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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH Division

SUBJECT : Activities of Nunez Portouondo
and Rudolf Fernandez

1. On 4 November Mr. J. Patrick Coyne, Staff Director of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, brought to see me Mr. Charles Murphy, formerly personal assistant to President Truman, and Mr. H. Graham Morison, formerly with the Department of Justice, who are now partners in the firm of Morison, Murphy, Clapp & Abrams. Coyne left these gentlemen with me and they proceeded to tell me of discussions they have been having with Dr. Nunez Portouondo and Rudolf Fernandez. These Cubans were apparently put in touch with Morison through a mutual friend, Mr. Gillespie, President of Dixie Industries Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia. Fernandez is reported to be a resident of Tampa, Florida, and Atlanta where he knows Gillespie. [Apparently [OS] has been a fairly active source of the FBI in Atlanta, and states that he has given them many reports on activities in Cuba by the anti-Castro underground. These include a report which the FBI has disseminated, according to Murphy, that a colonel in the MVD (as reported) was still active in Cuba.]

FBI (u)
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2. The proposition that the Cubans have put to these Washington lawyers is to the effect that they would like assurance that the United States Government will not intervene should they succeed in mounting a military expedition in Guatemala to proceed to Cuba to attempt to overthrow the Castro regime. Apparently Portouondo has stressed the fact that they will not abuse the hospitality of the United States, and will stage all of their operations outside of this country. He alleges that he has the support of several other Latin American countries, and that there are a considerable number of Cuban exiles who will respond to his initiative. Among those mentioned were Inu Martinez in Florida and Gen. Tabernilla in the Dominican Republic. According to Portouondo, if something is not done soon about the situation in Cuba, the government will be completely under Communist control within a few months. He alleges that there are 200 Russians and 300 Chinese actively at work organizing the Communists in Cuba. The question put to me by Messrs. Murphy and Morison was what should they do, if anything, with Portouondo; should they agree to represent him and, if so, should they register as representing foreign interests and request that such registration be kept confidential?

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3. Messrs. Murphy and Morison went on to state that they understood that representatives of the ten corporations which have the largest interests in Cuba are planning to mobilize Congressional pressure on the Department of State to do something about it. They stated that these corporations felt there was little use in going to the Department of State or to Secretary Rubottom because they would get the classic answer that the United States does not interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign power. They also said that they felt there should be one focal point in the Government for people like Portouondo and these corporations to deal with--not in the Department of State.

4. I thanked these gentlemen for their information and told them I would place it in the hands of experts and see what guidance we could give them. I pointed out that we were constantly being approached by Cubans and repeatedly gave them the advice that this was a Cuban affair and that they were the ones who should do something. I pointed out to them that Portouondo's proposal sounded somewhat naive inasmuch as Castro appeared to have the support of the bulk of the people and has threatened to arm the Campesinos if there was any threat of external invasion. I also said that the slightest indication of U. S. involvement would have extreme adverse effects in this country.

5. Would you let me know at your earliest convenience what advice I should give to these gentlemen, or whether you would like to be put directly in touch with them?

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

IG/LBK/drm

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