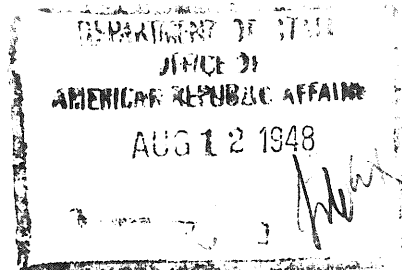


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AIRGRAM

1526

CONFIDENTIAL



FROM: American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba *JH*

Date of Mailing:

Rec'd. Aug. 11, 1948

10:30 p.m.

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Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-847, August 4, 1948

In a surprise move August 3, 1948 President Grau re-
lieved Commodore José AGUILA Ruiz as Chief of Staff of
the Cuban Navy. Aguila Ruiz was immediately designated
delegate of the Cuban Government to the Inter-American
Defense Council in Washington, replacing Commander
Felipe CARDENAS Aguilera who died recently. Aguila
Ruiz will reassume the rank of Captain in the Cuban Navy.

At the same time President Grau designated Captain
Bernadio Pedro Eloy PASCUAL Borges as Chief of Staff of
the Cuban Navy and automatically elevated him to the
rank of Commodore. The new Chief of Staff has been
Chief of the Department of Administration of the Cuban
Navy for several years. This department, it is under-
stood, has among its primary duties the acquisition of
supplies and materiel.

Commodore Aguila Ruiz was only hold-over from
Batista regime. He was made Commodore on December 30,
1943. While there have been occasional rumors in the
press that the President-elect, Carlos PRIO, would re-
place Aguila Ruiz, it is not yet sure that this is what
took place even though Prio visited the President short-
ly before the announcement of the change was made. It
is reported that Aguila Ruiz and President Grau had a
disagreement. Reference is made to Confidential Biogra-
phic Data report dated November 16, 1944 prepared by
this Embassy regarding Aguila Ruiz. Since the date of
preparation of this report aguila Ruiz has demonstrated
considerable ability and has cooperated with Naval Attaché
this Embassy. It will be recalled, however, that the
Cuban Navy, under his direction, took a very active part
in the abortive anti-Trujillo expedition in the summer
of 1947. It is believed that Aguila Ruiz will cooperate

with *1948*

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CONFIDENTIAL

A-847, August 4, 1948
Embassy at Habana

- 2 -

with the United States authorities on the Inter-American Defense Council. He was especially close to former Naval Attaché Colonel Boeker C. BATTERTON.

Little biographic information is presently available regarding Pascual who has been accused participation in questionable ventures. Naval Attaché is preparing biographic report and further information will follow. Pascual is personally known to present Assistant Naval Attaché.

DUTLER

Copy to NA, Habana.

VLansing Collins, Jr./dts

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