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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BIOGRAPHIC REPORT

NAME VARONA Loreda, Manuel A. (Dr.)

CASE No.
DATE 13 February 1951

NATIONALITY

Cuban *VIP*

BIRTHDATE 25 November 1908
BIRTHPLACE Camaguey, Cuba

PRESENT POSITION President of the Cuban Senate

RACE

SEX

LOCATION Habana, Cuba

MARITAL STATUS

NAME OF SPOUSE Enelina Luis Sanchez

GEN. OCCUPATION Politician

CHILDREN

EDUCATION LL. D.

RELIGION

POLITICAL AFFILIATION Autentico

LANGUAGES

ATTITUDE TOWARDS: U.S.

HONORS

U.S.S.R.

CAREER:

- 1946- — Autentico Senate Committee Vice President.
- 1947- — Vice Secretary of the Section of Dramatic Art and Cinema of the Cuban-Soviet Institute of Cultural Relations.
- 1948- — Senator from Camaguey (Autentico-Republican Alliance).

REMARKS:

The man who is popularly known as "Tony" was one of the organizers of the famous University Students' Directorate in 1929. Always persistent in the struggle against Machado, Varona was imprisoned on numerous occasions. After the fall of Machado he collaborated with Grau, Prío and others in organizing the Autentico Party. In 1935 he became Chief of Organization for the Autenticos, and wielded tremendous power in the Camaguey Autentico political machine, known as the TOGA, which has been reported involved in kidnapping, graft, and related practices.

Varona was a strong supporter of President Grau during the latter's administration and was considered one of Prío's closest friends.

Endued with the same revolutionary spirit as his anti-Machado colleagues, Varona, as early as 1921 had formed the Asociación de Estudiantes del Instituto de Camaguey and in 1930 he was a member of the Directorio Estudiantil Universitario. In the summer of 1947 Varona actively participated in the abortive attempt against the Dominican Republic.

Although Varona does not have a good reputation, he is clever, and upon assuming the post of Prime Minister, it was expected that he would help restore parliamentary government in Cuba.

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- 2 -VARONA Loreda, Manuel A. (Continue:)Remarks:

On the question of Cuban economy, Varona favors a diversification in Cuban industry. He stated that it would seem advantageous to the United States to keep at present minimum levels the threat of Communist influence in the Western Hemisphere by such measures as a more liberal, assured quota for Cuban sugar in the United States.

Varona's former wife is the private secretary to President Frio. It is reported that he is somewhat handicapped by his present wife, Melina Enisanchez who is of questionable background. 1/

In September 1947, he was one of the senators urging the motion, which was later passed, to vote for the diplomatic isolation of the Franco Government and for the recognition of the Republican Government in exile. 2/

During the eight days in August 1950 that Varona was acting Minister of Labor he accomplished several startling and important acts. He signed decrees authorizing the intervention of the Communist news organs Boh and America Deportiva.

He stated publicly that the Government contemplated action which would remove all Communists from labor organizations.

Soon after he was named Minister of the Interior in September 1950, it was rumored that de Varona would stay on permanently as Minister of the Interior and be replaced as Prime Minister. On the other hand there was speculation that de Varona would replace Miguel Suarez Fernandez as President of the Senate, possibly leaving the Cabinet to do so. 3/ This speculation became a reality when de Varona left the office of Prime Minister to accept the Presidency of the Cuban Senate on 6 October 1950. 4/

No photograph is available in Graphics Register, CCD. Procurement action will be initiated upon request.

SOURCES:

- 1/ State BI Files Report, 12 January 1950, Secret.
- 2/ State A 906, Habana, 25 September 1947, Unclassified.
- 3/ State BI Files Report, 3 October 1950, Restricted.
- 4/ State T 133, Habana, 7 October 1950, Restricted.

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 2. TKH-240, 21 Jan 48. S.
 3. State, BID. Biographic Notes, June 1960. C.
 4. State, BID. Biographic Notes, 13 Feb 51. S.
 5. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 369, 30 Aug 51. R.
 6. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 1006, 20 Dec 51. R.
 7. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 1359, 19 Feb 52. C.
 8. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 1592, 28 Mar 52. C.
 9. TKH-1590, 16 May 52. C.
 10. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 2029, 28 May 52. R.
 11. DFB-21648, 13 Oct 52. S.
 12. DFB-27191, 3 Jun 53. S.
 13. 201-78056
 14. State, Habana. Joint Weeks No. 28, 14 Jul 54, p. 2. S.
 15. EKH-1133, 11 Oct 55. S.
 16. State, Habana. Joint Weeks No. 41, 13 Oct 54, p. 2. S.
 17. ²² (HCG-548, 7 Apr 55. S.
 18. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 200, 3 Oct 56. OFF USE.
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 20. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 389, 3 Jan 57. C.
 21. State, Habana. Dsp. no. 671, 10 Apr 57. C.
 22. HAVA-925 (IN 46414), 23 May 57. S.
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23. HAVA-005 (IN 45876), 4 Sep 57. S.
 24. DFB-90341, 20 Sep 57. S.
 25. DFB-00755, 4 Apr 58. S.
 26. Ibid.
 27. State. Memorandum of Conversation, 30 Jan 58. C.
 28. Ibid.
 29. HAVA-244 (IN 13297), 7 Apr 58. S.
 30. State. Memorandum of Conversation, 21 May 58. C.
 31. TDCS-3/423,188, 31 Dec 59. S.
 32. HAVA-3352 (IN 36852), 3 Feb 60. S.
 33. HAVA-3708 (IN 11327), 10 Mar 60. S.
 34. DIR-18573 (OUT 51946), 9 Mar 60. S.
 35. DIR-21796 (OUT 58698), 28 Mar 60. S.
 36. HAVA-4025 (IN 23119), 6 Apr 60. S.
 37. R. Reynolds. Memorandum for the Record, 6 May 60. S.
 38. MIAM-115 (IN 44638), 26 May 60. S.
 39. Miami News, 29 May 60. U.
 40. MASH-0400 (IN 36046), 10 Aug 60. S.
 41. G. Droller. Contact Report, 22 Sept 60. S.
 42. MASH-0826 (IN 18539), 27 Sep 60. S.
 43. TKH-962, 30 Sep 49. S.
 44. State, BID. Biographic Notes, 13 Feb 51. S.
State, Habana. Disp. no. 369, 30 Aug 51. R.
 45. PRQ, Part II, 15 Aug 57. S.
CI/OA File C-64244, 20 Jan 58. S.
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