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23
(10/2083)

27th November 1961

Dear Steve,

SECRET

Please refer to my (10/2082) of 28th November.

1. Our Embassy in Havana have now forwarded the attached translation of the major part of the Ministry of the Interior's report on the *Comité Revolucionario del Pueblo (C.R.P.)* and its activities.

2. In forwarding this report, our Embassy comment as follows:

The television appearance before a panel of journalists of Sr. Arnold DOMÍNGUEZ contained little additional to the report apart from the mention of names of a number of artists who had joined the C.R.P. at various times, and we do not think it worth translating. Sr. DOMÍNGUEZ, a former Secretary of the Cuban Confederation of Labour and one of the leaders of the C.R.P., had been in prison for about three months.

The issue of the report at this stage was no doubt meant to serve both an internal and an external purpose. Internally its object is to discourage those whose sympathies lie with the counter-revolution and to demonstrate the efficiency of the security forces. Early this year the C.R.P. was almost certainly the most effective opposition group inside Cuba. We have no reason to believe that the claim made by the Ministry that the C.R.P. has been destroyed is an effective force is anything but true, though it was of course by no means the only group, and occasionally, scattered acts of sabotage suggest that some are still alive. Among the most spectacular recent

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... of an on the burning down of the C.I.C. building on October 21st. There have been a number of fairly minor acts of sabotage in the provinces, particularly in Camaguey following the dropping of counter-revolutionary leaflets over the town from an aircraft.

Externally, the involvement of the Venezuelans, Colombian and Indonesian emigrants, coming at a time when relations between Latin American nations and the Cuban Government over the sugar problem are particularly strained, can only serve to concentrate the already difficult situation of the Venezuelans, who have been under heavy fire in the last two weeks, and to a lesser extent of the other Latin Americans. The Venezuelans are generally believed here to have decided to break off relations with Cuba because they can make arrangements for the sugar they now have to be taken in by other Latin Americans. The Cuban Government's recent move to improve negotiations on the acceptance and disposal of sugar has angered all the Latin Americans and has served to unite those who are generally friendly to the regime, such as Mexico and Brazil, with those who are not. The final reply to the Cuban Note on sugar is to be presented today (November 15th).

The public allegations against the Indian Embassy contained in the Ministry of the Interior's report are no doubt meant to show that the authorities are not unaware of the work being carried on by the Indian Embassy in assisting the counter-revolution. The Indian Embassy has obtained a number of "assets" since its invasion in April and the allegations in the communiqué are probably true."

Yours sincerely,

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 [Dr. Cleveland C. Green.]

REPORT ON THE PLANS OF THE MOVIMIENTO REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PUEBLO FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM, SABOTAGE AND THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF COMANDANTE FIDEL CASTRO AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, FRUSTRATED BY THE VIGILANCE OF THE PEOPLE AND BY THE ACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECURITY.

The self-styled counter-revolutionary organization "Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo" (M.R.P.) was created about the middle of 1960 by Manuel Ray Riera with the object of fighting the Cuban Revolution. During the tyranny Ray aspired to overthrow the régime of Batista but to leave intact the rule of Imperialism and of the oligarchy which served it in our country. When the Revolution began to issue anti-imperialist and nationalisation laws Ray did not hesitate to betray it and then to take refuge in the country of his Yankee masters. In his last days as Minister of Public Works and taking advantage of his high position, Ray began to conspire with his friends from the days of his clandestine struggle against Batista and to organize the M.R.P.. The M.R.P. is a counter-revolutionary organization whose members are drawn mainly from the well-to-do middle class, among them professional people, senior employees, mutualista elements of the telephone, electricity and bank workers' unions and also dissidents and traitors from the 26th of July Revolutionary Movement.

Ray aspired to be the favourite child of the Imperialists thanks to his relations with the U.S. Department of State, but when the United States broke off relations with Cuba the C.I.A. took over the direction of the counter-revolution. Ray, on seeing that Tony Varona and Viró Cardona were preferred by the C.I.A., adopted a somewhat undisciplined attitude and after the failure of Playa Girón he left the "Revolutionary Council" of Viró and Varona, a move which clearly displeased both the C.I.A. and the State Department. Ray and his associates in the M.R.P. tried to find support among similar people in Latin America and persuaded Romulo Betancourt, Fuloz Marín and Ziguera to lend support to their counter-revolutionary plans. In various interviews in Puerto Rico and Caracas Ray obtained a promise that these governments would cooperate in supplying war material, bases and money for the counter-revolutionary attack on Cuba. The C.I.A. however, induced the American Government to intervene and prohibit its lackeys from supporting any attack other than that being organized by the C.I.A. and which took place in April at Playa Girón. Ray's lack of discipline resulted in the C.I.A. securing his expulsion from the M.R.P. and the substitution of a more docile lackey named Ignacio Gonzalez de Mendoza, alias "ofino" who is at present in the United States as representative of the M.R.P. which is now closely connected with the C.I.A., the State Department and to the "Council" of Viró Cardona and Tony Varona.

