

25 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with ANCORE-2

On 19 November 1968 ZEEPHAT wearing disguise, using the name [John Kennington,] and introducing himself as a Headquarters representative met with ANCORE-2. The meeting held in a Key Colony Motel cottage on Key Biscayne was also attended by William S. WIBALDA. The purpose of the meeting was to bring ANCORE-2's propaganda output into line with Station objectives and to confirm WIBALDA's authority as his NOFIRM case officer.

ZEEPHAT said that he had come to Miami to talk with the persons that NOFIRM had chosen to continue its propaganda activities concerning Cuba. The prime spokesmen upon whom NOFIRM relied for this purpose are AMSTRUT-2 and ANCORE-2. The reason he wanted to talk to these persons was to ensure that they understood what the desired line is and that they speak with one voice. NOFIRM sponsored propaganda toward and concerning Cuba had been subject to the inevitable process of erosion that accompanies any situation of political stalemate. NOFIRM would like to get a simple message across to Cuba, i.e. NOFIRM accepts the necessity for continuing social progress throughout the Hemisphere and that it, therefore, has no interest in a return to the pre-revolutionary days with the accompanying stagnation of that era in Cuban domestic politics but would like to see a situation where progress across the board was possible - in short the situation that Fidel promised but then corrupted.

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ANCORE-2 began his presentation by saying he had been asked to take lines and follow tactics in his propaganda that were unacceptable to him:

1. He had been asked to say "good things" about Castro. This he could not do as it would represent a "leftist" line that would be a departure from his established public position and would constitute an abandonment of his policy against identifying himself with any ideological line - left, center, or right.

2. He questioned the wisdom of discussing events outside of Cuba since he felt constrained by the presence of military governments in Nicaragua, Peru, Panama and Argentina that would find applause for liberal developments offensive. He said he had been tailoring his material for general ill consumption rather than for Cuban audiences because he felt his present major vehicle, Radio Libertad, was not received in Cuba.

In response ZEEPHAT suggested that ANCORE-2's 1958-59 efforts to raise money to buy arms and planes for Castro and his public support for Fidel in 1959-60 belied his claim to being neuter politically. In any event, the matter of an ideological tag was semantic - the issue was his willingness to espouse the same sentiments and aspirations for reform and change that he stood for ten years ago. ANCORE-2 said this would be no problem for him and would permit him to claim a consistency of position. ZEEPHAT explained that his target, as for ANSTRUT-2 and all of us, is Cuba first and foremost. The target is a selected rather than a mass one. Because of this, ANCORE-2's present vehicles, i.e. his broadcasts on HQBA and his writing for Diario were well suited for our purposes as we have reason to believe that this limited target group watch very carefully what is said by persons they consider to be unofficial spokesmen in Miami. These are good starting places while we look for additional outlets should the product warrant them. ANCORE-2 agreed to renew his treatment of the theme of the betrayed revolution, criticizing events in Cuba only in the context of when and where they fail to live up to the promises of 1959; citing examples of positive achievement elsewhere for comparison with the absence of conditions permitting similar progress in Cuba; and encouraging the Havana political establishment to take stock of what would be possible if Fidel weren't frustrated by the repressive development. He made a pitch for a WOPIRM grant to Radio Libertad to permit it to increase its power. The pitch was deferred. He also raised the question of whether the Mexican Government's policy on Cuba was a fair subject for attack. ZEEPHAT said that he preferred that ANCORE-2 concentrate on the more positive program outlined above rather than taking on the policies of a government with which this country maintained a close relationship. He also said that ANCORE-2's scripts concerning U.S. domestic politics and personalities, e.g. attacking Senator Fulbright, urging votes for Mr. Nixon and discussing the policies of the two major parties, were totally unacceptable as they violated the operating charter of WOPIRM. ZEEPHAT closed by underscoring WTHALDA's role as the WOPIRM coordinator of radio activities conducted by ANCORE-2, ANSTRUT-2, AMRAZOR-1 and AMLYRIC-1. These discussions were friendly and easy. The implementation is as unpredictable as the personality of this vain and ambitious man.

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