

Agency Information

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SECRET

PSI Elio Quintero (protect identity) (97-4313), 153 N.E. 44th Street, Miami, advised on 7/29/60 that he had been serving in a liaison capacity with the MRR and prospective defector pilots of Cuban airlines. His operations were directed by Dr. Manuel Artime Buesa, an ex-Lieutenant of the Cuban Revolutionary Army who now was serving as Secretary General of the MRR. Quintero was in daily telephonic contact with Salvador Aldereguia and Antonio Bascaro, two members of the Cuban Revolutionary Army who were in exile in the Dutch West Indies, and through Artime was attempting to arrange for their admission into the US.

(S)(U)

97-4313-3 p.3
(6,33)

Carlos Rodriguez, a Cuban national living in NYC as of August, 1960, reportedly said that he was affiliated with the "MRR - Camilo Cienfuegos", and claimed to be in close contact with the "real MRR" in Cuba. He said that Manuel Artime was not entirely sound, but that the movement in Cuba now was well organized and beginning to show signs of progress. (CIA, 9/1/60)

(S)(U) BRACKETED INFO AND RECLASSIFIED PER AGENCIES LTR DTD 7/5/97 (S)(U) 9803 rld/gcl #214 326 4/30/98

105-91331-1 p.2
(41)

[In July, 1960 there was dissension in the MRR leadership which consisted of Ricardo Lorie, Higinio "Nino" Diaz, Antonio Michel Yabor and Manuel Artime Buesa. Artime, who represented the MRR on the FRD Executive Committee, reportedly was aligned with the political group of Manuel Antonio de Varona, Aurelio Sanchez Arango and Justo Carrillo. The dissident group, Lorie, Diaz and Yabor, who were not accepted by the FRD, aligned themselves with the Liberation Alliance which was formed in Miami on 8/7/60, and claimed they were the true MRR organization. A paid political announcement in the 8/2/60 issue of the "Diario Las Americas" stated that Jose Ignacio Rasco Bermudez, a secretary of the FRD Executive Committee, certified that the only MRR duly accredited representative of that organization to the FRD was Manuel Artime. The National Board of the MRR in Cuba, backed by the FRD, reportedly approved the reorganization of the MRR and Artime's expulsion of Lorie, Diaz and Yabor. On 8/16/60, CIA, Miami (protect identity), advised that Artime and

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Rudolph Fernandez (protect identity), a cotton broker of Atlanta, Georgia who was closely associated with Francisco Gualberto Cajigas y Garcia Del Prado, Miami, Florida, civilian leader of the Cuban Unity of Liberation (UCL) (105-88041), furnished information to Miami Office Agents on 9/12/60. Cajigas had told Fernandez that Father Medina, Rector of Villanueva University, Havana, arrived in Miami from Havana, on 9/5/60, for the purpose of contacting Cajigas and offering him the help and resources of the Catholic Church in Cuba in his fight against Castro. Fernandez said that, according to Cajigas, Father Medina advised that the Catholic Church in Cuba was opposed to Manuel Antonio Varona of the FRD. Father Medina also disclosed to Cajigas that Manuel Artime, one of the five leaders of the FRD, had visited Medina and had confided that the FRD was divided and unhappy. U

105-88041-6 encl.p.5
(39)

Ramiro Loys (protect identity), a confidential source of information, advised on 9/6/60 that he had been told by Carlos Marquez Sterling that Antonio (Tony) Varona was coming to Washington, DC on 9/16/60, where he planned to confer with officials of the Department of State and CIA concerning the eventual unification of the various anti-Castro groups then in existence. At that time, Varona was to discuss what assistance this group might expect from the US and he also would provide the identity of various anti-Castro groups known to him. Among persons under consideration by Sterling, Varona, and others, for inclusion in this unified organization was Artime Buesa. According to Loys, Sterling had been a Cuban presidential aspirant during the election of 1958 and Varona was a former Cuban Senator now in exile in Miami, Florida. U

109-584-1916
(22)

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas (2-1622), 1900 S.W. 21st Terrace, Miami, advised on 10/6/60 that through an intermediary (not further identified) he had been in contact with Manuel Artime Buesa, military leader and member of the FRD, and had offered to join the FRD provided the FRD would manifest certain stipulations. (Date

