

Box 23
Folder 24
#28

11/2/78

(MDC)

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After Castro's assumption of power in ~~the~~ 1959, it became ~~obvious~~ evident to many Cubans that political parties were being suppressed and Castro ^{the 26th} of July Movement was being infiltrated by Communists. ^{This political atmosphere} ~~gave~~ ^{gave} rise to the creation of underground ~~and~~ organizations such as the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba, (MDC) (CIA/DDO MDC Vol 3, Objectives of MDC)

~~Using~~ Using the doctrine of Christianity as ~~the~~ its foundation ~~and~~, the MDC published a Manifesto in March 1960, ^(ibid) denouncing Communism, ~~and~~ and strongly ~~advocating~~ ^(#09538) ^{Racco} advocating the free enterprise system.

One of the founders of the MDC, ~~a~~ 35 year old law professor, Dr. Jose Ignacio Racco, was elected head of the organization ^(ibid) and ^{publicly} ~~openly~~ criticized the violence prevalent in the Castro regime (CIA/MDC, Vol 3). This open criticism necessitated his ~~expatriation~~ ^{expatriation} from Cuba and he was granted ~~the~~ safe conduct to the U.S., arriving in Miami on April 22, 1960. (#09538 item 4)

In June he had allied himself ^{& the MDC} with the Frente Revolucionario Democrático (FRD) ^(ibid) ~~and~~ serving as one of the five original exile Cuban leaders selected recommended by the St. Dept & Havana CIA ~~station to head up the~~ ^{a Cuban} to form the nucleus of the government-in-exile. (Qias US The Day, PLE p.43-44)

After the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the MDC split into ~~several~~ ^{documents} factions. (CIA/DCD, Rasco, Supp Report oo-K-3,233,366, 16 Aug 62)

Rasco remained head of the largest faction and had organized delegations in Miami, New York, Chicago, Venezuela & Cuba. (Ibid)

The clandestine faction operating in Cuba was lead by Pepin Hernandez Badue. ~~who used the alias "Lucas" and his faction was commonly referred to as the Lucas f who used the alias "Lucas."~~ ~~The Lucas faction, as it ~~had~~ ^{was} come to be called,~~ ^{When} Hernandez arrived in the U.S. in October 1961 ~~and~~ ^{he} presented his credentials to the CRC, claiming he was the representative of the MDC movement in Cuba, ^{and Council President,} ~~U. Muro Cardona,~~ ^(Ibid) accepted him into the CRC Council.

The "Lucas" faction remained with the Council ~~but~~ ^{but} declined in importance, ~~the~~ ^{because} Hernandez failing to consult with the Executive Committee of his faction or ^{make} ~~making~~ any effort to hold the group together. (Sunstudy Document, Vol 32, Item 1, #97-4110-72)

The Rasco faction of MDC had as its military Chief, ^{an} independently wealthy young Cuban, Laureano Batista Jalla. (Sunstudy Vol 32, Item 2, #97-4110-123) ~~whose personal wealth and independent spirit facilitated.~~ ^{his} spirited and under no financial pressures, Batista was able

MDC
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to organize and partially finance the infiltration attempts of the MDC, which made this one of the most active & effective ^{in Cuba} Anti-Castro groups during the early 1960's.

underground (Senate Study Document, Vol 37, Item 4, #105-95461/15, B #1)
Batista

the

MDC
5

later discuss foreign part -
Sonoga - Robert German

no operational interest in him (ibid. p. 5 -
see 5
FBI # 97-4623-149)

The Batista faction of the MDC
entered engaged into a number of associations
with other, like groups for the purpose
of propaganda, sabotage and supplying the Cuban
underground.

to infiltrate Oriente Province

464 - MDC & DRE working ~~to~~ to coordinate plans for an underground organization. CIA/DDO LBF, Info Cable TDCS JB 3/660-090, 3/14/64

1962 - Many MDC members joined the Cuba Committee, formed to counteract the FPCC. (CIA/DDO, MDC file Vol 3, Cable to Director from JMWAVE, 6/21/62, # 14986)

It was the year 1963, however, that found the Batista faction of the MDC involved in a large number of anti-Castro activities.

