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Ambrddy 1-201

2 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Manuel Artime and Manolin Hernandez - 1 April 1963

1. The evening of 1 April 1963 I received a telephone call from Artime saying that he was in town and desired to felicitate my wife on the occasion of her birthday. I, of course, invited him to come to my home and he arrived in due course with Manolin Hernandez, his one-time Deputy in the MRR.
2. Artime said that he had just returned from a long trip through the countries of Central America, that he was bringing a message from Luis Somoza for Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and had an appointment to see the latter on 2 April. Artime said also that he was scheduled to appear on a nation-wide Television Program on the morning of 4 April from New York City - the "Today" show, I believe - and after he had seen the Attorney General he was leaving for New York to prepare for the program.
3. He remarked appreciatively that he had been gratified to find his barracks bag intact and said that he was wearing the shoes that he had put into the barracks bag when he last packed it in my operational quarters in Coconut Grove. The fact that he had been able to regain his possessions from us after his long imprisonment impressed Artime with the thoughtfulness and integrity of the bags' custodians.
4. After his New York Television appearance, Artime is considering going to Spain to talk with Franco. His apparent contact with the Spanish Government is via the one-time Spanish Charge' in Havana (whose name escaped me) but who Artime said, was at one time of great assistance to [redacted] in Havana. I told Artime that Mr. Franco was probably too preoccupied with the base renewal negotiations with the U.S. Government to be very interested in materially assisting any undertaking against Castro. Artime said he had heard that [redacted] was now in Madrid and I said that if Artime wanted to check, all he had to do was to call the Embassy in Madrid upon arrival. Artime was hopeful that his parents would be permitted to leave Cuba for Spain in the not-too-distant future, and has had some dealings with Spanish diplomatic representatives to that end.

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5. Referring to the just-announced capture of 17 raiders at Norman Cay, Artime indicated that he was not particularly exercised over them as individuals, but hoped the U.S. would not be tricked into the position of being "what Castro described as a protector of Russia and Cuba against exile raiders." Of the exiles restricted to the Dade County area, our only mutual acquaintance was Pedro Diaz Lanz whom we agreed had for some time been so uncontrollable as to raise serious doubts as to his mental stability. For his part, Artime said, he hoped that he would not be served with a restriction notice since, if he was, he would depart the U.S. permanently with an attendant blast of publicity.

6. I asked about Jose Perez San Roman and learned from Artime that Pepe had suffered a mental breakdown, that the Robert Kennedys had rented a home for Pepe, his wife and two children in the McLean area and that Artime had been with them during the day when Mrs. Kennedy had come to the San Roman home and seen Artime. Artime learned that the San Roman children were driven to and from school by the Kennedys. (It turns out that the Kennedy children, my three children, and Pepe's two all attend the same parochial school on MacArthur Blvd., so it is not unlikely that Pepe's children will seek mine out as the only other Spanish-speaking children in the school.)

7. When I asked Artime what had brought about San Roman's breakdown he indicated that it was the result of conflicts arising from marital unhappiness and pressures on him by the U.S. Govt. to persuade the Brigade to enlist in the U.S. Army. San Roman apparently feels in retrospect that he should have evacuated the Brigade from the beachhead rather than sacrificing it. Artime said that San Roman was somewhat resentful over the fact that his psychiatric bill was being paid by Miro Cardona, regarding it a way of making him indebted to Miro. (In the context, I judged that Pepe viewed Miro as a symbol of the CRC.)

8. Artime also said that he had seen Ydigoras Fuentes and Roberto Alejos in Guatemala and he suggested that Peralta's coup had been amicably arranged with Ydigoras. I inferred that Artime had also seen Peralta on his just-completed trip.

9. Manolin Hernandez asked me about a certain "Col. Earl Brennan" who, he said, was living or had lived at the Sheraton-Park Hotel and who was moving through the Cuban exile community looking for dark-skinned Cubans to be used in Haiti against

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Duvalier. According to Hernandez, Brennan asserts that his activity is backed by the White House, his link being via Ambassador David Bruce. Brennan's come-on apparently, is to tell former Brigade members that if they help overthrow Duvalier, Haiti will be at their disposal for whatever action they care to take against Castro.

10. In answer to their question, I said that I had not known Brennan in OSS in his self-described role, although it was entirely possible that Brennan, like many other officers, had actually served in OSS in one way or another. And I pointed out that Dave Bruce had been Chief of our operations in ETO.

11. Hernandez commented that since the first of the year he had been queried by both Jose Miro Cardona and Jose Ignacio Rasco (MDC) as to whether I ("Eduardo") was still in the U.S. and had denied any knowledge of my whereabouts.

12. By this time it was 2 o'clock in the morning, the three of us had downed a fifth of Scotch and we regrouped in the kitchen where I prepared breakfast for all. Before leaving, Arttime said he would call me after he had seen the Attorney General.



HOWARD HUNT
Chief
DO/OPRP

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