

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS  
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM  
CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION COPY

1-4

Action: ARA

Info:

SS

P

G

SAW

CHI

CHS

DCI

Control 9813

Rec'd August 24, 1949

6:26 P.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN REPUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUG 25 1949

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 289, August 24, 1 p.m.

President Prío early this morning removed Major General Senovovo Perez Dahera appointing Brigadier General Rupert Cabrera Rodriguez (only other general officer legally eligible) Army Chief of Staff. Action taken with Perez in Camaguey, Prime Minister Varona at Miami and after quartering police reinforcing Palace guard and sending Mrs. Prío out of Palace. Defense Minister Curti appointed Acting Prime Minister to sign necessary decree. Prío then proceeded Ciudad Militar with Cabrera and others to inform army. (US Air Attache Glenn and MA Schaffer also went at Cabrera's request.) From there Prío informed Perez at Camaguey by phone. Presidential Secretary Puentes told press action due repeated acts indiscipline by Perez and latter's policy of "isolating" colonels other officers and creating barrier between them and Prío. President later said step also due "discrepancies of view as to manner in which chief of state should be obeyed". Perez removal apparently acceptable to all armed forces and situation quiet. Air Chief Gonzalez Chavez relieved of command. Other changes military officers considered probable. Analysis follows.

Inform Department Defense.

Sent Department 289; repeated London (for Ambassador Butler for information only).

ELBRICK

DEF:BG

NOTE: Relayed to Department Defense 8/24/49 11:40 p.m. CWG-M

CONFIDENTIAL

PERMANENT RECORD COPY: THIS COPY MUST BE RETURNED TO DC/R CENTRAL FILES WITH NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.

10-52010-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

837.20/8-2449

FILED  
AUG 29 1949  
HH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM

ACTION COPY

CRB

2-B

CONFIDENTIAL

Action: ARA

Inf:

ES

W

ORR

CIA

AAN

PCR

Control 10337

Rec'd August 25, 1949  
6:39 p.m.

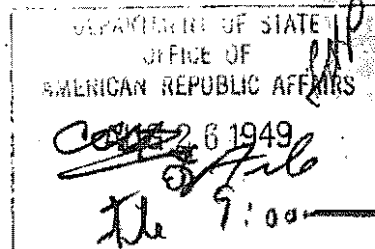
PD  
CMT

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

✓ NO: 290 August 25, noon

PRIORITY



At his request I saw Minister Hevia at his home late last night. He said President Priolo had authorized him explain to me immediate cause of General Perez' dismissal which I had questioned him about earlier.

In addition to the fact that Perez had proved political liability through use of his position to amass personal fortune and set up barrier between President and Army, Hevia said President learned day before yesterday Perez was conducting unauthorized negotiations directly with President Trujillo in Dominican Republic. Nature of negotiations unknown and Hevia said government did not know how long they had been going on. Government knew, however, Perez recently sent plane with personal emissary to Dominican Republic. This unauthorized disloyal action made it imperative Perez be relieved of command immediately. Story just appeared late morning paper CRISOL.

Hevia said action was great blow to Grau who Hevia believed had counted on Perez to assist Grau to return to power. He said Grau issued statement yesterday afternoon implicating US Government in move. According to Hevia, Grau assumes US participation from fact military attaches Glenn and Schaffer were present at Ciudad Militar early yesterday morning (EMBTEL 289 August 24). He asked if Embassy could not release denial to press stating military attaches visited Ciudad Militar after change in command had taken place (which is true). I said I would consider matter this morning. Since no such statement by Grau

has yet

CONFIDENTIAL

PERMANENT RECORD COPY: THIS COPY MUST BE RETURNED TO DC/R CENTRAL FILES WITH NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.

837.20/8-2549

FILED  
VJ

AUG 31 1949

XP  
737.39

XP  
837.00

CONFIDENTIAL

22 0000 August 25, noon, from Habana

Has yet appeared today's press, Embassy has taken no action.

Whether story of Perez' relations with Trujillo factual or not, Prio apparently for some time had been waiting favorable opportunity to oust Perez. Possibility of Perez-Orau conspiracy mentioned by Hevia, probably important factor in Prio's decision.

Dismissal several ranking officers and shifts in commands announced today. Situation quiet and evidence general satisfaction Perez' dismissal growing.

Sent Department 290, repeated Ciudad Trujillo.

ELBRICK

WHL:DP

CONFIDENTIAL

## OUTGOING TELEGRAM

INDICATE

Collect

Charge Department

Charge to

NO DISTRIBUTION WITHIN DEPARTMENT

Department of State  
CONFIDENTIAL  
Washington

77-222

CONFIDENTIAL

7395

AUG. 26 1949

AMEMBASSY,

BOGOTA.

28/

FOR MILLER FROM BARBER NO. 5

Cuban FONMIN Hevia told our charge Perez removal precipitated by Prio's discovery he was conducting unauthorized negot<sup>s</sup> with Pres Trujillo. Nature of negot<sup>s</sup> not (rpt not) known Cub Govt. Two US service attaches at mil<sup>s</sup> barracks when Prio informed army of change in command. According Hevia, ex-Pres Grau has issued statement implicating US Govt in Perez removal. Statement has not (rpt not) appeared in press.

IIAA renewal has passed Congress.

Peace Comite met again today re Caribbean situation.

DISTRIBUTION  
DESIRED  
(OFFICES ONLY)

CR CLEARANCE

CR AUG 26 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

837.20/8-2649

837.20/8-2649

Acheson  
(CWB)  
ACHESON

FOR ARA Unit

App'l to

8/26/49

ARA:IA:LJHalle,Jr:em

8/26/49

1949 AUG 26 PM 6 55

ACCEPTANCE DESK

CS/H