

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

---

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : DOJ  
RECORD NUMBER : 179-20001-10128

RECORDS SERIES :  
CLASSIFIED SUBJECT FILE 129-11, ENCLOSURES, SERIAL #71

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

---

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : MIAMI, FL  
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 01/15/62  
PAGES : 32

SUBJECTS :  
CUBA  
ANTI-CASTRO UNDERGROUND

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : ~~U~~TS  
RESTRICTIONS : REFERRED  
CURRENT STATUS : P  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : / /

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :  
ATTACHMENT F; BOX 65

---

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

105-3558

Miami, Florida  
January 15, 1962

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

There is summarized in this memorandum information received from various sources concerning current rebel activities in Cuba. A table of contents for this memorandum is set forth below.

	<u>Page</u>
I. ANTI-CASTRO UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS IN CUBA	1a
A. Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (Révolutionary Student Directory (DRE))	1a
B. Christian Democratic Movement (MDC)	4
C. Revolutionary Movement of the People (MRP)	6
D. Revolutionary Recovery Movement (MRR)	8
E. 30th of November Movement	9
F. Revolutionary Unity (UR)	11
G. The 17th of April Movement	12
II. REPORTED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY	13
III. NATURE OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES IN CUBA	18
IV. AMOUNT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT POSSESSED BY UNDERGROUND FORCES	19
V. ARMS REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNDERGROUND GROUPS	20
A. Groups Operating in Cities	21
B. Groups Operating in Rural Areas	21
VI. LIAISON BETWEEN UNDERGROUND GROUPS IN CUBA WITH UNITED STATES	22a
VII. EVALUATIONS OF PRESENT STATUS OF UNDERGROUND GROUPS	23

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

9/22/94  
Classified by SP8 Muc/ETH  
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

I. ANTI-CASTRO UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS  
IN CUBA

A. DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO  
ESTUDIANTIL (Revolutionary  
Student Directory) (DRE)

On September 28, 1961, BERNARDO LLERENA COBOS, 221 Northwest 33rd Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised that he had just arrived in the United States via a small boat from Cuba, and that for approximately the past two years he had been active in the underground movement in Cuba, namely in the province of Matanzas. He said that as of that time he was a member of the DRE, that he had come to the United States to contact leaders of Cuban exiled groups in Miami regarding assistance for the underground. LLERENA stated that as of that time there were no major active underground organizations in Cuba, but that the DRE was stepping up its activity in the Matanzas Province in conjunction with the operations of the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (Christian Democratic Movement) (MDC). He said that the three most prominent organizations in the underground in Cuba at that time were the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (Revolutionary Movement of the People) (MRP), the Movimiento 30 de Noviembre (30th of November Movement), and the MDC.

LLERENA advised that he wished to emphasize while these groups exist in Cuba they are all small numerically and their operations are seriously impaired by the arrests and executions of the leaders of the underground.

- la -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

On October 24, 1961, MM T-1, a Cuban exile who departed Cuba on October 3, 1961, advised that the DRE is a well organized underground organization in Cuba with contacts throughout the island. This source stated that the DRE is very active and had been able to arrange for the escape of MM T-1 through its underground apparatus.

On November 21, 1961, MM T-2, who has not furnished sufficient information to permit a determination as to his reliability, but who stated that he was an official of the DRE in Cuba, advised that he left Cuba in October, 1961, with the expectation of returning in the near future. According to MM T-2, the DRE, the 30th of November Movement and the Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionario (Revolutionary Recovery Movement) (MRR) were the only organizations of any consequence operating in the underground movement at that time.

On November 3, 1961, LUIS FERNANDEZ ROCHA, who described himself as the Secretary General of the DRE and MM T-2, advised that the DRE is the traditional Cuban students organization which exists to combat tyranny in Cuba. FERNANDEZ and MM T-2 said that 90 percent of the membership of this organization is in Cuba, and that although the group suffered a severe setback with the arrest of ALBERTO MULLER and 74 of his men in April, 1961, the organizational structure of the DRE has been maintained and was being revitalized. They stated that the DRE operates throughout the island and that its basic strength was that of the student membership, although it also had representation from among Cuban laborers, farmers and professional men. They said that the group had underground control of the students in the four universities of Cuba, including the University of Havana.

On November 21, 1961, MM T-2 made available a report prepared by LUIS FERNANDEZ ROCHA which included information relating to the organization of the DRE in Cuba. This report reflected that the highest authority

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

in the DRE is the National Executive Council, which is divided into distinct sections called Secretariats, as set forth below:

General Secretariat: ALBERTO MULLER (prisoner  
in Boniato Jail)  
LUIS FERNANDEZ ROCHA  
(LUCIANO) (momentarily  
in exile)

Secretariat of Organization: MIGUEL ANGEL  
Secretariat of Propaganda: TULIO  
Secretariat of Action and Sabotage: CELESTINO  
Secretariat of Supplies: JULIO CESAR  
Secretariat of Security: ERNESTO  
Secretariat of Public Relations: PANCHITO  
Secretariat of Finances: MIGUEL  
Secretariat of Military Affairs: ROBERTO  
Secretariat of Civic Resistance: ALEJANDRO  
Secretariat of Pre-University Students: JORGE

This report further indicated that the organizations in each of the six provinces were directly responsible to the Executive Council and that each province had a coordinator who was in contact with the Executive Council.