During the months prior to the invasion of Playa Girón the M.R.P. on the instructions of the C.I.A. began to commit acts of terrorism and sabotage

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in cooperation with the "30th of November Movement". All these acts of sabotage had as their object the creation of an atmosphere of disorder and chaos and of psychological conditions favourable to the invasion which they were then planning. Until the breaking off of diplomatic relations the U.S. Embassy in Havana supplied economic aid to the U.R.P. and gave visas to its members, as it did to other counter-revolutionary groups. The Embassy also provided war material, explosives, arms, etc. through various Yankee officials among whom may be mentioned one called DeWitt and another who used the name of Pancho. The link with the U.S. Embassy at this time, through whom the U.R.P. received its money, arms and explosives, was the sub-coordinator of U.R.P. named Rodolfo Cienfuegos who used the false name of "Eugenio". After the breaking off of relations the C.I.A. used for the introduction and distribution of explosives and arms a group of Cubans who had received special training in the C.I.A. camps in Florida, Panama and Guatemala; among whom may be mentioned the C.I.A. agents Cayo Comellas, Jorge Comellas, one Omar and Pascasio Linares and Mario Masip, who were introduced into Cuba by the C.I.A. to make contact with, and to try to unify some groups of workers prior to the invasion which they were preparing in Guatemala. The Naval Base of Guantánamo was also used for the entry and exit of elements of the U.R.P., the U.R.R. and other organizations; one of these was the traitor ex-Comandante Higinio Blas. The U.R.P. also received help from the reactionary and falangist clergy, especially economic help brought by the Franciscan Brother, Fray Julian de Bastarrica. The priests also made available to the U.R.P. the La Salle, Vedado and Centro Civico Schools in which to hold meetings. Other priests who helped the U.R.P., the U.D.C. and the U.R.R. were Fr. Angel Pivas of Santiago de Cuba, Fr. Lebrun of Camagüey, Fr. Villaverde and Fr. Arango S.J., who was the adviser of the J.O.C. in Havana and closely connected with Consignor Eduardo Boza Masvidal. Fr. Tomas Olazabal made available the printing press of the magazine "La Quincena" in which to store propaganda and print counter-revolutionary propaganda. Catholic organizations such as the A.C.U., the Caballeros Católicos, the Caballeros de Colón and the Damas Católicas and especially the U.D.C. and the Juventud Estudiantil Católica also helped the U.R.P. and the U.D.C.

The failure of Playa Girón and the consequent arrest of counter-revolutionary elements caused these groups of traitors to become demoralized and disorientated and their position was made worse by the crisis in the C.I.A. itself which ended with the dismissal of Allan Dulles and other officials. In July, three months after the invasion, the C.I.A. sent to this country one of its agents known as Ernesto, whose real name is José Luis Mederos, a Cuban whose job it was to make contact with the U.R.P. and other groups to encourage them and to try to provide them with economic aid, explosives and weapons. Ernesto received direct instructions from General Bowling and General Taylor, who was then supervising the U.I.A.. In these conversations there took part in the name of the U.R.P. one Ignacio Gonzalez de Mendoza, he who at present represents the U.R.P. in the United States. Among the instructions which Ernesto brought from the C.I.A. for the U.R.P. was that which required the expulsion of Manuel Key from the U.R.P. This request was considered by Rufino (Ignacio Gonzalez de Mendoza) and others who agreed to the dismissal of Key on the grounds that he took decisions without previously consulting them.

Ray had prepared a plan of aggression against Cuba on behalf of the State Department indicating what resources he would need, how it was to be directed etc., disregarding both the C.I.A. and his fellow conspirators in Cuba. As the C.I.A. was by this time predominant in the government of the U.S. a point of crisis had been reached. The replacement of Ray was a prerequisite for the C.I.A. continuing to support the M.R.P. Once Ray had been dismissed Rufino went to the U.S. and made contact with officials of the C.I.A., the State Department and the Council of Miró and Varona. Shortly afterwards Ernesto also went to the U.S. and recommended Rufino to his masters in the C.I.A. as an obedient and faithful person; Rufino thus received the approval of the directors of the C.I.A. and remained there as representative of the M.R.P.

