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03
C/WH/L/CI - [Clark Simmons]

1 April 1961

WH/L/CI - Jean Pierson

Defection Program - Luis BUCH

The following is, briefly, the picture of the BUCH defection as I have been able to put it together:

- Monday, 27 March: Announcement of defection at Staff Meeting.
- Wednesday, 29 Mar: Spanish language program (Tribuna Democratica) from WRCM, New York at 2300 hours, concerning the arrival at Key West of Luis BUCH and two other functionaries and their "emotional reception".
- Thursday, 30 Mar: COBE reported the above info during a telephone conversation at 8:45 AM - wondered whether "our friend" (ORTA) was one of them. This was reported to FI and to PROP - Dave Phillips. When I told Dave he indicated that since the story had broken on the radio, he would check Miami to see if he could use it - he had been instructed not to use the info until it broke somewhere else.
- Friday, 31 Mar: Unable to catch Dave to determine source of the original report.
- Saturday, 1 Apr: Dave advised that the original source of the info was [Carlos TOBE] former [Habana] newspaper editor. The picture seems to be now that the whole thing is a mistake - that we do not have BUCH debriefing him.

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