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REGISTRATION ACT

ANTI-BATISTA ACTIVITIES

ARMS MOVEMENT ABOARD THE "ARB", "CRISTOBAL CARRIER" AND
"ANCON TRADER"

SANCHEZ, AURELIANO ARANGO

PAULINO, ANSELMO

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SECURITY INFORMATION - [REDACTED]

NEW YORK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE AUG 21 1953	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/13-17, 20-24, 27-30; 5/4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29; 6/1-30; 7/1-31; 8/1-11/53	REPORT MADE BY GED:FJH GEORGE E. DAVIS, JR.
TITLE CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS	CHARACTER OF CASE FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-CUBA; REGISTRATION ACT; NEUTRALITY ACT - CUBA.		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

CARLOS PRIO publicly denied having had anything to do with 7/16/53 uprising against BATISTA. Reliable informants reported that PRIO and his associates were completely surprised by uprising and PRIO thought that the whole affair was "crazy." Cuban Consul, Miami, assaulted 7/11/53 Miami during Cuban Day celebrations. On 7/28/53 threats were made to wreck the Cuban Consulate and attack the Consul. At same time plans by several Cubans, claiming to be members of Cubans for Civic Action, NYC to picket Cuban Consulate Miami in protest against present Cuban Government were prohibited by Miami police. Informant reported information reflecting that these picketers were in indirect contact with ANTONIO PRIO, brother of CARLOS. During the period of this investigation informants and newspapers have reported information disclosing that PRIO and some of his associates have made statements which indicate CARLOS PRIO group plans action against BATISTA in near future. In April, 1953, according to one report, a number of PRIO followers were arrested in Mexico and a number of blank Panamanian and Guatemalan passports were seized. CARLOS PRIO and other leading members of Authentic Party had joint meeting with several members of Orthodox Party 6/1/53, Montreal, Canada to unify plans for joint action against BATISTA. PRIO disclosed to one informant that as soon as these two parties dispose of BATISTA, a provisional government will be installed with PRIO as its head, after which elections will be held. Informants reported that 2 ships, "Cristobal Carrier" and "Ancon Trader" in port of Miami are being used by PRIO group. Other informants advise that "The Arb," a converted crash boat, departed Miami 6/5/53 for Cay Sal, B.W.I.,

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SYNOPSIS (Continued)

captained by THOMAS J. MC CRORY, Miami yacht broker with DIEGO VICENTE TEJERA y RESCALVO, Cuban associate of PRIO on board. This vessel returned Miami 6/9/53 and later MC CRORY bragged about transporting arms and ammunitions on behalf PRIO for revolutionary purposes. These 3 vessels cleared customs 7/18/53 to travel in convoy together as far as Panama, C.Z. but did not weigh anchor until 7/24/53 and the "Arb" failed to travel in convoy with the other two. On 7/26/53 the "Arb" arrived Key West where Customs has placed a \$1,000.00 penalty against it. Informants advise that on 7/19/53 Cuban Navy seized cache of arms on Cay Sal, B.W.I.; that these arms bore identification marks reflecting same came from Mexico and from U.S. [AURELIANO SANCHEZ ARANGO, leading PRIO associate, reportedly arrested Kingston, Jamaica, 5/2/53 on charge of illegal importation of arms while traveling on Mexican passport under false name. According to informant, SANCHEZ ARANGO stated he was in charge of the underground movement dedicated to overthrow of BATISTA] On 7/24/53, CARLOS PRIO was observed to meet in Miami an unidentified man bearing striking resemblance to SANCHEZ ARANGO. Numerous reports received concerning alleged arms purchases on behalf PRIO group for revolutionary purposes. PRIO has admitted to one informant that he has succeeded in smuggling arms into Cuba.

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PRIO has dismissed two employees on suspicion they were secretly employed by BATISTA. Informant reported that on 7/6/53 arrangements were made for CARLOS PRIO to meet General ANSELMO PAULINO of Dominican Republic under clandestine circumstances; but no evidence meeting consumated. Informants have advised that a constant stream of Cubans visit PRIO and his leading associates in Miami.

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I. CUBAN UPRISING JULY 26, 1953

The July 27, 1953, issue of the Miami Herald carried an article entitled "Rebels Fail to Seize Two Garrisons" by GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, Herald Staff Writer, who reported that fifty-three persons were killed and dozens wounded early Sunday (July 26, 1953) when armed rebels disguised as soldiers failed to seize two Cuban army garrisons in uprisings against the regime of President FULGENCIO BATISTA. This article disclosed that the main uprising occurred at Santiago de Cuba in Oriente Province and that a rural guard post in the city of Bayamo, 150 miles northwest of Santiago was also attacked.