Rufino had interviews with various officials of the C.I.A. and also with a high official of the State Department named Goodwin, this being arranged through a journalist in Miami named Hal Verdrix. Goodwin indicated to him the necessity for the M.R.P. to reenter the Revolutionary Council directed by Miro Cardona who is the trusted friend of Kennedy. After these interviews Rufino informed those in Cuba of the C.I.A.'s conditions for helping the M.R.P.; these were immediately accepted. These difficulties arising out of the expulsion of Ray having been resolved and the M.R.P. having been made completely subservient to the C.I.A. and to the revolutionary Council, the M.R.P. began to receive C.I.A. help in the form of money, explosives and weapons. The C.I.A. agent Ernesto returned to Cuba to continue his work of subversion and sabotage but was arrested in the course of his travels by the Department of State Security.

As is known, the Kennedy Government is preparing a new aggression against our country. Up to the present it is planning to use Cuban and Latin American mercenaries, including Cubans and Puerto Ricans who belonged, or have belonged, to the United States Army. In this connexion there are training camps in Florida, Central America, the Dominican Republic and the island of Vieques, near Puerto Rico. The Yankee Government proposes to use against Cuba certain Central American governments such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, etc. and in this connexion there have taken place recently meetings between the commanders and officials of the forces of these countries and a meeting of American Ambassadors presided over by Westergaard.

With the object of creating in Cuba an internal situation favorable to the aggressive plans which they are preparing, the C.I.A. gave precise instructions to the leaders of the M.R.P. for them to put into practice a vast plan of terrorist acts which began in September, and which, in accordance with the plans of the C.I.A. was to culminate with an attempt on the life of the Prime Minister, Dr. Fidel Castro Ruiz. Their plan was that if they destroyed about a dozen of the principal shops a protest meeting would be held in front of the Presidential Palace and they would take advantage of this to make their attempt against the life of the Prime Minister and other members of the Government. The Department of State Security found out the plan of sabotage and by adopting measures of extreme vigilance with the support of the workers and the people, succeeded in frustrating it, arresting many of the plotters and causing others to flee, among them the principal organizer, Antonio Veciana ("Victor") who left the country on the 3rd of October.

The assassination attempt was to take place from Apartment 8A on the 8th floor of a building No. 29, Avenida de las Misiones, into which had been smuggled a bazooka, grenades and other weapons. The U.R.P. had, before the date set for these acts of sabotage, reorganized itself in the following way:

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| Coordinator in the United States | Ignacio Gonzalez de Mendoza ("Rufino") |
| National Coordinator | Antonio Reynold Gonzalez y Gonzalez |
| National Director of Action and Sabotage | Antonio Veciana alias "Victor" or "Carlos" |

[A long list of other leaders is also given]

The plan of sabotage suggested by the C.I.A. was considered by the National Coordinator of the U.R.P. and other counter-revolutionary leaders who decided that it would be executed by the Military Operations Section, with the assistance of the workers' Coordinators. The plan envisaged a series of acts of sabotage on September 29 in the nationalized stores Fin de Siglo, J. Valles, Sears, and the restaurant of the "Capri" hotel. All these were to take place before the assassination attempt. The sabotage of Fin de Siglo was directed by Ernesto Amador del Rio, alias "Emilio", Provincial Workers' Coordinator of the U.R.P., who was to give two incendiary bombs to Maria de los Angeles Atach Lib, the secretary of Antonio Reynold Gonzalez. She was to place them in the store but the vigilance of the people prevented this act of sabotage from being committed. Both were arrested. The person in charge of the sabotage of the J. Valles store was Antonio Veciana ("Victor") or "Carlos", who succeeded in escaping to the United States. Veciana gave two incendiary bombs to a certain Saul who is said to belong to the Sabotage Section of "Rescate", and who is closely connected with Veciana. He gave them to a couple who have not yet been identified but here again the vigilance of the people prevented the sabotage from being committed. Veciana was also in charge of the sabotage in the Hotel Capri and gave two incendiary bombs to Joaquin Alzugaray, an employee in the restaurant, who is at present under arrest and who said that he was not able to place the bombs. The sabotage in the Sears store was in the hands of Juan Manuel Iguirido alias "Anibal" who was the Provincial Director of Action and Sabotage of the U.R.P. Two days before, that is on September 27, Ernesto Amador del Rio, "Emilio", and Veciana spoke about the subject to Dalila Jorge Mas, National Treasurer of the U.R.P. and asked her to place two incendiary bombs in this store. They picked her up on 5th Avenue and 42 Street in Miramar, in a white 1958 Buick and explained the matter to her; she agreed to carry out this sabotage mission. Later they returned her to the same place, having arranged that she would be at the corner of Saliano and San José Streets at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, where she would be met by Juan Manuel Iguirido alias "Anibal". At the time arranged Anibal picked up Dalila at the street corner in his light blue 1953 Buick car and drove around until 5.45 p.m. when he turned into Amistad Street towards Saliano Street, taking out the two incendiary bombs, breaking the seal with his teeth, thus making them ready for use and giving them to Dalila Jorge Mas. She got out of the car and went into Sears, going at once to the second floor and placing the envelope containing one of the bombs between the rolls of cloth on a table. Having done this she went down to the ground floor and tried to place the other bomb but was discovered by one of the employees and arrested.

