MR 300, Sec. 2 — CENTRAL AMERICA — WARFARE

1945
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

From: CG Panama Canal Department Quarry Heights Canal Zone
To: War Department
No: P 31322

24 February 1945

To MILGU War Dept Wash DC G-2 sgd Hrell POD P 31322.

Newspaper Panama American last night indicated a
unification of all opposition to de La Guardia in an extra
edition. Members of opposition indicated that arrangements
had been made to establish a government headed by a Junta of
4 persons:

Enrique Jimenez, Roberto Chiari, Francisco Arias,
and Alfonso Correa Garcia. Investigation indicates that
opposition has not become entirely unified or that the
government has accepted any such proposal. Government still
appears to have control of situation and is permitting for
the lst time a mass meeting tonight in Panama City by the
opposition (B-2) thus indicating government confidence.

End

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: CG AAF
OPD
Col. Park
Log

CM-IN-25658     (25 Feb 45)    DTG  242101Z    es

COPY NO.

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RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE QUANTITY AMM REMOVED BY ZONE POLICE FROM CUSTODY OF TIVOLI "REFUGEES".

CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES 21 FEB RESTRICTED TIVOLI DEPARTMENTS TO HOTEL PREMISES. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED.

BREAKING RESTRICTION WILL RESULT EXPULSION FROM HOTEL. RELIABLE SOURCE INFIRMS PANAMA WILL REQUEST EXTENSION.

OF 11 TO 13 PERSONS NOT IN HOTEL OR OTHER ZONE TERRITORY PERSONS ACCUSED COMPLICITY BOMB EXPLOSIONS REF 1196.

DIS 201696. INCLUDE 6 TIVOLI GROUP CHIEF ARKULFISTA. SAME SOURCE REPORTS ARREST AND CONFESSION.

INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE AND DISTRIBUTED BOMBS ALLEGED INSTIGATION TIVOLI CHIEF. CORRECTS SAME INDIVIDUALS WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATION INDICATED BUT UNCONFIRMED.

16. ACT

17. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 70 (4), NAVCIR)
FROM COM 15 ACT ONI INFO ALUSHA GUATEMALA ALUSHA COGOTA ALUSHA SAN JOSE COSTA RICA.

POLITICAL TURMOIL CAUSED BY DE LAQUAR DIAZ APPOINTMENTS
15 FEBRUARY OF GOVERNORS 3 PROVIDES WITHOUT CONSULTING CABINET OR SUPPORTING PARTIES (B2). LIBERAL REFORM PARTY LED BY PACHO RIVAS COLTS PRESIDENT. EDUARDO MORGAN RESIGNS CABINET. PRESIDENT NOT CONSIDERING PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS (A1). 18 FEBRUARY 3 ISOLATED EXPLOSIONS CRUDELY MADE BOMBS REPORTED IN REPUBLIC EVALUATED 93. 19TH BOMB EXPLODED PRIVATE CAR OF US ARMY OFFICER PARKED PANAMA CITY (A1)

ALERT ORDERED SAME DATE. PANAMA OFF LIT ITS ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL.

END OR INCH...ON...NAVYID...[FEB 16]
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FOR CNO ALUSLO DIEGO SUAREZ SENDS.

FRENCH NAVAL COMMANDANT RICHARD-EVENOU DELEGATED COMMAND TO CHIEF OF STAFF LT COMDR QESHOUTIS ON 21 JAN AT 162000. RICHARD LEAVING MADAGASCAR SOON ON OFFICIAL TRIP TO PARIS. UNDERSTAND HE WILL DISCUSS STATUS DIEGO SUAREZ BASE POSSIBLY SEE JDERZONTL TRANSFER.

DECLARED
E. 0. 11655, Sec. 200 and 425 or 43
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By DBS

16...ACTION

CONING...NAVAIDE...200P...20G...CNO...

CONFIDENTIAL

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (c) NAV REGS.)

301920
From: US Military Attache, Guatemala City, Guatemala
To: War Department
Nr: 71

27 January 1945
MILID Washington 71.

Talk of war between Salvador and Guatemala is all on Salvador side, with little reaction here. Believed Salvador attitude results from Army commanders taking advantage of Toriello's statement that he had a trained division of 10,000 men ready for action as a talking point to strengthen their position. Most serious thing at moment is closing of border officially by Guatemala, which amounts to virtual blockade of Salvador A-2 naval.