This article stated that BATISTA blamed the attack on the followers of deposed President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, who was ousted by BATISTA in a bloodless coup d'etat on March 10, 1952. In the same article it was reported that PRIO denied this accusation and said that when and if he should ever direct a revolution against the BATISTA government, "he will be leading it in front and would not be at home in Miami".

Miami Informant T-1, of known reliability, who is well informed concerning CARLOS PRIO, and some of his associates, learned on July 26, 1953, that when CARLOS PRIO received news of the above described uprising he indicated that it came as a complete surprise to him. He expressed curiosity as to the identity of the parties or group behind this disturbance. Subsequently on July 26, 27, and 28, Miami Informant T-1 and Miami Informants T-2 and T-3, also of known reliability, who are well informed concerning PRIO and some of his close associates in Miami, reported that RICARDO ARTIGAS, former Chief of the Cuban Lottery under PRIO, and his wife, MARISOL ALBA, and SEGUNDO CURTI, former Minister of Interior under PRIO, also were surprised over the uprising and made vigorous efforts to ascertain who was behind the uprising.

Miami Informant T-1 reported on July 28 that CARLOS PRIO felt the whole affair of the uprising was "crazy". He gave a statement to the press on the same date to the effect that BATISTA is protecting the Communists internally although

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blaming them externally for the uprising. PRIO described FIDEL CASTRO, leader of the revolt, as a well known enemy of Communism, and said that many of those who were killed by BATISTA's men came from distinguished Cuban families.

PRIO also took this opportunity, according to the informant, to point out that when he, PRIO, became President of Cuba he closed down the Communist newspaper "Hoy", but that it was re-opened by BATISTA, and he claimed the number of Communists in Cuba has increased from 20,000 to 150,000 during BATISTA's present regime. He claimed BATISTA is facing a bad economic depression, and that if he, PRIO, were back in Cuba, he would immediately arrange for free elections so that the people could elect a constitutional President.

An article entitled "Dictator Batista Slaps Martial Law Over Cuba", which appeared in the July 28, 1953 issue of the Miami Herald by the Associated Press with a Havana dateline, reported that BATISTA slapped martial law over Cuba July 26, 1953, after crushing an attack by some 230 armed rebels on two Army posts.

Miami radio broadcasts disclosed on the evening of July 29, 1953 that Cuban planes had strafed two boats, the "Benson" and the "Babe" of Liberian and Honduran registry respectively, although American operated, which resulted in the wounding of two British subjects and one Honduran. Miami Informant T-1 reported on the evening of July 29, that PRIO received news of this incident with disbelief. After the news was confirmed, PRIO remarked that the incident should certainly be of interest to American authorities. RICARDO ARTIGAS, according to T-2, expressed the opinion that the "BATISTA people must be crazy".

On July 27, 1953, Miami Informant T-4 of known reliability advised that LUIS GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ, personal secretary to CARLOS PRIO disclosed that the Cuban uprising was not caused by "our people", but that it arose because of student action.

Miami Informant T-5, of known reliability, reported on July 29, 1953, that information emanating from the Cuban Military Intelligence Service reflects that the uprising was

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caused by members of the Orthodox Party of which FIDEL CASTRO, the revolt leader, is a member, with the assistance of the Communist Party, and that the uprising was not sanctioned by PRIO and members of his Autentico Parti. This informant said that PRIO had planned action with the assistance of the Orthodox Party, this action to take place following the election of JOSE FIGURES, Presidential Candidate in Costa Rica, who had promised PRIO aid and assistance in the event he were elected. Informant pointed out that FIGURES, according to the newspapers, was elected President of Costa Rica on July 28, 1953.

Miami Informants T-1, 2, and 3 learned that a number of Autentico Parti members such as ANTONIO VARONO, LOMBERTO DIAZ, and DIEGO MEJIAS have been released by Cuban authorities following their arrest. These same informants advised that no information came to their attention showing movement of PRIO followers from Miami to Cuba prior to this uprising, and that they had received no other evidence indicating that PRIO was in any way responsible for the uprising.

