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Office: Miami, Florida

Date: July 7, 1966

Field Office File #: 105-1742

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY

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Title: ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OT

Synopsis:

Cuban exiles do not see any possibilities of carrying out successful military activities against Cuba. RECE is a coordinating organization of activist groups and has financed raids against Cuba. On 5/29/66, six exiles landed on north coast of Cuba for assassination attempt against FIDEL CASTRO RUZ. It was joint operation of C-L and MRTN and 80% financed by RECE. Four of exiles were killed; ANTONIO CUESTA DEL VALLE and one other were captured. MRTN in Miami is very small but is active. ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA, MIRR leader, was acquitted on 6/2/66 on charge of conspiracy to violate Munitions Control Act. His trial on Federal charge of extortion was postponed on 6/7/66. BOSCH continues to be controversial figure in Cuban exile community. In May, 1966, ANC treasurer resigned and charged ANC with irresponsible military plans having no chance of becoming operational. SNFE claimed raid against Cuba on 5/19/66. Sources reported no raid took place and SNFE claim was to stimulate fundraising campaign. In April and May, 1966, SNFE, ALFA-66 and MRP unity group made pact of cooperation with five other exile groups in New York. Brigade 2506 sponsored rally in New York on 6/5/66 in which about 2,000 persons attended.

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DETAILS:

I. GENERAL

MM T-1, a Cuban exile who has been active in anti-Castro activities in the Miami area for the past five years, on June 7, 1966, stated he saw no possibility of carrying out any successful military activity against the regime of Premier FIDEL CASTRO RUZ of Cuba. T-1 stated that activity in the Miami area has decreased, mainly because certain groups which previously received support and financial assistance no longer received such aid.

MM T-l explained that Cuban exiles in the Miami area who reportedly had been receiving official financial support have now been cut off and it does not appear there are any definite plans to carry out military activities against Cuba. T-l stated this has caused much dissatisfaction and despair among exiles residing in the United States.

MM T-1 said it was his opinion there would be certain groups of Cuban exiles who would continue to make sporadic attacks against the coast of Cuba, but these attacks will not bring about anything of significance inside Cuba, and nothing of a successful nature could be accomplished by the Cuban exiles except with the full and complete support of the United States.

II. ORGANIZATIONS

REPRESENTACION CUBANA DEL EXILIO (RECE)
(Cuban Representation in Exile)

RECE maintains its headquarters at 1784 West Flagler Street, Miami. ERNESTO FREYRE and JORGE MAS CANOSA are the leading members of the Executive Board of the organization.

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MM 105-1742

MM T-2, a Cuban exile who has been active in revolutionary matters for the past nine years, on June 9, 1966, advised that RECE has assumed the position of, and is considered, a coordinating organization which attempts to collect funds, coordinate military activities of the exile action groups, and issue press releases on main events that relate to Cuban and exile affairs in the United States.

RECE is frequently criticized as being an organization which hopes to rule Cuba in the future by capitalizing
on the efforts of the activist groups operating against Cuba
at the present time.

MM T-3, a Cuban exile and the leader of an independent exile group, on June 14, 1966, stated that RECE maintains delegations all over the United States and although most of them are inactive, they do raise some money for RECE and \$1.00 to \$5.00 donations from exiles all over the United States are periodically received at RECE headquarters.

JOSE "PEPIN" BOSCH, head of the Bacardi Company, is the financial sponsor of the organization and reportedly donates \$500.00 a month. POLO VALDES MIRANDA, a close friend and former employee of BOSCH, told MM T-3 that he, MIRANDA, donates \$500.00 a month to RECE.

ANTONIO CUESTA DEL VALLE, who led a hit-and-run raid against Cuba on November 14, 1965, said that RECE financed the raid with a \$1,500 donation. MM T-3 said that CUESTA's May 29, 1966, mission to Cuba was 80 per cent financed by RECE.

MM T-2 on June 7, 1966, said that ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA, head of a Cuban activist group in Miami, scheduled a raid for April 21, 1966. However, the raid was thwarted and BOSCH and two others were arrested by the Collier County, Florida Sheriff's Department for transporting six loaded aerial-type bombs. The proposed raid was substantially financed by JOSE "PEPIN ROSCH who sent JORGE MULEY GONZALEZ to a bank to obtain money which was later delivered to the activist group.

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MM T-3 stated that although RECE speeches and articles appearing in the RECE publication appear critical of the United States, most exiles feel RECE is very acceptable to the United States Government. The exiles point out that RECE apparently pays no tax on the money it receives from donations and has never been prosecuted for financing armed expeditions.

