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Chief, Contact Division
Attn: Support Branch (Crowley)

10 May 1961

Chief, Washington Office

Laurens Batista

DA 3186512

Reference: Crowley/Coleman telecon of 9 May 1961

1. This confirms Crowley/Coleman telephone conversation of 9 May 1961.

2. On 4 May 1961, Colonel Grogan called to inform us that Laurens Batista, an individual with information on Cuba, was registered at the Roosevelt Hotel and wanted to talk to someone from the Agency. We contacted Batista at the Roosevelt Hotel, and met with him within the hour.

3. Batista, a man in his early thirties, has been residing in Miami, Florida for approximately a year. He is a member of the Christian Democratic Movement. In December 1960, he and other unnamed members of the Revolutionary Democratic Front in Miami began to engage in independent operations in support of anti-Castro forces in Cuba, i.e., the shipment of weapons, explosives, etc. to the anti-Castro underground and forces in the Escambray. He claims that his group carried out several successful operations, with, of course, the support of CIA. He named as his CIA contact man one Mr. (Peterson) and said that he had met, though did not work directly with, Colonel Roderick. Another point of CIA contact was a Mr. Frank. *(Under Review)*

03
Rocky
Farnsworth
alias
used in Miami

4. After the unsuccessful invasion attempt, and the ensuing unfavorable publicity, Batista was unable to contact either Colonel Roderick or Mr. Peterson. Their phones had been disconnected, and according to Mr. Frank - Batista's other point of Agency contact - were no longer in Miami. Batista has been urging Frank to get the ball rolling again, stating that he has a great responsibility to the Cuban underground movement, and that it would be criminal to abandon them. He claims that the communications and transportation net for such operations is still intact, and that there are trained men, ready and willing to go back into Cuba. The only answer Batista has gotten from Frank is that "we must lie low for awhile". Batista informed Frank that he was coming to Washington to contact higher Agency authority, that it was essential that the Cuban underground not be abandoned.

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5. Batista requests, and expects, to be contacted in Miami in the near future and enlightened on two points:

- (a) Will the former Agency aid and support for the Cuban underground be resumed - only a small amount of aid in the form of munitions, weapons, and explosives is required, according to Batista;
- (b) When will this aid be resumed? If it is possible to have this aid resumed, then Batista wishes to get together with Agency representatives to discuss plans.

6. Batista may be contacted through the Christian Democratic Movement in Miami - telephone, Franklin 3-1791, or at his place of residence, 2220 Southwest 27th Terrace, Miami. Batista was advised only that his comments and request would be passed to appropriate Agency authority.

F. J. Sheridan

McGowan/mr

W. J. S.

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