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Fray Balbino de Ferral of the Capuchinos Convent Plaza de Jesús #2, Madrid, Spain, advised on 8/22/63 that he had been deported from Cuba in September, 1961. Fray Balbino stated that he was a member of the MRR, identified as a counterrevolutionary group which was headed by Manuel Artimes, who was one of the leaders of the 4/17/61 Bay of Pigs invasion (sic). Fray Balbino said that he acted in a sort of liaison capacity between the MRR and other counterrevolutionary groups. (S)(u)

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105-111153-15
(73)

On 1/2/62, Philadelphia SOI Enrique Menocal (protect identity) advised that the 30th of November Movement (105-92196) was founded originally by Manuel Artime (date not indicated) and was composed largely of Catholic students in Cuba. Menocal said that November 30th was the date on which Huber Matos, former military commander of Cameguy Province in Cuba, was arrested by Fidel Castro and sentenced to prison for being a traitor to the Cuban Revolution.

105-92196-28 p.3
(41)
SI 105-92196-17 encl.p.1
(41)

The MRR, an underground movement formed in Cuba in mid-1959, was composed primarily of three larger groups: (1) the ACU, under Manuel F. Artime Buesa; (2) a military group under Major Ricardo de la Lorie Valls; and (3) an air group, without planes, of 13 experienced pilots under Major Antonio Michel Yabor. The ACU was in existence prior to the Castro regime as the Cuban Catholic University (CACU) students organization. In November, 1959, under Artime's leadership, the majority of the CACU membership joined with the Rebel Army Officer group to become the MRR. In February, 1950, a coordinated movement of anti-Castro exiles outside Cuba was formed in Mexico and named the MRR. Artime and Lorie were joint heads of this newly formed group. About the middle of 1960, Artime, who was in the US, reportedly began to act without authority from the MRR Directorate, which resulted in formation of the MRR splinter group,

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Cuba since the ill-fated 4/17/61 Playa Giron invasion. [(MM 639-S)] (u)

On 12/29/62, President John F. Kennedy visited the Orange Bowl Stadium, Miami, where he reviewed the returned prisoners of Brigade 2506. He was accompanied by Jose Miro Cardona and Manuel Artime, both of whom were on the speakers' stand with President Kennedy. [(MM 639-S)] (u)

After Artime's return to the US, he used his influence with the US Government to obtain an interview with President Kennedy in Palm Beach, Florida. He was to continue as head of the MRR. Artime made a good appearance, spoke English, and had charmed US Government officials who were in charge of government policy between the US and Cuba. He was extremely ambitious and would like to be the head of the CRC and probably the future President of Cuba. (Higinio "Nino" Diaz, supra, 1/4/63). U

As a result of nationwide press, radio, and television coverage of President Kennedy's 12/29/62 activities at the Orange Bowl, which coverage prominently mentioned Artime's name, Artime now was better known and his position in the anti-Fidel Castro movement was greatly increased. Generally among Cuban exiles Artime was considered young, immature, and highly ambitious, and many felt that he would be the victim of his own publicity. [(MM 639-S, 1/5/63)] (u)

97-4133-57 p.1,3-5
(29)

The 1/6/63 issue of the "Miami Herald" carried an article entitled "Rift Develops in Invasion Brigade; 100 Boycotted JFK Here." This related to boycott by Cuban Brigade 2506 (105-117331) prisoners of President Kennedy's 12/29/62 appearance at the Orange Bowl to welcome the returned prisoners. The article stated that Enrique Llaca, Jr., recently released from Castro's prisons, singled out Manuel Artime and Dr. Jose Miro Cardona, head of the CRC, for criticism, declaring they were using the Brigade for their personal benefits. Both Artime and Miro Cardona denied this. The Brigade, under the leadership of Artime and a joint chiefs of staff, had set up headquarters in Miami. U

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The 1/6/63 issue of the "Miami News", in an article entitled "Brigade 2506 Meets Monday to Map Plans", set out the names of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Brigade and quoted Artime as stating: "We have fought only one battle and we are certain the final battle is very near."