RECE is actually looking for and seeking out operations to finance. An example of this was when JOSE LLANUSA, Minister of Education in Cuba and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Cuba, arrived in Puerto Rico for the Caribbean Games held in San Juan from June 12 through June 25, 1966.

RECE contacted LLANUSA's father in Miami and sent him to San Juan to contact his son, seeking his defection. The father mishandled the contact and LLANUSA refused to talk with his father. RECE immediately broke the story to the "Miami Herald" and compromised the chance for a recontact with LLANUSA. The "Miami Herald" is a daily newspaper published in Miami, Florida. MARY LOUISE WILKINSON and TONY SOLER, correspondents for the "Miami Herald," are frequently in touch with RECE headquarters.

MM T-3 continued that whenever Cuban exiles have a bona fide opportunity to purchase arms or military equipment, they can count on RECE for a sizeable donation. Usually, a RECE representative goes along with the activist group to make certain the activists are not going to be cheated by confidence man type arms dealers.

COMANDOS - L (C-L)

C-L is an action group headed by ANTONIO CUESTA DEL 71/2 VALLE and RAMON FONT SAUMELL. The organization has no fixed headquarters, although the headquarters are generally considered to be in San Juan, Puerto Rico. CUESTA and FONT are frequently in and out of Miami. This activist group has successfully conducted raids against Cuba in the past.

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MM T-4, a Cuban exile who maintains contact with the C-L, on February 11, 1966, advised that beginning in February, 1966, CUESTA was doubling his efforts to get an action going against Cuba. CUESTA held a meeting and a bond drive in Miami at the Miami Colonial Hotel on February 6, 1966. The following week, he met with supporters of EUSEBIO MUJAL, former labor leader, and was seen testing a boat in Biscayne Bay, Miami, and was making arrangements to obtain other boats.

In Puerto Rico, commandos of the C-L have several small motorboats of about 17 feet and 23 feet in length and an old 65-foot Cuban fishing boat, "Angelina," having Florida registration number FL9190E.

In May, 1966, the "Angelina" was in such bad condition it could not leave the dock. It had many leaks, it needed another engine, the mast was weak, and it had an operating speed of only five knots.

The original purpose in acquiring the vessel was to use it as a mother ship for staging operations in Cuba.

C-L Assassination Attempt

On May 30, 1966, Radio Havana announced that on the north coast of Cuba, west of Havana, a pirate boat had attempted to land two infiltrators. The two infiltrators were killed, two persons perished in the boat, and two survivors were rescued when the boat was hit by direct fire.

MM T-5, representing another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, on May 31, 1966, advised that the six persons who participated in the May 29, 1966, mission were as follows: ANTONIO CUESTA/DEL VALLE, SANDALIO HERMINIO DIAZ, ARMANDO ROMERO, EUGENIO BALDIVAR CADENAS, GUILLERMO ALVAREZ SANCHEZ, and ROBERTO ANTA FERNANDEZ.

RAMON FONT SAUMELL, military coordinator of C-L, on June 20, 1966, advised the following:

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The boat used on this mission was a 23-foot V-King fiber glass boat made in Miami. The boat had two 110 horse-power Chrysler engines. The purpose of the mission was to infiltrate HERMINIO DIAZ and ARMANDO ROMERO into Cuba for an assassination attempt against FIDEL CASTRO RUZ. HERMINIO DIAZ and ROMERO landed by a small inflatable raft on the coast of Cuba near Havana in a place opposite the El Comodoro Hotel. The crew of the raft were GUILLERMO ALVAREZ SANCHEZ and ROBERTO ANTA FERNANDEZ. CUESTA DEL VALLE and SALDIVAR CADENAS stayed in the 23-foot boat to evacuate the landing party.

The landing party planted two rockets aimed at the El Comodoro Hotel. Information later received indicated that a student attending a special school at the hotel saw the landing party and gave the alert which resulted in 11 Cuban patrol boats immediately converging on the landing party. The result was that HERMINIO DIAZ, ANTA FERNANDEZ, ALVAREZ SANCHEZ and ARMANDO ROMERO were killed. CUESTA was wounded and taken to the Cuban Navy Hospital at La Cubana. SALDIVAR reportedly lost a hand when a hand grenade exploded in the 23-foot boat. SALDIVAR was also given medical treatment.

FONT stated that at the present time he intended to go to Washington, D. C. and attend a rally of Cuban exiles. These exiles would attempt to obtain the support of the United States Government, several Latin American Governments, and the Roman Catholic Pope in Rome for the release of CUESTA and SALDIVAR as political prisoners.

