

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY :

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

16

TO : Department of State

837.142/11-949

FROM : CIUDAD TRUJILLO 391 November 9, 1949 2 Enclosures

REF :

SUBJECT : ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED ON WITHIN THE CUBAN RED CROSS

Department of State  
OFFICE OF  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR AFFAIRS  
NOV 14 1949  
*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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Acting Foreign Secretary Peña Batlle has furnished the Embassy two recent communications received from the Dominican Chargé d'Affaires in Habana, concerning alleged revolutionary activities being carried on within the Cuban Red Cross.

Enclosure No. 1 is a copy of a communication written by the Dominican Chargé concerning recent information he has received. Enclosure No. 2 is a copy of a report received by the Chargé d'Affaires from an informant giving details of the alleged activities of the Cuban Red Cross and its President Dr. Rodolfo HENRIQUEZ. The information in these reports is self explanatory.

The Embassy has noted that these reports contain much greater detail and have a greater tone of reliability than many of the reports of rumored anti-Trujillo activity furnished in recent months by the Dominican Government. Under these circumstances it is suggested that Embassy Habana may wish to check them with particular care.

For the Ambassador:

*William Belton*

William Belton  
First Secretary of Embassy

*Telegram drafted to Habana  
ARL: MID: CCHauch  
(+ copy to Ciudad Trujillo)*

Enclosures: *att.*

- ✓ 1. Report.
- ✓ 2. Report.

cc: Amembassy, Habana.

WBelton/sa 11/8/49

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J BMB

11 22 1949

*[Handwritten initials]*

FAP

CONFIDENTIAL

Enclosure 1 Ciudad Trujillo 391

(Translation)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1602

Habana, October 30, 1949.

Mr. Telésforo R. Calderón,  
Secretary of State for the Presidency,  
CIUDAD TRUJILLO.

Honorable Mr. Secretary  
and esteemed friend:

For several days the newspapers have been speaking of shady dealings in the Red Cross. It is ascertained that more than \$10,000 collected to aid Ecuador has disappeared as if by magic and that its present President, Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez, motivated by a desire that no one interfere in the activities of the organization, has removed the Directors so that he could continue without restrictions of any kind.

It all seemed very unusual, but neither the authorities of the Ministry of Health, nor anyone else, put a checkrein on the reckless President, and that seemed very strange. And the situation was explained as follows: the President can, according to the Regulations, assume all the directive functions when a state of general emergency so requires. A state of war still existed when he removed the Directors.

But one fine day, one of the newspapers which had been printing information adverse to Dr. Henríquez, made an accusation: the Red Cross is prejudiced and engaged in political activities, and what is more; in conspiracies against the Governments of American countries. But neither the President of the Red Cross nor anyone else owned up to it.

It was stated, and I so reported, that Dr. Henríquez, accompanied by three persons, had been in the region of Guantánamo looking for a suitable site to construct an airport useful to the enemies of our Government. He arranged it so the Red Cross paid for the trip and the expenses he incurred.

Having been put on guard, I have tried to discover what is really happening in the Cuban Red Cross. We had a friend there, a very close friend, but he was not (far from it) informed of what was going on. He believed, and now this confirms it, that Dr. Henríquez acted against him because of his known friendship for our illustrious Chief. It was necessary to go farther, and yesterday, luckily, a person appeared who

WBelton/sa 11/8/49

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2 Enclosure 1 Ciudad Trujillo 39

offered the information I am giving below, which is nothing more than a summary of other information, detailed and written, which we will give me at noon Tuesday at a place we have agreed upon.

"Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez was recommended by his brother Dr. Enrique C. Henríquez, with the deliberate purpose of later using the facilities, exemptions, and resources of the Red Cross in activities against our Government.

"The present President of the Red Cross has removed one by one, the members of the organization who did not support him, and has replaced them with persons already known as enemies of our Government, principally from among those who were in Cayo Confites. The Red Cross has obtained the loan of the Anacra airport, which is in the outskirts of the city, and this is used for the military training of new members of the Red Cross and for flying practice. Dr. Henríquez already solos and takes the recruits flying Sunday afternoons.

"They now have three airplanes; two belonging to the Red Cross and one, a bi-motor, belonging to an individual whose name I have not been able to learn.

"It is known that the construction of the airport in the Oriente is being carried out.

