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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

290

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

November 14, 1956

REF

25 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D 11-15	DEPT. IN F O	RMA-2 ATA-4 SCA-10 Em-5 OSD-2 OC B-2
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SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 46 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

(UNCLASSIFIED) GOVERNMENT CLAIMS REVOLUTION PLANNED.

In a lengthy report to the Habana Urgency Court released to the press November 12, 1956 the Department of Investigations of the National Police alleges that revolutionary-minded opposition elements plan a combined insurrection and invasion to begin about the middle of November. The report states that former president Carlos PRIO and Generalissimo TRUJILLO reached an understanding, on the basis of which \$200,000 was advanced to Fidel CASTRO Ruz, leader of the "26 of July" Movement, to organize and carry out the invasion in conjunction with operations from the Dominican Republic. Others alleged to be involved are Policarpo SOLER Cruz, Candido DE LA TORRE, Candido RODRIGUEZ Saveri, José Braulio ALEMAN Gutierrez, Eduardo R. GARCIA and Onelio PRIETO. The Urgency Court found a true bill, and authorized full investigation and arrest of those responsible.

(CONFIDENTIAL) Comment. The report collects in one place the statements which have recently been appearing from various government sources. It contains nothing new, and offers nothing in the way of concrete evidence. It clearly demonstrates the government's concern over recent developments, and its expectation of further trouble to come. The Embassy has learned that it was released to personnel of the armed forces some twenty-four hours before submission to the Urgency Court, apparently in an attempt to convince the personnel that the campaign against the government is being supported by a foreign power, and that Cubans who take part in it are traitors.

(CONFIDENTIAL) REPERCUSSIONS FROM ASSASSINATION OF LT. COL. BLANCO RICO. Cuban government investigative forces have made no progress in locating and apprehending the men who killed Lt. Col. Antonio BLANCO Rico, former head of the Military Intelligence Service (SIM), on October 28. Key officers of these services have confidentially informed Embassy representatives that they have no leads, and that they have begun to doubt the early identification of the assassins as Juan Pedro CARBO Servia and (fnu) CUBELA. The investigation is continuing very actively, and it is becoming fairly frequent to see SIM cars stopping and searching other vehicles on the streets. A number of top government officials, particularly those

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in the investigative forces, have become quite jittery, seldom go out at night, and travel under heavy protection.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) VIOLATION OF HAITIAN EMBASSY. Items concerning the violation of the diplomatic immunity of the Haitian Embassy on October 29, when the police killed ten Cubans who had sought asylum there, continue to appear in the local press. Chargé d'Affaires Gustave BORNO has gotten into an unseemly exchange of public denunciations with a former employee, Emma HUNT, who was present at the time. Each maintains that the other is lying. Emma Hunt claims to be Cuban of Haitian origin, but gives every appearance of being West Indian. Her testimony has been conflicting, and there is no apparent explanation for Borne's exceptional activity in attempting to refute it. It appears that the Cuban Ministry of State, and the government in general, would like to smoothe over and forget the incident.

(UNCLASSIFIED) SUGAR. Minister without Portfolio Amadeo LOPEZ Castro announced to the press over the weekend that he expected the 1957 Cuban sugar crop to be 5,000,000 Spanish long tons. This compares to a 1956 crop of 4,600,000 Spanish long tons. From a standpoint of prospective sales, production and initial inventory, Minister López Castro describes Cuba's 1957 sugar picture as eminently satisfactory.

