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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH/4/PM

14 July 1960

SUBJECT: Francisco (Frank) BARDES, Wealthy Cuban
with RR, Sugar and Rice Holdings

1. I interviewed William C. DAVIS, now of ICA and former employee of Subject, regarding BARDES. Attached are OO and CI reports of interviews with DAVIS.

2. In talking to DAVIS, I stressed the subject of BARDES "organization" - how many in it? How organized? What kind of communications? Where located? What is their motivation? DAVIS has no detailed information on it, but said if Frank BARDES gives the word, they would go into action against CASTRO. This certainly looks like a built-in railroad disruption capability, because if BARDES has followers anywhere, it would be on the RR system. Also, the BARDES family name would seem to have political and propaganda value. I asked if there is any BATISTA tie-up and DAVIS said emphatically no. He says BARDES' goal is an anti-Communist regime in Cuba.

3. The arranged plan is for DAVIS' wife to call BARDES (if there is U.S. interest) and say DAVIS is sick. BARDES will then come to Beaumont, Texas, the first part of August for 2 days only and meet DAVIS there.

4. Would like to discuss further with you. This looks like a good possibility of developing a capability in Camaguey and Oriente where we need it badly. Communications either by radio and/or SW appear possible.

D3
[Redacted Signature Box]
WH/4/PM

Attachments: As stated above

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400