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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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LAB 737.00(W)/10-956

FROM : EMBASSY, HABANA

216

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

20 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION OCT 10 REC'D 10-10-56	DEPT. RM/R-2 IN F O OTHER USIA-10	ARR-4	ICA-10	USMA-1	IO-2	MC-T-P-1
		ARMY-35	NAVY-30	AIR-24	CIA-16	OCB-2	

SUBJECT: Joint Weeks No. 41 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

(UNCLASSIFIED) RUMORS AND PREDICTIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPTS. The more excitable organs of the local press are continuing to devote considerable space to rumors and predictions of uprisings and invasions scheduled to take place during the balance of 1956. The next few weeks is the time generally mentioned. These predictions tend to follow a pattern: many elements of the opposition are engaged in the undertaking, including the followers of ex-president Carlos PRIO, the "26 of July" insurrectionary movement led by Fidel CASTRO, the Federation of University Students (FEU), whose president José Antonio ECHEVARRIA recently signed a pact with Fidel Castro, and the followers of Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango. The groups are being supported by the Dominican Republic, and by elements in Central America. There will be a coordinated uprising and invasion, with landings at various points, it is claimed.

The government displays little concern, and has increased its usual precautions only slightly. Its attitude is well reflected in comments which President BATISTA made to reporters on October 6. He said that the threats which are being made against Cuba and the administration are now more than that, and while oppositionists might engage in threats, the administration would continue proceeding along the democratic routes indicated by the constitution. He concluded that no unusual development should be expected, and that any insurrectionary attempts would be "smothered with the serenity and firmness which is characteristic of our responsibilities and our love of the people".

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. Reports of plans for insurrection and invasion are also being received from intelligence sources outside of Cuba. They do not deviate in any important respect from the accounts available locally. The Embassy has no evidence to indicate that invasions are seriously planned. Such attempts, as well as local insurrectionary efforts, appear to have slight chance of success so long as the armed forces remain loyal. There are some reports of discontent, and possible plotting, within the army. If the administration can thwart or control these possible weaknesses in the armed forces, it should have little trouble controlling the situation.

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**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

Page 2 of       
Encl. No.       
Desp. No. 216  
From HABANA

(UNCLASSIFIED) ANOTHER ARMS CACHE DISCOVERED. The Chief of the National Police, Brig. Gen. Rafael SALAS Canizares, announced that on October 5 forces under his direction had seized seven people together with a quantity of arms, in two different localities in Habana. The weapons reportedly seized included five M-1 rifles, four caliber .45 automatics, one Thompson and three Maxim submachine guns, 63 hand grenades, and a small quantity of ammunition. According to the police, the leader of the group was one Carlos DEL AMO Diaz, to whom several of the other persons arrested were related. The police added that Del Amo had received money from Carlos Prio to assist in obtaining the arms and in renting locations in which to store them. The group was allegedly supposed to engage, together with other people, in various actions of terrorism, to begin with the murder of Rolando MASFERRER, Senator, and owner-editor of the paper Tiempo en Cuba, on October 8.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. It appears certain that the police indeed seized a small quantity of arms and ammunition. The Embassy has no evidence to indicate that Carlos Prio was involved in the conspiracy, and is inclined to the view that the allegations concerning his implication, as well as those concerning the planned assassination of Masferrer, are inaccurate.

(UNCLASSIFIED) ELECTIONS PLAN. On October 3, 1956 the Congress, meeting in joint session, approved the plan as presented by the administration for partial elections in 1957, general elections in 1958 and the necessary alterations to the constitution (see Weeka No. 40 for details). Since constitutional amendments are involved, the plan must again be approved at one of the two following ordinary sessions of the congress, by both houses meeting jointly. These sessions will be held beginning the third Mondays in March and in September, 1957. The earliest date at which the plan can be finally approved, therefore, is toward the end of the coming March.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. As predicted, the administration had no difficulty in pushing through its proposal. Debate was limited to twelve speakers, equally divided among opponents and supporters of the plan. The speakers tended to depart from the subject, apparently attempting to take political positions which they felt would be beneficial in the expected elections.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SURVEY FOR MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY. An official of the Plant Quarantine Service of the United States Department of Agriculture arrived to help the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture make a survey of the fruit-growing areas of Cuba to determine whether the Mediterranean fruit fly has become established in this country. The survey began October 1 and is expected to be completed in about one month. Plans are to thoroughly cover all of the Island of Cuba and also the Isle of Pines. About one thousand traps will be used in connection with the survey.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

Page 3 of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. 216  
From HABANA

