and condemned in advance any motions that might be approved in such meeting.

The meeting was held as scheduled without the dissident group. The only decision coming out of the meeting was to despatch a committee headed by Chibás to try to persuade Marquez Sterling and the others to attend a later gathering of the Council and air their grievances.

FCFornes Jr., CABoonstra,  
EJDonahue:mbw  
REPORTER

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Marques Sterling also complained to the authorities that his life was being threatened again and for the same reason by the Ortodoxo who in July 1954 attacked Márquez Sterling in his office with a pistol, alleging as his motive therefor deep dissatisfaction with Márquez Sterling's political conduct (see Weeka No. 28, 1954).

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. Once again the Ortodoxos have demonstrated that their "unity" is balanced on a thin edge and that they have evidently progressed but little on the road to harmonious internal relations that are essential to rebuilding Ortodoxia into a significant political force.

(UNCLASSIFIED) BOMB EXPLODES AT PRIO FAMILY TOMB. A small bomb exploded at the family mausoleum in Colón Cemetery of Carlos Prío Socarrás, with small damage and no one hurt. This would appear to be an outrageous demonstration of personal animosity against the ex-President.

(UNCLASSIFIED) CUBAN OPERATORS CLAIMING RADIOACTIVE MINERALS. Numerous claims are being filed by Cuban individuals and companies under the terms of Decree No. 1996 of July 16, 1955 (see despatch No. 62, July 21, 1955), which places radioactive minerals in a separate category for concession of mining rights. This enables claims to be placed on areas in which mining rights for other minerals already are held by other holders.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. United States mining interests regard Decree No. 1996 as unconstitutional and therefore are not filing claims. In the absence of an early test of unconstitutionality, serious problems may develop for the American companies and possibly for the General Services Administration whose mining properties also may be denounced for radioactive minerals.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) PROBLEM OF BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT. Cuban officials are stating their desire to reopen promptly the discussions, suspended since last May, through which they hope to obtain for Cuban airlines an assured and greater portion of the Havana-Miami traffic by modifying the present interpretation of the United States-Cuban bilateral air transport agreement.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. Heavy losses of the Cia. Cubana de Aviación keep pressure on Cuban officials to find means for increasing that company's traffic, to the extent that unilateral action contravening the present bilateral agreement is feared if mutually satisfactory interpretation is not obtained.

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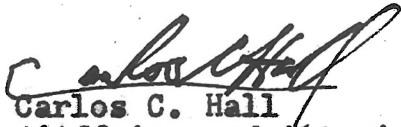
(Classification)

(UNCLASSIFIED) MOROCCO. France's troubles in Morocco drew major attention from the Cuban press. Frequently mentioned as causes for the uprisings were France's incapacity to administer the territory; her lack of strong government leadership; the tardiness of her reforms in colonial areas; and her mistake in deposing Sultan Muley Yussuf two years ago. Tiempo, contending that the present crisis proves that the French can no longer govern the territory, called for UN action to restore peace to North Africa, with a plebiscite to be administered later. Información pointed out that the 1000 victims of recent uprisings make it imperative that the UN extend its jurisdiction to this area. According to Excelsior, the weakness of successive French governments, together with Communist propaganda, has encouraged Moroccans to rebel. For Prensa Libre, France has started to mend her colonial fences one day too late, and "in a day it is possible to lose not only a battle but an entire war." Diario de la Marina, after tracing the present condition to the ouster of Sultan Muley Yussuf, urged the French to revise their Moroccan policy of the last 30 months. For El Mundo, it was an inescapable historical fact that subject peoples will, sooner or later, shake off their colonial fetters, while Alerta interpreted the August 20 uprising as indicative of a Pan Islamic movement sweeping over North Africa, aimed at wiping out colonialism.

The United States attitude on Morocco, as interpreted by El Mundo, is one of keen interest but non-involvement. This newspaper predicted that the French, unless they grant needed reforms, will soon be faced with another Indo-China. Alerta hinted that because of strategic American air bases in North Africa, the United States may work quietly behind the scenes, as it did during the British-Egyptian controversy, to bring about a peaceful solution.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative.

  
Carlos C. Hall  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Participants: CCHall, CABroonstra, CFPick, Jr., FCFornes, Jr.,  
WBCaldwell, FJDonahue, JJWachter, Treadway(Army),  
Krisel(Navy), and Slaton(Air).

cc: AmEmbassies Ciudad Trujillo and Port-au-Prince.

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