



10871

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICADIVISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT
REPRODUCTION SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 9030

Habana, Cuba, March 22, 1945

Subject: Continuing Shake-up in Cuban Army.

CONFIDENTIALThe Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that almost daily changes are being made in the officer corps of the Cuban Army. Many of these changes are doubtless due to the recent change in the Chief of Staff and to the uncovering of the alleged plot against the GRAU Government led by ex-Colonel PEDRAZA. The Military Attaché of the Embassy is of course keeping the War Department fully informed with regard to details of the changes.

Of particular interest to the Department will be the fact that, since the first of the present month, the Chief of Cuban Army Aviation has changed twice. Colonel Otalio SOCA LLANES was transferred early in March and is now placed in charge of the 4th Regiment at Matanzas. Although Soca Llanes is one of the enlisted men who rose with BATISTA, he has managed to remain on good terms with the present administration and his appointment to Matanzas is not considered a demotion.

Soca Llanes was succeeded as Chief of the Army Aviation by Lieutenant Colonel Cecilio PEREZ ALFONSO. However, he has now been transferred again and made Inspector of the 7th Regiment at Cabanas Fortress, Habana. His place as Chief of the Army Aviation has been taken by Lieutenant Colonel Camilio Gonzalez CHAVEZ y Acosta.

Chavez is a professional officer who was ousted from the Army at the time that Batista took over in 1933, returning in 1941 in his old grade of Captain. He received no promotions until President Grau took office, when he became a Major in command of the Palace Guard. On March 5, 1945, he was designated Liaison Officer to the United States Military Attaché in this Embassy, which office he has now relinquished

in

837,20/3-2245

CS/D

837,20/3-

FILED

MAY 25 1945

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATEREPRODUCTION SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

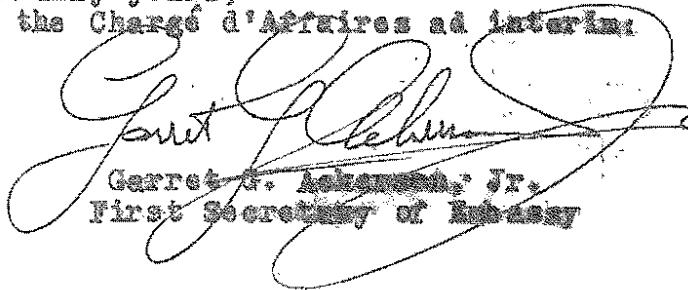
in order to become Chief of the Army Aviation. Chavez is considered by our Military Attache to be an excellent officer; he is a graduate of a Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He is not a pilot. He is considered to be anti-Batista.

The other changes in general appear to reflect the personal wishes of the new Chief of Staff, General Genovevo PEREZ. It is interesting to note that most of those who have been retired or otherwise separated from the service in these recent shake-ups are Batista men but that a few who have been promoted to higher positions are likewise officers who prospered under the Batista administration.

General Pérez, following the arrest of Pedraza, issued an order on March 17 forbidding active members of the Army from associating with officers and men who have been ousted from the Army, Navy, and Police.

Respectfully yours,

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:



Garret A. Ackerman, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

GGA/dsc

800

Original (Gzalid) to Department