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**FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH**

FROM: **EMBASSY, HABANA**  
TO: **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON**  
REF: - -

April 3, 1956  
DATE

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SUBJECT: **Joint Weeka No. 14 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA**

(UNCLASSIFIED) **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.** In much remarked contrast to preceding weeks, Holy Week was bereft of significant political developments and almost of political comment as well. However, eight of the men who had been arrested the week before as conspirators were released by the courts. Among them was former Col. Lazaro LANDEIRA and a former army lieutenant, but not Marco Antonio HIRIGOYEN or Candido de la TORRE, who are being held for a further hearing during the present week. Also still under arrest was former senator Pelayo CUERVO. His presentation in court during the week handcuffed to a common criminal was much photographed by the press and has been the subject of indignant comment. President BATISTA expressed regret concerning the incident and ordered an investigation.

(UNCLASSIFIED) **COMMUNISTS BREAK WINDOWS OF AMERICAN STORE.** On the evening of March 28 a group of a dozen or more young Communists set off firecrackers across the street from the mid-town Sears Roebuck store and then hurled pieces of iron and bottles through six show windows. They threw leaflets about calling for immediate general elections, signed by the Marianao Juventud Socialista Popular. Two men were arrested.

The police speculated in an announcement to the press that this Communist attack was made in protest or reprisal against the action on taxes taken in the United States against the Daily Worker and the Communist Party. The news of that action had appeared in that morning's Habana papers. The police also said that leaflets of the "26 de julio" movement had been thrown about by the vandals. The two arrested men had to be released, though they will still have to stand some sort of trial, as being under 18 years of age.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) **Comment.** The police may well be right as to the motivation of this attack against Sears. From a source in a position to know the Embassy learns that it is extremely doubtful if "26 de julio" leaflets were actually thrown. The authorities are obviously eager to have the Fidel Castro movement tarred with the Communist brush.

JdeZengotita; CABoonstra; CEDavis;  
RGCushing:mbw

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REPORTER

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(UNCLASSIFIED) AMBASSADOR DREIER VISITS CUBA ON IAPC MISSION. Acting as a member of the Inter-American Peace Committee, Ambassador John C. DREIER arrived in Habana on Good Friday to discuss the Cuban-Dominican dispute with the Cuban Government. He spoke with Acting Minister of State Guell, but President Batista being out of town, the Ambassador was not able to arrange for a meeting with him until April 3.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. Ambassador Dreier found the Cuban view as conveyed by Guell to be adamantly set against any of the simple gestures by his country that the Dominicans have said would satisfy them and which would thus presumably suffice to end the dispute. Since it is generally believed here that Guell only reflects Batista's even stricter attitude, the prospects for the immediate future in this matter did not accordingly seem bright.

(UNCLASSIFIED) GUNFIRE ATTACK ON CTC LEADERS. On the evening of April 1 the lead car of a group in others of which were travelling Eusebio MUJAL, CTC Secretary-General, and Jesus ARTIGAS and Facundo POMAR Soler, prominent CTC leaders, was attacked by gun fire in the streets of Santa Clara. The occupants of the car, local labor leaders, were able to identify the assailants as a bodyguard and/chauffeur of Conrado BECQUER, congressman from Las Villas Province at present suspended from his position as a Sugar Workers' leader, and another Becquer henchman.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) PROTEST AGAINST UNITED STATES TARIFF PROPOSALS. In an apparent effort to reduce pressure on Cuba's GATT negotiating team at Geneva, the Acting Minister of State summoned Embassy officials last week for the purpose of informing them that Cuba will resist firmly any United States effort toward raising its duty on liquid sugar through GATT Article 28 negotiations, that Cuba will not grant tariff concessions to obtain a United States reduction in molasses duty, and that Cuba will insist on retention of its full margin of preference if a molasses duty reduction is provided to other countries.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. Strong Cuban presentation of these matters apparently reflects a fear that Cuba's privileged position in the United States sugar market may be curtailed not only by legislation, but also, although admittedly to a much smaller degree, by executive action.

(UNCLASSIFIED) VIEWS OF CUBAN RICE INTERESTS. Messrs. David WINTERMANN and George B. BLAIR, President and General Manager, respectively, of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association, arrived in Habana on March 26 for a personal and unofficial exchange of impressions with officials of the Cuban Rice Stabilization Institute, rice producers' representatives

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and others, relative to Cuba having been designated a "primary" market for the sale of rice from the two-price system recently passed by the Senate, and now in the Joint Senate-House conference.

They advised the Embassy they had received the impression that the Cubans (1) believe the two-price system violates GATT; (2) but nevertheless, will not object to being designated a "primary" market, as this designation should provide additional protection and impetus to local rice production; and (3) that regardless of any unilateral action taken by the Congress of the United States, the Cubans will take whatever steps they deem necessary to protect their own rice industry from the effects of so-called "dumping" in the Cuban market.

Psychological

(UNCLASSIFIED) THE STALIN MYTH. This subject continued to evoke considerable press reaction. El Mundo considered the anti-Stalin campaign the result of a serious internal crisis caused by a struggle for power between the old school Communists and the newer leaders of the consolidated Soviet nation. The dictatorship of the proletariat, said this paper, is beginning to lose the ideological support of the Russian people. Pueblo commented on the intensified campaign against Stalinism and guessed that it would be carried out to the bitter end against what it detected as considerable internal opposition. Excelsior carried an editorial on the confusion among Communists abroad over this change in Soviet policy. Not being Russians, foreign communist leaders are having difficulty explaining how the present Soviet leaders have turned against Stalin. This paper noted there had been no reaction yet from Communist China, whose leader Mao Tse Tung is comparable with Stalin. Avance also commented on how the native Cuban Communists were having difficulty swallowing the anti-Stalin propaganda, but observed that as they were used to obeying orders blindly they probably would fall in line. Información, which carried three commentaries last week on this subject, came through with the theory that the Soviet Army was behind this whole campaign and that it would eventually result in the fall of Malenkov, Molotov, Mikoyan and Khrushchev himself, as accomplices of Stalin.

Army, Navy, Air.

Negative.

For the Ambassador:

*C. A. Beenstra*  
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Counselor of Embassy for  
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cc: AmEmbassies, Ciudad Trujillo and Port-au-Prince  
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