

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	CS -311/04268-64
SUBJECT	Comments of Cuban Ambassador to France on Succession to Castro and Personalities in Cuba Who Are Currently the Most Influential	DATE DISTR.	5 October 1964
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22 BY CABLE

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: Cuban businessman in exile who travels abroad frequently and has good access to Cuban diplomatic installations. His reporting has been limited.

In late September 1964 Antonio Carrillo Carreras, Cuban Ambassador to France, made the following comments about succession to Fidel Castro Ruz, and the personalities who are currently the most powerful political figures in Cuba:

- a. In the event of the disappearance of Fidel Castro from the scene, particularly through assassination, Raul Castro Ruz will take over immediately as leader in accordance with an established plan. Raul has the support of the army as well as that of other top Cuban leaders in Fidel's immediate group.
- b. In terms of authority, after Fidel and Raul, President Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado and Industries Minister Ernesto "Che" Guevara Serna follow in that order. Dorticos, who is widely respected in Cuba, now has specific responsibility for guiding the economy. Guevara, in spite of his foreign birth, has popular support and is generally considered a Cuban. Guevara has not failed as Minister of Industries. The difficult functioning of the economy is attributable simply to the fact that many key industries continue to use American equipment for which replacement parts cannot be acquired. Newer plants generally use Soviet and Czech equipment and they are now producing efficiently.

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- c. Celia Sánchez Manduley, Secretary to the Council of Ministers, has influence outside the power line-up because of her intimate relationship with Fidel. Among other figures who are particularly influential now is Emilio Aragónes Navarro, who is Dorticós' homme de confiance.