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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.

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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.

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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

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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: TULLIO
Secretariat of Action and Sabotage: CELESTINO
Secretariat of Supplies: JULIO CESAR
Secretariat of Security: ERNESTO
Secretariat of Public Relations: PANCHO
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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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D. REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY MOVEMENT
(RR)

On November 17, 1961, OSCAR SALAS, 3001 Northwest 63rd Street, Miami, Florida, an attorney and former professor at Villanova University in Cuba, advised that he had been coordinator of the RR in the Province of Havana, and that as of November, 1961, he was an official of the RR in the United States. He said that the RR 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 RR 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 RR is located in Havana and has been able to maintain limited contact with the various provinces. Positive action by the RR 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 RR 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

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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.

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