It was further stated that throughout Cuba in each student center from the universities to the secondary and pre-university schools there was a coordinator of the DRE.

MM T-2 stated that the identities of the leading figures in the Cuban underground were unknown to him with the exception of the leaders of the DRE. He said that as a matter of policy, he did not care to disclose the identities of these persons as they are still operating in Cuba.

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

MM T-2 also advised that he was not in a position to furnish an estimate of the strength of the underground groups or their areas of operation. He stated that the three principal organizations have people who operate in all six provinces of Cuba and that the DRE, with which he was more familiar, had cells or groups in all of the principal cities of Cuba. He stated that the National Executive Council meets from time to time in the City of Havana.

B. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT  
(MDC)

On December 26, 1961, Dr. RAFAEL AGUIRRE RENCURRELL was contacted and advised that he was formerly coordinator of the MDC in the Province of Havana. Dr. AGUIRRE stated that the MDC organization in Cuba is composed of individual cells consisting of from three to eight members, with one member in each cell designated as the chief. This person maintains contact for the group with the municipal coordinator. The chief of the cell is the only one who is to know the identity of any other cell member. There is one municipal coordinator in each city and these maintain contact with the coordinators of the province. Dr. AGUIRRE stated that the MDC has branches in all of the provinces and districts of the island.

Dr. AGUIRRE advised that the national leadership of the MDC is in the hands of the National Executive Committee which consists of 12 members headed by the National Coordinator "RUBIDO." Dr. AGUIRRE described "RUBIDO" as a middle-aged man, married, a Catholic, anti-Communist and a conservative. He was formerly an important figure in the Growers Association of Cuba. He stated that "RUBIDO" is also one of the two coordinators of the Province of Pinar del Rio.

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

Dr. AGUIRRE described the other officials of the MDC in Cuba as being basically Catholic, anti-Communist and conservative. He said that most of them are professionals or white collar workers and would be described as members of the middle class.

Dr. AGUIRRE stated that although clandestine activity in Cuba has been continually reduced since the April 17 invasion, the MDC has continued to operate its organizations in all areas of the island. He said that all districts of the Province of Pinar del Rio have been organized with the principal concentration of strength in the City of Pinar del Rio. The organization in Havana has recently experienced more difficulty in its operations but because it is small there, its communication problem has not been as complicated and the group continues to act effectively. He stated that the MDC is also well organized in Matanzas, Oriente and Camaguey and that it is weakest in Las Villas.

Dr. AGUIRRE stated that the MDC estimates that it has roughly 15,000 men throughout the island of Cuba, although since the time of the April 17 invasion, the coordination between groups has not been as good as previously.

Dr. AGUIRRE stated that one of the chief problems of the MDC at this time is the lack of ability to communicate on a regular basis with the underground groups in Cuba as well as the difficulties involved in furnishing necessary supplies such as explosives and arms.

Dr. AGUIRRE stated that he did not wish to furnish the true identities of the underground leaders of the MDC in Cuba for security reasons. Dr. AGUIRRE said the Miami headquarters of the MDC is at 2325 Biscayne Boulevard.

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

C. REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE (MRP)

REYNOL GONZALEZ, an underground leader of the MRP who uses the name "ANTONIO" directed a letter dated October 1, 1961, from Havana, Cuba, to JOAQUIN GODOY and IGNACIO MENDOZA, leaders of the MRP in the United States. In this letter GONZALEZ furnished information regarding activities in Cuba in September, 1961. He indicated that the MRP underground in Cuba was active in the field of sabotage having planted 25 bombs throughout the City of Havana during one night. He mentioned that the MRP in Cuba was using a plastic bag containing a chemical mixture similar to live phosphorous, which was difficult to handle and that their detonators were old and corroded. He mentioned that the "GEL" that they had been using was "C-3" which had a peculiar odor and that it was, therefore, quite evident that the MRP underground was working under most adverse conditions. He noted that despite the controls exercised by the CASTRO regime, the MRP continued to engage in sabotage activity without hesitation. But he objected to the fact that the underground was forced to use home-made material without any effective aid in the form of equipment from abroad,

On November 28, 1961, MM T-3, a Cuban exile residing in Akron, Ohio, made available information which had been received by a friend of his in a secret ink message dated November 8, 1961, at Havana, Cuba. According to MM T-3, the writer of this message was one GASTON ACOSTA RUE, who was using the "war name" of JAVIER REGO, the name which appeared as the sender on the envelope in which this letter was mailed. This secret ink message stated that nearly all of the MRP leadership had been made prisoners. One of the leaders, "ANTONIO" had been "tortured in the cold room" and nearly died and sodium pentathol had been used by the

- 6 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~



CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

interrogators. It was stated that "the matter of ANTONIO on television was a bluff" and that "there was no treason." Of the national provincial leadership for Havana there were only ten left, but the rank and file were described as "OK." It was also indicated that part of the interior was "OK" and that morale was very high despite the setbacks.