Labor

(UNCLASSIFIED) CTC INTERVENES VARIOUS FEDERATIONS. During the past two weeks the Cuban Confederation of Workers (CTC) under the direction of Secretary-General Eusebio MUJAL, has been taking a particularly firm and aggressive attitude toward certain unions and labor leaders who are opposed to Mual's policies, or reluctant to accept his control. On November 7 four unions were intervened: the Tobacco Workers Union of Habana, the Unions of Cigar Makers of Artemisa and of Cabaiguán, and the Union of Insurance and Bond Company Employees of Habana. It was alleged that the first three had been infiltrated by Communism, and the last was intervened because of "the unstable and almost non-existent situation" it was in. The order of intervention, including dismissal of the union leaders, was not signed by the leaders of several Federations, including notably those of Electrical Workers, Telephone Workers, and Cattle Workers. On November 12 the Ministry of Labor, at Mual's request, approved the intervention of the National Federation of Workers in the Cattle and Slaughter-House Industries; and the union for Habana Province of the same Federation.

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. These actions have caused a considerable uproar in labor circles, and have been heatedly debated on the floor of Congress. The Embassy has learned that Minister of Labor José SUAREZ Rivas is quite concerned, and fears that Mual is

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ever-reaching himself in his drive for absolute control in the Cuban labor movement. Mujal's rivals within the labor movement, particularly Angel COFINO of the Electrical Workers Federation and Vicente RUBIERA of the Telephone Workers, are reported to be seriously concerned, to such an extent that they have planted rumors that their Federations, and a few others which they can influence, may withdraw from the CTC. From the information available to date, it appears that this is only in small part a drive against Communism in labor, and principally a further step in Mujal's attempts to seize complete control with charges of Communism as an excuse in some cases.

Psychological.

(UNCLASSIFIED) Editorial writers for Habana dailies concentrated on the United States elections, the Hungarian crisis, and the Middle East situation this week. In general, the reaction was overwhelmingly in favor of the reelection of President Eisenhower as a step toward peaceful solutions to grave international problems. The situation in the Middle East was viewed with deep concern as a stumbling block to the peace of the world. Avance felt that important changes in United States foreign policy might take place between now and inauguration day, and predicted that Henry Cabot LODGE, (whom Avance looks upon with favor), would take over the post of Secretary of State, should John Foster DULLES resign. El Mundo applauded the election in the United States as an excellent example of how a nation should handle its affairs, drawing a contrast to the Soviet methods in Poland and Hungary. El Mundo further lauded the statements of the United States Department of Defense for strengthening and placing on the alert the military forces of the United States, which, the newspaper believes, can serve as a bulwark against further Soviet aggression. Información was concerned with the possibility that the Soviet Union would interfere in the Middle East, and endorsed the neutral stand of the United States. Diario de la Marina looked upon the Eisenhower victory as a move toward the consolidation of defenses for the New World. This newspaper also made mention of greater help on the part of Cuba to Hungary. Pueblo felt that the United States has been slow to act in the Middle Eastern and Hungarian situations and this procrastination has given the Soviets the upper hand in Hungary. In conclusion, Pueblo questioned the ability of the United Nations to solve the current world problems. The Havana Post stated that the West had let Hungary down in her fight to throw off the Soviet yoke.

Navy.

(CONFIDENTIAL) HAITIAN MIDSHIPMAN WITHDRAWN FROM CUBAN NAVAL ACADEMY. The Naval Attaché has learned that Midshipman Jean Gaetjens DEFAY of the Haitian Coast Guard, who was attending the Cuban Naval Academy at Mariel, was withdrawn by his government on

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November 6, 1956. Midshipman Defay was in his second year at the Cuban Academy and was reported to be an excellent student. The Haitian Embassy in Habana confirmed his withdrawal and reported that Defay departed for Port-au-Prince on November 8, 1956. Officials at the Cuban Naval Academy and the Haitian Embassy gave as the reason for the withdrawal the incident which took place at the Haitian Embassy in Habana on October 29, 1956 (see Weeka No. 44). The withdrawal of Midshipman Defay is an indication of the slight rift in Haitian-Cuban relations which has resulted from the above-mentioned incident.

Army, Air.

Negative.


Vinton Chapin

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

cc: AmEmbassies, Port-au-Prince and Ciudad Trujillo

Participants: Political and Labor: JLTopping
Sugar: CEDavis
Psychological: SPHelms
Navy: CDR.LKrisel

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