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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: May 12, 1952

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (109-32)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.SUBJECT: JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

SECURITY INFORMATION

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS

Re Havana letters May 6 and May 8 last concerning the above. The latter letter transmitted a copy of a memorandum which we had furnished to the Ambassador here on the possibilities of a counter revolution here on the part of elements of the government of ex-President CARLOS PRIO, headed by former Minister of Education AURELIANO SANCHEZ ARANGO.

Following the delivery of the memorandum to the Ambassador, he called a meeting at which were present Mr. E. T. CRAIN, Deputy Chief of Mission, R. E. GOMEZ, [Attache] in charge of the CIA office here, Col. WILLIAM PITTS, Assistant Air Attache, the Ambassador and the Legal Attache. At this meeting the Ambassador stated that Mr. JOHN BONDS, head of the INS office here, had reported information confirming the fact that the pilot, EDWARD W. MURPHY, had landed at Santiago, Cuba alone after having taken off from Nassau with Sanchez Arango and ex-National Police Captain RAUL RODRIGUEZ SANTOS. INS had determined that MURPHY's arrival date in Santiago had been 1-2-52 and that he had returned alone to Miami the following day via Camaguey, Cuba.

There was considerable discussion of our memorandum during which the Ambassador indicated that he considered it entirely plausible and possible that elements of the former PRIO government might stage a counter revolution, they having had plenty of revolutionary experience in the years preceding the fall of Dictator MACHADO and apart from this they are well equipped with funds stolen from the Cuban Government during the time PRIO was in power.

At the meeting, Mr. GOMEZ of the CIA advised that in the latter part of March, 1952, they had obtained a mail intercept which apparently contained some cryptic information about a possible revolution. He said that he had not considered that this information had any local interest and that for that reason he had not distributed it locally, although he had sent it into his headquarters. It appeared rather obvious that the Ambassador was somewhat astounded and taken aback by GOMEZ' statement that he did not consider that the information had any local interest.

GOMEZ did not disclose the source of his intercept but we feel rather certain that it was furnished to him by the Cuban Army SIM.

GOMEZ subsequently made available a memorandum on 5-9-52, with which he attached photographs of the material contained in the intercept. When these photographs are studied in conjunction with the information set forth in reference letter of 5-6-52 which furnished information reported by Cuban Army agent M-1, it appears that the intercept portrays the details of

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CDA:JES

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MAY 29 1952

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FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

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Enclosure

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RECORDED 52 109-430
INDEXED 52
MAY 29 1952
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SECURITY INFORMATION

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ON 12/17/97 RDP

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SECRET

To: Director, FBI

May 12, 1952
Havana, Cuba

Subject: JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

the plan outlined by M-1. A copy of GOMEZ' memorandum, as well as the photographs furnished with the memorandum, are being furnished the Bureau with this letter. No copies of the photographs are being retained in the Havana office, inasmuch as GOMEZ only made one set available. (S)(u)

The above information concerning the meeting and GOMEZ' statement is considered as administrative in nature and is furnished for the Bureau's confidential information; it is suggested that it not be disseminated outside the Bureau for obvious reasons. (S)(u)

The only other recent development in this matter is the following:

On the afternoon of 5-8-52, Mr. JOHN BONDS of the INS reported that he had received information from INS in Miami that SANCHEZ ARANGO was rumored to be back in Miami; BONDS said that INS was trying to verify this since if it were true, SANCHEZ ARANGO had doubtless re-entered the U. S. illegally.

On the evening of 5-8-52, Cuban Minister of Defense NICOLAS PEREZ HERNANDEZ requested SA CLARK D. ANDERSON of this office to call at the Ministry as soon as possible. ANDERSON had previously met the Minister through an office contact and friend, LUIS CASTELLANOS, who has a very close connection with the Minister.

PEREZ advised that the Cuban Air Force had verified that MURPHY had landed at a point known as Loma Colorado in the Province of Oriente, Cuba, where two men, believed to be SANCHEZ ARANGO and RODRIGUEZ SANTOS, had left the plane. He said that he had subsequently received information which he considered completely reliable to the effect that SANCHEZ ARANGO had come into Havana. He said that they had just received information that SANCHEZ ARANGO had gone back to Miami and requested that this office endeavor to verify this fact inasmuch as they desired to continue the search for SANCHEZ ARANGO if he was still in Cuba. The Minister was told that SANCHEZ ARANGO is the subject of an INS inquiry in Miami and that in the event he is located in Miami, he will be advised.

