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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Miami, Florida  
November 4, 1961

3-31-94  
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Re: MILITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS - CUBA

The following information was reported by MM T-1 on October 30, 1961. This source is a former Cuban investigator associated with the Cuban National Police from 1934, who has furnished reliable information in the past. He arrived very recently from Havana, Cuba. (S)

THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY NAVY

MM T-1 stated this branch of the armed forces of Cuba has never enjoyed the full confidence of FIDEL CASTRO. Source pointed out that many of his officers began to defect in 1959, and in the early Spring of 1960, a series of defections began to occur amongst his Naval officers who represented Cuba as Naval Attaches or Assistant Naval Attaches in foreign countries. Notable amongst these were the Naval Attaches of Cuba assigned to Venezuela, Mexico and the United States.

MM T-1 further recalled that many of the officers and men of the Revolutionary Navy had defected within Cuba and in some cases complete Naval units, including both men and officers, had defected and fled to the United States.

The principal work performed by the Revolutionary Navy at this time is that of extending a thin and ineffective patrol surveillance off of the North coast of Cuba, with the

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Miami, Florida

OCT 26 1961

3-29-94/*05-RUB/ude*  
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FOREIGN ECONOMIC MATTERS - CUBA

The following information was furnished by  
MM T-1 on October 16, 1961. ~~MM T-1 is~~ a former Cuban CS  
investigator who arrived very recently from Havana, Cuba.  
This source has furnished reliable information in the past:

The majority of this report deals with the  
scarcity and manner of distribution of foodstuffs, as  
well as other articles of prime necessity in Cuba. For  
convenience it is subdivided under the headings of the  
principal food items.

COOKING OILS AND GREASE

The items which comprise the principal ones  
on the Cuban daily diet are scarce and rationed. Part  
of the difficulty in securing proper food in Cuba is due  
not only to the scarcity, but to the lack of organization  
in its distribution. The distribution system breaks  
down, and the articles do not arrive in the hands of the  
consumers with any consistent regularity.

A rationing system has been established for  
all cooking oils and grease. Rationing cards are issued  
to the people through the ~~Comites de Defensa de la~~  
Revolucion (CDR ~~Committees of Defense of the Revolution~~).

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FOREIGN ECONOMIC MATTERS - CUBA

dictated a great number of controls and regulations, but has not brought into being any solution of the critical situation.

<sup>Ne.0</sup>  
Refrigerators, television sets and all types of major and small electrical appliances have disappeared from the Cuban market. The ones being sold to the public are "reconstructed". There has even been a planned and vigorous program to pick up all old appliances which were at one time considered beyond repair, and pieces have been combined in order to present at least a semblance of availability of such appliances to the Cuban public. Small quantities of electric irons, fans, unsatisfactory record players and other small appliances have arrived from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other Soviet Satellite countries. The general public regards scarcity of practically all products for the home as alarming.

There is a lack of dentifrice products, deodorants, talcum, cosmetics in general, soap, hygienic products, razor blades, and even such items as towels, bed and table linen have become extremely scarce in Cuba.

<sup>Source</sup>  
(U) (S) [ROLANDO DE LA CRUZ CASTANEDA IZQUIERDO] a former Lieutenant of the Cuban Revolutionary Police, born [May 3] - MONTH DAY 1942, in Havana, Cuba, arrived at Key West as a refugee in a boat on [October 13] 1961. No previous contact has been had with him, but he manifested to Special Agents of the FBI at the [Copa-locka Immigration Facility] on [October 17] (S) 1961 information similar in all respects, but not as detailed as the above. He confirmed the scarcity of all the products mentioned, that the local vendors had disappeared in the present communist regime in Cuba, and indicated that the INRA, as well as the Cuban G-2 and Cuban informers, have absolute control of the residents of every house and every block through the above described system of ration cards. This source noted that even the traditional Cuban habit of visiting with neighbors and having big family dinners together has disappeared from the Cuban life because of the impossibility of securing food without the proper ration cards.

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**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**  
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November 8, 1961

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4-4-94  
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LATIN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Vicious Circle

Information received from two former Cuban investigators who have recently arrived in the United States indicates that the economic situation in Cuba--despite assistance from various Soviet-bloc nations--leaves much to be desired. According to these two sources, increasing Government control over the means of production and distribution has resulted in a shortage of food and consumer goods, which in turn has brought on more controls and the vicious circle of an even greater shortage of items available to the general public. The reaction of the people, the sources say, is a combination of black-market buying, acts of sabotage, and desperation flights to the United States. (Emilio Diaz, former HAV-35, and Rolando De La Cruz Castaneda Izquierdo, former Lieutenant of the Cuban Revolutionary Police) MM airtel 10/26/61, re "Foreign Economic Matters - Cuba" left blank