On 1/9/63, [MM 492-S] advised that 24 hours after being received by President Kennedy at the Orange Bowl, the group headed by Enrique Llaca Orbiz appeared on Channel 10 Television, Miami. During their appearance they stated that they were opposed to the CRC and to Manuel Artime, chief of the Brigade.

105-117331-1 encl.p.2,3,6,9
(50)

[In May, 1961 Fidel Castro offered to exchange a number of Cuban prisoners taken during the 4/17/61 invasion attempt, for US tractors and spare parts for same. Eliminated from the proposed tractor exchange deal were the three leaders of the invasion - Manuel Artime, Jose San Roman and Rafael Bolivar Fuentes. The Cuban Government proposed the exchange of Artime for Francisco "The Hook" Molina, a pro-Castro Cuban who had been convicted of second-degree murder in NYC. However, this proposed exchange failed to materialize and in late March - early April 1962, in Havana, Cuba, the prisoners were tried before a 5-man military tribunal and convicted. The verdict involved heavy ransoms with the ransom for Artime set at \$500,000. Subsequently, the US carried out negotiations for release of the prisoners and on 12/23-24/62 they all were airlifted to Miami. Artime, the civil representative of the CRC, reportedly had emerged as a focal figure in the exile community. At a press conference on 12/25/62, he emphasized that all the returned prisoners regarded themselves as the "troops of the Revolutionary Council." Artime declined to discuss the military aspects of the abortive invasion. He said that he and the other ransomed prisoners were determined to return to Cuba. [As of 1/21/63, INS, Miami, was beginning to process the prisoners.] [CIA, Miami, had contact with Brigade 2506 leaders Artime, Jose Perez San Roman and Eneido Oliva as sources of information to keep abreast of Brigade 2506 moods and desires, and not as "controlled agents"]

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(u) per INS LTR
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211.326 1/6/93

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ltr dtd. 2/5/92 (u)
9803 rdd/gcl #211,326
4/30/92. See 1st and 3rd
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REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

- 105-99200-A Washington Capital News Service, (46)✓
12/24/62
- A Washington Capital News Service, (46)✓
12/26/62
- A "The Miami Herald", (46)✓
12/26/62
("All-Out Effort Would Topple
Castro -- Artime"; also,
"Not a Turncoat Among Them.")
(Photograph of Artime appeared
in both articles).

- 105-107224-A Washington Capital News Service, (48)✓
12/25/62

^(u)
[WF 1414-S] reported that a meeting of anti-Castro exiles scheduled for 8:30 P.M., 1/27/63, at St. Patrick's Academy, 924 G Street, N.W., Washington, DC, was to be addressed by Commandante Manuel Artime, Cuban exile military figure who participated in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April, 1961. Artime, temporarily, was in Washington with associates, including Commandante Jose Perez San Roman, who likewise figured in the Bay of Pigs invasion. u

109-584-3405
(60)✓

Washington Capital News Service released, datelined Miami, 2/6/63, reported that the Cuban Brigade, which participated in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion, was preparing militarily to try again to liberate Cuba, according to a statement made that day in Miami, by Manuel Artime, Brigade leader. Artime told UPI he was speaking as an individual and not as Secretary General of the MRR, or the Brigade. He called on Cubans to "unify for action" and on all free

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publicize the movement on 4/11/63. He appeared to have the backing of Manuel Artime, who had been seen with Rivero quite frequently during the past week (place not indicated), and possibly that of Jose Miro Cardona, president of the CRC. Artime dealt with Miro through Carlos Pelaez Cossio, a former senator under Gomez and Batista (sic) and a personal confidant of both Miro and Artime

(S) (u)

This reference indicated that foregoing information was acquired on 4/10/63 in the US (place not given)

(S) (u)

105-117331-7 p.2
(51)

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7/5/91 ltr (u)
9803 add/sec 21,326
4/30/92

