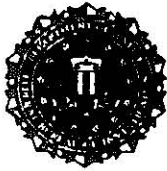


JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

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Date: June 5, 1946

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

To: Mr. Frederick B. Lyon
Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation
Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Seizure of Cuban Ministry of Education by Revolutionary Groups -
May 10, 1946

As of possible interest to you, reliable sources in Havana, Cuba, have reported that the Cuban Ministry of Education, since the beginning of the Grau regime, has been the source of thousands of political jobs. At one time there were reportedly 9,000 "botelleros" or holders of sinecures attached to this Ministry. For some months, the Ministry of Education has been paying out salaries far in excess of its financial appropriation and the Government realized that this situation could not continue. Accordingly, some 4,000 employees were forced to resign during April, 1946, and 1500 more were to be cut off the payroll in May to enable the Ministry to operate within its budget.

On May 9, 1946, Diego Vicente Tejera, Minister of Education, was called to the Presidential Palace to discuss the financial problems of the Ministry with President Grau and Florentino Martinez, Minister of the Treasury. It is reported that Tejera placed the entire blame on President Grau for conditions in the Ministry of Education, stating that Grau and other Autentico Party leaders had sent orders to Tejera to appoint thousands of political followers to "botellas." The argument became so heated that Grau asked for Tejera's immediate resignation.

As soon as the results of the conference were known, various revolutionary groups prepared to seize the Ministry of Education. At approximately 5:00 A.M. on May 10th, a group of about 35 revolutionary organization members, armed with machine guns and small arms, took over the Ministry without resistance from the Police who were assigned to guard the building. The revolutionaries held the building until approximately 11:00 A.M. that morning, at which time they were assured by President Grau that none of them would lose their jobs. They then turned the Ministry over to the proper officials. It is interesting to note that, according to one confidential reliable source, President Grau gave instructions that members of the Partido Socialista Popular (Communist Party), who are holding sinecures in the Ministry of Education, should not be removed from their positions.

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The general consensus of opinion among reliable sources in Havana contends that the Grau Government is rapidly losing in popularity. Many essential foods are unavailable except through the black market; other staple goods are selling openly at above ceiling prices; most Cubans are conscious of the lack of public safety prevalent at the present time which has been demonstrated by the numerous unsolved political crimes, and the public is also aware of the fact that while Grau, himself, has not been accused of graft, many of his officials and especially his sister-in-law, Pauline Alsina, are generally regarded as dishonest.

Various persons considered reliable state that a full-scale revolution will take place in Cuba within the next few months; however, no facts have yet been secured to substantiate these allegations.

CC- Chief of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.
Attention: Reading Panel
Military Intelligence Service