1963 MDC made a security pact with Commandos L in which Ch was to provide training ~~the~~ assistance in military intelligence & MDC to provide 3 small boats & a team of men to infiltrate Cuba. Also made pact with Dr. Carlos Prío Socarras, former Pres. of Cuba (?) who donated \$50,000 for military aid to MDC in return for that group's promise of political support. (CIA/DDO, MDC Vol 5, Info. Cable (4FG-3536,) 9/3/63.)

In April 1963, Frank Sturgis supplied information ~~to the CIA~~ that Batista, Orlando Bosch Anila, ~~and~~ Manuel Artime ^{& Alexander Rorke} were jointly planning an air strike over Habana. ^{on 4/25} (HSCA ⁰⁰⁹³⁰³ PI, FBI # 97-4623, Sec. I, ~~undated CIA Info. Cable TDCS JB-37654, 373~~). According to Sturgis, the strike was to originate from an airstrip in Puerto Rico and the target a sugar refinery. ~~Rorke~~ Alexander Rorke publicly announced the strike had taken place as scheduled which took the other planners by surprise & they dismissed it as a publicity stunt

Insert
p. 7 (1)

Richard Rudolph Davis - See CD 984 b.
Re: Alleged Anti-Castro Training Camp in the New Orleans Area.

Richard Rudolph Davis, a Cuban alien with an American mother (Zonzi memo 9/6/76) ⁰¹²⁹⁸¹ had a prebial association with the MDC through his contact with Batista in the summer of 1963. (ibid) Davis was residing in New Orleans ~~at this time~~ and, although not an MDC member, claimed at one time to have been a "coordinator" for the group and the New York Police Department ~~at one time~~. (ibid) He was a friend of Batista. ~~(ibid)~~ and contacted him in 1963, because, ~~as~~ (ibid) Davis claimed he needed a group of men ~~to~~ could ~~provide~~ ^{employ} ~~employment~~ ^{provide employment for a} small group of Cuban exiles and knew Batista could furnish the manpower was in a position to recommend ~~states~~ ^{men} in the Miami area who needed work. (ibid)

Davis had entered into a business deal with geologist David L. Raggio and a wealthy, right-wing New Orleanian, Gus de LaBarre, forming the Guatemalan Lumber & Mineral Corporation. (ibid) It was their intention to train the Cubans on some land in LaCrosse, Louisiana to which de LaBarre had access through his nephew Frank de LaBarre.

Davis (3)

provisions to the epiles on a daily basis & solicited money for ~~the~~ food and clothing from friends & relatives.

deLaBarre said he didn't pay much attention to the activities of the group but, when he heard on his car radio that the FBI had seized a cache of ammunition at a house in LaCombe, he immediately ^{called} ~~suspected~~ his Uncle Gus was ~~involved~~. Although receiving assurances that the lumber group was not ~~involved~~, deLaBarre called the officers of the corporation together and insisted that the Cubans be taken out of there. Davis claimed, according to deLaBarre's version of the episode, that the Cubans did not want to ~~leave~~ ^{leave}, whereupon deLaBarre had to do some real "brainstorming". He rented a Hertz ton-and-a-half truck and instructed Davis to take it to the camp & tell the Cubans "that the invasion is on." Davis complied, ~~whereupon~~ ^{and} the Cubans loaded their gear, jumped in the truck and were brought to the Greyhound Bus Terminal in New Orleans. Each Cuban was given a one-way ticket to Miami ~~plus~~ plus a small amount of cash and told they would get their orders when they reached Miami. Looking as though ready for war with knapsacks & guns bulging from under their clothes, they boarded the bus & deLaBarre had no more contact with the

The last de LaBarre heard of Davis was in 1964 when one of de LaBarre's friends reported he had gone into business with Davis and was left with a lot of bills.

Book V Footnote

On page 12 of the SSC D Study Governmental Operations, the group of Cubans connected with the Guatemalan Lumber Company project are identified as ~~one and~~ the same group arrested when the FBI raided and seized dynamite on property in LaLombe, La. It should be noted that the FBI raid occurred on July 31, 1963 at property owned by Robert ^{William} ~~McLaney~~ ^{McLaney}, whereas the Guatemalan Lumber Co. trainees were on property owned, ^{according to Frank de la Barre} by a friend of ~~Frank de la Barre~~ ^{Frank de la Barre}. Although de la Barre did not mention the name of the owner, FBI report from Miami Bufile # 2-1821 Sec 33 lists the names of the individuals arrested, ^{on McLaney property} and Victor Panque ~~and~~ was not among them.