

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Content Division DATE: 5 July 1960
ATTN: Support Unit 1A Branch
FROM : Chief, New York Office
SUBJECT: Conversation with Alexander J. Borke, 51 Chambers Street,
New York, N. Y.

1. Haring called on Borke the morning of 5 July 60 as a result of a telephone call from Robert Reynolds, SE Division, who stated that Borke might have information of value concerning Cuba.

2. Borke is a tall, slender, personable man, about 34 years old, who by his own admission is somewhat garrulous. He did not appear to be a sharp operator. Borke described himself as a free lance reporter and photographer who has worked mostly for the National Broadcasting Company on assignment. He says he is also trying to make a living by producing documentary films for television station WNET in New York. He claims that he will shortly finish for them a documentary concerning the various groups which are in opposition to Castro. Borke's business address is the office of his father, an attorney. Biographic data concerning Borke is being forwarded 6 July 60.

3. Borke explained that he knows many people in Cuba and other Caribbean countries as a result of his reportorial work in Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba and other areas, and he says that because of a keen interest in the problem of what can be done about Castro and Communism in Cuba, and his work on the current documentary film, he has been keeping in close touch with various Cuban opposition groups. He insisted on going into his Caribbean background at great length and described in detail his visits to Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba etc. The events he mentioned are all past history now however, and we will not attempt to recount them here.

4. Borke gave all this background merely to try to prove that he is well acquainted with the situation in Cuba and understands the various opposition groups. He then came to his real point which is that he regards Blas Lanz, whom he has seen a great deal of recently, as the most solid of all those who want to take action against Castro. He feels that Lanz is completely able, and is in contact with the right people in the Cuban army and other Cuban organizations who can lead the support when the right time comes. According to Borke, Lanz believes that the job should be done by Cubans from a base outside the US, and that Lanz is brave and resourceful enough to lead a successful action if he is furnished the necessary arms and ammunition. Borke believes, further, that Lanz is politically in the middle of the road, that he is not motivated by hatred and would not bring about a blood bath in Cuba. In short, he feels that Lanz would be with the US all the way.

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HH 6274

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CONFIDENTIAL - Conversation with Alexander P. Burke, a former member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, dated July 19, 1961.

8. In the matter of a base from which to operate, Burke says that he has talked with groups of Cubans and they say that the Soviets will furnish one.

9. In covering Lanza with other figures who are in opposition to Castro, Burke mentioned Fontana, Pedraza and Varona, none of whom he feels compares favorably with Lanza. Varona, for instance, is too far to the left. According to Burke, Lanza has met with 3 different groups in the last few days in New York, all of which promised to join Lanza if he can get the right backing. Burke says that he does not know the names of these groups but can get them if we are interested.

Burke said that he was going to appear with Lanza at 11 PM July 19 on Harry Gray's radio show for a period of about 2 hours. The chief topic of discussion according to Burke will be the anti-semitism of the Castro government. At the end of the week Lanza expects to return to Miami.

Burke stated that he hopes to form an American front committee which Enrique Braden has agreed to head if the right people can be brought into it. The group would have some such name as "Committee to Rescue Latin America from Communism" and Burke believes that this group will have a very small number of participants.

10. While we were in Burke's office he received a telephone call from Diana Alexandria about 1:30 PM. She wanted to report that a warrant had just been issued in Cuba for the arrest of her brother, Manuel Falletier. Manuel described Falletier as a personal aid to Castro whose real job had been to procure women for Castro and his assistants. Falletier had fallen into disfavor as a result of the story of Castro's affair with the Borans girl having appeared in Confidential Magazine.

11. At the end of our interview, Burke handed us the attaché case of 60 pages of Teodoro's case who had been held by Trujillo. All 60 were in jail 2 weeks ago but according to a telegram which Burke claims was received July 17, 1961, one of the men, only 20 and in custody.

12. If there is no interest in the details of Burke's current Cuban contacts, he will be available for questioning.

Handwritten:
Falletier
HM 6244

DISPATCH

Conversation with Alexander J. Horke, 22 Chambers Street, New York, N.Y.

On the matter of a base from which to operate, Horke says that he has talked with agents of Nicaragua and they say that the Berroas will furnish one.

4. In comparing Lanz with other figures who are in opposition to Castro, Horke mentioned Callegas, Guezzis and Varona, none of whom he feels compares favorably with Lanz. Varona, for instance, is too far to the left. According to Horke, Lanz has met with 2 different groups in the last few days in New York, all of which promised to join Lanz if he can get the right backing. Horke says that he does not know the names of these groups but can get them if we are interested.

5. Horke said that he was going to appear with Lanz at 11 PM 5 July 50 on Barry Gray's radio show for a period of about 2 hours. A chief topic of discussion according to Horke will be the anti-sentimentality of the Castro government. At the end of the week Lanz expects to return to Miami.

6. Horke stated that he hopes to form an American front committee which Spruille Braden has agreed to head if the right people can be brought into it. The group would have some such name as "Committee to Oppose Latin America Pro-Communism" and Horke believes that this organization will be formed in the near future.

7. While we were in Horke's office, he received a telephone call from Diana Alaranda about 1:30 PM. She wanted to report that a woman had just been locked in jail for the arrest of her boy, friend Ynez Pelletier. Horke described Pelletier as a personal aid to Castro whose real job had been to procure women for Castro and his assistants. Pelletier had fallen into disfavor as a result of the story of Castro's affair with the Lorenz girl having appeared in Confidential magazine.

8. At the end of our interview, Horke handed us the attached list of 67 names of Padraza's men who had been held by Brufello. All 67 were in jail 2 weeks ago but according to a telegram which Horke claims was received 4 July, from a brother of one of the men, only 20 are in custody now.

9. If there is any interest in the details of Horke's current Cuban contacts, he will be available for questioning.

P. J. ...
MAY 21 1950

HM 6274

Attachment as stated above

RESEARCHED