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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

916  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : - -

March 22, 1955

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25 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	I N F O	OTHER
	REC'D			
	041-10	RM/R-2 Ara-2		
	3-23	USIA-8 Army-35 Navy-29 Air-24		

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 12 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

Cia-16 OCS OSD-2

(UNCLASSIFIED) CONGRESSMAN DETAINED BY MILITARY. On March 16 the military at Jovellanos in the Province of Matanzas detained Conrado BECQUER Diaz, Auténtico member of the House of Representatives from Las Villas Province and vice secretary general of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (FNTA). Bécquer apparently aroused the ire of the army officer in command at Jovellanos by intervening in a local labor dispute involving sugar workers and was held for some time despite his protests of parliamentary immunity. He was finally released at the direction of the colonel commanding the military district. The House of Representatives unanimously adopted a motion of protest to President Batista against this disregard of the immunity of one of its members.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. This incident is significant in that it indicates that some members of the armed forces are slow in adjusting themselves to changed conditions after three years of undisputed control, especially in the rural areas.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SENATE CONFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. Yesterday the Cuban Senate confirmed the appointment of Miguel Angel CAMPA y Caraveda as the diplomatic representative of Cuba to the United States. One paper announced that he planned to leave for the United States about April 15.

(UNCLASSIFIED) ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW-DECREE USED AGAINST TWO UNIONS. Law-Decree No. 1975 of January 27, 1955 (see despatch No. 886, March 14, 1955) has been invoked to take a local union in Santiago and another in Habana out of the hands of Communist officers.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. All indications are that government intervention in the affairs of these unions under Law-Decree No. 1975 was at the request of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) rather than on government initiative. It illustrates, however, the usefulness with which the Law-Decree can be applied.

(UNCLASSIFIED) NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS On March 18, 1955, Alejandro ARGUELLO Montiel presented his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua to

FCFornes, Jr. :mbw

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REPORTER

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(UNCLASSIFIED) NIXON LOS ANGELES SPEECH. The Cuban press reflected pleasure over Mr. Nixon's Los Angeles speech. Diario Nacional, lauding the Vice President's efforts to get at the heart of Latin American problems, believed his visit would improve the inter-American climate and commented that rarely is a Vice President of the United States "willing to criticize errors committed by the Washington government in its Latin American policy...Mr. Nixon is doing a good thing for his country, and for ours, by dramatizing the reality of the errors committed by the formulators and executors of United States policy towards Latin America, so that the American people may know what is being done, as well as what is not being done, to correct and improve that policy". Diario de la Marina underscored Nixon's statement that virtually every dollar which the United States pays for Latin American products comes back to the United States in the form of purchases by Latin Americans; this indicates that the campaign against the Cuban sugar quota "is contradictory to United States national policy". El Mundo cited the Vice President's great vision in shifting the inter-American problem to the economic field. He is, thereby, recognizing the "incontrovertible fact that the battle against Communism has to be waged in that field, too". Mr. Nixon's warning of Communist infiltration in Latin America should be heeded, El Mundo pointed out, especially in Cuba and other countries close to the United States.

(UNCLASSIFIED) YALTA PAPERS. Havana dailies agreed that various concessions supposedly made to the Russians in 1945 have been generally confirmed. Roosevelt, while credited with having organized the democratic world against the Axis, was described as idealistic and ingenuous in his dealings with the Russians, in marked contrast to Churchill's political foresight. The Yalta Agreement, according to Diario de la Marina, gave Russia an opportunity to reestablish its Far Eastern position in line with conditions existing there before the Russo-Japanese War of 1904. Diario felt that what is not cleared up by the publication of these papers is whether Russian entry into the war did save a million American lives which might otherwise have been lost in the Orient. For Alerta, the over-all impression was that Churchill was clairvoyant while President Roosevelt was "politically myopic". Prensa Libre explained the Yalta Agreement in this fashion: "Roosevelt thought like a car or tie salesman. He had given money, men, and other help to Russia and England, that is, to Stalin and Churchill. Therefore, by commercial logic, Stalin and Churchill would accept Yankee tutelage, not because of a treaty...but because of gratitude". Excelsior held that Roosevelt, for supporting the Yalta Agreement, is to be given dubious credit for the international chaos of the past ten years. Yet, thought Excelsior, the publication of these papers may achieve one salutary effect, namely, it may stop further efforts by London and other Western capitals to arrange for future Big Four meetings.

Army

Negative.

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Navy

(UNCLASSIFIED) NAVAL JET PLANE CRASHES. Cuban Army Headquarters informed the Naval Attaché that a United States naval jet aircraft exploded in midair, fell in flames, and crashed to total destruction on March 17, 1955. The aircraft crashed near Yateras in the Province of Oriente. The pilot was able to eject himself and parachute to safety but suffered injuries. He was recovered by a Navy helicopter and transferred to the naval hospital at the United States Naval Base, Guantánamo Bay.

(UNCLASSIFIED) DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE VISITS CUBA. Rear Admiral Carl F. ESPE, USN, the Director of Naval Intelligence, visited Havana from March 12 to 16. He was accompanied by Capt. D. T. ELLER, USN, and Lt. (jg) R. C. STUBBS (SC), USN, of the Office of Naval Intelligence. Rear Admiral Espe made courtesy calls on the American Ambassador; the new Minister of National Defense, Dr. Santiago VERDEJA Neyra; and the Chief of Staff of the Cuban Navy, Rear Admiral José E. Rodríguez CALDERON. He inspected the Cuban Navy Headquarters in Havana, the Naval Academy at Mariel, the Naval Air Station at Mariel, and the Navy Yard at Casa Blanca. Havana was the last stop on Rear Admiral Espe's tour of inspection of Naval Attaché offices in Latin America. He consulted with officers of the American Embassy on matters of local interest.

(UNCLASSIFIED) INFORMAL VISITS OF ADMIRALS TO CUBA. Rear Admiral Arleigh A. BURKE, USN, Commander Destroyer Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, visited Havana from March 5 to 7. He was embarked in U.S.S. Wilkinson (DL-5), a destroyer leader and one of the newest-type ships in the United States Navy. Rear Admiral Burke made courtesy calls on the American Ambassador and the Chief of Staff of the Cuban Navy.

Rear Admiral Wallis F. PETERSEN, USN, Commander Transport Squadrons, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, visited Havana from March 16 to 19. He was embarked in U.S.S. Taconic (AGC-17). Besides courtesy calls on the American Ambassador, the Minister of National Defense, and the Chief of Staff of the Cuban Navy, Rear Admiral Petersen visited the Cuban Naval Academy, Navy Yard, and the Enlisted Training Center.

Air

(UNCLASSIFIED) JET AIRCRAFT RECEIVED. The last two of four T-33 jet aircraft purchased by the Cubans from the United States arrived in Havana on March 16, 1955. The first two were delivered on May 13, 1954. The Cubans have already trained a number of their pilots and mechanics in the operation of the jets and will have no difficulty in utilizing them.

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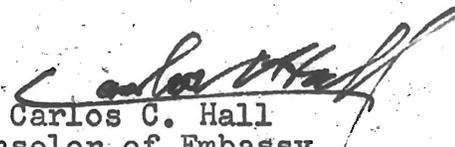
Page 4 of  
Desp. No. 916  
From Habana

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Page \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_

For the Ambassador:

  
Carlos C. Hall  
Counselor of Embassy

Participants: CCHall, HMRandall, JPHoover, FCFornes, JdeZengotita,  
SCSpears, WBCaldwell, RGCushing, Elmore (MA), Krisel (NA)  
Slaton (AA).

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