Miami Office report dated 4/30/63, set out information indicating that during January, 1963, some MRR (97-4133) functionaries participated in unity discussions with other Cuban revolutionary organizations. The MRR problem was complicated by the recent return to the US from imprisonment in Cuba, of Manuel Artime Buesa, MRR leader who had participated in the April, 1961 invasion attempt. In late January, 1963, Jose Miro Cardona, head of the CRC, tried to overthrow the MRR leadership of Artime. On 2/22/63, at a meeting held by the Enrique Oviedo Leon faction of the MRR (place not indicated), Artime was expelled and Oviedo was named MRR Secretary General. A document (quoted) entitled "Removal and Expulsion of Dr. Manuel Artime Buesa" was made available by MM 492-S. On 4/23/63, Manuel Villamanan (protect identity), Cuban exile in Miami, said that Artime still was undisputed head of the MRR; that about 75% of Brigade 2506 was sympathetic with the MRR; that Erneido Oliva of Brigade 2506 was very close to Artime and in agreement with Artime on both the military and political aspects of the fight against communism in Cuba; and that the MRR was not making clandestine trips to Cuba at that time. (Details set out).

(S) (u)

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97-4133-60 p.1-3,5-8
(4,30)

The following references relate to an alleged aerial strike over Habana, Cuba, during the night of 4/25/63, in which action Alexander Irwin Rorke, Jr. (97-4623) reportedly was involved. Frank Fiorini,

(S) (u)

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against Arttime and considered him a demagogue. u

109-584-3822 p.1-6
(17,62)
SI 105-97873-18 encl.p.5
(Felipe Vidal Santiago,
12/17/63).
(44)

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It was reported on 1/22/64 that no further conversations between former Nicaraguan President Luis Somoza and former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras were known to have taken place concerning "Operacion Centroamericana"*. This project continued to be at a standstill and activities of Manuel Arttime, MRR leader, apparently were not connected with it, although no open break with Prío had been made. Arttime was slowly strengthening and training a group of exiles in Nicaragua. The MRP (105-92704) claimed that Arttime was receiving aid from the Nicaraguan Government and from the US. (S) (u)

The Alliance of MRP - Alpha 66 - SFNE would consider joining forces with Arttime when his organization had developed sufficient strength to make an attack on Cuba feasible. (S) (u)

(CIA, 3/9/64) (S) (u)
105-92704-92 (S) (u)
(42)

*See CIA report, dated 11/1/63, appearing elsewhere in this summary. (105-123568-8) u (S) (u)

JFK Act 6 (4)

PSI [redacted] (protect identity), a Cuban exile, advised on 1/24/64 that supporters of Manuel Antonio de Varona, head of the CRC (105-107224), and of Jose Miro Cardona, would oppose Manuel Arttime, head of the MRR, should Arttime return to Cuba as head of an anti-Castro force. Pena explained that Varona and Miro accused Arttime of having betrayed them while he was in the training camp in Guatemala. (S) (u)

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~~SECRET~~-53-

Miami report dated 3/19/64, set out activities of Manuel Artime Buesa as head of the MRR. This included Artime's travels between the US and Nicaragua and Costa Rica; his recruiting activities in behalf of his anti-Castro training program and including a number of Cuban exiles recruited out of the US Army for service with his group; the alleged grand style of living of Artime and his followers; and his operation of training camps in Nicaragua where he reportedly had more than five million dollars worth of military equipment. It was alleged that Artime was being officially sponsored and subsidized and that he made a living out of the revolution. In early 1964, when the Pro-Referendum Committee was polling the Cuban exiles for a Cuban referendum election to be held in May, Artime was reported to be against this referendum. Reference also set out information reported on 2/12/64 that Adelaida Padron Cruz, 881 N.E. 71st Street, Miami, continued to be Artime's mistress and that this residence was used by him for secret meetings.

109-584-3884 p.1,7-10,13,18
(17,62)

Bernardo G. De Torres (105-124552), a Cuban exile, 1440 S.W. 4th Street, Miami, advised on 4/3/64 that he was one of the ransomed prisoners of the April, 1961 Cuban invasion and had returned to the US on 12/24/62. He stated that the support of the US to the Cuban invasion and its support to the movement of Cuban exile leader Manuel Artime in Central America, were two events which precluded prosecution of Cuban exiles for violation of neutrality. DeTorres said it was general information among Cuban exiles in Miami that Artime and members of his organization, the MRR, were receiving US assistance in some manner in connection with the establishment of training camps in Central America.