According to the first of these sources, the items which comprise the basis of the Cuban daily diet are both scarce and rationed. Part of the difficulty in securing proper food in Cuba, the source reported, is its scarcity. The rest is the lack of organization in its distribution. In an attempt to combat the food shortages, the Cuban Government has instituted a rationing system. The ration cards are issued to the public through the Committees of Defense of the Revolution. Generally, there is one such committee for each block, and different cards are used for different types of items. (Diaz) MM airtel 10/26/61, re "Foreign Economic Matters - Cuba" left blank

Inferior Imports

The poor organization in the distribution of food--causing shortages in some markets and surpluses in others--has given rise to a situation popularly known in Cuba as Venta por la libre. This means the sale of a product without Government control, or the black market. One of the answers of the Castro regime to both the shortages and the resulting black market, the source said, is the importation of supplies from Soviet-bloc nations. The inferior quality of many of the imported items, however, has allegedly caused growing discontent among the people of Cuba.

3/17/98  
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- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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MM 105-1742

Miami, Florida  
OCT 4 1961

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ORGANIZATIONS

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

*\* source, employed*  
[ASCENCION LEYTE VIDAL, Secretary to] JOSE MIRO CARDONA, Head of the Revolutionary Council, in September, 1961, advised the Council still continues to exist, the members are in touch with each other and confer periodically. *all*

[LEYTE] identified the members as JOSE MIRO CARDONA, MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA, CARLOS HEVIA, JUSTO CARRILLO, and ANTONIO MACEO. *done*

*view*  
The Revolutionary Council is considered the coordinating committee of the different Cuban revolutionary organizations, and during the April 17, 1961 invasion of Cuba, acted as the responsible organization for the invasion. It issued news releases, information, and acted as the headquarters for this operation.

On September 26, 1961, [VARONA] said that he expects the Revolutionary Council to dissolve and some new organization will be formed to take its place. The new organization will probably be headed by CARDONA and VARONA, with CARDONA as the head.

On September 26, 1961, [JUSTO CARRILLO] advised that he was considering resigning from the Revolutionary Council and being a free agent to work independently in the anti-CASTRO movement.

105-1742-2959

ENCLOSURE

Re: ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

to obtain arms and transportation for a military venture in Cuba, but DIAZ is unable to obtain such equipment.

DIAZ is generally considered to have a large following in the Oriente and Camaguey Provinces of Cuba, and figures he could count on 5,000 to 6,000 people in Cuba to follow him if he could obtain the necessary transportation and equipment to open a front in Cuba.

On July 27, 1961, [LEOPOLDO FUENTES ROCA] Miami, said he was formerly a member of the MRR in Holguin, Cuba, and had personally known "FRANCISCO", who is dead, and who was formerly in charge of the clandestine organization of the MRR in Cuba. [ROCA] said the second in command under "FRANCISCO" was OSCAR SALAS MARRERO, who is presently in Miami, and who is the official head of the MRR group in Miami.

[FUENTES] said there is considerable factionalism in the organization, and the MRR lacks transportation, arms, and financial backing.

On September 25, 1961, [ANTONIO VARONA] member of the Revolutionary Council, advised that the Revolutionary Council considers SALAS as the official head of the MRR in Miami, and membership figures for this organization are unknown.

JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (JUNTA)

MM T-2, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities during the past three years, and who is in frequent contact with the Junta, and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in September, 1961, that the

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- 1 - Parsons
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- 1 - Cotter

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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April 28, 1961

COVERAGE OF CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

1. Background of FBI Coverage

The FBI's investigative interest concerning the Castro movement dates back to October, 1955, when Fidel Castro briefly visited the United States on an organizing and fund-raising tour on behalf of his newly organized July 26 Movement with the announced objective of overthrowing the Batista regime. At that time, Castro and his followers established branches of the July 26 Movement at Miami, New York and several other United States cities and the Bureau initiated a thorough investigation of the activities of these groups. In November, 1955, the FBI disseminated to interested Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the first of many reports which were to follow regarding Castro and his followers. As a result of these inquiries, the Internal Security Division on December 20, 1955, concluded that Castro had incurred an obligation to register with the Attorney General under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1940, as amended. The registration was, however, never effected as Castro left the United States on December 16, 1955.

After Castro left the United States, he returned to Mexico where he organized his forces for the invasion of Cuba (December, 1956) which was ultimately to result in the collapse of the Batista government and the advent of the Castro regime (January, 1959). However, even after Castro's departure from this country, we continued to afford close attention to the activities of his followers in the United States and by January, 1959, when Castro gained power, the FBI had already furnished other Government agencies a report on individuals and groups relating to the July 26 Movement, its members and its activities.

Immediately upon Castro's take over and the commencement of a pro-Castro and anti-United States regime in Cuba, we sharply expanded our investigative efforts in this area. Obviously, our investigations had been almost primarily

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