"Some time ago, when the collection drive for the Red Cross was over, the President wanted to purchase a Catalina airplane with the funds, but President Prio's wife strongly opposed such a move, showing that that is a combat airplane and that the Red Cross needed ambulance planes. The First Lady is one of the local executives.

"According to information obtained, the jeeps and command cars recently acquired are to be used in the movement along with the radio transmission and reception equipment that has now arrived. It is assumed that the Red Cross must have received war material which has come consigned to it.

"The informant averred that the present Minister of Sanitation is in the game and that there are officers in the Air Force branch of the Army who are helping in the preparations."

The report which has been offered me for Tuesday will give much more detailed data than this, and originates with an official who was discharged, in spite of ten years with the Red Cross. Politically he is a friend of ex-President Batista and of course an avowed enemy of the people in power.

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3 Enclosure 1 Ciudad Trujillo 391

Being jobless, he has no regular means of making a living. If the information which I will probably send right away on Tuesday, and I say probably, for it depends on its being delivered to me, interests our Government, I think it would be useful for some money to be sent me to give him for his work, since I have told him that I believe it very worthwhile that he keep well informed of what is going on in the Red Cross.

The person to whom I refer can remain in the Red Cross because he has passed over into the Brigade (reserve?), subject to call, and for that reason has to report frequently.

The decision on this latter matter depends, naturally, on the importance given to the information; as a result of comparing whatever information is furnished with that which our Government can secure from other channels.

With a cordial "abrazo",

Héctor Incháustegui Cabral  
Chargé d'Affaires, ai.

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## (Translation)

At the Lamelie ranch, approximately 10 hours from Guantánamo by a very difficult road, Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez Lauranson arrived about a month ago in a jeep, accompanied by the Director of the Finlay Institute, Dr. Filiberto Ramírez Corría; the cousin of Dr. Henríquez, Mr. Hernán Henríquez; Second Aviation Lieutenant of the Cuban Army Triana (this pilot is the aviator always utilized by Representative Enrique Cotubanama Henríquez, brother-in-law of the President of the Republic, on his trips); and a man whom they picked up in Guantánamo who was waiting for them, since he lives in that locality, called "the Commander" because he was a Spanish republican aviation pilot and was in charge of the planes which the Cayo Confites conspirators had at Rancho Boyeros (Anacra). This man is very closely connected with opponents of President Trujillo; Second Lieutenant Triana had the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Confites Army.

Upon reaching the Lamelie ranch, Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez Lauranson was the one who gave the orders to carry out the work (some relatives of the Henríquez family live on the ranch), he directed the individuals working there, and with technical guidance from Lt. Triana they marked off a plot on a huge expanse of tableland for a landing field, and ordered the workers to begin leveling the land immediately. This trip was planned by Rodolfo Henríquez, President of the Cuban Red Cross, and Filiberto Ramírez Corría, Director of the Finlay Institute, who stated that they were going to establish a Health Unit (an absurdity in the midst of the Sierra Maestra, when there are no Health units in the towns) and that the landing field was for bringing in medicines by air. They have built a wooden hut and are going to put a doctor there; possibly he is to attend the persons they are enlisting for future activities. The brothers, Carlos and Filiberto Ramírez Corría are closely connected with the brothers Cotubanama, Rodolfo, and Eduardo Henríquez, in the undertaking they are attempting against President Trujillo. Frequently the Ramírez Corría brothers take trips to the neighboring Republic of Haiti, sometimes in the airplane belonging to the Ministry of Education and other times in Cuban military planes or by Pan American Airways. Aureliano Sanchez Arango, Minister of Education, is not ignorant of these activities against President Trujillo.

Monday, October 25, 1949, the following requests, signed by Rodolfo Henríquez Lauranson, President of the Cuban Red Cross, were presented to the Ministry of Communications:

Request for portable radio-telegraph installations  
Request for transmitting stations, portable receivers,  
and telephones to provide communication with the Red Cross ship  
(this ship is now on the way from the United States to Cuba and

I believe it cost some \$15,000.00; it has no function or usefulness whatever for the Red Cross, but possibly was acquired for other purposes, and to be used under the banner of the Red Cross), small boats, and Coast Guard vessels.

Request for an amateur radio-telegraph set.

Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez already has purchased, with Red Cross funds, radio transmitters and receivers, and two powerful electric plants, for which he has now bought skids to transport them over poor roads towed by two jeeps, which are about to arrive or may have arrived. Moreover, the President of the Red Cross during his frequent trips to the United States has acquired two army trucks and a transport for personnel, two more new Ford Ambulances (at the Cuban Red Cross, in Habana, there are already two good new ambulances, so these other two ambulances cannot be justified now for the Institution; possibly they will be used for the same as all the other materiel that has been marked for other purposes). Dr. Henríquez is presently finishing his training as an aviation pilot and a month after the unsuccessful invasion attempt of the Dominican Republic he tried to buy a P.B.W. (sic) or a Catalina, which the Red Cross Assembly and the President's wife opposed (he tried to do this with Red Cross funds). He is now enlisting in the Red Cross corrupt elements unworthy of membership in such a respected institution, so that ranks may be formed therein and military instruction and field maneuvers given; which occurs continuously on the grounds of Anacra. The Ministry of Education ceded these lands to them a few months ago as a place to keep the Red Cross planes. These hangars cost the Red Cross more than \$700 a month without affording the slightest benefit to the organization, but the Henríquezes need them for other future uses under the Red Cross emblem. Moreover, they have acquired campaign equipment such as helmets, knapsacks, knives, cartridge belts, field tents, and a strange item--300 canvas buckets to carry water.

They have just named Dr. Holguín, a Dominican, as Director of the Bulletin of the Cuban Red Cross, which means, in a word, that the Cuban Red Cross is the headquarters now of plotting against President Trujillo and that is easily proven by tracing the footsteps of Dr. Rodolfo Henríquez Lauranson.

The Henríquez brothers are almost daily visitors at the Madrid Hotel, where Ex-General Juan Rodríguez is living.

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# Department of State

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NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Washington,

2258

AMEMBASSY,

HABANA.

A-549, Nov. 23, ~~1949~~ 1949

*837.142 / 11-949*  
*ARA*

Reference is made to Ciudad Trujillo's despatches 391 of November 9 and 408 of November 11, copies of which are understood to have been sent you, regarding alleged revolutionary activities being carried on within the Cuban Red Cross. The Department would appreciate receiving the comments of the Embassy on the accuracy of the Dominican Government's reports on this matter. Similar reports have been conveyed to the Department by the Dominican Ambassador in Washington.

*able*  
ACTING

*for*

cc: Ciudad Trujillo. ✓

837.142/11-949

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*[Signature]*

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ARA: MID: CCHauch: deb 11/22/49

*CCH*  
*[Signature]*

NOV 22 1949 P.M.

837.142/11-949

SECURITY: CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLICAN AFFAIRS  
NOV 17 1949  
REC'D  
NOV 16

TO: Department of State

FROM: CIUDAD TRUJILLO, D. R. 408 November 11, 1949

837.142/11-949 ARA, OH, UYK, DS

REF: 391 November 9, 1949 Confidential Air Pouch

SUBJECT : ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED ON WITHIN THE CUBAN RED CROSS.

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39. The Dominican Foreign Office has received a further communication from its Chargé d'Affaires in Habana dated November 5 which reads as follows:

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"This morning I learned that on the Unión Radio they have been attacking Dr. Filiberto Ramirez Corría, brother of the Minister of Health and, according to the confidential reports I sent you, one of the persons who has been working with the Red Cross in support of the enemies of our Government.

WB

"It is said that the vehicles which the Finlay Institute has on the Isle of Pines are being utilized by Dr. Corría, who is Director of the Institute, to transport persons who have nothing to do with the Institution, it being added that they are 'gente extraña'.

"It is very possible that Tuesday of next week I will be able to obtain exact information concerning the purpose of the visit of the Director of the Finlay Institute to the Isle of Pines, since I have commissioned someone to check closely his activities there."

The Acting Foreign Secretary informed the Ambassador that the information furnished in Despatch 391 had been forwarded to Ambassador Thomen, who will presumably discuss it with the Department.

For the Ambassador:

*William Belton*  
William Belton

First Secretary of Embassy

*Airgram to Habana*  
*drafted 11-22-49;*  
*Checked: ara: MID*  
*(+ copy to Ciudad Trujillo)*

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DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS  
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM

ACTION COPY

Repeated to  
Habana in telegram drftd.  
11/30/49 by ARA:MID:CCH

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Action: ARA  
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Control 11788

Rec'd November 29, 1949  
5:27 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS
NOV 30 1949

FROM: Ciudad Trujillo  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 330, November 29, 4 p.m.

