

FROM

HABAHA .

DATE

June 16, 1945

REC D : June 19, 7pon.

Secretary of State Washington.

A-1222, June 16.

Reference my A-1190, June 12, 1945, reporting the resignation of Minister of Justice de la CRUZ.

The office of the Hilitary Attaché has obtained informa-. filon, which it rates reliable, regarding the background of this matter. Fantastic as it sounds, here it is for what it is worth;

Prior to the visit of Prosident GRAU and the Cabinet to the Isle of Pines, during which he saw the prisoners working on the fince on which MARTI had stayed, Minister of Interior Segundo CURTI had hit upon the idea of building up a gang of hardened criminals for his own personal use. Some of the gang that was working on the fines mut his requirements and he persuaded Grau to commute their sentences on the national holiday May 20 for supposed continental, patriotic purposes. The Minister of Justice pointed out to Grau that one of the difficulties of this procedure would be the language of the charge against the replat VARDINAS, which by law would have to be incorporated in the commutation decree. Grau, however, was not impressed and told the Minister simply to delete the offensive Test whether its publication was required by law or not, Grus finally agreed. Through a clerical slipup, however, this language was incorporated in the decree of June 4. When the master was given much wide publicity a few days ago, Grau called in his Minister and berated him for what he took to be his failure to carry out his orders. Cras thersupon severely criticised Graw for his action in connection with the commetation, stating that he had been opposed to it in the first place. He told Grau that

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he was being a isled by those surrounding nim who were keeping information area him as to the dangerous consequences of his increasing tendency toward allegal and unconstitutional action. He retarquently entailted his resignation, estendibly as "a mother of delicary." As a result of all the unfavorable publicity, Gran to now in a dilemma since the general public feels that he should not accept the resignation. On the other hand, he does not wish to continue true as his Minister of Justice because of the latter's actions in connection with this matter. Hence he has not done anything.

No formal action has yet been ernounced on the resignation although an item appearing in The Harana Post of June 13 continued that it would be accepted and that Autentice Schater Diego Vicente This would be appointed to fill the vectors.

Material (100)

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