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C-O-S-P-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY Cuba/Brazil

REPORT NO. OO-3 2,173,670

SUBJECT Reported Forthcoming Support by President Quardros for Manuel Ray and the MRP/efforts of Eaúl Chibas to bring the MRP politically to the right/
Report that new alignment among Miró Cardona, Rufo López Presquet, and Antonio de Varona is a "trial balloon"

NO PAGES

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. Feb 61

PLACE & DATE AGO *** Feb 61

de Varona

US citizen, free-lance writer and part time sugar broker.

Source speaks Spanish, has resided at intervals in Cuba since youth, has had contacts for many years among Cubans in the sugar business, and knows personally many present and former Cuban political and administrative personalities. Source lived in Havana during the entire calendar year 1959, working with the [Sugar Stabilization Institute] and collecting material for an analysis of developments in Cuba since Fidel Castro's victory.

1. I have just learned from one of my Cuban associates that the new President of Brazil, Quardros, is definitely going to support Manuel Ray and the MRP, among the organizations opposed to Fidel Castro, and that he will have nothing to do with Antonio de Varona and the Democratic Revolutionary Front. Quardros has apparently decided to let the US know this and has been influenced in his decision by the former Brazilian ambassador to Castro's Cuba. This latter person has been recalled to Brazil and will shortly assume an important post in the government there. This former ambassador is said to be very much in sympathy with Ray and the MRP, because his personal political ideas and those of Ray have much in common. The former ambassador apparently exercises much influence over Quardros and is a bitter enemy of Varona and the Democratic Revolutionary Front.
2. Eaúl Chibas is very depressed these days, because he is convinced that the US will never give any encouragement to Ray and the MRP. Many of his Cuban friends have told him this and have emphasized that the MRP is too left-wing and radical to suit the US. Consequently, Chibas is beginning to attempt to lead the MRP away from radicalism, to the right, politically. Just now he proposes to do this, my Cuban friends are at present unable to say.
3. My Cuban friends think that the reported new alignment among Miró Cardona, Rufo López Presquet, and Antonio de Varona, in which Miró would be a "co-ordinator" and mediator between the "left-wing" Rufo and his followers and the "right-wing" Varona and his adherents, is nothing more than a "trial balloon" launched for the purpose of seeing what the reaction among Cubans would be to such a realignment. It is still too early to assess the effect of this report, trial balloon or not.

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