FONT stated he will also try to arrange an exchange of CUESTA and SALDIVAR for Cuban political prisoners presently being held in Latin America. FONT stated that near the end of June, 1966, he planned to return to Santurce, Puerto Rico.

MM T-3 on May 31, 1966, advised that the May 29, 1966, mission was a joint operation of the C-L, RECE and the Movimiento Revolucionario Trienta de Noviembre (MRTN) (30th of November Revolutionary Movement). The mission was financed 80 per cent by RECE and 20 per cent by the MRTN which furnished certain military equipment and explosives.





SEXME

TRIENTA DE NOVIEMBRE (MRTN)

(30th of November Revolutionary
Movement)

MM T-2, a member of the MRTN, on June 7, 1966, furnished the following information:

The Miguel Iza Branch of the MRTN is the only branch active at the present time. This group has about ten member/s and is the group that was involved in the May 29, 1966, raid against Cuba in which SANDALIO HERMINIO DIAZ was killed.

Although this branch has no headquarters or office, they meet at 296 S. W. 7th Street, Apartment 1, Miami. They use this apartment free as a residence and an office. The manager of the building is a Cuban exile and has donated the space to them. The MRTN treasurer, name unknown, lives in this apartment.

A meeting was held on June 6, 1966, wherein MIGUEL IZA stated the group has a boat which apparently belongs to a ROBERTO CONZALEZ, not further identified. IZA appeared to be the only one who knew the location of the boat. IZA stated that because of pressure by Federal law enforcement agencies being put on the different exile organizations, he planned to have the boat moved and re-registered in another person's name in about a week.

The MRTN is presently active in sending out letters asking for money donations and is trying to sell bonds. The group claims to have a 20 millimeter cannon, pistols, and a .50 and a .30 calibre machine gun. IZA stated that it is now dangerous to operate inasmuch as United States Customs agents are currently confiscating boats belonging to Cuban exile activist groups.

MM T-3 on June 14, 1966, stated that SANDALIO HERMINIO DIAZ for the past two years had been working on a plan to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO RUZ. HERMINIO DIAZ had a contact with the Tourist Bureau in Havana, which Bureau handles tours inside

of Cuba for the different government commissions from the Iron Curtain countries. HERMINIO DIAZ received information from his contact in the Tourist Bureau that when commissions from communist countries visit Cuba, the Tourist Bureau sends them off to visit the different cooperatives. Frequently, FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, unannounced, meets these commissions at different cooperatives. The Tourist Bureau has prior knowledge of when and where CASTRO will meet the commissions.

HERMINIO DIAZ's plan was to infiltrate Cuba, dress in a Cuban military uniform, and await word from the Tourist Bureau when CASTRO would next visit a cooperative. HERMINIO DIAZ planned to then go to the cooperative and attempt the assassination.

What HERMINIO DIAZ lacked some months ago was a Cuban identification card, Cuban money, and the type of arms used by the Cuban militia. MM T-3 did not know if HERMINIO DIAZ ever obtained any of this equipment necessary to use in an infiltration mission.

MOVIMIENTO INSUBERCCIONAL DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIA (MIRR) (Insurpectional Movement of Revolutionary Recovery)

MIRR is a Cuban exile anti-Castro organization which maintains an office at 1661 West Flagler Street, Miami. Dr. ORLANDO SOSCH AVILA and MARCELINO GARCIA JIMENEZ are the principal leaders of MIRR.

Arrests and Dispositions

In June, 1965, BOSCH and three other exiles were arrested by United States Customs agents near Orlando, Florida, in possession of 18 homemade bombs and were charged with conspiracy to violate the Munitions Control Act.

On June 2, 1966, BOSCH and the three other exiles were acquitted in United States District Court at Orlando, Florida, by a jury which deliberated five hours after a five-day trial.



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On April 11, 1966, MM T-6, who was then closely associated with BOSCH, stated BOSCH at that time was making plans for a raid involving the use of an airplane against the target at Nuevitas, Cuba.

On April 21, 1966, BOSCH, along with BABARO BALAN and JOSE ANTONIO MULET GONZALEZ, was arrested at a roadblock about 15 miles east of Naples, Florida, by Collier County, Florida Deputies. BOSCH had loaded six 100-pound aerial bombs in one of the automobiles and intended to load the bombs on a plane at Naples, Florida airport for the air raid which was scheduled to take plate that night.

On November 25, 1965, BOSCH was arrested at Hartford, Connecticut, charged with extortion, and released on a \$5,000 bond.