Dominican Foreign Office tomorrow will release official statement that it is not making representations to Cuban Government on recently announced Red Cross plot because previous similar representations have proven useless. After referring Angelita case, recent assassinations of five Dominicans in Cuba, and absence Cuban representatives in Ciudad Trujillo, it declares that invasion Dominican Republic is basic feature of international policy Autentico Party. These facts and failure Cuba carry out inter-American obligations cause Dominican Republic to believe its only choice is readiness repel and reply by force any new attack, which it is prepared to do.

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SECURITY: C

TY: AIR POUCH

TO:

837.142/11-2949

FROM:

TRU

449 November 29, 1949

REF:

Despatch 39

Despatch 408, November 11, 1949

SUBJECT:

DOMINICAN PR  
ACTIVITIES BE

ERNING ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY  
WITHIN THE CUBAN RED CROSS

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By means of a press release issued by the Dominican Information Center in New York, and printed in this morning's Nacion and Caribe (as well as the San Juan El Mundo), the Dominican government publicly accused the Cuban Red Cross of complicity in a third attempt to overthrow the Dominican government. The press release appears to be a digest of the confidential reports received by the Foreign Office from the Dominican Charge in Habana, copies of which were furnished the Department in the despatches under reference.

ik

The press release specified that an air field is under construction at an estate named "L'Amelie" near Guantanamo and that men and military equipment are being gathered there. These operations are reported to be under the direction of Dr. Rudolph HENRIQUEZ Lauranzon, President of the Cuban Red Cross, assisted by his nephew Hernan HENRIQUEZ (previously reported as a cousin), Dr. Filiberto RAMIREZ Corria and a Mr. TRIANA of the Finlay Institute (Triana was previously reported as a Second Lieutenant of Aviation in the Cuban Army), and an unnamed Spanish Civil War Veteran known as "El Commandante."

The release added that charges that the Cuban Red Cross was engaged in political affairs in the Caribbean had appeared in the Cuban paper, Prensa Libre, but had gone unanswered--the apparent implication being that the Red Cross's failure to defend itself was evidence of its complicity.

837.142/11-2949

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For the Ambassador:

*William Belton*

William Belton

First Secretary of Embassy

Cc: to Habana  
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11/28/49  
CONFIDENTIAL  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL  
INVESTIGATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEC 5 1949  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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*Report to Ciudad Trujillo  
by tel dftd. 12-1-49, abt. MID;  
cc Hauch.*

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Rec'd November 30, 1949  
11:16 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEC 1 - 1949  
*W.P.*

FROM : Habana  
TO : Secretary of State  
NO : 407, November 30, 10 a.m.

Following interview with Hevia, press today reported Cuba may ask COAS IA Peace Committee investigate on ground Dominican charges Cuban Red Cross preparing airfield, et cetera in Oriente province for armed action against Trujillo regime. Categorically denying charges Cuba in counteraccusation (made unofficially through press) says Trujillo regime guilty three aggressions versus Haiti, and by suppressing liberty by failing defend representative democracy Dominican Republic has failed observe Rio treaty and Bogota charter becoming center continental unrest. Full report including Embassy investigation alleged Cuban Red Cross activities follows.

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710. J*

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DM:KC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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ACTION COPY

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Action: ARA

Info:

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Control 465

Rec'd December 1, 1949  
7:42 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEC 6 1949  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEC 2 - 1949

FROM: Habana  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 409, December 1, 5 p.m.

Embassy investigation Dominican Republic's charges re alleged revolutionary activity within Cuban Red Cross (CRC) indicates following.

CRC has two small planes at Anacra airport Ranch Boyeros. Hopes obtain ambulance plane for each of five other provinces plus possible C-47 or DC-3 for rescues. Appears CRC acquired a few tents, four or five trucks, communications equipment, etc., but in quantities ridiculously small and totally inadequate support any invasion attempt. Construction small primitive landing strip at L'Amelie Farm, Oriente province, believed mostly in planning stage for health and air evacuation purposes. Embassy requested Guantanamo Bay authorities observe field from air. CRC insists this field merely to penetrate relatively inaccessible area for medical sanitation purposes. No evidence here re alleged assassination five Dominicans in Cuba (DEFTTEL 462 November 30 and Air Attache report IR 20549 November 30). CRC chief Henriquez and his brother (brother-in-law of Prio) assumed antagonistic to Trujillo regime. Furthermore, several changes made recently in CRC personnel. Not believed this could develop into menace to Trujillo regime. Embassy considers Trujillo charges and fears greatly exaggerated and believes CCAS investigation would prove favorable to Cuba.