Regarding REYNOL GONZALEZ, it is noted that IGNACIO MENDOZA, General Coordinator of the MRP in the United States advised on November 20, 1961, that GONZALEZ, who had been General Coordinator of the MRP in Cuba had been arrested in October, 1961. He had appeared on a Cuban television station, admitting his anti-government activities and identifying certain members of the MRP in Cuba. MENDOZA said that the persons mentioned by GONZALEZ had already been arrested or had fled from Cuba. He did state, however, that the arrests by the Cuban G-2 of many of the MRP leaders had left the organization in very serious condition and without leadership. He said that while there was undoubtedly a good nucleus of MRP members, the repressive measures of the government had been of such magnitude as to seriously limit any future possibilities for reorganization of the MRP in Cuba.

MENDOZA advised that the General Coordinator of the MRP in Cuba, succeeding GONZALEZ, is named FRANCISCO PERDOMO. He said that PERDOMO has been forced to move about to avoid arrest to such an extent that he has been unable to function effectively as coordinator of the MRP. MENDOZA stated that as of that time he had no means of direct communication with members of the MRP underground in Cuba. MENDOZA resides at 4160 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

D. REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY MOVEMENT  
(RR)

On November 17, 1961, OSCAR SALAS, 3001 Northwest 83rd Street, Miami, Florida, an attorney and former professor at Villanova University in Cuba, advised that he had been coordinator of the MRR in the Province of Havana, and that as of November, 1961, he was an official of the MRR in the United States. He said that the MRR leaders believe that their organization in Cuba is the strongest and best organized of those organizations which remained in existence following the unsuccessful invasion of April 17, 1961.

SALAS advised that based on the information being received in Miami from Cuba, which information is admittedly sketchy, the status of the MRR is satisfactory. Its various groups are continuing to function in all provinces of Cuba, although under increasing pressure from the Cuban G-2. The governing body of the MRR is located in Havana and has been able to maintain limited contact with the various provinces. Positive action by the MRR against the CASTRO regime is seriously hampered by the restrictive measures of the government as well as by the lack of adequate equipment.

SALAS stated that based on recent information, it appears that the activity of the MRR has had to be confined to an occasional act of sabotage or to attempts to seize additional arms. No widespread activity has been possible recently.

He said that the other underground organizations such as the DRE and the 30th of November Movement are also effective to some extent. The IDC is considered to be fairly strong but is apparently confined to the cities rather than to the rural areas. The organization

- 8 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

called Unidad Revolucionaria (Revolutionary Unity) (UR), while smaller than the above mentioned groups, is still active in various areas of Cuba and has some support. An organization called Rescate has grown passive and is of negligible importance.

SALAS stated that an estimate of the strength of the MRR at the present time would be impossible to make. He said that the identities of the MRR leaders in Cuba must be concealed to protect them as long as they continue to remain active in the underground.

SALAS described the MRR as a middle-of-the-road organization with less political involvement than most of the other organizations.

#### E. 30TH OF NOVEMBER MOVEMENT

MM T-2, previously mentioned, who left Cuba in October, 1961, and who stated he was an official of the DRE, advised on November 21, 1961, that the 30th of November Movement was one of the three organizations of consequence operating in the underground in Cuba at that time.

On November 9, 1961, CARLOS RODRIGUEZ QUESADA, 427 Southwest 4th Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised that he was the General Coordinator of the 30th of November Movement in the United States. RODRIGUEZ stated that he has received occasional reports regarding the status of the 30th of November Organization in Cuba, and that based on this information, the leaders of his group in the United States believe that their organization continues as one of the most effective underground organizations in Cuba.

- 9 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

RODRIGUEZ advised that his organization was formed by labor leaders who opposed the Communist government of FIDEL CASTRO and that the majority of the membership in Cuba is composed of members of the labor force. He stated that the organization in Cuba operates for security reasons as a "cell" organization with knowledge of the identities of other members limited as much as is possible. He stated that despite all precautions such as the cell organization, the 30th of November in Cuba has suffered a number of recent losses, specifically the arrest by Cuban G-2 agents of 7 important leaders within the past two weeks. He stated that within the last six weeks, about thirty percent of the leaders of the movement in Cuba have been arrested or shot, and that it is apparent to the leaders of the group in the United States that the measures of the CASTRO government against the underground have become increasingly effective. RODRIGUEZ advised that the leaders in the United States are fearful that if this success continues their organization in Cuba will be wiped out or rendered relatively impotent.

RODRIGUEZ advised that as of that time there were no figures available as to the strength of the organization in Cuba. He said that there are groups in all provinces, but that there is no one person who could make an estimate of the over-all strength. He further stated that he did not know whether the 30th of November Movement was stronger in one province than another, since the actual membership figures are not available.

RODRIGUEZ also advised that while he knows the identities of certain leaders of the organization in Cuba, he did not wish to disclose their identity as long as they remain in peril in Cuba.

- 10 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

RODRIGUEZ stated that the activities of the organization in Cuba have been restricted in recent months but that they are directed principally toward sabotage efforts which will harass or impede the continued stability of the CASTRO government.

