

INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AIRGRAM

3474

FROM: American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba

Date of mailing: October 18, 1948

Rec'd:

Oct. 20, 1948 1:12 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-1162, October 18, 1948.

On October 11, 1948 it was announced that President Prío was keeping Major General Genevevo PEREZ Damera as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army.

General Perez immediately requested the retirement of General Enrique HERNANDEZ Nardo, Supervisor General of National Police, and the transfer of General Gregorio QUEREJETA from Commanding Officer, Fort Cabanas and 7th Regiment, to Inspector General of the Cuban Army. General Nardo was a favorite and protege of the former First Lady, Paulina Alsina Vda. de Grau, and an intimate friend of Lazaro PRIMA and other Communist negro labor leaders. He has been accused recently of grafting. Both Hernandez Nardo and Querejeta (who gets a position having no command of troops) are negroes and action taken in respect to them may reflect reported policy of Minister of Interior, Ruben DE LEON, to clear negroes out of Army and return Police to Police not Army control. Furthermore, Minister of State told Counselor of Embassy and Air Attaché October 15 that José M. ALEMAN had "bought off" Nardo in a sugar mill deal.

On October 11, 1948 President Prío announced that Major José Manuel CARAMES y Monteagudo had been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and designated Chief of Police. Carames, who has recently commanded 13th Police Station, is a fervent anti-Communist and a strong, well-respected police officer. He immediately set about severing connections between Police and Army.

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