

SECRET

7/CRP

17 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WE/6 ²⁴
[redacted] Control Officer

SUBJECT: Recent Arrest of Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP) Members

REFERENCE: M1/2232 dated 8 November 1961

Information available is insufficient to evaluate the Cuban Ministry of Interior claim that the MRP has been destroyed by the alleged round-up of a large number of its members and the arrest of Reynold GONZALEZ, internal MRP coordinator. Cuban exiles have commented that some of those listed as arrested have actually been held in custody for as long as three months. It has been the practice of the Cuban Government in similar cases to truly use large round-ups of an opposition group when in fact most of those named have been known to have been arrested some months before. Ignacio MENDOZA, coordinator of the MRP in exile, commented to the press as follows: "The arrests have hurt our movement very much, but this is by no means a death blow."

There is no doubt that GONZALEZ was under extreme pressure during the period after his arrest and before his television appearance, which, according to MENDOZA's press statement, was on carefully edited film, instead of the usual "live" program presented by the CASTRO Government with other captives. A reliable source of this Agency, who is acquainted with GONZALEZ and knowledgeable of recent internal resistance activities, heard the broadcast and commented that it was definitely GONZALEZ's voice, and that he "fenced well with the interrogators and saved only people out of reach, i.e. in asylum or exile, or those already in custody and beyond hope of saving."

J. C. KING
Chief
Eastern Hemisphere Division

DWP/WE/3/PA-PROP: KTharp:nlw (17 November 1961)

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - Chief, WE/6
1 - Chief, WE/3
1 - WE/3/Intel
1 - WE/3/PN
1 - WE/3/Plans
2 - WE/3/PA-PROP

1/PV