F. REVOLUTIONARY UNITY  
(UR)

ANDRES ALONZO ZAYAS BAZAN, 2185 Southwest 19th Terrace, Miami, Florida, was contacted on December 20, 1961, and advised that he was the General Coordinator of the UR in Cuba as of that time and that he expected to return to Cuba in a clandestine manner in the near future. ZAYAS stated that the UR is one of the principal underground organizations in Cuba, and that it is composed of between 20 and 25 small organizations. He said that the group originally numbered 30 when the UR was formed in December, 1960, but that some of those have lost their identity and are now merely a part of the UR. He stated that liaison between the individual groups is maintained by coordinators from each of the groups who meet in Havana from time to time.

ZAYAS advised that the UR also operates in coordination with the other important underground organizations in Cuba such as the DRE, the MRR and a part of the 30th of November Movement.

ZAYAS stated that the 30th of November Movement in Cuba has been split by internal political differences, but that one part of the group continues to be active in all provinces of Cuba.

He stated that the MRR has also been split by internal differences which developed after the MRR

- 11 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

leader, MANUEL ARTIME, fell into the hands of the CASTRO forces following the unsuccessful invasion of April 17, 1961. ZAYAS stated that the MRR (Cubano) works closely with the UR.

ZAYAS stated that the RDC, which he described as a passive resistance group, also has strength in all provinces of Cuba, but is not considered an action group.

ZAYAS advised that an organization known as Rescate, which had been totally inactive in Cuba for the past six months, has begun to show signs of life and a new General Coordinator was named for this group on December 18, 1961, in Cuba. ZAYAS said that this group is still relatively unimportant in the underground in Cuba.

ZAYAS advised that all of the underground organizations in Cuba operate on the basis of individual cells, with only one man from each cell knowing the identities of individuals from another cell. He stated that this individual, known as a coordinator, will in turn have contact with another coordinator and in this way liaison is maintained between cells and between provinces. He said that the objective of this type of organization is to limit the number of individuals which each person knows and thus provide some security for the group. ZAYAS advised that although this security measure has been successful to some extent, a number of UR leaders were arrested and shot in April, 1961, and the organization has been extremely careful and has limited its activities since that time.

#### G. THE 17TH OF APRIL MOVEMENT

On December 20, 1961, Dr. OMAR CASTANEDA CIFUENTES, 549 Northwest 1st Street, Miami, Florida, a former Cuban attorney living in exile in the United States, who described himself as the president of the 17th of

- 12 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

April Movement, advised that the recent repressive measures of the CASTRO regime in Cuba had made it exceedingly difficult for the underground organizations to operate successfully and had compelled the 17th of April Movement to suspend sabotage and organizational activities inside Cuba.

## II. REPORTED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

On January 2, 1962, EDEL MONTIEL, 1400 Southwest 5th Street, Miami, Florida, was interviewed and advised that he has been in the United States as an exile from Cuba since March, 1961. He said that prior to that time he had operated as a guerrilla in the Escambray Mountains of Las Villas Province with OSVALDO RAMIREZ. MONTIEL stated that since his arrival in Miami, he has been receiving letters from his wife who still lives in Las Villas Province near the Escambray. In these letters, by use of a prearranged code, she has been furnishing him with some information as to the status of RAMIREZ and the other guerrilla groups in the Escambray Mountains.

MONTIEL advised that he had received a letter about ten days ago in which his wife indicated that the situation of the guerrilla fighters in the Escambray is extremely precarious. Many of the men have no more than one or two bullets for their guns while some have no guns at all. The problem of obtaining adequate food is becoming more difficult with the presence of greater numbers of militia in the plains surrounding the Escambray Mountains.

Because of the shortage of ammunition, the activity of these men is confined solely to hit and run operations, always with the purpose of obtaining

- 13 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

some additional arms and/or ammunition. These actions are not causing any great difficulty for the CASTRO forces and in reality are conducted only to permit the people in the hills to continue their resistance.

Suitable ammunition is the thing most urgently needed by these men. Their prime difficulty is due to the fact that many of them have weapons which have a different caliber than the arms being used by the militia, hence the guerrillas must seize both weapons and matching ammunition from the CASTRO forces in order to strengthen themselves. The numerical strength of the militia and the weakness and lack of ammunition on the part of the guerrillas makes such operations very hazardous.

MONTIEL pointed out that the southern part of the Escambray Mountains is less than two miles from the south coast of Cuba, and is the most accessible location for the landing of supplies and material needed by the guerrillas.

MONTIEL stated that his wife has told him that in and around Trinidad in Las Villas Province, there are many men who have made preparations to go to the Escambray at such time as the necessary arms and ammunition become available. There is, however, a collective fear in the minds of the anti-CASTRO people, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to organize action against the government forces when their chances of success are so limited. Various underground groups in the cities, as well as the farmers in the surrounding territories are helping those in the mountains to some extent with food, medicine and ammunition when available.

MONTIEL said that the people in Cuba are hoping that some serious action will be started against CASTRO by February or March of this year, since they

- 14 -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~



CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

feel that this is the time that the CASTRO militia would be most vulnerable. Due to the sugar harvest starting in February, the militia, who last year were utilized in this harvest, will be scattered throughout the sugar growing area and would not be in as good a position to promptly meet an appropriately placed attack. In addition, bridges, roads, electrical plants and other strategic installations would probably be less well protected and more vulnerable.

MONTIEL advised that based on his most recent information, the forces of OSVALDO RAMIREZ have dwindled from a high of some 600 to 800 men, to between 200 and 300. He said that these men operate in smaller, individual groups called columns of about 25 to 35 men, but that they maintain contact with each other and RAMIREZ.

Other smaller groups of guerrillas are reportedly operating in the hills in various areas of Cuba, but MONTIEL advised that he had had no direct contact with them. He said that a man called "CAMPITO" is allegedly still in the area near Coralillo in the northwest part of Las Villas Province. It is said that "CAMPITO" is in dire circumstances and relatively inactive.

MONTIEL also mentioned that a man named "CARA LINDA" (Pretty Face) is said to be in the hills in Pinar del Rio Province with a small group of men. A man called "TITE" is said to be in the hills near San Cristobal in Las Villas Province with a group which is operating independently of "CARA LINDA". "TITE" went to the hills following the April 17, 1961 invasion and little is known of him by MONTIEL, but "CARA LINDA" has been described as an ex-soldier in the rebel army of FIDEL CASTRO.

- 15 -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

MM T-4, a Cuban national in the United States as a political exile, and a person who had had recent contact with underground operations in Cuba, advised on November 21, 1961, that he was familiar with the operations of an anti-CASTRO guerrilla leader operating in the Escambray Mountains known as OSVALDO RAMIREZ. He said that RAMIREZ had been in the Escambray since sometime prior to the April 17, 1961, invasion and that he, himself, had last talked to RAMIREZ in the Escambray about the first part of August, 1961. At that time, RAMIREZ had 42 men in his own group and MM T-4 estimated that there were about 600 men then in the Escambray operating under the leadership of RAMIREZ, but in independent small groups in various locations. MM T-4 said that RAMIREZ, himself, moves from group to group with his men contacting the leaders of these individual groups to ascertain the various problems with which they are contending, attempting to furnish them with what financial assistance he is able, and in general trying to hold them together.

MM T-4 said that the money to support RAMIREZ is obtained from the farmers in the areas surrounding the Escambray and that, in addition, they are supplying RAMIREZ and his men with what food is available. MM T-4 stated that all the farmers in the area are anti-CASTRO.

MM T-4 advised that at that time, RAMIREZ was not fighting but waiting for help since many of his men had no more than two or three rounds for their rifles and the possibility of future action on the part of RAMIREZ depends on his obtaining adequate supplies and ammunition from the outside.

Regarding OSVALDO RAMIREZ, MM T-4 stated that he had been a truck driver in Cuba and participated

- 16 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

in the revolution to overthrow the BATISTA regime, at which time he was also fighting in the hills. He served as a lieutenant in the rebel army of FIDEL CASTRO but after the arrest of Commandante HUBERT MATOS, who was respected by RAMIREZ, RAMIREZ went to the hills with three or four friends to join other anti-CASTRO forces there. Ultimately, other guerrilla fighters were wiped out while RAMIREZ survived and as a result, he has become somewhat of a legend among the anti-CASTRO Cubans in Cuba. According to MM T-4, RAMIREZ does not have the intellectual capacity to be a future leader of state, but is a fighter, non-political, and commands the respect of his men.

MM T-4 stated that while he had heard rumors regarding small groups of guerrillas operating in the provinces of Oriente and Pinar del Rio, the group of OSVALDO RAMIREZ is the only one which he knows to exist.

On November 20, 1961, NECTOR FEBLES, 785 North-west 101st Street, Miami, Florida, a representative of the UR in Miami, advised that he had just received a communication from a source of the UR in Cuba who had been contacted by a person representing OSVALDO RAMIREZ. FEBLES stated that according to this information, RAMIREZ was then in the Hills of the Escambray with approximately 800 men and in dire need of food and ammunition. FEBLES said that the person who was second in command to RAMIREZ had made an attempt to leave Cuba by boat in early November to obtain help for the group from the United States, but that he had been forced to return to Cuba by bad weather conditions.

- 17 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

III. NATURE OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

On December 20, 1961, ANDRES ZAYAS, previously mentioned, advised that at that time, underground activity against the CASTRO regime consisted of acts of sabotage when necessary explosives become available and occasional sneak attacks on Cuban G-2 and militia personnel as a form of harassment or revenge, but with little over-all effect on the status of the CASTRO government.

MM T-5, a Cuban exile who left Cuba on January 2, 1962, advised on January 3, 1962, that at this time, there is almost no underground activity taking place in Cuba. She stated that an occasional explosion is heard in Havana, but that these are generally in the nature of nuisance explosions and that no strategic sites have yet been damaged. MM T-5 said that she did not belong to any one particular underground group, but that she had cooperated with several cells in such ways as hiding people who were being sought by the government and carrying messages between groups. She said that she had been told by her brother just prior to leaving Cuba that the people in the hills are starving and without ammunition for their weapons. Consequently, they are inactive at this time and remaining in the hills because they have nowhere else to go. She said that her brother had recently visited the Escambray area and that this information had been furnished to him by farmers living there who have been helping those in the hills.

MM T-5 stated that strong forces of militia have been stationed in the area surrounding Santa Clara in Las Villas Province and have terrorized the people. She stated that her brother told her that 21 men had been shot without trial on December 21, 1961, in Santa

- 18 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

Clara and that four men were shot the next day. She stated that the presence of the militia has made it difficult for the farmers to get up to the hills in order to assist the guerrillas. MM T-5 stated that Las Villas Province, which has been the center of guerrilla activity, has been literally flooded with militia and that the people in the hills are inactive and merely waiting.

