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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP															
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE												
1	1/14/61														
2	Attn: Mr. Sather	S													
3	2605 Quarters														
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ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY													
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION													
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN													
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Remarks: <i>REB</i> Attached for your information is a copy of a memorandum from our liaison to discuss concerning an interview with the committee for 1200 to 1300 March 1961.															
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER															
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE													
S. Sather, CIO, Security Branch, X-206		1/14/61													
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FORM NO. 237 Replaces Form 30-4
1 APR 55 which may be used.

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Chief, Contact Division
Attn: Support Branch (Crowley)

24 March 1961

Chief, Washington Office

CC: T-303271

Interview with ANEC Committee

1. At the request of Mr. Ashcraft for Neichart, WH Division, Frank Sheridan interviewed the committee for ANEC at the Washington Field Office on 24 March 1961. They consisted of Abel Mestre, Victor Pedrosa, Silvio Samabria, Lealie Paxton, Carlos Garcia del Tron, and Paul Heilman. Mestre stated that the organization was founded about June 1960 in Miami as a clandestine apolitical group with the objective to overthrow Castro, to unite the various Cuban exile groups and to create laws for the effective reconstruction of Cuba. Membership is comprised of individual businessmen rather than representatives of large organizations.

2. The committee had been meeting with various United States officials in Washington, D. C., to express its views. Its members are worried over Castro propaganda, which, although untrue, has been accepted as fact, i.e., twenty thousand killings by Batista and the claim that Castro's was a social revolution rather than a political one. They pointed out that the Cuban economy was formerly prospering with an enlarging middle class, so that the term social revolution has been used by Castro primarily to promote leftist measures. In addition, labor legislation was in effect which actually put employers at a disadvantage with employees, compared to the other countries of Latin America. The problem facing Cuban labor was primarily the seasonal one crop economy. Now the people have less pay, less commodities available, no claims against anyone and merely work for a Castro-Communist government. The farmer has not been helped by agrarian reform, but has been obliged to enter cooperatives or to sell his crops at controlled prices, which are paid when and how the government pleases. This is surely an imitation of what Castro promised.

3. The committee feels that supporters of the revolution actually were seeking honesty in government and the liberty outlined in the 1940 constitution. In this regard, the members feel that the Communists may try for a second round in any government replacing Castro. Such an interim regime must develop careful measures to promote true democratic elections. This government may include covert Communists who would be a constant threat. For this reason, it was emphasized and re-emphasized that the exile leaders be most carefully screened by the United States before their return to Cuba.

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4. A major concern has been unification of the various exiled factions. This has now started, but the committee feels that businessmen such as they represent should be proportionately represented in any new government during the masters period of reconstruction. They believe that no leftists of any stripe should be included in the provisional government. Business representatives of the economic classes should participate for the first time in Cuban politics and should be consulted at all stages.

5. They emphasized that the problem is not merely a Cuban one, but is a Communist springboard against the United States. They urged that the United States do what they, the businessmen, failed to do in Cuba - to take the offensive. Developments in Cuba have followed the classic Communist techniques, so that it should not be difficult to anticipate future moves. United States propaganda must be overhauled. It should be less passive and more effectively aggressive. To date, propaganda has been the Communists' most effective weapon and the United States has lost to the point that it is threatened by a serious loss of respect in Latin America. Although it has long been the basic ideal model, some Latins are beginning to wonder whether they are right about the United States and whether they should switch sides. Fidel Castro won his revolution by propaganda and not by arms.

6. The primary worry of the committee seems to be the leftist orientation of leaders who have taken over the government in exile during recent days. They emphasized that Cuba needs a democratic government and they fear a tyranny of the right or the left. The United States must realize that some of the exile leaders participated as ministers in the Castro government and might try to continue some of the bad aspects of the Castro program.

7. Silvio Senechia commented that, although CIA appeared to be in touch with all of the other Cuban groups, no one had approached his organization to assist or to learn what it was doing. The whole committee offered to be of any possible assistance to CIA at any time. No effort was made to solicit information or funds from CIA during this session.

F. J. Sheridan

Enclosures: 3 ARCC documents

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Association for the Reconstruction of the Cuban Economy (AREC)

AREC is a non-governmental organization created by Cuban exiles in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. It is composed of Cuban professionals, business people, and other individuals who are interested in the reconstruction of Cuba. AREC's main objective is to promote the development of the Cuban economy through the implementation of sound economic policies and the encouragement of private sector participation. AREC also works to support the Cuban government's efforts to improve the living standards of the Cuban people.

AREC believes that the Cuban economy must be based on a market-oriented system that emphasizes private sector participation. The organization also supports the Cuban government's efforts to improve the living standards of the Cuban people. AREC's main objective is to promote the development of the Cuban economy through the implementation of sound economic policies and the encouragement of private sector participation. AREC also works to support the Cuban government's efforts to improve the living standards of the Cuban people.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY
AREC

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Montreal, Quebec H3A 1E6, Canada

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Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President,
The White House,
Washington,
D. C.
Dear Mr. Secretary:
I am sending you a copy of the
Circular Letter of the Secretary of State
to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas
and the United Nations
in which he has invited me to speak at
the Conference on the Organization of
American States.

Please accept my best regards and
express my thanks for your kind invitation
to speak at the Conference on the Organization
of American States.

We are sending you a copy of the
Circular Letter of the Secretary of State
to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas
and the United Nations
in which he has invited me to speak at
the Conference on the Organization of
American States.

We shall appreciate your kind
consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President,
The White House,
Washington,
D. C.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President,
The White House,
Washington,
D. C.

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