NCOWING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Secretary of State. Washington.

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FROM:

American Embe

Habana, Cuba

Date of mailing: October 18, 1948

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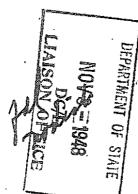
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CIA AAM



A-1162, October 18, 1948.

On October 11, 1948 it was announced that President Prio was keeping Major General Geneveyo PEREZ Damora as Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army.

General Perez immediately requested the retirement of General Enrique HERNANDEZ Nardo, Supervisor General of National Police, and the transfer of General Gregorio CHEREJETA from Commanding Officer, Fort Cabanas and 7th Regiment, to Inspector General of the Cuban Army. General Mardo was a favorite and protege of the former First Lady, Pauline Alcina Vda. de Grau, and an intimate Triend of Lazaro PAÑA and other Communist negro labor leaders. He has been accused recently of grafting. Both Hernandez Nardo and Querejeta (who gets a position maving no command of troops) are negrous and action taken in respect to them may reflect reported policy of Minister of Interior, Ruben DE LEON, to clear negroes out of Army and return Police to Police not Army control. Furthermore, Minister of State told Counselor of Embassy and Air Attaché October 15 that José M. ALEMAN had "bought off" Mardo in a sugar mill deal.

On October 11, 1948 President Prio announced that Major José Manuel CARAMES y Monteagudo had been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and designated Chief of Police. Carames, who has recently commanded 13th Police Station, is a fervent anti-Communist and a strong, wellrespected police officer. He immediately set about severing connections botween Police and Army.

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