On June 7, 1966, at the United States District Court in Miami, as BOSCH's trial was ready to begin on the extortion charge, BOSCH suffered an attack of a bleeding stomach ulcer and was sent to a hospital. An Assistant United States Attorney in Miami said he expected the trial would be postponed for a period of six weeks to two months.

On June 14, 1966, MM T-2 stated it was believed that BOSCH's bleeding ulcer was self induced inasmuch as BOSCH is a medical doctor and was very worried about the possibility of conviction on the extortion charge. BOSCH's attorney told him that the prosecution had a very good case and if convicted BOSCH could be sentenced to 20 years in a Federal Penitentiary. MM T-2 stated it is generally believed that BOSCH is using delaying tactics by causing his ulcer to become active.

BOSCH's Reputation

MM T-3 advised that the feeling among many Cuban exiles in Miami is that BOSCH is innocent of the extortion charge against him and the charge is a conspiracy by the United States Government to stop BOSCH from further engaging in anti-Castro activities.



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MM T-3 said that many responsible exile leaders think that if BOSCH is not convicted on the extortion charge, he will emerge as leader for the anti-Castro movement in the United States.

MM T-2 on June 14, 1966, stated that BOSCH continues to be a controversial figure in the Cuban community. Those who are associated with him but not members of his organization consider him cunning, immoral, devious and motivated by ambition. Exile leaders who know BOSCH consider him a fraud, dishonest and motivated by a desire to emerge as the leader and spokesman for the exile community.

To the modal exile, BOSCH has emerged as a figure trying to overthrow the Castro government in spite of obstacles placed in front of him by the United States Government. He appears in the exile community as a Robin Hood type who has always outsmarted the United States Government and has never been convicted.

ASOCIACION NACIONALISTA CUBANA (ANC) (Cuban Nationalist Association)

The ANC is an anti-Castro organization headed by FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ, a former law student in Cuba, world traveled and presently working as a salesman at a used car lot at 1150 N. W. 36th Street, Miami.

MM T-7, a Cuban exile associated with the ANC, described the ANC as a group of nationalists who spend time discussing tactics and techniques used previously by ADOLF HITLER. T-7 charged that RIVERO puts pressure on wealthy Cuban exiles to donate to the ANC, has threatened some of these donors, and has made enemies as a result of his pressure tactics.

MM T-7 claimed that the present military plans of the ANC involve a plan to assassinate the Cuban Ambassador to Rome and to poison food in the Cuban Embassies in England, Spain, Italy, Russia and Canada. The ANC is also considering a plan to cause an explosion in banks in London and attacking a Cuban merchant vessel as it passes through the Bahamas.





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MM T-7 stated that ORLANDO ATIENZA PEREZ was going to be one of the two ANC members to go to Rome for the purpose of the assassination attempt.

On May 16, 1966, ORLANDO ATIENZA PEREZ admitted he did apply for re-entry permit but at that time had no intention of going to Rome. He explained that originally he had planned on making a religious pilgrimage to Rome but at that time had changed his mind.

On May 16, 1966, JULIO PESTONIT said that as of that date he had resigned as ANC treasurer and would turn in \$700.00 he held for the ANC. PESTONIT said he was dissatisfied with ANC leaders who sat around dreaming up dramatic, irresponsible military plans which never had any chance of becoming operational.

Several days later, United States Customs agents confiscated six aerial bomb casings from PESTONIT.

MM T-2 described ANC leader RIVERO as an anti-American pseudointellectual who believes the United States Government is sponsoring unpopular exile figures with the result of maintaining the Cuban exile colony in a divided political situation.

On June 22, 1966, FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ complained that the United States Government is subsidizing RECE and was responsible for the May 29, 1966, mission against Cuba in which four exiles were killed and two were captured. RIVERO charged that if the United States Government had its way, it would install propagandists CONTE AGUERO and Dr. MANUEL ARTIME as the next rulers of Cuba.

ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRED ROJAS

MASFERRER is a former Cuban Senator presently living in New York City.

MASFERRER was in Miami and returned to New York City on March 5, 1966. While in Miami, he claimed financing would be received for his organization from a couple of unidentified African diplomats. In Miami, he stayed with his brother, KIKI, received visitors, held a meeting, and showed some arms he bought and spoke in favor of unity among exile groups.





On March 14, 1966, MASFERRER advised he was still continuing with his plans to form a Cuban exile group to invade Haiti, overthrow the Haitian Government, and then establish a base from which to attack Cuba.

