

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: COMMUNISM: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INFORMATION

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I have the honor to enclose a memorandum of a conversation I had on September 3, 1952 with the Cuban Minister of Information, Ernesto DE LA FE, on the subject of Communism and possible steps to eliminate Communist activities.

It will be noted that Minister de la Fe has in mind the possibility of an anti-Communist Youth Conference to be held in Habana. In my remarks to the Minister I stressed the desirability of the Government's taking immediate steps already open to them to combat and limit the activities of Communists.

Willard L. Beaulac
Willard L. Beaulac

Enclosure:

Memorandum of conversation
with Ernesto de la Fe.

172

WLBeaulac:WJN
REPORTER(S)

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September 3, 1952

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

The Ambassador
Ernesto DE LA FE, Minister of Information

Minister de la Fe said that he had called to exchange ideas about Communism. He said that he did not think people were fully alive to the Communist menace. He had in mind the possibility of calling a Youth Congress in Cuba and inviting representatives from other countries to attend. He asked me what I thought of this.

I told the Minister that I thought that a more urgent need was for countries to take the steps that were open to them legally to combat Communism. A number of conferences had been held in which the Communist menace had been set forth and in which recommendations had been made for action against the Communists. The trouble was that these recommendations frequently were not carried out.

I reminded the Minister that the IV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Washington last year had come out strongly against Communism. The results of this meeting could be used by any government as a starting point, if any such starting point should be needed.

A difficulty that the Batista Government might foresee if it called a Youth Conference would be that certain people in Cuba and abroad would charge that the Communism issue was a smokescreen and that the Batista Government was trying to prove itself a champion of democracy in order to overcome the circumstances of its origin.

De la Fe asked me whether I thought the Communist newspaper HOY should be closed. I said that that was a difficult thing for me to comment on. There were Communist newspapers in the United States, so I could not very well recommend to another government that it close the Communist newspapers. That was something for each government to determine for itself.

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I told the Minister that there were certain things that the Cuban Government could do legally, such as denying to Communists the right to travel abroad. I said that I had been amazed when I returned to Cuba and discovered the freedom with which Cuban Communists were allowed to travel abroad. Even during the Batista regime Juan MARINELLO and other Communists had no trouble traveling to Europe and back. I said that in the United States we did not give such facilities to Communists.

The Minister said that he would look up the results of the IV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and he would tell the Minister of State of our conversation.

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