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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

864

DESP. NO.

March 8, 1955

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18	06170	OC/R-2, ARA-2, ARA-1, IO-2
	3/9	USIA-8, ARMY-35, NAVY-35, AIR-35, OSD-2, CIA-15, OCB-1

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 10 for State, Army, Navy and Air Departments from SANA.

(UNCLASSIFIED) MORE ARMS FOUND; POLICE SEEK ASYLUM. The police announced that on March 1st a small quantity of arms, consisting of four sawed-off shotguns and a homemade pipe-bomb, plus police uniforms, had been found abandoned in a ditch. It was surmised that the arms had been thrown away as too "hot" in view of the "El Colorado" case (see Weeka No. 9 and despatch No. 822, February 25, 1955).

It was also revealed that on the same day a lieutenant and an agent of the Bureau of Investigations of the National Police obtained asylum in the Brazilian Embassy in Havana. In all likelihood the two men were armed and one version has it that they forced their way into the Embassy at gun point while the Ambassador was absent. The head of the National Police classed the men as deserters who had disobeyed orders in connection with anti-gangster measures following the death of "El Colorado" and who had tipped off gangster elements regarding police moves. The Ministry of State has confirmed that asylum was granted but has not yet issued safe conducts.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) Comment. This asylum case confronts the Ministry of State with a knotty problem. The Bureau of Investigations has recommended that safe conducts to leave the country not be issued on the ground that the men are deserters from the armed forces. In addition recognition of the right of asylum in this case would set a precedent which might encourage other disaffected members of the armed forces. On the other hand the Brazilian Ambassador is said to be determined to take the case right up to Batista, if necessary to get the men safely out of the country. Judging from press reports, he appears to have taken steps to bring pressure to bear from Rio de Janeiro. Reinforcing him is the traditional Cuban position that it is the country granting asylum which has the right to determine whether the nature of the offense justifies asylum. Cuba certainly does not wish to create another DE LA TORRE case.

(UNCLASSIFIED) PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS CABINET TO CONGRESS. On March 2nd, Prime Minister Jorge GARCIA Montes presented the new Cabinet Ministers (see Weeka No. 8) to the Congress. In his speech to the Congress outlining government policy, the Prime Minister touched on two topics of special interest. He assured the Congress that the semi-

FCFornes, Jr.:mbw  
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parliamentary system prescribed by the Constitution of 1940 would be fully respected. Under this system the President continues in office for the full term for which he is elected but by a vote of no-confidence the Congress can force the resignation of the Cabinet or any of its members. Later in his speech, reaffirming the desire of the Government for internal conciliation and peace, he made this statement: ".... for the restoration of harmony and peace, there are presupposed, as an unquestionable and prior requirement, the recognition of the legitimacy of the regime and the abandonment and elimination of methods of violence".

(OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Comment. The Prime Minister's statement regarding the restoration of harmony and peace justifies the interpretation that in his first message to the Congress President Batista actually meant, although he expressed himself in a roundabout way, that eventual return of Cuban exiles without fear of reprisal would have to be conditioned upon recognition of the legitimacy of his regime (see despatch No. 862, March 7, 1955).

(UNCLASSIFIED) NEAR EAST. Several newspapers viewed events in the Near East as constituting a new world crisis. Diario Nacional termed the plight of Arabs displaced from Palestine as one of the scandals of modern times and the basic reason for the current unrest. The newspaper blamed the United Nations in part for giving only scant aid to these displaced persons. El Mundo and others similarly sympathized with the Arabs ejected from Palestine who have been reduced to misery.

(UNCLASSIFIED) JAPAN. There were forecasts that the election of HATOYAMA as Premier of Japan will mark a new anti-United States attitude on the part of the Japanese. Información said the United States is whistling in the dark by saying Hatoyama, a conservative, represents no danger to United States political interests in Asia, since Japan has shown she is leaning away from the Western orbit. Alerta and Prensa Libre predicted that Japanese ties with Red China and Soviet Russia will be immediately strengthened.

(UNCLASSIFIED) NEW ORLEANS ECONOMIC CONFERENCE. Cuban newspapers were unsparing in their praise of the New Orleans economic conference as a means of bringing capital and investment opportunities together for the benefit of Latin America. All major newspapers were encouraged by President Eisenhower's speech to the conference and predicted the meeting would be a tremendous success.

(UNCLASSIFIED) ADENAUER. Conrad ADENAUER came in for praise from several papers for putting across ratification of the London and Paris agreements. Diario Nacional said the Soviets cut their

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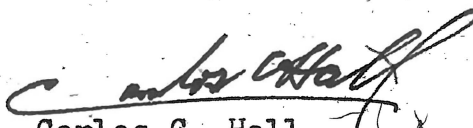
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own threats on this issue by threatening West Germany and by jettisoning Malenkov. Avance wondered whether, in the light of this defeat, the next Soviet step might be a new attempt at conciliation with the West in the interest of world peace.

Army, Navy, Air

Negative

For the Ambassador:

  
Carlos G. Hall,  
Counselor of Embassy.

Participants: CCHall, FCFornes, JdeZengotita, ACertosimo, CEDavis, WBCaldwell, WCSpears, RGCushing, Elmore (MA), Slaton (AA).

Copies to: AmEmbassies Ciudad Trujillo and Port-au-Prince.

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