Re vessel ANGELITTA, Cuban Foreign Office states received first official Dominican request for its return about two weeks ago after lapse some two years. Detailed report by air.

Sent Department 409; repeated Ciudad Trujillo.

RSP:MW

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION OF SPECIAL INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Control 1362

Rec'd December 3, 1949

12:13 p.m. STATE OFFICE OF AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS DEC 5 - 1949

FROM: Ciudad Trujillo TO: Secretary of State NO: 334, December 3, 10 a.m.

Foreign Secretary informed me this morning he has been receiving clippings Habana newspapers re Dominican charges. Many of these follow an outline secretly handed to press by Cuban Foreign Office, giving themes on which to attack Trujillo regime and counter Dominican charges complicity Red Cross in revolutionary movement (URTEL 241, Habana 407, November 30). Cuban counter-charges absurd and disregard such specific Dominican statements, as failure settle Cayoconfites controversy and failure accredit diplomatic representative Ciudad Trujillo. Angelita claim part Dominican case placed before Peace Committee, whose recommendations disregarded Cuba. Recent Dominican note reiterated claim.

Dominican Government doubts sincerity Cuban threat request investigation by Peace Commission because it would undoubtedly disclose (1) misappropriation or diversion Red Cross funds; (2) that Red Cross has, or plans to make, its facilities available for revolutionary purposes; (3) Red Cross has employed a number of individuals involved in Cayoconfites affair, including among others, Lt. Triano; (4) close association Cuban Red Cross President Henriguez with Juan Rodriguez; (5) absurdity use L'Amelie airport, distant from centers population legitimate Red Cross purposes.

Dominican Government would welcome such investigation as it believes facts disclosed might deter high Cuban officials from further financial and moral aid to revolutionaries and adventurers.

Sent Department 334; repeated Habana.

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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
JAN 1950  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
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For Dir.  
DEC 15

SECURITY : CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH.

TO : Department of State

837.142/12-949

BY COURIER

LEAVING HABANA

FROM : HABANA 992 December 9, 1949

REF : DEPTTEL 462 Nov. 30, EMBTEL 409 Dec. 1, EMBDESP. 970 Dec. 5,  
and AIR ATTACHE HABANA Report IR-205-49 Nov. 30, 1949.

SUBJECT : DOMINICAN CHARGES AGAINST CUBA AND THE CUBAN RED CROSS

ACTION  
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On October 11, 1949, Sr. Luis ORTEGA Suárez, Informa-  
tion Chief of Prensa Libre published an item in his column  
"Pasquin" criticizing the Cuban Red Cross and stating among  
other things that "the Red Cross, which should be absolutely  
impartial, has engaged in certain activities of an inter-  
national character. In fact, it appears that the Red Cross  
is engaging in political activity in the Caribbean [area]".  
Apparently this report gave rise to the series of reports  
submitted by Dominican agents to President Trujillo and which  
were reported to the Department by Embassy Ciudad Trujillo in  
Reports 391 of November 9 and 408 of November 11.

2 KR'S

As the Department is aware, the Trujillo Government issued  
a statement on November 28 through its New York Information  
Center accusing the Cuban Red Cross of being implicated in  
preparations on Cuban soil for an armed attack against the  
Dominican Republic. These charges were repeated by the Domin-  
ican Foreign office on the same day which also stated that it  
had abstained from making any representations before the Govern-  
ment of Cuba since all previous representations on the subject  
had proved unavailing. The charges referred to the retention  
by the Cuban Government of the vessel "Angelita" captured by  
the Cayo Confites expeditionaries in an act of piracy, adding  
that all efforts through legitimate international channels to  
effect the return of this vessel had been unsuccessful. The  
Foreign Office was also reported as having stated that five  
Dominican citizens have recently been assassinated in Cuba,  
and that it has become dangerous for a Dominican not an enemy  
of the Dominican Government to remain in Cuba. The Foreign  
Office accused the Cuban Government of recalling its diplo-  
matic representatives, thereby maintaining a "latent menace  
of a diplomatic break". It accused the Cuban Government of  
failing to live up to its international obligations as regards  
the Dominican Republic, and stated that the Cuban press had  
denounced the Cuban Red Cross as being implicated in plans to  
invade the Dominican Republic.

