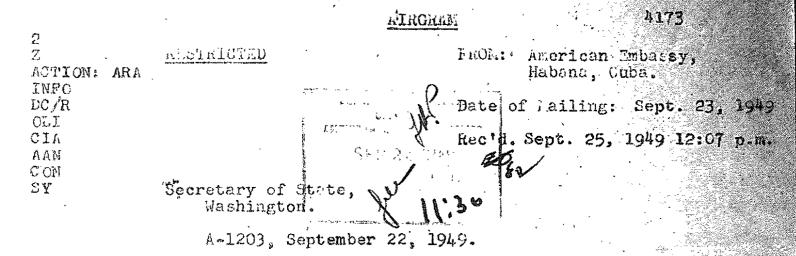
INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH



In special edition of <u>Gaceta Official</u> GOVT on night 21 Sept issued decree removing 20 police officers and men for "complacency and indifference" in connection with continued gangster murders. GOVT also issued orders to police and the GRAS organization to arrest all members illegal associations (UIR, ESR and other gangs) accused of participation in recent killings. Rumerous arrests in last 24 hours with others expected.

Action followed unsuccessful attack 15 Sept against Representative Rolando FASFERRER (MSR head) as he left Capitolio and murder 20 Sept of student leader Gustavo Adolfo MEJIA.

Comment:

A thorough purge of gangsters from the ranks of the police would have considerable effect in controlling: gangster activity and improving police morale. However, basic unhealthy condition cannot be eradicated as long as certain known gunmen continue to receive the protection of powerful interests in the GOVT.

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INCOMING AIRGRAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE **DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS** TELEFRERENAME AINGRAN 4535 CONFIDENTIAL FROL American Embassy, Habana, Cuba. 2 DEFAIITLEUT OF STATE D ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION А Date of Pailing: Sept. 23, 1949 ACTION: OLI DIVISION INFO DISTRIBUTION BRANCH lec'd. Sept. 26, 1949 3:11 p.m. DC/R SEP 2 7 1949 ARA E CIA Secretary of State, Р Washington, POS ARMY A-1209, Certembor 23, 1949. NAVY AIR GOVT today announced removal of Col. José Manuel ChaldES as Acting Folice Chief (and his leave of absence for six months as Inspector General of Police) and his replacement by Br. Gen. (uirino UMA Lopez. In this connection reference is made to Embtel No. 323 837 of 23 Sept and Embgram A-1072 of 19 Aug reporting lowered presuige of folice ¢ ief Col. José Manuel

0 During past two days debate in house of Representatives : devoted in large measure to heated criticism of police and Solice Chief Canal ES for feilure to stop gang killings. Ω Letter already subject to extensive press ridicule and congressional ire for having engaged in fisticuffs last week N with radio announcer José PaRDO Llada (who had insinuated Qin a broadcast that Carames was now constructing a large building - presumably with grafted funds). Criticism 'n ction Assigned 4/1/5 reached point where opposition parties in House prevented motion to request presence of befense MIN to explain why Carumes hed not been removed. In letter of resignation to oction Taken PRES FRIO Carames cited above congressional action as mone reason for his resignation. (House reportedly agreed in Secret session to demand Carames' removal, Philo . Ale on Late of Actibo learning this reportedly decided to beat house to the Aution Office Sympole (1000)

lence.

Chand ES as result of continued gang murders and vio-

Lame of officer <u>MS</u> URIA (recently promoted from Colonel on occasion of Pirectation of Genovevo FEREZ as Army Chief of Staff - End. Directation of despatch 660, Aug 26, 1949) is considered an able nonest officer and enjoys President's confidence. In press Paterview he said his tour as Police Chief would be characterized by deeds and not words.

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Amenioassy, Habana, Cuba.

Twanty police officers whose removal announced vesterday (Embgram A-1203 Sent 22) were suspected of belonging to secret gange involved in numerous killings. It is believed numerous other removals will be announced in GOVT effort range police of gangeter elements and to reduce gang killings.

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