MM T-1 on June 7, 1966, advised that MASFERRER several months ago had been active with Cuban exiles and Haitian exiles in attempting to mount an invasion of Haiti in order to overthrow President FRANCOIS DUVALIER. Since that time nothing has materialized as a result of these activities of MASFERRER, with the exception that MASFERRER secured more equipment and money for himself. T-1 said he seriously doubted that MASFERRER was ever really sincere in his plans to overthrow the Government of Haiti with the idea of establishing a base on the coast of Haiti from which attacks could be made against Oriente Province, Cuba.

SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY (SNFE)

On May 20, 1966, ARMANDO PLEITES, military leader of the SNFE, announced to the press that the SNFE on May 19, 1966, conducted a raid against a Cuban military post about 20 miles from Havana. The raid lasted about 20 minutes, during which time a 20 millimeter cannon, a 30 millimeter machine gun and FAL rifles were used. FLEITES claimed SNFE boats were operating from a secret base in the Caribbean.

On May 20, 1966, MM T=4 stated he was certain that no raid took place and the story was concocted by FLEITES to stimulate a fund-raising campaign.

On May 24, 1966, MM T-3 advised that JOAQUIN CODOY, head of the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP) (People's Revolutionary Movement), stated that no raid took place, the press announcement by FLEITES was false, and the MRP was very dissatisfied with FLEITES' dishonesty.

It is noted that the SNFE, the MRP and ALFA 66 compose a unity group which maintains a common office and has mutual military plans and fund drives.

John X

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Caribbean Games

MM T-8, another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, on about June 20, 1966, advised information had been received indicating that FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ, head of the ANC anti-Castro organization, had plans to kidnap JOSE LLANUSA, Minister of Education in Cuba, who at that time was in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ettending the Caribbean Games.

On June 21, 1966, FELIPE RIVERO DIAZ stated he had no plans for any assessination or kidnaping of JOSE LLANUSA or any Cuban athlete in Puerto Rico at that time. RIVERO stated that such an attempt would be too costly and risky.

Pact of Cooperation

MM T-9, who is familiar with revolutionary activities in the New York City area, advised that during April and May, 1966, the SNFE, ALFA 66 and MRP made a pact of cooperation with the following anti-Castro organizations in New York City:

MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO TRIENTA DE NOVIEMBRE (MRTN)

MOVIMIENTO INSURRECCION DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONAEIA (MIRR)

MOVIMIENTO RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIA - CUBANA (MRR - C)

DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO ESTUDIANTIL (DRE)

RESCATE

The purpose of the pact of cooperation was to raise money and purchase arms for an attack against Cuba in the near future. This unity group claimed that if the United States Government tries to stop their raid, they will attack the United States Coast Guard, have casualties, and through national publicity will create a political scandal which will be beneficial to their group.

Rally in New York City_

On June 5, 1966, in New York City, some 2,000 persons, mostly Cuban exiles, held a mass meeting and announced the formation of the Central Liberation Front. WALDO, CARMONA, New York representative of Brigade 2506, said a new invasion of Cuba would be mounted soon. The exiles charged the United States Government with indifference and said they were not going to obtain United States aid but would overthrow the Castro government alone.

MM T-1 advised that the June 5, 1966, rally in New York City was sponsored by Brigade 2506, and all Cuban exile organizations were invited to attend. T-1 advised the rally was another example of an effort made by a small group of exiles to project their names before the public and to solicit funds for promised military action against Cuba.

THOMAS JAMES BLEMING

BLEMING is a 6 feet 1 inch, bony, 20-year old paranoid from Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, who was formerly the editor of the little known newspaper, "The Swastika," and is a sympathizer of the American Nazi Party. BLEMING came to Miami on April 9, 1966, and was arrested by the Miami Police on April 29, 1966, for soliciting funds without a registration certificate. He said he was the founder and only member of the American Committee in Support of a Free Cuba. He distributed from 850 to 1,000 leaflets soliciting donations but did not receive any money.

On May 4, 1966, ALDO ROSADO TUERO and PABLO XASTELLO, members of the Nationalist Christian Movement, said that when BLEMING came to Miami, he contacted them and offered to help them. After BLEMING was arrested, ROSADO and CASTELLO put up a \$500.00 bail for BLEMING. Then BLEMING announced to the press that he was a Nazi. ROSADO said he was trying to recover his \$500.00.

On June 21, 1966, BLEMING was tried and found innocent inasmuch as he failed to collect any money. On June 23, 1966, BLEMING was seen with two suitcases at the Miami Bus Station. He said he was going back to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.



MARY FERRELL FOUNDATION



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

Miami, Florida July 7, 1966

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Title

ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES

Character

INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference

Report of Special Agent ROBERT JAMES DWYER, dated and captioned as above, at Miami, Florida

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