105-124552-3 encl.p.9
(52)

JFK:Act-6... (1) (B)

Bureau memo dated 4/9/64, advised that on 4/8/64, [redacted] of CIA (62-80750) furnished information on a strictly confidential basis, requesting that this information not be disseminated outside the Bureau. This pertained to the involvement in anti-Castro

[Last P. cont on pg 59, is classified per agency 7/5/91 (br.) (U) 9803 add/gel #211,326 4/30/92

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As of 3/10/64, the MRR (97-4133) in the San Francisco, Calif. area, was conducting a recruitment program for a group to start military training within the next 2 months at an unknown location under the leadership of Manuel Artime. (Carolina Salazar - protect identity - MRR official and PSI under development) (S)(u)

As of 4/20/64, the Northern California MRR membership had conducted a similar program. No further move was to be made until word was received from Artime, following which recruits probably would proceed to Miami for further instructions. It was the general feeling in MRR that the US Government was supporting Artime. (Jose Valdez - protect identity - MRR delegate). U

97-4133-103 encl.p.1,2
(31)

The Newark Office, on 4/16/64, reported that SOI Jose Manuel Macias (protect identity) advised on 4/1/64 that a couple of days previously, several members of Cuban Brigade 2506 who had visited Washington, DC and Miami, Florida, returned to the New York area. While in Miami they tried to see Manuel Artime but he was in Central America. Instead, they saw Antonio Iglesia Pons, who was in charge of military affairs for Artime. Artime did not have control of military activities but served as a figurehead and the go-between with the US Government. U

On 4/15/64, Macias stated that several members of the Brigade again would go to Miami on 4/20/64, and from there to Central America to the training camps set up by Artime. Artime was reported to have two bases in Central America, one in Nicaragua and the other in Costa Rica. U

109-584-3912
(62)

In connection with foregoing, Bureau memo dated 4/24/64, set out CIA's appraisal of this and other information furnished by the Newark Office and disseminated to CIA. According to CIA on 4/23/64, (u) (S)

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[Last p is classified per agency ltr dtd 7/5/81 (cont. on pg 62.) (S)(u) 9803 rdd/gcl #211,328 4/30/92

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Antonio Iglesia Pons was in charge of the Nicaraguan operations base as a camp commander, but was not in charge of military affairs for Artime

(S)(u)

This memo also set out information on CIA's relationship with Artime

(S)(u)

109-584-3911
(62)

TP 52-S advised that Rodrigo Calderon of Miami, Florida, a former high ranking officer in Cuba under former dictator Fulgencio Batista, came to Tampa on 4/25/64 and met secretly with other Batista followers. This group met for the purpose of formulating plans of their own in the event Fidel Castro was overthrown in the near future by anti-Castro forces that were not followers of Batista. It was felt that this group feared Manuel Artime and desired to formulate plans to be able to re-enter Cuba because it was common knowledge that some Batista supporters would be regarded as undesirables in Cuba when Castro was thrown out. It was believed that this meeting was held at the home of a woman doctor by the name of Dr. Miranda. Others present were Dr. Jose Mijares and a Dr. Santos, who worked for Hillsborough County in Tampa.

(S)(u)

109-584-3914
(62)

In 1960, CIA initiated a program known under the code name "CLIP" (105-89923), the over-all objective of which was the establishment of an organization among Cuban exiles capable of replacing the Castro government. In May, 1960, CIA furnished the names of Cubans making up the nucleus of the organization which would move against Castro and which would publicly announce its existence under the name of Frente Revolucionario Democratico (FRD - Revolutionary Democratic Front) (105-87912). On 6/22/60, a manifesto was published in Mexico City, Mexico, announcing the formation of the FRD. Directors of this organization who signed the manifesto and were in Mexico City

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Manuel Artime Buesa was in Nicaragua the week of 5/4/64 where he met with Teodoro Picado, Costa Rican pilot who returned to San Jose in April, 1964 after having been jailed in Cuba for seven months. (CIA)

(S)(U) Classified per agency 7/5/91 (tr.) (U)
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#211/326
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109-584-3943
(17,62)