An extra copy of this letter together with a copy of GOMEZ' memorandum of 5-9-52 is attached for forwarding to the Miami office. It is being left to the discretion of the Bureau as to whether copies of the photographs enclosed with GOMEZ' memorandum are furnished to Miami, it being noted that this material was mailed in Miami on 3-23-52 in an envelope of the Hotel Vereen, 313-315 North Miami Avenue, Miami. (S)(u)

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May 12, 1952
Havana, Cuba

Director, FBI

Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (109-32)

JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

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There was considerable discussion of our memorandum during which the Ambassador indicated that he considered it entirely plausible and possible that elements of the former PRIO government might stage a counter revolution, they having had plenty of revolutionary experience in the years preceding the fall of Dictator MACHADO and apart from this they are well equipped with funds stolen from the Cuban Government during the time PRIO was in power.

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Enclosure

3-17-98
CLASSIFIED BY 5268 SLD/KSL
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(JFK)

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106 195

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Exempt Benchers
GME 9-30-07

9/26/94 SPS MAC/lat
(JFK)

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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3-11-90
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SECRET

To: Director, FBI

Subject: JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

May 12, 1952
Havana, Cuba

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Director, FBI

May 12, 1952
Havana, Cuba

Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (109-32)

JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

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CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSP
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NOT RECORDED
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ON pg. 2 GMB
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SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

May 9, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CRAIN

Re: Opposition to BATISTA Government

Reference is made to the conference held in the office of the Ambassador on 7 May, attended by the Ambassador, yourself, Colonel PITTS, Mr. SPEARS, and the undersigned. At this meeting a secret memorandum sent by Mr. SPEARS to the Ambassador, entitled "JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA CONSTITUCIONAL", was discussed.

In connection with the above, enclosed herewith are photostatic copies of an envelope (Exhibit A) and enclosures addressed to "Srta. Violeta CANO, Empedrado 211, Apt. 18, Habana, Cuba", postmarked Miami, Florida, 8:30 P.M., 23 March 1952, the envelope bearing return address "Hotel Vereen, 313-315 North Miami Ave., Miami, Florida" and a notation under the AIR MAIL sticker, "Para Rosa." This envelope and contents were intercepted in the mail. It is possible that this communication may be pertinent to the contents of Mr. SPEARS' memorandum.

At the moment, the only information this office, has been able to secure on the addressee, Violeta CANO, is that her father, Prospero CANO, is a radio operator employed by Western Union in Habana.

As of possible interest, a study of the enclosed exhibits indicates the following:

Exhibit B is a piece of stationery from the Hotel Vereen, in which were enclosed Exhibits C through K.

Exhibit C apparently concerns the location where Gervasio Street meets Avenida de Maceo (also known as the Malecon). The small circles on this plan describe the traffic buttons which divide the westbound traffic from the eastbound traffic on this wide avenue. A study of this drawing would lead one to believe that the "x-s" represent armed men, the little squares marked "1 - 2 - 1 - 2" are automobiles without drivers which would be used to block traffic. The "x-s" representing men on foot here total 14, which total when added onto the number of men included in the other exhibits brings the grand total of men to be used in this operation to 230, which coincides with the figure represented on Exhibit D.

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 9/26/94 BY SP2MAC/GAT

(JFK)

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

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SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

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Exhibit E apparently pertains to 14 of the 19 police stations and 2 substations in Habana. Since it does not say which are omitted, there is no way of telling which of the stations are to be the targets. As shown on this exhibit, there would be 10 men used to take each station, and the weapons and ammunition to be carried are listed thereon.

Exhibit F apparently is a plan to take Cuban Naval Headquarters, and the figures are self-explanatory. It is interesting to note that there also appears a notation that 10 navy uniforms are to be used.

Exhibit G A "peloton" apparently refers to a group of 10 men, 4 armed with M-1 rifles, 1 with a machine gun, 5 with pistols and 2 with hand grenades, which will be used where necessary.

Exhibit H refers to the radio stations RHC, CMQ, Union Radio, and Radio Cadena Habana (apparently), all located within the city of Habana.

Exhibit Eye The writer is of the opinion that this exhibit (Radio Motorizada) pertains to the radio car communications center of the police, while Planta Radio E apparently refers to the electric power plant at Campo Columbia where SIM headquarters are located.

Exhibit J apparently refers to the electric light plant which supplies most of the power for the City of Habana, and Exhibit K apparently refers to the telephone company and to the Ministry of Communications.

Addendum: As far as can be determined, on the basis of the above, Exhibit D is a summary of all that is necessary, and attention is drawn to the last item, "1 Yate tipo P.T.", apparently meaning one P.T. boat.

There are certain discrepancies in the arms total as represented on the separate exhibits, and the grand total represented on Exhibit D. For example, Exhibit D shows a total of 35 machine guns to be used, whereas a study of the various lists adds up to only 25, and Exhibit D lists a total of 110 .38 pistols, whereas we arrived at a grand total of 105.

Rudolph E. Gomez,
[Attache.] (S)

cc Commander Ryan
Colonel Mason
Colonel Elmore
Mr. Spears

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

Attachment: 2 sets of exhibits

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

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591-10312