End

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: CG AAF
QPD
Col Park
Log

CM-IN-27597
(28 Jan 45) D70 271913Z aj

RECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11665, Sec. 3(B) and 5(D) or (R)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By DBS Date APR 17 1973

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: US Military Attaché in Guatemala
To: War Department
Nr: 544 26 January 1945

MILID Washington DC msg srl nbr 544

Failure of Guatemalan labor to participate in Sit Down of 25 Jan was not due to sympathy for Argentina but to fact no Guatemalan attended the CALI Meeting and their own lack of labor organization in the country.

Cruse

ACTION: G-2
INFO: CG AAF

DECALIFIED
E. O. 11652, Sec. 2(E) and 5(D) or (E)
ORD letter, May 6 1973
By DBS Date APR 1 7 1973

CM-IN-26519 (27 Jan 45) DTG 26421 P

COPY NO.
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Rumored that Panamanian Government contemplates requesting extradition from Canal Zone of deputies Somon Vega, Jose Manuel Varela and Alfredo Alemán as having plotted to create confusion in Panama City by setting fire to slums. Matter has been discussed by Charge d'Affaires of US Embassy, Commanding General and Governor of Panama Canal reaction of US Embassy if extradition papers are presented officially is to recommend informally to Panamanian Foreign Office that matter be dropped provided deputies agree not to create disturbances in Panama. Under present law Governor of Canal Zone must deliver persons to Panamanian authorities if their extradition is requested. As Panamanian public erroneously believes deputies have taken asylum in Canal Zone delivery of these persons to Panamanian Government for retaliation would probably result in acute adverse criticism of US by Latin Americans both in Panama and elsewhere. If consulted State Department strongly recommend that War Department support stand of local American Embassy.

End
From: CG Panama Canal Department, Quarry Heights, C.Z.
To: War Department
No: P 29597 5 January 1945
G-2 signed Brett PCD P 29597

All seven parties of the Committee for Political Coordination (A-2) have signed a manifesto giving their support to President de la Guardia. This includes Conservative, Democrat, National Liberal, Liberal Doctrinaire, Revolutionary, Socialist and Liberal Reform.

Pancho Arias and Domingo Dias have signed personally. This action will be published in La Nacion today and indicates de la Guardia has support of a clear majority of party machines in Panama. Situation remains calm and less tense.

United States Ambassador left Panama for Washington.

End

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: CG AAF
OPD Col Park
CM-IN-5091 (6 Jan 45) DTG 052058Z bjm

CLASSIFIED
K.O. 11652, Sec. 3(R) and 5(D) or (R)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By DBS Data APR 17 1973

3 de Central America

COPY NO.
THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

From: US Military Attaché, Havana, Cuba
To: War Department
Nr: 10540 4 January 1945
No 10540. To MILID Wash, DC.

Excellent sources report B 2 unrest among lower officers and enlisted elements Army growing more intense. Good possibility that group may undertake coup against high command any time. In my opinion administration would not place effective obstacles in way such a coup. Refer to recent cables and reports from this office.

Tausch

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: CG AAF

Col Park

CM-IN-3982 (5 Jan 45) DTG 042300Z aj

320 Central America

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: CG, Panama Canal Department, Quarry Heights, C.Z.
To: War Department.
Nr: P 29559 4 January 1945.

G-2 signed Brett FCD P29559 for MILID.

Political situation in Panama remains practically unchanged. Reportedly (A2) rump session of National Assembly met and elected Jeptha Duncan first designate, second designate Miguel Angel Grimaldo, and Alcibiades Arosemena as third designate to presidency. National Youth Congress composed of over 50 students and youth organizations and originally of non political orientation now definitely is supported by United Liberal Party headed by Jeptha Duncan. Congress is becoming disunited within self under pressure of Duncan, Pancho Arias, and combination of Harmonio Arias and Tomas Duque. Colored elements of congress are splitting away and reportedly (B-2) will attempt to organize own convention to insure privileges promises by De La Guardia being secured such as better housing and better labor conditions. Many members this congress returned to interior over New Year. Sentiment has been expressed in favor of Youth Congress at Normal School Santiago Province of Veraguas and governor of Province of Chiriqui has resigned. Small disorders have occurred in David Capital of Chiriqui. Colon City is supporting De La Guardia, and manifestation of women of Colon being planned in favor of government. Government has issued instructions to issue cedules to all persons born in Panamanian CM-IN-4944

(C5 Jan 45)
From: CG, Panama Canal Department, Quarry Heights, C.Z.  
Mr: P 29559  
4 January 1945.

