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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

876

November 29, 1951

USPS. NO.

DATE

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Despatch 808 (Weeka 46), Nov. 16, 1951

SUBJECT: Statement by General Fulgencio Batista of Communist Electoral Collaboration.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
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The statement was made in the Embassy's despatch under reference, in a discussion of the possible willingness of certain Cuban political leaders to deal with the Communists, that it was not impossible that BATISTA may eventually consent to a deal involving Communists.

A statement by General Batista on this subject appeared in Carteles of December 2, 1951, and is given below in translation:

Reporter: General Batista, recently you have been heavily attacked by the Communist Party. To what do you attribute this?

General Batista: I do not have word that the Communist Party, as a Party, is fighting or attacking me as you state. But the newspaper colleague knows that on different occasions I have found it necessary to state my point of view as a public man, as a responsible man, and as the head of a Party which is mobilizing to participate in the general elections, and to achieve victory therein. I have said and I repeat that we are not indifferent to the hopes and needs of the masses of the Partido Socialista Popular just as we are not indifferent, nor could we be, to the hopes and needs of the popular masses belonging to any other Cuban Party. But, as regards the leaders of the Partido Socialista Popular we must contemplate, before anything else, the situation of Cuba in the event of an international conflict. If through misfortune this should take place, the Partido Acción Unitaria, like all the Cuban national parties, must contemplate the interest of Cuba above everything else. In that event, the leaders of all the political parties must consider the national needs, its progress and its defense before the interests of any other foreign country. When the Socialists state that in the event of any conflict between Cuba and Russia the leaders will be on the side of Cuba, neither the Partido Acción Unitaria nor I will have any objections to make to political pacts of a national character.

ETCrain:WJN

REPORTER(S)

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PREPARATION TIME

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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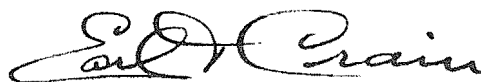
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Comment: Batista's statement would appear to bar, at least for the present, any party to party electoral pact between the PAU and the Communists. Should he wait for the local Communists to declare that in case of a conflict between Cuba and Russia they will be on the side of Cuba the bar may be permanent, and this may have been Batista's intention. Batista definitely leaves the door open to those members of the PSP rank and file who may desire to abandon the Communists and to transfer their allegiance to the PAU.

For the Ambassador:



Earl T. Crain  
First Secretary of Embassy

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