

SECRET

5 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Meeting of 28 March with Members of AMEALM Group

1. This memorandum embodies a few of miscellaneous points that were covered during our meeting of 28 March with three representatives of the AMEALM Group.
2. One essentially for our propaganda people, is this, the Prensa Latina has established an extensive network now only in the hemisphere but outside of it in other countries. The AMEALMs asked the simple question, where is the money coming from. Since Prensa Latina is apparently a non-profit organization which unlike our Associated Press and UPI sell its products to newspapers around the world, just who is footing the bill at this time for this extensive operation.
3. Two, concerns the present Cuban diplomatic corps. The AMEALMs' comment that a key man in the diplomatic corps is replaced, as a result of defection or any other cause the replacement is invariably a Communist. This could probably be well checked out. Another point they make concerns the training of certain Communists. The present Ambassador to Caracas is Luis Orlando RODRIGUEZ. According to the AMEALMs, this man RODRIGUEZ, was trained over a period of many years by a man named Leon KAGAN, he's Ukrainian, speaks five or six languages, is an economist, described by them as extremely intelligent. He lives in a private home which has doors on it like a bank vault and since still sometime, he's lived in Cuba. He's a figure shrouded in secrecy but one who has trained not only RODRIGUEZ, but Marta FRAJND and others.
4. Point number three concerned Argentine complicity in the recent plot against President Frondizi of Argentina. Timing was last fall and according to the AMEALMs the Cuban Embassy in Argentina was the center of the conspiracy.
5. When we sent Ambassador Fonsal back down to Havana this was a tragic mistake, according to the AMEALMs. It took much of the heart out of the people who were strongly opposed to CASTRO and were looking to the United States for morale support.
6. In an analysis of Castro's progress to date and his aspirations for the future they paint this picture. They say that the assault on the Moncada Barracks of 1953 was Castro's springboard or trampoline to the Sierra Maestre. The Sierra Maestre was his trampoline to Cuba and Cuba is his trampoline to Latin America. There may be some exploitable angles to this analysis.
7. Concerning a master plan for action, these gentlemen emphasized the need for initially a strong justification in the minds of the Cuban people for eventually crossing the bridge. They see this crossing of the bridge as a very drastic action. To quote a saying, they put it this way, "Asprin won't cure appendicitis? This means that major surgery is required and the patient must therefore first be prepared for the tremendous operation that has to follow.

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(H. Reynolds)
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