On January 8, 1962, MM T-11, a person who is actively engaged in clandestine operations in Cuba directed against the CASTRO regime, and who last returned from Cuba on December 25, 1961, advised that rebel activity in Cuba is extremely limited. The fear of arrest and execution as well as the lack of equipment and materials has effectively restricted such activity. Statements circulating in Miami indicating the effectiveness of the underground forces in Cuba are gross exaggerations of truth according to MM T-11.

#### IV. AMOUNT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT POSSESSED BY UNDERGROUND FORCES

On December 20, 1961, ANDRES ZAYAS, previously mentioned, advised that the amount of military equipment possessed by the underground forces is insignificant. Some of the people living in the cities have some pistols and revolvers, but ammunition for them is extremely scarce.

The guerrillas in the mountains have some Thompson submachine guns, Garand M-1's, some M-3 carbines as well as some captured Belgian automatic rifles. Ammunition for these weapons is almost exhausted and probably no more than half of the men have any arms at all.

- 19 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

On January 2, 1962, EDEL MONTIEL, previously mentioned, advised that the guerrilla forces are fairly well armed but lack ammunition. He stated that when he was in the Escambray in March, 1961, his group of about 30 some odd men possessed three Thompson submachine guns, three or four M-3 carbines, three or four Garand rifles and a few miscellaneous weapons that had been picked up in brushes with the CASTRO militia. MONTIEL advised that there presently are no more than one-half of those 30 men still in the Escambray although some others may have arrived since he left. He estimated that about one-half of the men in the Escambray possess arms of one kind or another.

On November 21, 1961, MM T-4, previously mentioned, advised that when he last had contact with the guerrilla forces in the Escambray in early August, 1961, about one-half of the men with OSVALDO RAMIREZ were armed with a variety of weapons such as a Thompson submachine gun, Garand M-1 rifles, Browning automatic pistols and a few Czechoslovakian and Belgian arms. MM T-4 said that the ammunition supply of these men was almost exhausted, however, and he doubts that they are in much better shape today.

Regarding underground forces living in the cities, MM T-4 stated that most of the people are unarmed or if they have arms, they lack ammunition. — Some of them have explosives, but very often they lack proper detonating devices.

#### V. ARMS REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNDERGROUND GROUPS

On December 20, 1961, ANDRES ZAYAS, previously mentioned, advised that based on his experience operating

- 20 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

with the Cuban underground, he would describe the arms requirements of the rebels as follows:

A. GROUPS OPERATING IN CITIES

1. .45 automatics
2. C-3 or C-4 explosives
3. Detonators
4. Time fuses
5. M-3 carbines with silencers or Thompson submachine guns
6. Ammunition for the above weapons
7. Hand Grenades

B. GROUPS OPERATING IN RURAL AREAS

1. Garand M-1 rifles
2. Carbines
3. 30 and 50 caliber machine guns
4. Bazookas
5. Hand Grenades
6. Ammunition for the above weapons.

MM T-4 advised that the needs of the underground organizations in Cuba are generally similar and can be summarized as follows:

1. Small boats of about 30 feet with high powered engines permitting speeds of 40 to 45 knots, which can be used to provide a continuous reliable source of supply for the underground forces at such time as they develop a direct line of attack against strategic sites in Cuba.
2. Detonators. According to MM T-4, "plastic" for sabotage work is available, but there is a severe shortage of detonators.

- 21 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

3. Incendiary devices.
4. Rifles and ammunition.

MM T-4 said that the Springfield rifle is generally considered to be the best rifle for use by guerrilla fighters in the hills and mountains, while semi-automatic or automatic weapons, such as the M-1 rifle and M-3 machine gun, are more suitable for other types of military activity. In addition, the Browning 14 shot semi-automatic pistol, which uses 9 mm ammunition is considered a valuable weapon for use in the cities.

With reference to the danger of possessing United States weapons at present in Cuba, the following information was reported on December 28, 1961, by MM T-12, [who is acquainted with some Cuban cabinet members and numerous officials of the CASTRO government. He received this information on that same date from a source, described as reliable, who had just arrived from Cuba.] MM T-12 has furnished reliable information in the past. [C]

Practically all United States made arms in Cuba have been retired from use by the government of Cuba. There are still in use a number of Colts and some other United States made pistols, but rifles, machine guns, mortars and artillery pieces have all been retired from active use. One reason for this is that anyone found in the remote or rural areas of Cuba armed with United States weapons will be shot on the spot, as invading "mercenaries" paid and supplied by the United States. The revolutionary government has the problem of determining immediately if troops are their own, invaders, or counter-revolutionaries. To minimize the danger of a mistake, the American arms are being retired.

- 22 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

VI. LIAISON BETWEEN UNDERGROUND GROUPS IN  
CUBA WITH UNITED STATES

MM T-2, previously mentioned, advised on November 21, 1961, that the DRE in Cuba had no means of communication with Cuban exiled groups in the United States and that in fact it was for this reason that he had personally come to the United States.