On hearing that at the Finca Hurra, situated in El Morado on the road between Bayamo and Uluano, the property of Amador Odio and his wife Sara del Torro, seditious meetings had been taking place, an investigation was carried out which showed that this finca was frequently visited by members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Havana and particularly by the Chargé d'Affaires of Venezuela, Señor Zurbarsa and the Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia. It was also found that the finca was visited by Antonio Reynold Gonzalez and his wife Teresita Alvarez, who is at present abroad, and also by María de los Angeles Abach Dib, who acted as a link with Embassies and who placed the incendiary bomb in Fin de Siglo. On July 13 sixteen diplomatic representatives of various Latin American countries visited this finca, not including any from Brazil, Mexico and Ecuador. These diplomats held a meeting with Amador Odio and Sara del Torro which lasted over two hours. They remained in the finca until 1 a.m. and the last to leave was the wife of the Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia, who took with her in her car a large quantity of meat and lard for counter-revolutionaries in asylum. On one occasion the Chargé d'Affaires of Venezuela took Antonio Reynold Gonzalez and M. Abach Dib to his Embassy in order that María might speak to her brother, Eduardo, who was in asylum (he used to be the producer of the television programme "Man and God"). At the same time Reynold Gonzalez had discussions with other asylees.

Reynold Gonzalez, who recently carried out an act of sabotage in the warehouses of La Rayonera at Luyano, was arrested at the Finca Hurra. M. Abach Dib was the teacher of the children of the Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia. Another diplomat who visited the finca was Elvira Zayas, the Chargé d'Affaires of Panama. Señor Odio and his wife, who had been supplying the counter-revolutionaries in asylum in various embassies, were arrested. Prior to April 17, the date of the invasion, the embassy with which the M.R.P. had the closest contact was that of Venezuela. After the invasion the M.R.P. continued to remain in touch with the Venezuelan Chargé d'Affaires who introduced the Colombian and Panamanian Chargés d'Affaires. The M.R.P. gave \$1,000 a month to the Venezuelan Embassy for the maintenance of the asylees and also paid for the passages of those who left the country. The Venezuelan Embassy served all the counter-revolutionary groups, accepted an excessive number of asylees, took into its charge papers and possessions and permitted asylees to go out of the Embassy and return.

The Embassy of Italy has also served counter-revolutionary groups, permitting such leaders as Pepin Fernandez Badue to stay in its residence, and also making available the diplomatic bag for the correspondence of these organisations. On one occasion the diplomatic bag was used by the M.R.P. to bring from Miami a report from Ignacio G. de Mendoza "Rufino". It was also used to bring in money for the M.D.C., M.R.R., Unidad etc.

There follows a long list of persons arrested and weapons discovered in various parts of Havana and neighbouring towns.

For two months the leaders of the M.R.P. had carefully planned an assassination attempt against Comandante Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Revolutionary Government but this plan was frustrated by the vigilance of the people and the opportune intervention of the Department of State Security.

The plan was approved by the Workers' Coordinators of the M.R.P. at a meeting which took place at the office of the National Commission for Alphabetization, situated in the former Escuela del Rogar, the plotters pretending to be alphabetizers. The office was made available by Hector R. Lopez Fernandez (now under arrest) and by the woman in charge of the building whose name was Fitzgibbons who also provided them with alphabetization manuals in order that the dissimulation might be complete. The plan was made known to Rufino, the C.I.A., the State Department and to Miro Cardona.

The bazooka was to be fired from a window of the apartment at the platform installed on the north terrace of the Presidential Palace at dusk. After firing the bazooka the plotters were to throw fragmentation grenades in order to cause panic and so that they might in the confusion take flight dressed in militia and army uniforms and armed with their automatic weapons.

The Department of State Security with the assistance of the vigilance of the people has thus not only succeeded in frustrating the criminal acts of sabotage and attempted assassination which had been planned but has also almost totally destroyed the counter-revolutionary organization of traitors and enemies of the people, directed by the C.I.A., which called itself Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR