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From: Havana, Cuba Report No: TGH-957 Local File No: 10-19

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Report Made By: G.M. SCORVILLE/a/m Approved By: G.M. SCORVILLE *Conf*

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Source Classification: *ALBIVALENT* References: TGH-911

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

COMMENTS

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.

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Classification

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201-299292
14-42-415

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Subject: Incidents Such as Killing of Gustavo MEJIA (September 1949) Force Continued Postponement of FEU Elections.

Report No: **TEH-957**

Date of Information: September 1949

Place Acquired: Havana, Cuba

Date Acquired: September 23, 1949

Evaluation: B-1

Date of Report: 24 September 1949

Source: **AMBIVALENT**

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1. The FEU 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 OVALLES 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 José ~~MEJIA~~, who was arrested at that time, was President of the School of Agronomy and a candidate for the FEU presidency.
3. ~~Alonso ROSCO~~, President of the School of Medicine, and Baudilio 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 SOTO, President of the Philosophy and Literature School.

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1949-11-11

CC

Subject: FEU Badly Disrupted on Eve Report No: TKH-979.
of Elections Scheduled for
November 1949

Date of Information: Oct 1949.

Place Acquired: Habana, Cuba.

Date Acquired: 4-17-21 Oct 1949.

Evaluation: B-2.

Date of Report: 27 Oct 1949.

Source: AMBIVALENT

1. The recent arrests of many of its leaders has completely demoralized the FEDERACION ESTUDIANTIL UNIVERSITARIA (FEU) which has now scheduled elections for its Central Committee for November 1949. The anti-Communist group retains control 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. Leonel SOTO, Alfredo GUEYARA and Baubillo CASTELLANOS, formerly anti-Communists, now are considered leaders of the left side. Pedro MIRAZU, Orlando BOSCH, both of whom are under arrest, José M. ROIZ, Bel JUAREZ and Enrique OVARES, 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 between these two groups as a result of the recent student arrests. OVARES feels that the FEU has the moral obligation 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 by several FEU leaders on both sides which have been in the news daily.
4. Meantime, 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 several schools before the Consejo Directivo can be named in November.

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1949-10-27FORM NO. 81-55
FEB 1955

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Report No. TFE-379.
27 Oct 1949.

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, ~~WILLIAM~~ and the subsequent arrests now permit the Communists to point to their past opposition to such activities, ~~to their great advantage~~. This comes simultaneously with a general student body feeling that the FEU should not concern itself with such problems as the recent boosting 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. ~~WILLIAM~~ Aramis TAMOADA, 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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X of SO 26733
 XX of SO 30145
 XXX *James Communist* This change has resulted
 in a number of *young politicians* by several
 FEU leaders in work with what
 has been an *ideological* daily

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Student Elections, Havana
 25 Nov 49, Portonord
 Subject: Suspended Intelligently at
 University of Havana to Facilitate
 Differences between Student Elec-
 tions and University Council.
 Place Acquired: Havana, Cuba.
 Report No: 100-1000.
 Date of Information: Nov 1949.
 Date Acquired: 14-21 Nov 1949.
 Evaluation: Pars. 1-6 & 13, 15. Date of Report: 25 Nov 1949.
 Sources: ALBIVALENT Pars. 1-6 incl., 13.
 PRESS Pars. 1-6 incl., 13.

1. During the last few weeks at the University of Havana, a great chaos has reigned at three groups--pro-Catholic, pro-communist and anti-communist or revolutionary.
2. The first group has adopted the name "PRO-REVOLUCIONARIO" and is using as its slogan "PRO-REVOLUCIONARIO". The popular name used in reference to the group, "PRO-REVOLUCIONARIO", has agreed to submit to new regulations approved by the University Council in relation to requirements for student officers, with the one exception that the regulations should be amended to include direct voting by the students for the Student Executive Council. PRO-REVOLUCIONARIO will submit their own candidates for council. PRO-REVOLUCIONARIO will be scheduled for 25 November 1949 by the University Council.
3. The second group of pro-communists is led by Leonel [redacted] communist President of the School of Philosophy and Letters; Francisco [redacted] School of Philosophy and the School of Dentistry; [redacted] pro-communist President of acting President of the School of Medicine; [redacted] pro-communist acting President of the School of Medicine substituting for Orlando BOSCH who is still under arrest; [redacted] pro-communist acting President of the School of Social Sciences substituting for Pedro [redacted] also under arrest; Baudilio [redacted] for Pedro [redacted] also President of the School of [redacted] now pro-communist pro-communists are not in complete accord with the regulations of the University Council, especially in regard to the manner of voting. Nevertheless, they will also participate in the 25 November elections, submitting their own list of candidates.
4. The third group, anti-communist or revolutionaries, which constitutes a majority of the Directing Council of the FEU counting among them several of the school presidents.

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Report No: TFE-1000.

Date 28 Nov 1949.

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has refused to cooperate in the calling elections and has announced that they will hold separate elections on the 26th of November, the day following that set by the University Council. The reason for this stand is the same objection presented by the other two groups, i.e., elections to the Executive Council should be by direct vote of the student body rather than by delegates of each school, and voting should be made obligatory for all students. Enrique OVARÉS, President of the 2d, is the leading figure in this group, and he and his friends have been the cause of much of the disorder that has existed in the University during the last few months.

5. 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.
6. 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. OVARÉS announced the meeting canceled and urged the students to another general meeting on 23 November.
7. The University Council on 23 November announced that the election rules and the election date would not be changed. The general meeting of FEU was held the same day in the Plaza del Rector Cadenas at the University, following the announcement of the University Council. Leonel SOTO addressed the students, pointing out that the new regulations, especially Article 10, were illegal. Baudilio CASTELLANOS and Agustín CLAYIJO also spoke and Enrique OVARÉS, seconding the action of Benito RESADA 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.
8. This action was publicly opposed by PRO DIGNIDAD 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)

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Report No. 75-1040

Date 10 Nov 1958

(The validity of the demands were not in order of the students (a) the Faculty was concerned not for the sake of the students' policy decisions but for their own only and, therefore, the action of the Faculty in accepting the demands was illegal.

9. Later the same day, 23 November, the University Council gave hearings to the various factions' complaints. A plane represented the revolutionary group of the P.U. and stated their opposition to the new regulations and suggested other changes to be made in the University. Rector Clarence J. Hall replied that the students had been invited to present their case merely out of courtesy and that other matters could not be considered at this time.
10. Also heard was an independent group from the School of Law who, like the P.U. LIGI, agreed to accept the scheduled elections but insisted they could 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 P.U. directors, they would join in any strike led by them for the modification of the regulations.
11. The P.U. 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.
12. The next day, 24 November, the P.U. still had control of six of the eight schools taken and the University Council announced that elections scheduled for the 25th would not be held and that all classes were suspended to prevent violence. The Council decided to remain in permanent session but no date was set for the elections.
13. The students are aware that the leaders of both P.U. 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 progress 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,

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Form **FORM 1**, **CONFIDENTIAL** Report on **ICE-575** Local File No: **10-19**

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Report made by **GEORGE E. SOMERVILLE** Approved by **GEORGE E. SOMERVILLE**

Distribution:
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Copy to: **SECRET**
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 [Handwritten initials]

Source Cryptonym: **AMBIVALENT** References: **TIC-560**

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

Summary

Developments within 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 appears 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 conquer by infiltration and thereafter dictate its policy. Later developments will be reported.

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19-4-22

Political Matter
 Subject: ~~Federación Estudiantil~~ ~~Universitaria (FEU)~~ ~~Source: TCM-375~~
 Date of Information: October 23, 1948
 Date acquired: October 25, 1948
 Collection: F-3 Date of Report: October 26, 1948
 Source: Paragraph 1 - TCM-560 (AMBIVALENT)
 Paragraph 2 - The Press
 Paragraphs remaining - AMBIVALENT

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 PSP officials have resulted in domination of weak FEU leaders by PSP.

DETAILS

1. It has been recently reported that Justo FUENTES, who had taken over the leadership of the Federación 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" newspaper, as late as 7 October 1948, referred to him as the president; but "Hoy" for 17 October has a long statement on the bus fare situation signed by Justo FUENTES CLAVEL, 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 have followed the PSP line appeared to have gained ascendancy 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 PRIO concerning the bus fare situation, and among the FEU delegates were Orlando BOSCH, Gustavo MEJIAS, Pedro MIRAZU, and Baudillo CASTELLANOS, all of whom have been previously

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TIE-775
October 20, 1948

considered anti-Communist. However, Lionel OTA, Arnaldo, and Alfredo 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 Pineda and other FEU leaders to meet with Lasso, Segura, and other PSP officials in a joint effort to combat the bus fare increase. It has recently been reported that PMA enlarged these discussions to include national problems that would interest the students as much as the workers.

6. These reunions have continued, and Lasso PMA 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 PSP, some of the PUC Ortodoxos of Eduardo, and students of the secondary schools, in order that these committees could turn their attention to other problems as soon as the Omnibus Aliados 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 PSP 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 PSP 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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MIAMI, Florida, Fla.

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including 'NA 1000' and 'Cuba 1000'.

Main body of typed text containing a detailed report on a subject's background, including mentions of 'Union Insurreccional Revolucionaria' and 'Fidel CASTRO'.