KR  
739.00  
637.39

The Chief of the Cuban Red Cross, "Col. Dr." Rodolfo  
HENRIQUEZ (brother of President PRIO's brother-in-law Enrique  
HENRIQUEZ long identified with Caribbean revolutionary  
activity) issued a statement published in the press of

ETCrain/mfd

12/9/49

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEC 15 1949  
CONFIDENTIAL  
OCH  
file

837.142/12-949

FEB 23 1950

FILED

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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

November 28 saying that according to the Dominican charges the Cuban Red Cross was constructing an airport on the farm known as "L'Amalie" near Guantanamo and that war materials and men were gathering there under the direction of that organization. He stated that as President of the Cuban Red Cross, he felt it necessary to issue an energetic denial of this report which he considered malicious, since it attempted to interpret the institution's humanitarian activities as a campaign having international political significance. He said the Cuban Red Cross operated under international agreements which it would under no circumstance violate. Colonel Henriquez stated that the charges against the Red Cross had been based on work it was doing in collaboration with the Technical Institute of Rural Health directed by Dr. Filiberto RAMIREZ Corría, who had gone to the "L'Amalie" farm to study the possibility of constructing an airport for small ambulance airplanes, the installation of a rural hospital, and a hydraulic electric power plant for use in connection with the sanitation campaign to be carried out in that area. He admitted that the Cuban Red Cross had recently acquired "motorized equipment, transports, ambulances, emergency electric power plants, and working equipment for the members of the Institution in connection with the general plan being carried out by the Cuban Red Cross in the area". He insisted, however, that very few units of the foregoing equipment had been obtained and then only for specific work of the Red Cross and not for armed action of any kind. He concluded by stating that any other interpretation constituted a calumny against the Red Cross.

(It was stated subsequently that in view of furor raised over the "L'Amalie" project, plans in connection therewith have been abandoned.)

On November 30 Cuban Foreign Minister HEVIA informed the press that Cuba would invite the Inter-American Peace Committee to come to Cuba to investigate the Dominican charges which he termed "absolutely false". According to the press of December 6, the Cuban Delegate did inform the Inter-American Peace Committee that Cuba would welcome an investigation.

This Embassy requested the opinion of the U.S. authorities at Guantanamo regarding alleged invasion preparations in the Oriente area and has been advised that "do not believe any real activity in this area at this time". A party of newsmen subsequently visited the area with similar negative results. The Embassy has obtained confidential statements, either directly or indirectly, from Sr. Ortega of Prensa Libre and from former Red Cross officials recently purged by the Henriquez group. The general impression of these people is that the Henriquez crowd is using the Cuban Red Cross for its

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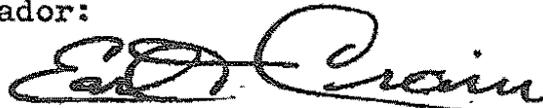
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Habana 992

own shady purposes (including the smuggling of narcotics) and is exploiting bona fide Dominican revolutionaries (such as "General" Juan RODRIGUEZ who is, or was, amply supplied with funds) for personal gain rather than for any attempt to overthrow Trujillo.

As stated above, the Cuban Red Cross Chief is the brother of Enrique Henriquez who is known for his previous anti-Trujillo activity. From talks with "General" Rodriguez, Sr. CRUZ Alonso (owner of the Hotel San Luis which is the headquarters of the Caribbean revolutionaries in Habana) et cetera, the Embassy considers it reasonable to assume that the Red Cross Chief also maintains some connection with the Dominican plotters, as well as with the notorious Eufemie FERNANDEZ and others. Another rather suspicious circumstance is the recent purge of Cuban Red Cross officials opposed to the Henriquez policies. However, in spite of the foregoing, it does not appear that the Cuban Red Cross has acquired materials, either as to type or quantity, that could possibly pose any threat to the Trujillo regime. Similarly, there is no indication that alleged invasion plans have gone beyond the talking stage. Up to the present time the only threat arising from the activities of Rodolfo Henriquez et al is, in the Embassy's opinion, to the good name of the Cuban Red Cross. It is believed this opinion would be shared by the Inter-American Peace Committee should it decide to accept the Cuban invitation to visit Cuba for an on-the-spot investigation. As has been previously reported, the Embassy feels such an investigation, would, through failure to confirm the Dominican charges (and in spite of the machinations of the Cuban Red Cross leaders), be to Cuba's advantage and detrimental to Dominican prestige.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
First Secretary of Embassy

cc: Amembassy, Ciudad Trujillo

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