Press reports indicated that on 5/13/64, the MRR issued a communique advising of the capture of the Port of Pilon in Cuba and demolition of a sugar mill. Manuel Artime participated. The communique was signed by Manuel Artime Buesa, Secretary General, and Rafael Quintero, Military Coordinator of the MRR. The raid on the sugar refinery at Central Pilon, Oriente Province, was reported also by CSNY 2822-S and verified by Frank McCarthy, UPI, and Julio Lubo, former owner of Central Pilon. The following references on Artime relate to this activity:

REFERENCE	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
97-4133-99 (Setting out press release as furnished by Dr. Cesar Baro Esteva, Vice-Secretary General, MRR)	(15,66)
-102* (PSI Alfredo Borges, protect identity, and duplicate informant)	(5,31)
-A "The NY Times" 5/14/64 p.1 ("Cuban Exiles Say They Seized Port").	(6,33)
-A Washington Capital News Service 5/13/64	(33)
105-114543-126	(50)

*Add. info.

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On 5/11/64, MM 960-S advised that Manuel Artime Buesa continued as head of the MRR which maintained headquarters at 2212 N.E. 2nd Court, Miami.

~~(u)~~ [Santiago Alvarez Rodriguez, Miami, former Comandos L action group leader, advised on 5/12/64, that as soon as repairs were completed on his boat, the "Silvia" he and about 10 others would leave on the boat for Central America to join Artime.]

On 5/12/64, INS, Miami (protect identity) advised that Artime would leave Miami on 5/12 or 13/64 for Costa Rica, his Central American headquarters, and then go to Nicaragua where he reportedly had military training camps. Artime was expected to return to the US in about a week.

Add. info.

~~(u)~~ ~~per INS letter 11/6/62~~
9803 Add/gcl
211,326 1/6/63

109-584-3976 p.8,9
(17,63)
SI as par. 2
105-117222-182 encl.p.3,4
(add. info.)
(12,50)

Alberto Oms Barreto, a former member of Brigade 2506 which participated in the April, 1961 invasion of Cuba, advised on 4/2/64, that he had made a trip to Washington, DC and Miami, Florida in mid-March, 1964, and had talked to representatives of Brigade 2506. Oms stated that leaders of Brigade 2506 in the Miami area were not contemplating doing anything at the present time in a military way to overthrow Fidel Castro. Most of them were not in sympathy with Manuel Artime Buesa who formerly was the civilian head of Brigade 2506. Oms stated that some former members of Brigade 2506 had gone with Artime and Artime was reported to have military camps in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Artime currently was the head of the MRR and was reported to be preparing for raids and guerrilla activity in Cuba in the immediate future.

On 5/13/64, CSNY 2822-S advised that his niece (not further identified) recently had a letter from Joaquin Godoy of the MRP. Godoy

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(continued 109-584-3949)

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

article entitled "Cuban Forays Indicate 2 Units Plan Strikes", from the 5/16/64 issue of the "Washington Evening Star")

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109-584-A Press Release for 5/22/64 column of Fulton Lewis, Jr. for King Features Syndicate, Inc.

(65)

"The Washington Post and Times Herald", 5/30/64, p.B-7, in an article entitled "Cuba's Oil Refineries 'Off Limits'" in Jack Anderson's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column, reported that these orders regarding the refineries were issued to Cuban Commandos by CIA. An aide to Cuban exile leader Manuel Artime had explained to this column: "We don't want to damage foreign property." A year before, Artime had complained to this column that CIA had cut the allowance for his freedom fighters down to a token \$1000 a month. He hadn't complained recently.

97-4133-A, "The Washington Post and Times Herald" 5/30/64

(33)

CIA (protect identity) advised on 5/14/64 that the MRR was not a CIA operation. CIA at the direction of "Special Group" had been furnishing support to the MRR and its leader, Manuel Artime, and had been maintaining liaison with him on a regular basis. CIA disclaimed control over the MRR and Artime.

(S) (u)

On 6/17/64, [redacted] (protect identity), (S) Covert CIA Representative, Miami, Florida identified Angel Alfredo Fontanills Y Miguel (105-129278) as being connected with Manuel Artime and the MRR.

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105-129278-3 p.1,2;encl.p.3

(54)

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[Last 2 p's classified per agency ltr. dtd 7/5/91] (u)
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