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DELETIONS, IF ANY: THIRD AGENCY MATERIAL 

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This office has not reported specifically on the FEU during the past several weeks because little has transpired. It is likely that within the next few weeks the election problem will be cleared up.
1. The FBU which should by now have completed its election in the thirteen schools is in a state of complete disorganization. Although a new president to succeed Enrique Oviedo was to have been elected in August, a series of incidents have postponed elections in two of the thirteen schools. These two schools now have provisional presidents which has delayed the election of a University Council.

2. The recent police raid on the Agronomy School has complicated the situation since Jose Favela, who was arrested at that time, was President of the School of Agronomy and a candidate for the FBU presidency.

3. (NAME], President of the School of Medicine, and Reulio Castellanos, President of the Law School, were also detained after the killing of Gustavo Mejia, who was President of the Alumni Association of the Social Sciences School.

4. Students of the schools affected will have to call meetings to ratify the position of the provisional presidents and to take some action concerning those schools where the president has been placed under police detention.

5. Communists have two strong leaders in Walterio Carbonell, a colored student of the Law School, and Lionel Soc, President of the Philosophy and Literature School.
Beyond any doubt the FLN is badly organized at the present time. This office has not reported the student arrests referred to in the body of this report as the action taken by the Government was purely overt. It is certain that effective aid or counsel given the FLN leaders during the next few weeks by anti-communists would be of real significance in the future course of FLN activities.
Subject:edly disrupted on eve Report No. TAC-079
of Elections Schedule for
November 1949 Date of Information: Oct 1949.
Place: Havana, Cuba Date Acquired: 17-21 Oct 1949.
Source: ALBIVALENT

1. The recent arrests of many of its leaders has completely
demoralized the CENTRAL STUDENT UNION (SAPAN),
which has now scheduled elections for its Central Committee
for November 1949. The anti-communist group retains con-
trol of seven of the University's thirteen schools. The
Communists have adequate control in four or five of the
other six and claim that they control all six of them.

2. Leonardo SOTO, Alfredo JUAREZ, and Baubilo CASTELLANO,
formerly anti-communists, now are considered leaders of
the left side, Pedro PINTO and Orlando Prias—both of
whom are under arrest—Jose MATAZ, Belen JUAREZ, and
Enrique OVARAS (who appears to have lined himself up
definitely with the anti-communists after a long period
of indecision) are among the principal leaders of the
anti-communist faction.

3. There has been a more or less clearly defined break be-
tween these two groups as a result of the recent student
arrests. OVARAS feels that the FEU has the moral obliga-
tion to defend MIRAZU, BOSCH and other student leaders.
The Communist faction, which is in the happy position of
having denounced gangsterism in the FEU for some time,
is against coming to the defense of the arrested leaders.
This cleavage has resulted in a series of press releases—
both FEU leaders on both sides which have been in-
the news daily.

4. Meanwhile, the FEU is completely disrupted on the eve of
its November elections, and the FEU University Council
has not been able to exercise control over the student
body. Almost half of the thirteen schools are now without
presidents and elections will have to be held in these
departmental elections before the Consejo Directivo can be named
in November.

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5. The Communist youth leaders have a present advantage as they can point to their past attacks on gangsterism in the FEU. They originally opposed this type of activity because it was often directed against themselves, and was under the control of acknowledged anti-Communists. The death of student leader JPTIA, and the subsequent arrests now permit the Communists to point to their past opposition to such activities to their present advantage. This comes simultaneously with a general student body feeling that the FEU should not concern itself with such problems as the recent boasting of bus fares. The Communist leaders have also begun a popular campaign in opposition to the proposed loan in which they have been joined by a great many non-Communist groups in opposition to the government. Within Aranil TA-UAD, a relatively unimportant FEU leader, is organizing popular manifestations against the loan.

6. Although the Communist strength in each school is numerically weak, it is well organized and the anti-Communists, faced with an early election, fear that the present disorganization may result in additional control for the Communist faction. This has caused the anti-Communists some concern, but it is too early to tell what the results will be in November as they will depend almost entirely upon who is elected to the presidency of the several schools between now and then and upon student activity during the next few weeks. It is during these weeks that the anti-Communists could by hard work eliminate nearly all of the Communists from the Consejo Directivo. If they do not work energetically, Communists may regain some of the seven schools now in the hands of anti-Communists.
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References discussed some of the developments at the University during September and October and referred to the AGRUE School raid. The killing in mid-September of the student Mijael and the resultant raids by the police on the School of Agronomy, when arms were confiscated and 15 persons were arrested (10 of whom were later sentenced to short prison terms) were shortly followed by the arrest of some 75 individuals under the "Ley de Genocidismo" and accused of belonging to illegal organizations and of "genocide." Among those arrested was Orlando Weeks, President of the School of Medicine student association, who was one of ten of the latter group sentenced to one year in prison. This created a great deal of furor among the third or revolutionary group mentioned in this report, and also led to the creation by the pro-communist second group of the CONITE 30 de SETIEMBRE as a basis for protest of the arrest of WEECS and ten other students.

These happenings were in part responsible for the changes made by the University Council in the election regulations, and the Currellia action brought about the quarrels that resulted in splitting up the student body.

The raids, the arrests, trials and later developments at the University have been partially covered by the press but the Embassy, to date, has not reported on this situation. It is believed that Headquarters should be cognizant of the inner workings of the various University factions as outlined by AMENADEH.
During the last few weeks, virtual chaos has ensued at the University of Havana. The students have divided into three groups: pro-communist, anti-communist, or revolutionary.

The first group has adopted the name "Havana Revolutionaries," from which has come the name "Revolution." This group has agreed to submit to the University regulations approved by the authorities, with the one exception that the regulations should be amended to allow for direct voting by the students for the Student Executive Council. They will submit their own candidates for the council, scheduled for 26 November 1940.

The second group of pro-communists is led by Severo Peña, President of the School of Philosophy; and Pedro Agramonte, President of the School of Dentistry. They have also appointed a pro-communist as President of the School of Medicine, the School of Social Sciences, and the School of Pharmacy.

The third group, anti-communist or revolutionary, which constitutes a majority on campus, includes the Director of the Havana University, as well as the majority of the school presidents.

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The University Council, upon receipt of the announcement of non-participation of the third group, stated that any but the authorized elections would be declared null and void. The statutes setting up University autonomy provide that elections of school delegates to be valid must be held in the presence of the professors of the individual schools, and that elections for President of the school must be held in the presence of the Dean of that school.

On 12 November the third group called a general meeting of the student body to protest the elections. This was a complete failure with only a handful of the students turning out for it. OYAES announced the meeting canceled and urged the students to another general meeting on 23 November.

The University Council on 23 November announced that the election rules and the election date would not be changed. The general meeting at FEU was held the same day in the Plaza del Rector Cadena at the University, following the announcement of the University Council. Donaldo Soto addressed the students, pointing out that the new regulations, especially Article 10, were illegal. Mauricio CASTELLANOS and Agustín CLAVIJO also spoke and Enrique GAVANOS, seconding the motion of Benito ABAD, for action rather than words, directed the students to take over the schools. This was done immediately and the students occupied eight of the schools within a short time.

This action was publicly opposed by PROFESORES because they claimed (a) the meeting was called for all students but the representatives of all groups were not allowed to state their stand prior to the outbreak of violence; (b)
The majority of the students were not in favor of the disturbance at the University. They were concerned for the reputation of the University. These disturbances were considered as only serving the interest of the students in the University as indicated in the past.

Later the next day, the University Council met and it was decided that the disturbances were not acceptable. The students were represented the revolutionary group of the University. The Council stated that the disturbances were not acceptable and that they would not consider any other matters at this time.

Also, there was an independent group from the School of Law led by the PNU LULAC, a body that addressed the scheduled elections but insisted they should continue to work for amendments to the election rules. Another group from the School of Philosophy and Letters stated before the University Council that, although they were not entirely in accord with the PNU directors, they would join in any strike led by them for the modification of the regulations.

The PNU then submitted in writing their demands containing 14 points, among them the change in election system, necessity for unanimous approval of officials, postponement of elections to 10 December, and a number of other clauses that concern the operation of the University.

The next day, 24 November, the PNU still had control of six of the eight schools taken and the University Council decided for the elections to be delayed. The Council decided to remain in permanent session but no date was set for the elections.

