
Agency Information

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10011-10178

RECORD SERIES : PIERRE SALINGER PAPERS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CAP 67167

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : WH
FROM : CHAS, GORDON
TO : SALINGER, PIERRE

TITLE : CAP 67167

DATE : 04/13/1963
PAGES : 4

SUBJECTS :
CUBA, CUBAN EXILES

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Declassified
RESTRICTIONS : 1C
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/25/1993

OPENING CRITERIA : UPON AGENCY REVIEW

COMMENTS : PIERRE SALINGER PAPERS:CLASSIFIED BACKGROUND BRIEFING
MATERIAL:SUBJECTS:MIRO CARDONA:BOX 139

PP WTE8 PALM BEACH

DE WTE 9PB

TOR 13 Apr 13 1805 Z

FROM: GORDON CHASE

TO : MR. SALINGER, PALM BEACH

CITE: CAP67167

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SALINGER FROM CHASE

ATTACHED IS A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO CARDONA OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1961. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CARDONA HAS FROM US.

ALSO ATTACHED IS AGREEMENT OF OCTOBER 31, 1961, WHICH CARDONA QUOTES IN HIS MEMORANDUM. CARDONA DOES NOT HAVE A COPY OF AGREEMENT. IT WAS READ TO HIM WHILE HE TOOK FULL NOTES.

RE OUR TELCON LAST NIGHT, WE ARE GETTING MATERIAL YOU WANTED. ON BASIS PRESENT EVIDENCE, OUR (BUNDY, MARTIN, HURWITZ) THINKING NOT QUITE AS HARD AS YOURS.

1. CARDONA/CASTRO CONNECTION -- WE KNEW ABOUT THIS CONNECTION WHEN BE BACKED CARDONA.

2. MISAPPROPRIATION OF CRC FUNDS -- CIA CONTROLS FUNDS (WOULD HAVE FBI INVESTIGATION CIA).

3. ALSO ATTACHED IS UNCLEARED PRESS STATEMENT WHICH I READ YOU LAST NIGHT. STIFFER VERSION BEING DRAFTED WHICH, INTER ALIA, PIN POINTS OBVIOUSLY PREPOSTEROUS CARDONA DEMANDS OF LAST WEEK. WILL SEND TO YOU ALONG WITH STATE'S RECOMMENDATION.

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Declassified under the provisions of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL102-526)
By *mmk* NARA, Date *9/17/98*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 14, 1961

DEAR DR. MIRO CARDONA:

I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY CONFIDENCE IN YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DEEPLY ADMIRES THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE YOU HAVE ALREADY RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF A FREE CUBA; AND I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THIS FIGHT UNTIL YOUR COUNTRY IS LIBERATED FROM THE TYRANNY WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON IT. I AM SURE THAT ANY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES CAN BE WORKED OUT IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND COMMON ASPIRATIONS WHICH LIE BEHIND ALL OUR EFFORTS.

SINCERELY,

/S/ JOHN F. KENNEDY

DR. MIRO CARDONA

CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCCIL

TEXT OF U.S. POLICY STATEMENT READ TO DR. MIRO BY MR. HURWITCH

OCTOBER 31, 1961

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WITH YOU, DR. MIRO, IS TO CLEAR UP SOME APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE CREPT IN WHAT HAD BEEN CONCEIVED OF AS THE BASIS FOR A SOUND AND AMICABLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REITERATE ITS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOU AND ITS DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE YOU HAVE ALREADY RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF A FREE CUBA. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THIS FIGHT UNTIL YOUR COUNTRY IS LIVERATED FROM THE TYRANNY WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON IT.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS CONFIDENCE IN YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND REGARDS THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AS THE CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT IN ITS DEALING WITH THE CUBAN EXILES AND UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY. IN SUPPORT OF YOUR POSITION OF LEADERSHIP AND TO AID YOUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN FULFILLING ITS ROLE, THE U.S. WILL AT EVERY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY LEND THE COUNCIL ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO BECOME THE UNQUESTIONED

LEADER AND UNIFYING FORCE OF THE CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY. AS AN IMMEDIATE STEP IN THIS DIRECTION THE U.S. WILL ARRANGE THAT EXILE GROUPS OTHER THAN THE COUNCIL NOW DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. WILL IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE THIS SAME ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. AS DR. MIRO IS AWARE, THERE ALWAYS EXISTS THE REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT NOW CUBAN EXILE GROUPS MAY FORM IN THE FUTURE AND MAY, IN THE U.S. VIEW, MERIT DIRECT SUPPORT IF SUCH EXILE GROUPS ARE UNWILLING TO WORK WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. SUCH EXILE GROUPS WOULD ONLY RECEIVE SUCH DIRECT SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. ONLY AFTER THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH DR. MIRO AND THE COUNCIL WILL BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF SUCH A GROUP'S ACTIVITIES.

