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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

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TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. - 1 Enc. April 21, 1952

DATE

REF Habana 1734 April 18, 1952

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	REC'D APR 24	OTHER AG	COMM	FRB	LAB	TAR	TR					

SUBJECT: Composition of the Consultative Council Announced

The membership of the Consultative Council was announced after the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Friday, April 18. The President of the Council is Dr. Carlos SALADRIGAS y Zayas, prominent and respected politician of the PAU and BATISTA candidate for the presidency, defeated by GRAU in the 1944 election. The Vice President of the Council is Dr. Jorge GARCIA Montes, a prominent PAU leader (Representative from Las Villas). The two Secretaries of the Council are Dr. José Elías OLIVELLA, a PAU member, physician and sugar planter; and Dr. Walfredo RODRIGUEZ Rodríguez, Director of the Camaguey newspaper El Camagueyano and PAU Representative from Camaguey. The President and Vice President of the Consultative Council are to have seats on the Council of Ministers. There are 78 members, including officers of the Council.

The functions and other attributes of the Consultative Council are contained in Articles 135 through 144 of Batista's "Constitutional Law". Article 135 specifies that the number of members will be decided by the Council of Ministers, and Article 136 says that the members will be selected by the President from "outstanding representatives of the fundamental activities of the nation". Requirements for membership are stated in Article 137 to be only those of Cuban nationality, over 21 years of age, and to be in "full enjoyment of civil and political rights".

The Consultative Council must be heard, according to Article 138, in the following cases:

- a) Commercial treaties with other countries.
- b) Establishment of taxes on a national level.
- c) Budgets of expenses and income of the State.
- d) National loans.
- e) Regulation of systems of weights and measures.
- f) Declarations of war and treaties of peace.
- g) Laws affecting production or labor.

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The Council may initiate laws, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers in detailed form, and it will undertake studies for the revision of laws, according to Article 139. Article 140 provides that a majority of those present is necessary to approve a report, and that a quorum consists of half the total members of the Council.

Article 141 provides for a President, Vice President and two Secretaries, to be designated by the Council of Ministers. Article 142 provides for per diem in the amount decided by the Council of Ministers (\$30 per session, up to a limit of \$600 per month). Article 143 grants immunity to members "for opinions and votes they may emit in the exercise of their functions".

One of the first tasks of the Council presumably will be to draw up its own rules. This is required in Article 144 of the Constitutional Law, which provides that this "Internal Regulation" be submitted to the Council of Ministers within two weeks from the time the Council is constituted.

The meeting place for the Council has not been decided. One group reportedly favors the Capitolio and another apparently would like to stay out of it to avoid the substitution of Congress implied in use of the Capitolio. General Batista's views, which will be the deciding factor, are not yet known.

The first reaction to the announcement was that of the Ortodoxo Party, which expelled the three members of the Party who had accepted seats on the Council because of the "spurious and usurping nature" of the Council and for swearing to uphold the "Constitutional Statutes" declared null and invalid by the Party. The three members were: Ramon VASCONCELOS, Lelio ALVAREZ Ramirez, and Conrado RODRIGUEZ.

The first editorial reaction was that of El Mundo which praised the abilities of the President and Vice President but found the composition of the Council mediocre. It said, "This Council will do no more to inspire faith in the people than the one thrown out of the Capitolio". It found that the members designated, for the most part, do not fulfill the hopes of public opinion which "feels defrauded". This opinion was echoed by Mañana, which found the Council to be of "inferior category...with little-known names and some too well-known names".

The only other newspaper to comment on the Council so far has been the Communist Hoy, which called it "even smaller and less capable than it had thought possible". It said the

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Council members "represent and serve him who appointed them first and then the classes to which he and they belong: the exploiting classes who are ruled by foreign imperialism". It concluded, saying that the announcement of the composition of the Council should stimulate the opposition of the masses, rather than diminish it.

A list of Council members (with a brief indication of the main activity of each) is enclosed.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: *USA*
List of Council members

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Members of the Consultative Council

