Ray was born in Cuba in 1924. Because of his outstanding performance as a mine engineer he was granted a scholarship in 1947 by the Cuban Ministry of Public Works to study at the University of Utah. Ray was in the U.S. for two years but did not complete his work for a Master's degree. In 1957 he was appointed Project Manager for the construction of the Havana Hilton Hotel. In May 1957 he organized the Civic Resistance Movement which supervised sabotage and acts of terrorism against the Batista regime. Excel castro appointed him Minister of Public Works in February 1959. For the 1959 electoral campaign he was appointed Chief of Public Security because of his Communist connections. He founded the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP) in 1960, serving as its Chief with the following individuals completing the leadership: Raul Chibas, special assistant to Ray; Juan Esteban Ramiro, secretary; Ramon Bergeron, Military Intelligence; and Regino Carreño, Chief of MRP in Cuba.
Another CIA officer, who met privately with Ray in Nov 1960, stated that his political fortunes were doubtful as far as US Government acceptance was concerned. (CIA DDO-Ray Vol II, Cable to Director from WASH, 11/17/60)
power in Cuba rather than overthrowing Castro (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, Memo for Record, 2 June 1961, Subj: Relations w/ Manolo Ray & the MRP from James A. Bro.) The memo further pointed out that it was believed Ray was so far "left" in his thinking that he would be as dangerous (or more so in the long run) to U.S. interests as Castro, if he ever got to be a power in Cuba. (Italics) Ray submitted a detailed study of a general program to attain the liberation of Cuba whose general thesis was that the MRP believed the best way to represent the aims of the Cuban people is offered by the democratic left (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, 9 June 1961, general program study.)

Ray made his political position very clear during a private meeting with CIA officers on Nov. 15, 1960 (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, Cable to Director from MASH). He said the MRP did not wish to reestablish the 1940 Cuban Constitution and that the Castro laws passed at the beginning of his regime would be promulgated. (Italics) Ray further informed the CIA officers that he believed the state should regulate private investments and utilities should be nationalized. (Italics) Charges of "fidelismo without Fidel" were made against Ray's MRP. (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, Cited Report from Wallace A. Parlett) 10/1/60, Subj: Meeting w/ Juan Castro.
The CIA received information about Ray from prominent exiled Cubans. Ray was described as highly dangerous because of his ambition to play a prominent role in the Cuban government after Castro's overthrow. (CIA/DOC Ray Vol III, Memo for Record - John D. Peters, 11/6/60, Subj: Report on Meeting with Regulo Gonzalez) Mario Cardona was opposed to Ray, believing his program was too Marxist. (CIA/DOC Ray Vol III, Information Report from U.S. citizen, free Cuba writer, part-time sugar broker, 12/22/60) and also said Ray was literally anti-American as well as probably totalitarian in his thinking. (CIA/DOC Ray Vol IV, Memo to S. W. inw. from AR, A.A. March 16, 1961, Subj: Recent Cuban Assessment) Manuel Artime advised that the MRP Ray group, MRP, was opposed to banning the Communist Party and in favor of "nationalizing everything." (CIA/DOC Ray Vol IV, Cable to Bell from JMWAVE, March 1, 1961) Although aware of his controversial stance, Ray was actually recruited to join the FRD by the CIA. (CIA/DOC Ray Vol III, Cable to Director from MASH, 11/17/60) Ray was described as a "natural leader of highest intellect, deepest sincerity and conviction." by his recruiter (Obid) Ray received full operational approval as a political asset on 7 Feb. 1961 (CIA/DOC Ray Vol III) and accepted appointment to the CRC on 27 March 1961 (CIA/DOC Ray Vol IV, Memo for Record 27 May 1961, JG, Gerald Drell, Subj: Ray Accepted Appointment to Council)
On the two-month preceding the assassination of JFK, Ray was traveling in Latin America -

- Honduras -
- Central America -
- Cuba -
- Mexico -

- Ray was in Guatemala City with a CIA contact on November 23rd, 1963. The CIA asked Ray if they could not conduct a surveillance mission to watch Lee Harvey Oswald, who was known to be in the area at the time. Ray agreed to conduct the surveillance, but the CIA asked Ray to report back to them if any suspicious activity was observed.

- Ray was in Mexico City on November 25th, 1963. The CIA asked Ray if he could not conduct a surveillance mission to watch Lee Harvey Oswald, who was known to be in the area at the time. Ray agreed to conduct the surveillance, but the CIA asked Ray to report back to them if any suspicious activity was observed.

- Ray was in Cuba on November 27th, 1963. The CIA asked Ray if he could not conduct a surveillance mission to watch Lee Harvey Oswald, who was known to be in the area at the time. Ray agreed to conduct the surveillance, but the CIA asked Ray to report back to them if any suspicious activity was observed.

- Ray was in Mexico City on November 29th, 1963. The CIA asked Ray if he could not conduct a surveillance mission to watch Lee Harvey Oswald, who was known to be in the area at the time. Ray agreed to conduct the surveillance, but the CIA asked Ray to report back to them if any suspicious activity was observed.
In April of 1964, word was received by the WH division of the CIA that Ray had been closely associated with a known Puerto Rican Communist and was friendly with the Puerto Ricans who were working on the assassination of the White House. The group that tried to assassinate Truman.

(Note: Truman needed at Blair House during the assassination of the White House and assassination attempt was made at Blair House — date?)

(CIA/DDS, Ray: Armero document: Dispatch to Deputy Chief, WH/SA from Chief of Station, JAMWAC, Ltd 14 Apr 1964, with cited, D.F.)

The source of this information was referred to by a cryptonym and when HSCA researchers asked for the identity of the individual, word was received that he was a "current asset" of the CIA so his identity could not be released. Their information was disseminated to the Secret Service (HSCA 000, 290, Item 3: Secret Service Administrative Profile, 7/27/75 on Manuel Ray Rivero, Case #: C02 3315, July 29311) and the FBI (HSCA 000, 496, Item 5, P.1, FBI H 97-8446, memo from (An Juan) [SECRET] 8/12, 1965, Pa: JURE)

Ray's primary activities the first half of 1968 involved infiltration plots into Cuba and are discussed in the JURE section. The failure of the attempt brought Ray's prestige to a new absolute low point among the Cuban exile (CIA/DDS, Ray V9, cable to Director from JAMWAC 6/10/64.)

In an effort to enable JURE to move its activities from U.S. territory, the CIA made a final payment.
To RAPS Group $975,000 for the period 1 Oct - 31 Dec 1964. (EIA/DDO: RAPS Vol VII, Autonomous Operations - Operating Plan.)