WITH RESPECT TO CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES, THE U.S. WISHES TO REITERATE ITS DESIRE TO RESERVE ITS RIGHT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THOSE UNDERGROUND GROUPS WHICH HAVE INDICATED THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES. "ALL GROUPS WILLING TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES WILL BE DEALT WITH THROUGH DR. MIRO. THIS MEANS THAT THE OPERATING U.S. AGENCY WILL MEET JOINTLY WITH DR. MIRO AND WITH THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

UNDERGROUND GROUP TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF SUPPLIES AND MONEY. THE U.S. ACCEPTS THE FACT THAT THE PRESENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MRR, RESCATE, 30TH OF NOVEMBER, 20TH OF MAY, MONTECRISTE, THE DRE, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDC) AND THE ARD SIGNIFIES THAT THESE GROUPS ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES".

IF ~~ANY~~^{ANY} OTHER UNDERGROUND GROUP AT PRESENT NOT REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES, SUCH GROUP WILL ALSO BE DEALT WITH IN THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED MANNER. WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE GROUPS UNWILLING TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL AND THAT ARE ASSISTED DIRECTLY BY THE U.S., DR. MIRO WILL BE KEPT INFORMED.

AS DR. MIRO WILL READILY UNDERSTAND, THE COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY IS A MATTER OF MUTUAL AND SERIOUS CONCERN. THE EXPENDITURE OF UNITED STATES OFFICIAL FUNDS MUST BE ALLOCATED AND SUPERVISED WITH CAUTION AND CARE. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF THE COUNCIL COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MUTUAL AIMS AND EXPECTS DR. MIRO TO REEXAMINE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CHANGES NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT NO WASTE OF FUNDS OCCURS. AT A LATER DATE, THE UNITED STATES MAY HAVE CERTAIN SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET.

WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC REQUESTS MADE BY DR. MIRO IN THE PAST WHICH THE U.S. HAS BEEN STUDYING, THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE U.S. :

1. THE FUNDS FOR PROPAGANDA FORMERLY GIVEN TO MR. ABEL MASTRE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES WILL NOW BE GIVEN TO THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL;

2. MR. JOUQUIN SANGENIS WILL BE ELIMINATED AS A FACTOR IN EXILE ^{OL} POLITICS OR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES;

3. "OPERATION ORIETA" WILL BE PUT INTO OPERATION AS SOON AS THE COUNCIL SUBMITS ITS BUDGET THEREFOR AND IT IS APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES.

DECISIONS BY THE U.S. ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DR. MIRO REMAIN PENDING AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN REACHED, THROUGH HIS CONTACT IN MIAMI:

1. THE ATTENDANCE OF SEVERAL CUBAN EX-MILITARY OFFICERS, SELECTED FROM THE LIST PRESENTED BY MIRO, AT U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS;

2. A RAPID DECISION ON MIRO'S PROPOSAL TO SEND ARMS TO THE ESCAMBRAY AND IF NEGATIVE REASONS THEREFOR;

3. A RAPID DECISION ON MIRO'S REQUEST, BASED ON PLANS SUBMITTED, FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN TO UNDERGROUND GROUPS AND IF NEGATIVE THE REASON THEREFOR.

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THE STATEMENT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MADE ON APRIL 9 SAID, IN PART, THAT WE SHARED WITH DR. MIRO CARDONA, "THE AIM OF RESTORING FREEDOM TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE."

THAT CONTINUES TO BE THE AIM AND PURPOSE OF THE U.S., LET THERE BE NO DOUBT ON THAT CENTRAL POINT.

NOW, A STATEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED WHICH PURPORTS TO BE THE REASONS GIVEN BY DR. MIRO CARDONA FOR HIS "IRREVOCABLE DECISION" TO RESIGN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

THE STATEMENT SEEKS TO DISCREDIT SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND TO QUESTION THE GOOD FAITH AND INTEGRITY OF THEM, AS INDIVIDUALS, AND OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. WHILE APPRECIATING THE URGENT DESIRE OF THE CUBAN EXILES TO RETURN TO A FREE AND INDEPENDENT CUBA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE -- A DESIRE WHICH IS FULLY SHARED BY THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES -- THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THIS RECKLESS STATEMENT A GROSS DISTORTION OF RECENT HISTORY AND OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE ELIMINATION OF CASTRO-COMMUNISM FROM THIS HEMISPHERE.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO CONTINUE CONSULTING WITH LEADERS OF THE CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY CONCERNING SUITABLE METHODS FOR ACHIEVING OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE BROAD NATIONAL INTEREST.

UNQUOTE

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the United States

DTG: 13/1514Z APRIL 1963