BERNARDO LLERENA, previously mentioned, furnished substantially the same information regarding communication between rebel groups in Cuba and those in the United States.

HECTOR FEBLES, previously mentioned, advised on November 30, 1961, that personal courier was the only means of communication existing between the Cuban underground groups in Cuba and the Cuban exiles in the United States. He related that messages from Cuba are either sent by means of friendly foreign embassy personnel or are carried by fleeing Cuban exiles.

- 22a -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

VII. EVALUATIONS OF PRESENT STATUS OF UNDER-  
GROUND GROUPS

HECTOR FEBLES, previously mentioned, advised on November 30, 1961, that based on information which he has been receiving from contacts of his in Cuba, it is apparent that the underground groups there are generally not functioning with any coordinated plan. He said that some groups were completely wiped out by the anti-underground measures of the CASTRO regime in April, 1961, while those that survived were seriously disorganized. He said that the leadership which remains in Cuba is having great difficulty maintaining contact with the membership cells and that this lack of communication is causing the deterioration of many groups.

FEBLES advised that as of that time he was unable to furnish the identities of any of the leaders of the underground in Cuba. He said that this was partly due to the fact that arrests and executions have radically changed the leadership in almost all of the groups and that furthermore, he did not feel free to identify any person continuing to operate in the underground in Cuba.

Regarding the political sympathies of the underground groups in Cuba, FEBLES stated that the UR, of which he was a member, was composed mainly of small, non-political organizations with a tendency toward the "right." He said that the MRP and the 30th of November organizations have tendencies toward the "left" and that many of the members of these groups would continue to support FIDEL CASTRO if he would merely sever his ties with the Soviet Union. FEBLES mentioned that the MRP has suffered an almost complete loss of leadership and is not a serious factor in the Cuban underground.

- 23 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

FEYLES advised that the DRE is one group which has apparently managed to survive the effects of the arrests of April, 1961, and that this group is probably as active as any in Cuba at this time. He stated that the UR, which is a smaller organization, has been working in collaboration with the DRE. FEYLES stated that an estimate of the strength of the UR or any of the other underground groups would be nothing more than a guess at this time.

In December, 1961, MM T-6, a Cuban exile residing in San Juan, Puerto Rico, made available a letter he had received from his uncle regarding conditions in Santiago, Oriente Province, Cuba. In this letter, his uncle commented that "each day our activities are more limited." He said that the so called Vigilance Committees in each block control what food is left in the country and that anyone not belonging to the Committee is considered a counterrevolutionary. The people of Cuba are living in fear of arrest and execution without trial, and while a high percentage of the citizens have joined organizations which are in opposition to the regime, "modern airplanes" are needed to fight "these people."

On December 13, 1961, Captain CARLOS TORRES DE NAVARRA, 2137 Southwest 12th Street, Miami, Florida, was interviewed and identified himself as a Cuban pilot who had flown for Cubana Airlines from January, 1935, until the end of 1958. When FIDEL CASTRO took over the government of Cuba in January, 1959, TORRES lost his position with the airlines. He said that he remained in Cuba and in 1959 began working with various anti-CASTRO groups. He said that after a number of attempts, he was able to obtain permission to leave Cuba and arrived in Miami, Florida, on December 5, 1961. TORRES stated that he had been restricted by the CASTRO regime

- 24 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

to the Province of Havana and that he had not become a member of any particular underground organization, although he had assisted various groups in such activities as transporting guns and on one occasion, succeeded in rescuing a wounded rebel who was a member of the underground.

TORRES stated that the CASTRO regime has struck terror into the hearts of all anti-Communist Cubans, and that they are living in fear of their lives. He said that the people are frequently imprisoned or executed on the slightest pretext and that the activities of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (Vigilance Committee) have made it exceedingly difficult for the anti-CASTRO underground to operate effectively. He noted that it is almost impossible to travel, obtain money, obtain a house or to do anything without being reported to the CASTRO regime. He said this has tended to freeze the Cuban people into a state of inactive terror.

It is noted that TORRES described the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution as an informal system which operates effectively throughout the island. He said that this Committee has armed members in practically every block throughout the City of Havana, as well as in all other cities and when a person comes to the attention of the Committee, he is questioned concerning his sources of money, his employment or lack of employment, his family, relatives, friends and if moving about, his means of transportation. He is also questioned as to where he has been, with whom, and what he has been doing. The Committee, without benefit of warrant, may search his house and imprison him without filing charges.

Captain TORRES stated that an occasional explosion can be heard in Havana, and that this and

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

other types of sabotage activity are conducted by the anti-CASTRO underground from time to time in Havana Province. He said, however, that such activities have not accomplished anything of significance against the regime. He said that the work of the underground has become increasingly difficult as the program of repressions and executions has been stepped up. Underground members are, in most instances, afraid to engage in any extensive operation and they are unable to operate on a coordinated basis throughout the island.

He said that the anti-CASTRO underground is making no substantial progress whatsoever and it does not seem that the CASTRO regime can be overthrown by underground activity from within Cuba.

