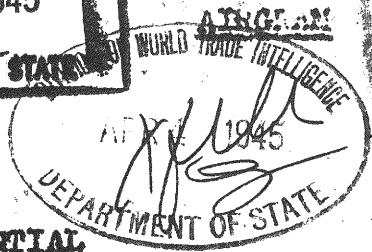


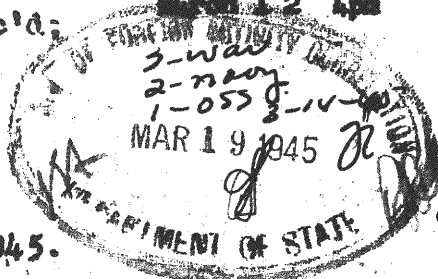
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DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
file 122  
MAR 31 1945



From: Embassy, Habana  
Dated: March 9, 1945  
Rec'd: March 12 4pm



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

A-479, March 9, 9 a.m., 1945.

Captain Leopoldo CADENAS Aguilera has formulated charges against the designation of Colonel Gervasio PEREZ Demera as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army. These charges, dated March 6, 1945, were addressed to President GRAU and extracts thereof have subsequently been published in the local press. Cadenas was under arrest for twenty-four hours, but according to the press has now been released pending trial by Court-Martial.

Cadenas was Cuban Military Attache at L.A. for six or seven years, until recalled a few years. He is one of three brothers, all of whom are officers in the Army. Felipe, one of the brothers, is Cuban Naval Attache in Washington.

Cadenas charges Perez with usurpation of powers, grave disobedience and unauthorized use of insignia. It appears that Perez has been given only a temporary appointment as Chief of Staff as he was not at the time of his appointment of sufficient grade to receive such assignment on a permanent basis. Officially he was not given the grade of Major General but he has since assumed that grade. The Penal Code for members of the Armed Forces does not authorize the grade of Major General except for an officer who has been two years in the grade of Brigadier General.

During the afternoon of March 6 (probably after Perez had learned of the charges against him), the new Chief of Staff issued orders placing officers of his own choosing on the Military Supreme Court. It is this court which (according to present plans) will try Cadenas and it may therefore be assumed that it is "packed" in favor of the Chief of Staff.

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While it does not appear that this action will touch off any movement against the Government, Captain Cadenas and his three brothers enjoy popularity in the Armed Forces and the family is generally esteemed by the Cubans, so it may be expected that the bold move on the part of Captain Cadenas will further crystalize the unpopular reaction against the naming of Pérez to such a high office. It would appear that Grau is placed in an embarrassing position, as there seems to be legal foundation for the charges yet he cannot now remove Pérez without a considerable loss of prestige to the Government.

Pérez took the oath as Chief of Staff on March 7. President Grau was present and was effusive in the warmth of his congratulations, thus seeming to indicate that, despite the accusations of Cadenas, he intends to give Pérez his full support.

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