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REPORT NO: Ic2/724/9774

DATE: 2nd June, 1960.

COUNTRY: CUBA

SUBJECT: Cuban anti-CASTRO Movements and their Relations with
the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba

DATE OF INFORMATION: Late April-May 1960.

SOURCE: From a source who has reported reliably in the past.

REMARKS:

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724/9774.

25th May 1960.

CUBA.

POLITICAL/SUBVERSIVE.

Cuban Anti-CASTRO Movements and their Relations with
the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba.

1. At the present time the most effective anti-CASTRO organisations in Cuba appear to be the Movimiento de la Democracia Cristiana (M.D.C. - Movement of Christian Democracy) and the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (M.R.R. - Movement of Revolutionary Recovery), whose organisations and aims are very similar and between whom there is a considerable overlapping of members. Both movements are receiving some support from the Church, the M.D.C. being actively encouraged and directed by the Jesuits. The main plank in its policy is to demand free elections which it considers to be the best means of uniting anti-CASTRO elements in Cuba. The failure of Fidel CASTRO Ruz, the Cuban Prime Minister, to hold these elections it regards as the most vulnerable subject on which to attack him.

2. The M.D.C. is led by Jose Ignacio RASCO y Bernudez who was recently forced to seek asylum and escape from Cuba. He is now in New York where he is expected to take part in a meeting of Cuban exile leaders which it is hoped will be held there in the near future. It is hoped, by Cuban exiles, that this meeting will be attended by Colonel Ramon BARQUIN, the present Cuban Ambassador in Paris, who is shortly expected to defect, and on whom the exiles are pinning great faith as a future leader.

3. The M.R.R., which is also known as the Movimiento de Rescate del 26 de Julio (Movement for the Recovery of the 26th. of July), is composed of former supporters of Fidel CASTRO Ruz who have become disillusioned with his policies. These include exiles and senior Government officials still in Cuba. It was originally inspired by Captain Pedro DIAZ Lanz, the former Head of the Cuban Air Force, and includes such people as Manuel ARTIE Bueza, the former official of the Cuban Instituto Nacional de la Reforma Agraria (I.N.R.A. - National Institute of Agrarian Reform). But although DIAZ Lanz created the M.R.R., not all its members are prepared to accept him as its leader. Its

*ack
June 1
Diaz Lanz
has left
only Diaz Lanz
is at heart
hostile!*

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tactics at present are to hit CASTRO through encouraging the workers not to pay the "voluntary"^{4%} of their wages demanded by the Government and to encourage industrial organisations to resist nationalisation to the bitter end. The I.L.R.R. also strongly opposes any counter-revolutionary attempts by former BATISTA supporters, such as Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling, at present in Washington, and General Jose Eluterio PERAZA, now leader of Cuban exiles in the Dominican Republic. The I.L.R.R. hopes shortly to be joined by members of the former band of followers of Captain SOTUS^{5th} ~~(now)~~ who was recently sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment for opposing the CASTRO regime.

4. Both the I.L.R.R. and the M.D.C. have suffered from the United States Government's recent restriction on Cuban exile activities in Florida. At the same time, Fidel CASTRO has become aware of the Jesuit support for the M.D.C. This has provoked him to the point of warning the Jesuit Vice-Provincial, Padre Ceferino RUIZ, that from the beginning of May 1960 all non-Cuban Jesuits would have 90 days to leave the country or else have to face expulsion.

5. The Church intends to resist this order and has instructed the Catholic Action Group to prepare demonstrations against CASTRO's decision to expel these Jesuits. Women members of the Catholic Action Group are to take a prominent part in these demonstrations.

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