Labor.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SUGAR WORKERS' CONGRESS. The Ninth Congress of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (FNTA) closed on schedule on October 3, 1956. Prisciliano FALCON Saffu was elected Secretary-General.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. Falcon is a follower of Eusebio MUJAL Barniel, Secretary-General of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), who dominated the Congress. The Workers' Bloc (BOP) of Batista's party, which had been inclined to oppose Mual before the Congress, fully supported him. By agreement, its original candidate for the Secretary Generalship, Julian SOTOLONGO, was elected First Vice Secretary General. Conrado BECQUER and Conrado RODRIGUEZ, suspected Communists, Deputies, members of the Nationalist Revolutionary Party recently formed by José PARDO Llada, formerly influential leaders, in the FNTA, staged bitter attacks on Mual, Financial Secretary of the CTC Jesús ARTIGAS, and the Batista Government. They apparently control at best two locals, and their actions, calculated for political effect, were of little influence in the Congress. At the last minute, under Mual's leadership, a motion was pushed through granting amnesty to those members who had been barred from the union for participation in the "illegal" strike of December, 1955.

Psychological.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Habana dailies concentrated their editorial attention during the week on (1) a discussion of the Suez situation, (2) further speculations on the Tito-Khrushchev meeting, and (3) reaction to the United States attitude on the death of President Somoza of Nicaragua.

SUEZ. Excelsior looked with optimism on the possibilities that the canal users and Egypt would agree on a compromise plan that will be presented to the UN Security Council. No country, Excelsior stated, with the exception of the Soviet Union, wants to provoke a conflict that would result in the paralysis of the canal - and Egypt the least of all. NASSER will change his attitude, the newspaper predicted, because of potential economic pressure. Excelsior cited as an example what would happen if the United States placed on the market her vast reserves of cotton, which would lower the price of this product and would result in a very serious blow to the Egyptian economy. Every country, Excelsior concludes, except the USSR, is interested in the free use of the Suez canal for the movement of goods in the world market.

TITO-KHRUSHCHEV MEETING. Excelsior felt that the mysterious meeting of the Soviet and Yugoslav leaders has now cleared up and that there are no longer any doubts for the reasons behind the

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**CONFIDENTIAL**

(Classification)

Page 4 of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. 216  
From HABANA

meeting. Tite went to Yalta, the newspaper states, in order to take part in the political - ideological dispute now confronting the high Soviet leaders. Excelsior observed that the old Bolsheviks faithful to Stalin (Molotov, Kaganovich, Voroshilov, etc.,) have accused Khrushchev of having gone too far in his anti-Stalinist campaign. The newspaper likened the campaign to a boomerang, and predicted the possibility that the USSR will lose some of her influence over her satellites. The Soviet Union, according to Excelsior, is trying to disguise her imperialistic aims by presenting the Communist ideology, which the Soviets offer as a cure-all for "social liberation". Soviet military leaders, concludes Excelsior, consider this ideology as an excellent instrument to foster their imperialistic plans.

DEATH OF SOMOZA. Prensa Libre pointed out that the attitude of Washington on the death of Somoza was "unbelievable" and reflects a lack of maturity on the part of the United States. Avance mirrored the same reaction stating that the eulogies for the dead Nicaraguan dictator were in bad taste and insulting to freedom loving nations.

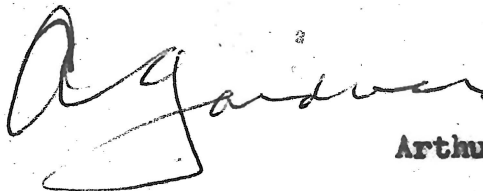
Army.

(UNCLASSIFIED) AS PUBLISHED IN CUBAN ARMY SPECIAL ORDER NO. 111 DATED 4 OCT 56 Colonel Ramon E. de J. CRUZ Vidal was transferred from the Quartermaster Corps to the 1st Rural Guard Rgt "MACEO" in Santiago de Cuba as Territorial Inspector; Lt Col José AGUIAR García was transferred from 1st Rural Guard Rgt to 6th Rural Guard Rgt in Pinar del Rio as Territorial Inspector; Maj Nelson A. de los N. CARRASCO Artilles former CO of Inf Bn, 2nd Rural Guard Rgt AGRAMONTE in Camaguey was transferred to the 1st Rural Guard Rgt. and Major Jorge R. LE SANTE Maza was transferred from the 1st Rural Guard Rgt. to Rural Guard Rgt. No 2, in Camaguey.

Major Rafael GONZALEZ Cobo has been designated Executive Officer for the Administrative Council of the Caja de Anticipos y Seguros de las Fuerzas Armadas" per paragraph 14 of General Order no. 86 dtd 24 September 56, replacing Col (EMS) Manuel A. B. UGALDE y Garrille in this position.

Navy, Air.

Negative.



Arthur Gardner

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