Miami Informant T-1 learned on July 30 that CARLOS PRIO reported to GUILLERMO ALONSO PUJOL, who was Vice-President of Cuba during the Presidency of PRIO, that most of the participants in this uprising were students led by FIDEL CASTRO, and that most of these were members of the Orthodox Party, and that most of "our friends" were also arrested. Among these he named were ROBERTO AGRAMONTE and EMILIO OCHOA Y OCHOA, both members of the Orthodox Party, and that a complaint had been filed by the Cuban Government against PRIO. PRIO also related the machine-gunning of two people by the Cuban Government. When asked by PUJOL if PRIO were still optimistic after all this, PRIO replied in the affirmative, stating the Cuban people could just not wait. He also disclosed that all this that has occurred in Cuba had not hurt his cause one bit.

T-2 reported on July 30, 1953, that one of PRIO's followers, Commandant ZORILLAS, who has recently arrived in Miami, disclosed he had just had an interview with LUIS ORTEGA of the Cuban newspaper "El Pueblo", who had been beaten

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and whose newspaper had been destroyed following the uprising of July 26. According to this information furnished by ORTEGA, prisoners were being taken throughout Havana, and trucks had been loaded with cadavers and driven to Santiago where the bodies were thrown so as to indicate they had been killed in Santiago. ORTEGA described the situation as being critical and expected a "blow up". ZORILLAS it was learned considered ORTEGA a very strange individual, but did not question his reliability. He said there were 400 dead now in Cuba as a result of this uprising.

The Miami Herald on August 2, 1953, carried an article entitled "Prio Classes Batista with Red Chiefs" wherein it was stated CARLOS PRIO charged that the strafing of two banana boats by Cuban war planes put Batista on the same level with Russia's masters.

This article, in part, quoted PRIO as follows:

"That brutal and inhuman action ordered by the dictator of Cuba is typical of the disregard which dictators feel toward international rights and the unwritten laws which guide the actions of democratic governments and free peoples.

"That action, which is along the same line as the shooting down of unarmed American and British transports by Soviet planes, shows the unity of procedures used by dictatorships - whether it be the system ruling Cuba, or the system which pretends to impose itself on the civilized world from Moscow."

"The American people, he said, received a 'rude reminder of the dictators' disregard of human principles and common decency' this week when an American B-50 bomber was shot down over the Sea of Japan by Russian fighters.

"Prio charged further that reports 'filtering' out of Cuba indicate that Batista has unleashed 'a wave of terror.'"

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Miami Informant T-25, of known reliability, and who is personally acquainted with some leading members of the PRIO group, learned on August 3, 1953, that CARLOS PRIO in discussing this uprising stated, "The case of MONCADA ARMORY, was a tremendously stupid action on the part of a boy mentally unbalanced. He never received any aid from me or anyone taking a part in the central directive movement. I had nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with that uprising. The plans of FIDEL CASTRO were crazy. What did he accomplish by taking of MONCADA's Armory when in one hour's time he would have over his head all of BATISTA's air force? Further, FIDEL CASTRO was so stupid as to have some messages already printed and signed by him as 'President in Arms' of the Republic of Cuba. There is no sense in all this unfortunate episode at Santiago de Cuba, but to give opportunity to BATISTA to make a forced demonstration and fanfare. At the same time only a mentally unbalanced individual could lead 150 young men into a sure massacre. FIDEL never had over 25 or 40 rifles. The rest of his followers went into the fight armed only with machetes and knives although they were promised rifles before reaching the Moncada Armory. These rifles never reached their hands. No one in our organized revolutionary movement against BATISTA had anything to do with FIDEL."

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II. INCIDENTS INVOLVING CUBANS IN MIAMI

A. Leaflets Distributed By Cuban Liberty Action:

The May 20, 1953, issue of the Miami Herald carried an article entitled "Anti-Batista Plans Carried to Cubans Here". This article disclosed that leaflets signed by the Cuban Liberty Action (Miami Branch) were distributed in Miami denouncing Cuban President BATISTA on the occasion of a ceremony scheduled in Miami to honor Cuban Patriot JOSE MARTI. Two Cuban officials, Dr. RAFAEL L. DIAZ - BALART, Cuban Under-Secretary of Interior, and Dr. HIPOLITO VALELLA, head of the Cuban Tourist Bureau, came to Miami to present a bust of MARTI to the University of Miami. The leaflets above described claim that these men did not represent the Cuban people, but that "in reality, they represent the anti-Democratic government of Dictator FULGENCIO BATISTA." He was denounced as a "pro-Communist and anti-Democratic dictator, a thief of the public treasury like PERON in Argentina, MALENKOF in Russia, TRUJILLO in Dominican Republic." The leaflets concluded, "Our brothers died in Korea for the liberty of the world. Do not become an accomplice of the friends of these assassins. Join our consignee: freedom for the Cuban people." This article disclosed that VIDAL MORALES of Miami, described as a leader in the distribution of these leaflets, said they were put out by the Miami Branch of the "Cuban Liberty Action", a group recently organized in Cuba to oppose BATISTA. The leaflets were printed in both Spanish and English.