territory thereby setting aside the effects of ex president Arnuifo Arias decrees and laws preventing negroes of foreign extraction born within Panama securing cedulas as Panamanian citizens. Also government has announced in La Nacion that there is no reason why women cannot vote in Panama. Both these actions interpreted to be attempt by government to secure support of lower class element and to split Youth Congress. Every effort is being made by both sides to compromise the United States. Yesterday the ambassador reported the rumor of the organization among color lines. This considered possible but very improbable. However should this occur the situation would become most serious as the United States employees approximately 21,000 Silver (colored) of whom 15,000 live in Panama. The failure of this group to report for work would seriously affect or even definitely retard the normal operations of the canal. Every action is being taken to carefully watch and check the situation. Entire matter has been thoroughly discussed with Mr Warren US ambassador who has promised to take action should situation warrant.

End.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: CG AAF  
OPD  
Col Park  
Log  

CM-IN-4044  
(5 Jan 45)  
DTG 042119Z  
a1
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

PRIORITY

From: US Military Attache Havana Cuba
To: War Department
No: 10541 4 January 1945

No 10541. MILID Washington DC. From Tausch

Defense Minister Villocch resigned this afternoon claiming lack of presidential support. Succeeded by Ruben De Leon congressman from Oriente Comatough former go between for Grauto Army. This inf A-2 reliability. Change is direct result present unrest and confusion.

End

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: CG AAF

OSS
Log

CM-IN-4111 (5 Jan 45) DTG 042355Z aj

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 202 and 203 or (b)
OSS letter, May 8, 1972
By DBS Date APR 17 1973

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
OPERATIONS DIVISION WDOS
American Theater WDO/PD
OPD 336 Panama (3 Jan 45)
332Lt Col Dubois Subject:
Resume of Pol Sit in Panama
(and withdrawal of Mil Per from
Panama City and Colon during
alert).

3 January 1945

Commanding General
Caribbean Defense Command
Quarry Heights, Canal Zone

Number: WAR 89776

For Brett from Marshall.

What is status of alert. U. S. 29413 dtd 31 December stated
alert would be called off at 1200 R 31 December but confirma-
tion is lacking.

End.

ORIGINATOR: OPD
INFORMATION: CO AAF

CM-OUT-89776 (Jan 45) DTG 042232Z sum

CM-89776

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
COPY NO. 33
NAVAL MESSAGE

DRAWER: COH 15
RELEASED BY:
DATE: 2 JAN 1945
TOR CODEROOM: 0907
DECODED BY: GEARY
TYPED BY: LYON
ROUTED BY: VOSBURGH

ONI

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DELETED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.

020243 NCR 3662

ONI

COM 15 SENDS TO ONI.

RELIABLY REPORTED CABINET REF HYDIS 312212 ACCEPTED POST.

SWORN IN AFTERNOON 31 DECEMBER. 14 OPPOSITION DEPUTIES STILL REGISTERED TIVOLI HOTEL. AUTHORITIES RULE NO POLITICAL MEETINGS (4 OR MORE PERSONS) PERMITTED IN CANAL ZONE. MINOR RUINANCE INCIDENTS REPORTED PROBABLY PERPETRATED MEMBERS NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS NOW BEING RECOGNIZED DEFINITE FORCE AND FACTOR.

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11052, Sec. 8(b) and 8(d) or (E)
OSD letter, May 8, 1973
By DBS Data APR 17 1973

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAV REGS.)

020243
Correct name of Minister of Finance and Treasury is Victor M. Tejeira instead of Alonzo Tejeira. Demetrio Forrest, leader of faction Socialist Party supporting Government has been named minister without portfolio. To date, no assurance that coalition cabinet has accepted posts. Fourteen deputies national assembly offered compromise of Eduardo De Alba as first designate in return for resignation of president, latter refused. Alba head of National Bank of Panama and has practically no political affiliations. Thirty three prominent Panamanians requested presidents resignation in favor Eduardo Chiri. Brother-in-law of president carried suggestion to president himself. President refused this request also. This group of "Notables" included chiefs of parties who have supported President De La Guardia until 31 December 1944. Situation remains calm but tense and only passive resistance noted during last 24 hours consisted of throwing rocks in street. Reason for calm may be holidays one and two January. Youth Congress will continue sessions indefinitely. Reported reason Government has not closed University permanently is due to fact that National University also houses Interamerican University which receives support from other Governments besides Panama and therefore has international character.