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DATE: 10-18-48

TO : CRB - Mr. Walker

FROM : CRB - Miss Hale

SUBJECT: Reaction in Habana to Prío Cabinet

Press comment in Habana on Prío Cabinet is reported by Embassy Habana to be "mildly favorable." In general, public opinion seems to be in favor of cooperating with the new government and giving it a chance to show what it can do. An interesting attack on the new Cabinet was made by former Senator "Eddy" Chibas, who alleged that since the Cabinet contains 8 members of Congress it is unconstitutional. Art. 126 of the Constitution allowing only half the Cabinet, not counting the Minister of the Interior, to be Congressmen. Prío had exceeded that proportion by appointing 8 Congressmen out of 15.

Embassy Comment: Cabinet is composed of young men all of "revolutionary" background, 8 of whom are former Congressmen, and all of whom, with exception of Oteiza, have held previous government positions. Embassy agrees with Habana press that no judgment should be passed on Prío or his Cabinet until they have had an opportunity to demonstrate how well they mean to keep their promises.

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