On May 21, 1953, T-5 reported that VIDAL MORALES served in the United States Army during World War II and had been living in Miami on 39th Avenue between First and Second Streets, N. W., with ORLANDO GARCIA, who was arrested about eight months ago by the Miami Police Department in connection with a murder charge in Cuba, but who was subsequently released. T-5 said that he learned that ALVAREZ RUEDA, 228 N. W. 26th Avenue, Miami, was associated with MORALES in the distribution of these leaflets. He describes RUEDA as having served as a Lieutenant in the Radio Technical Department of the Cuban Police Department under President GRAU, and said he has lived in Miami about

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six years. He also reported that RUEDA received a jail sentence for dealing in contraband during the PRIO regime. He said RUEDA has no obvious source of income and yet reportedly possessed money.

Miami Informant T-6, of known reliability, reported on May 21, 1953, that VIDAL MORALES is a member of the Union Insurreccional Revolutionary of Cuba, this being a revolutionary group of gangsters which was abolished by BATISTA.

Both T-5 and T-6 expressed the opinion that the Cuban Liberty Action was planned by VIDAL MORALES, ALVAREZ RUEDA and perhaps others for this specific purpose, and that it was not actually an organization as such. Neither T-5 nor T-6 had ever heard of this organization before.

On June 3, 1953, Mr. ANTONIO PRIO, who called at the Miami Office relative to another matter, was shown one of the above described leaflets. ANTONIO PRIO, who is the brother of CARLOS PRIO stated he did not know VIDAL MORALES, and that MORALES had no connection whatsoever with CARLOS PRIO or members of his party, and that the incident was undoubtedly inspired by Cuban students in Miami who are opposed to BATISTA. ANTONIO PRIO said he possessed no knowledge of the existence of any organization known as the Cuban Liberty Action.

B. Assault of Cuban Army Officer in Miami, July 6, 1953:

On July 13, 1953, Miami Informant T-5 reported that on July 6, 1953, LEON DE DIOT, a Major in the Cuban Army, who was then in Miami en route to Jacksonville, Florida, to engage in a competitive pistol match along with other members of his team, was assaulted at Walgreen's Drug Store, Flagler Street and Southeast Second Avenue, by CESAR VEGA whom the informant described as being a Cuban ruffian who is associated with the PRIO group in Miami. T-5 said that VEGA was wearing brass knucks when he struck Major DIOT.

The informant said that CESAR VEGA is closely associated with RUBEN ACOSTA, a Cuban attorney, VIDAL MORALES, above described, and one BLANCO, all of whom he said are members of the PRIO group.

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The informant said he had also learned that VEGA, ACOSTA, and other Cubans also went to the room of another Cuban at the hotel Belforte, and started to assault this Cuban but were forced to leave hurriedly when help approached.

Miami Informant T-1 learned on July 6, 1953, that CARLOS PRIO arranged to contact one of the Cuban Military Officers in the same group going to Jacksonville, concerning the above described incident. PRIO advised that he was not behind the incident and had nothing against the Cuban Army.

C. Cuban Day Celebration, July 11, 1953:

The July 12, 1953, issue of the Miami Daily News carried an article entitled "Cuban Consul Trades Punches With Heckler". This article reflected that EDUARDO HERNANDEZ, Cuban Consul at Miami and an unidentified heckler engaged in a brief fist fight following Cuban Day celebrations which were held in Bayfront Park, Miami, on July 11, 1953, in honor of JOSE MARTI, Cuban Patriot. This article disclosed the proceedings were interrupted by a heckler who shouted, "Viva Cuba - without Batista. Down with the dictatorship."

Miami Informant T-6 reported on July 15, 1953, that the fisticuffs between Consul HERNANDEZ and his assailant took place in the Minerva Restaurant located about two blocks from Bayfront Park, following the ceremonies in the park. T-6 said that HERNANDEZ' assailant, identified as CESAR VEGA, struck HERNANDEZ after HERNANDEZ pointed out to VEGA that although they had personal differences about politics, they should attempt to observe civil law in Miami. T-6 said that actually forty to fifty punches were exchanged by VEGA and HERNANDEZ.

T-6 expressed the opinion that he felt that this incident along with others mentioned above were part of an "organized deal" to embarrass the BATISTA Government.

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