The students are aware that the leaders of both PNU factions, the revolutionaries and the pro-communists, are principally responsible for the school scandals; that not only student organizations but the students themselves have been damaged by the foolish and lawless tactics of those leaders; and that scholastic programs cannot be made so long as the present situation exists. Although the revolutionaries, with the help of the communists, were successful in their attempt to postpone the elections.
DevOps at the Federación Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU) at this time are of continuing interest. The organization itself receives a great deal of day-to-day publicity in view of its campaign against the high cost of living and the bus fare situation in particular. It is now obvious that the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP), which has not had very much luck in the past few months, has finally found an organization which it hopes to be able to control by infiltration and thereafter dictate its policy. Later developments will be reported.
SYNOPSIS

Enrique OVARES has once more taken over FEU presidency from Justo FUENTES, and several pro-Communist leaders have regained power in FEU. Meetings between FEU leaders and PFP officials have resulted in dominance of weak FEU leaders by PFP.

DETAILS

1. It has been recently reported that Justo FUENTES, who had taken over the leadership of the Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU) from Enrique OVARES, was about to lose his post. One of the main reasons was that he had been unable to control FEU handling of the bus fare problem which had come principally under control of FEU leaders who follow the PARTIDO SOCIALISTA POPULAR (PSP) line.

2. FUENTES was removed from the presidency. "Pueblo," a newspaper, as late as 7 October 1948, referred to him as the president; but "Iloc" for 17 October has a long statement on the bus fare situation signed by Justo FUENTES CLAYE, Vice President of the FEU. "Pueblo" of 14 October 1948 noted that ENRIQUE OVARES, who had been enjoying a vacation, had once more taken over the presidency.

3. Not only did Enrique OVARES take over the presidency, but other student leaders who followed the PSP line appeared to have gained ascendency once more. Alfredo GUEVARA once again occupies the post of Secretary of Foreign Relations of the FEU, to which post he is not properly entitled.

4. On October 15, a group of FEU leaders had a conference with PPI concerning the bus fare situation, and among the FEU delegates were Orlando FROCH, Gustavo BENIAS, Pedro MIRAZU, and Baudilio CASTELLANOS, all of whom have been previously.
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considered anti-Communist. However, Lázaro López, Luis Alfonso Gómez, and Alfredo Ortiz were also delegates, and these individuals are considered to be pro-Communist. It had therefore become apparent by this time that the anti-Communists did not have as complete control of all FEU offices as they had had before the bus fare problem arose.

5. The principal reason for the loss of control has been the willingness of Lázaro, Luis, and other FEU leaders to meet with Luis Alfonso, Matías, and other P-R officials in a joint effort to control the bus fare increase. It is recently been reported that FEU leaders have enlarged their discussions to include national problems that would interest the students as much as the workers.

6. These reunions have continued, and Lázaro FEU is reported to have remarked at such a recent meeting that there were many problems that called for the attention of "progressive and civic forces." He suggested the organization of committees composed of the same groups that had fought so well against the bus fare increase—that is, the FEU, the P-R, some of the PNC Ortodoxos of Eduardo Arosemena, and students of the secondary schools, in order that these committees could turn their attention to other problems as soon as the Omnibus Alidos question is dissolved. They have already announced a campaign against high electric charges. In general, the entire attack against the high cost of living has permitted the P-R to take over civic movements which have some merit and which were instituted by anti-Communists.

7. A meeting is presently planned for 26 October 1948 in Parque Central and this meeting, as well as other similar activities, will only bring closer together FEU and P-R officials. The anti-Communists connected with the FEU still hope to regain control, but they suffer at the present time from weak leaders who have played into the hands of the Communists.

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In the home of Blanca Hernández, Cuban police have formed counter-revolutionary movement on Saturday. The mother of the student leader who participated in the July 26 movement, Mrs. Blanca Hernández, has been arrested and sent to prison. Mrs. Hernández, who is married to a student leader, has been a member of the local revolutionary committee. She was arrested on Saturday morning and taken to the prison in Havana.

The arrest of Mrs. Hernández is just one of many recent arrests of student leaders and their families. The Cuban government has been cracking down on the student movement, arresting dozens of leaders and their relatives. The government claims that the students are involved in counter-revolutionary activities, but critics say that the government is using the arrests as a way to silence opposition.

The July 26 movement was a massive nationwide uprising that began on July 26, 1953, when student leaders and others demanded the resignation of Fulgencio Batista, who had been in power since 1952. The students were supported by thousands of workers and members of the Cuban middle class. The movement was crushed by the military, but it inspired future generations of Cubans to fight for change.

Today, the Cuban government continues to resist pressure from the international community to stop the arrests of student leaders and their families. The Cuban government says that it is fighting a war against terrorism, but critics say that the government is using the war on terrorism as an excuse to silence political opponents.