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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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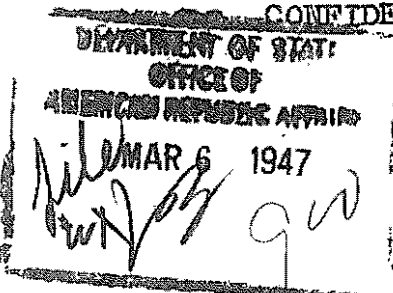
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Control 1198

Rec'd. March 5, 1947  
1:53 p.m.

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 103, March 5, 11 a.m.

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AR  
Brigadier General Gomez Gomez removed as chief police and sent as customary such cases as Military Attache Mexico. Event believed upshot his longstanding difficulties with former "revolutionaries" among police complicated by impasse reached in solving border case of Mancebo being commented upon this week's political notes.

His position assumed temporarily by Lieutenant Colonel Fabio Ruiz Rojas, police officer from group of former "revolutionaries". Gomez Gomez on abandoning office announced he was reappointing suspended Majors Carames and Morales of revolutionary faction, thus anticipating inevitable action new chief. Appointments possibly represent complete ascendancy this faction within police.

Generals Perez Damera, Cabrera and Querejeta, as well as other high Army officers, conferred with President Grau 1 a.m. today re this change according press reports.

WOODWARD

LMS: MES

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

filed 19 1947

American Embassy  
Habana, March 5, 1947

AIR MAIL

No. 2871

Subject: Change of Police Chief in Habana

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The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's telegram No. 103 of March 5, 1947, reporting the removal of Brigadier General GOMEZ Gómez as police chief in Habana and his replacement by Lt. Col. Fabio RUIZ Rojas as a temporary measure.

As was remarked in the telegram, the fall of Gómez Gómez, who had been appointed as a tough Army officer to control the diverse factions within the police and to put a stop to the string of political murders which has plagued the capital, was probably the upshot of his long-standing difficulties with police officers who were former members of "revolutionary" groups, complicated by the apparent impossibility of solving the murder case of Lino MANCEBO who was shot last week in broad daylight on the steps of the Lonja de Comercio.

It is understood from a reliable source that the police agent in charge of the investigation of the Mancebo murder, after careful interrogation of a number of persons who were on the spot, has come to the conclusion that he is almost positively convinced of the identity of the murderers. The persons he has interrogated would by no means be willing to testify in court. At the same time the suspect he has identified is an old "revolutionary" associate of police officers Major Roberto MEOQUI and Lt. Roberto CASALS, the former of whom entered the "Acción Revolucionaria Guiteras" at the same time as the suspect did. Faced with this dilemma, the agent was fearful as to how he should proceed, but was apparently considering very seriously whether he should not take his evidence direct to General Gómez. It is possible that General Gómez received his statements and demanded action on the basis thereof, then found himself confronted by an insurmountable political impasse which brought about his removal; but this does not seem at all

likely

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American Embassy, Habana  
March 5, 1947  
Despatch no. 2871

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likely, because Gómez Gómez's retirement had been rumored during the day before it took effect, and there would hardly have been time between the moment yesterday afternoon when the agent expressed the doubts and fears above referred to, and the moment at which Gómez Gómez was removed, for the communication of the agent's report to have been effected.

The appointment of Col. Ruiz Rojas and the reinstatement of police Majors Caramás and Morales, initially suspended by Gómez Gómez, may turn out to be an indication of an increasing ascendancy within the police of the "revolutionary" faction, as these men are all of that group. Such a development would not in itself be seriously discouraging to "revolutionaries" outside the police who may have further political killings under consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Robert F. Woodward  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

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HBWells/hmp

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to Department

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