On December 20, 1961, LEO RODRIGUEZ, 5619 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, was contacted and advised that he had arrived in the United States on September 21, 1961, from Santiago, Oriente, Cuba. RODRIGUEZ said he had lived for many years in Santiago and that his family is still there. For this reason, he does not wish his identity to be divulged outside of official United States Government circles. He said that he had been in the mining business in Santiago and was president of the Compania Minera Basica (Basic Mining Company) of Cuba. This company was, prior to intervention, a United States owned subsidiary with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. RODRIGUEZ stated that he, himself, was a graduate of Yale University. RODRIGUEZ advised that based on his personal observations up to the time of his departure in September, 1961, as well as on letters which he has been receiving from his wife since his departure, it is apparent that the action groups in Santiago and the surrounding area are relatively inactive at this time. RODRIGUEZ stated that most people operate in groups without any name, although there were also organized groups such as the MRP, the MRR and the 30th of November Movement. He stated that while the under-

- 26 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

ground groups were well organized prior to the April 17, 1961 invasion, they have been badly damaged and are in a state of disintegration at this time. He said that fear is strong and necessary equipment and supplies are lacking, so that it is the general attitude of the people in Santiago to wait for outside assistance.

On December 29, 1961, MM T-7, a Cuban exile with numerous contacts among the Cuban population in Miami, and who is associated with an anti-CASTRO organization in Miami, advised that he has had several recent communications with Cuba. He stated that these reports have indicated that sabotage activity by the underground in Cuba has decreased in recent months due to the extreme measures being imposed by the government and also due to the lack of material.

MM T-7 said that he had recently been informed that over 100 persons have been killed or executed during the last two weeks of ~~operation~~ by militia forces led by RAUL CASTRO. These executions occurred in the Province of Las Villas and were designed to reduce anti-CASTRO activities in that province through the use of fear. Persons killed were not necessarily active rebels, but were persons suspected or accused of anti-CASTRO activity. MM T-7 stated that the people of the underground in Cuba, while hopeful that CASTRO will relax enough to permit them to resume activity, are mainly waiting for some assistance from the United States.

MM T-8, an American citizen of Cuban ancestry, who has been contacting Cuban exiles in the Miami area to determine the actual status of the underground groups in Cuba, advised on January 4, 1962, that based on his discussions with a number of individuals who have recently arrived from Cuba, the underground there is disorganized

- 27 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

to the point that it no longer exists as a serious factor. He said that the exiles now arriving in Miami who were connected with underground organizations or activities are generally pessimistic as to the possibilities for any effective work on the part of the underground. They have told him that what action is taking place in Cuba today is the result of the efforts of independent groups working without coordination and with as little contact as possible with other groups in order to provide the best security. He has been told that the situation has deteriorated to the point that some underground groups are even fighting among themselves.

MM T-8 said that there is apparently almost no contact between groups in Cuba and those in Miami and noted that the Miami exiled groups will all take credit for a rumored act of sabotage without any specific information that their counterparts in Cuba were responsible. The police state methods used by the Cuban government have been effective and the block by block coverage of the Vigilance Committees has left people living in a state of constant fear, unwilling to jeopardize their lives for what seems to be a hopeless cause.

MM T-8 stated that he has learned that the problems involved in arranging a meeting between underground groups have become so difficult that during the last several months such meetings have been abandoned.

MM T-8 stated that in his most recent conversations with incoming exiles, it has been indicated to him that the DRE, a Catholic youth group, offers the best possibility for the development of an effective underground organization. It also appears that the Province of Pinar del Rio is becoming a focal point for underground activity in contrast with the past when this province was generally the least active. He stated that people have mentioned to him that there is some

- 28 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

guerrilla activity in the Escambray Mountains, but that no one connected with the underground in Cuba considers these forces to be a serious threat to the CASTRO regime.

On January 4, 1962, MM T-9, a Cuban exile residing in Miami, who has numerous contacts with Cuban exiles in the area and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he had received an unsigned letter from Cuba on December 29, 1961, which letter was in the handwriting of his mother, who is presently residing in Havana. In this letter it was stated that any unusual movement by a person in Havana is almost certain to result in that person being reported to the Cuban G-2 authorities by a member of the Vigilance Committee for the block in which that person lives. According to this letter, the effectiveness of this method of control of the population has improved as the economic life of the city has declined. The members of the Vigilance Committee receive extra food and privileges as a reward for their services and frequently will denounce innocent people to further their own position. As a result, problems of the underground groups with regard to the maintenance of some semblance of organization have been seriously hampered. The writer stated that it was the general impression that the underground people in Havana are presently operating in independent groups and with little contact with formal organizations. — Consequently, there is no coordinated plan and people act on a day to day basis, afraid to contact anyone outside their own circle who might be of questionable reliability.

On January 10, 1962, MM T-10, a Cuban national who arrived in Miami, Florida, and claimed political exile on January 6, 1962, advised that he had been active in the underground in Cuba as a member of the DRE in the City of Havana up until the time of his departure.

- 29 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: CUBAN REBEL ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

He stated that when he left Cuba, the activities of the underground were very limited. He advised that there are no acts of sabotage being performed in Havana and that the noise of explosions which were previously frequent are no longer being heard. MM T-10 advised that the activity of the DRE in Havana is confined to the preparation and distribution of a few propaganda leaflets and that he, himself, had been assisting in the typing of such leaflets. Otherwise, underground operations in Havana are at a complete standstill.

PROPERTY OF FBI - This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

- 30\* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~