Dr. Carlos SALADRIGAS y Zayas (see above) - President
Dr. Jorge GARCIA Montes (see above) - Vice President
Comandante Miguel VARONA Guerrero (Veteran of Revolution)
Comandante Generoso CAMPOS Marquetti (Veteran, historian -
Negro)
Manuel PANDO Armand. (sugar, President of Hacendados)
Hatuey AGUERO Espinosa
Manuel ASPURU San Pedro (sugar mill owner)
German LOPEZ Sanchez (sugar, ex-Senator)
Jorge BARROSO Pinar (sugar, lawyer)
Fernando de la RIVA (sugar)
Pastor TORRES (President of Sugar Growers Association)
Angel PARDO Jimenez (sugar, PAU member)
José Elías OLIVELLA. (Secretary of Consultative Council,
Doctor, sugar planter)
Eusebio MUJAL Barniol (Labor: Secretary-General of CTC)
José PEREZ Gonzalez (Labor, railroad; Delegate to ILO
Conference in Rio)
Felipe SAVIGNE (Labor)
José RIVALTA (Labor)
Mercedes QUIRINO (Labor, CTC)
Raquel VALLADARES (Labor, Secretary of clerks' union of
ten-cent stores)
Guillermo MESTRE (Labor, CTC)
José Luis MARTINEZ (Labor, Secretary-General of sugar
workers: FNTA)
Conrado RODRIGUEZ Sanchez (Ortodoxo, expelled from Party;
sugar labor leader, CTC)
Octavio MONTORO Saladrigas (Prominent physician, relative
of Dr. Carlos Saladrigas)

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Pedro CUNI Estorino (PAU member)
Gaston GODOY y Loret de Mola (Banker, President of National Bar Association, sugar, insurance)
Arturo FERNANDEZ (Prominent lawyer, connected with Catholic Church)
José R. GARCIA Pedroso (Attorney, specialist in labor matters)
Julian GARCIA Benitez (PAU member)
Antonio ALONSO Davila
Juan Bautista DIAGO
Felix María RAMIREZ
Armando AGUILAR Bencomo (Partisan of Santiago Rey)
Lelio ALVAREZ Ramirez (Ortodoxo, expelled from Party; agricultural labor leader)
Pedro MONTANO Bofill (Labor, agricultural)
Mario COBAS Reyes (Partisan of Miguel SUAREZ Fernandez, elected Independent Representative from Las Villas)
Claudio BENEDIT Beruff (Attorney, associated with Coffee Institute)
Raquel MIQUEL
José Ramon PEREZ Magariño (President of Asociacion de Industriales and the Rotary Club of Habana)
Burke O. HEDGES (Textile manufacturer; ex-American, naturalized Cuban)
Manuel SOTO Fraga
Ricardo EQUILIOR Vinent (Attorney, associated with Tobacco Institute)
Manuel QUEVEDO Jaureguizar (Airline owner: Aerovias "Q")
Carlos TORRES de Navarra (Aviation, associated with Compañia Cubana de Aviacion)
Jorge HERRERA Morales
Luis LORET DE MOLA (Prominent importer, PAU member)
Walfredo J. RODRIGUEZ Rodriguez (Prominent lawyer, Secretary of Council)
Guillermo de ZALDO Castro (sugar)
Carlos M. FERETTI y Vidal (Press, Información, PAU member, Representative from Habana)
Armando MARIBONA (Press, Diario de la Marina)
Guillermo AGUILERA (rice grower)
Alfonso FANJUL Estrada (sugar, kenaf)
Tebelio GOVANTES Puentes
Carlos Miguel de CESPEDES Ortiz (Prominent Liberal politician, ex-Senator)
Carlos BUSTAMANTE Sanchez (PAU member, prominent lawyer)
Ignacio ALONSO (PAU member from Las Villas)
Maria Teresa DIAZ de Villegas
Luis LIMA Delgado (PAU member from Oriente, industrialist)
Anselmo ALLIEGRO y Mila (PAU leader of Oriente Province)

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Aquilino LOMBARD Tondique (ex-Liberal Representative from Matanzas, now PAU member)

Zoila LEISECA

Ernesto ROSELL y Leite Vidal (ex-Liberal Senator, now PAU member)

Wilfredo ALBANES Peña (Lawyer, banker, ex-Senator)

Carlos M. RAGGI y Ageo (Lawyer, specialist in labor matters)

Justo GARCIA Reyneri

Luis OLIVA Perez

Humberto GARCIA

Arturo PEREZ Heredia

Miguel de MARCOS Hernando (press)

Gaston BAQUERO Diaz (press: Diario de la Marina)

Raul LORENZO Ruiz (radio: Union Radio)

Fernando GARCIA Tuñon (Lawyer, real estate representative)

Ramon VASCONCELOS (press: Alerta; Ortodoxo, expelled by Party)

Regino DIAZ Robainas (press: Informacion)

Josefina MOSQUERA (press: Director of magazine Vanidades)

Gustavo E. URRUTIA (press: Diario de la Marina)

José Manuel CARBONELL Rivero (lawyer)

Luis ORTEGA Sierra (press: Prensa Libre, writes as "Sol")

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