

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Security: RESTRICTED

Priority: AIR POUCH

To: Department of State

737.551/3-2350

From: HABANA 649 March 23, 1950

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Ref: Embassy's despatch 628, March 20, 1950

Subject: PRESIDENT PRIO ANNOUNCES ARMY CHIEF CABRERA AND POLICE CHIEF URIA ENJOY HIS CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

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President PRIO today issued the following statement:

"The rumors that have been circulated on possible substitutions affecting the Headquarters of the Army Chief of Staff are pure speculations," declared the President of the Republic, Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás, in a written statement denying the alleged removal of the present Chief of the Army. He added: 'Major General Ruperto Cabrera and General Quirino Uria, Chiefs of the Army and Police, respectively, enjoy my entire confidence and support and there is no reason nor motive of any kind for doubting it.' The President feels at ease and satisfied with the conduct observed by Generals Cabrera and Uria as heads of these institutions. These feelings are extended to the members of those armed bodies wherein no changes of any type are contemplated.

"These declarations of the President were delivered to reporters at the Palace by the Secretary to the Presidency, Dr. Orlando Puente."

The President apparently felt compelled to make the foregoing declaration in view of the numerous rumors that have been circulated regarding a possible coup and in view also of the speculation that General Uria might be removed or transferred following the events reported in the Embassy's despatch under reference.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain
First Secretary of Embassy

ETCrain/dts
3/21/50

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