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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-S-I-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY Cuba

REPORT NO. OO-B 3,181,381

TOP-LEVEL SECRET CONFERENCE AMONG EXILED CUBAN LEADERS FAILS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY FRONT AND POPULAR REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT/DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE METHODS FOR ORGANIZATION OF REBEL GOVERNMENT INSIDE CUBA/ATTITUDES OF THE POPULAR REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

DATE OF INFO Mar 61

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US citizen, free-lance writer and part time sugar broker.

Source speaks Spanish, has resided at intervals in Cuba since youth, has had contacts for many years among Cubans in the sugar business, and knows personally many present and former Cuban political and administrative personalities. Source lived in Havana during the entire calendar year 1959, working with the [redacted] and collecting material for an analysis of developments in Cuba since Fidel Castro's victory.

1. One of my Cuban friends has just told me that on or about 2, 3, and 4 Mar 61, there was held in Washington, DC, a top-level, "top secret" conference of exiled Cuban political leaders and other Cuban figures. The purpose of the conference, so I am informed, was to try to reconcile political differences among the Cuban exiles and also to formulate plans for the organization and installation of a rebel government inside Cuba. My friend also told me that representatives of the US Government were present at the conference and played an important role.
2. I understand that 20 Cubans attended the above conference. The following are the names of 13 of the participants.
 - a. Julio Lobo, the former "sugar king" of Cuba.
 - b. Alberto Fernandez, formerly an important "hacendado" in Oriente province.
 - c. Abel Mestre, former owner of a television station and member of a prominent Cuban family.
 - d. Gear Mestre.
 - e. Agostino Batista, formerly Chairman of the Trust Company of Cuba.
 - f. Sergio Carbo, formerly owner of a well-known Cuban newspaper.
 - g. José Miró Cardona.
 - h. Carlos Evisa, "Antentico" candidate for president of Cuba in 1952.
 - i. Carlos Márquez Sterling, candidate for president of Cuba in 1958 [See OOB-3,163,081 for data concerning reputed financial payoff by the government of Fulgencio Batista to Márquez in Dec 58]
 - j. Jesús ^{Artigas} ~~Cardona~~, labor leader, lieutenant of Eusebio Mujal.

STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AEC						
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Donald Higgins

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- k. Oscarfo Lineras, labor leader.
- l. Jesus Fernandez, official of the electricians' union, leader of the recent outbreak of this union against Communist domination of it.
- m. Jose Ignacio Rasco, leader among the Christian Democrats.

I do not at this time know the names of the other seven Cubans present at the Washington meeting.

3. The following plan was put forth, to solve the differences among the exiled Cubans. The Popular Republican Movement (MRP) is to choose 10 names from the list of 20 (i.e., from the above 13 plus the seven which are unknown to me). Of these 10, two are to be from "labor", two from the Supreme Court of Cuba, and six from "the right and center". Then, the Democratic Revolutionary Front (DRF) is to choose three more people of their own, not necessarily from the above list. It is said that the DRF has already made its three selections and that they are Justo Carrillo, Antonio de Varona, and Manuel Artine. Next, the MRP is to select three names. I am informed that they have decided upon Raul Chibas, Manuel Ray, and Felipe Pazos as their three choices. Next, "Unidad Revolucionaria" (UR), the Christian Democrats, and "other opposition groups" are to name one person to represent them. This makes a total of 17 names which will have been selected. The plan then calls for these 17 individuals to serve as a "Junta Ejecutiva". This "Junta" will then name, from among its own membership, the Provisional President of Cuba, the Provisional Prime Minister, and the Provisional Cabinet. The "Provisional Legislative Body" will be formed by the above 17 individuals, plus the remaining names on the original list of 20.
4. Reaction to this plan has been hostile, among Cubans who know about it. Varona is not happy with it, because he says that it constitutes US meddling in Cuban internal affairs and because the plan was allegedly put forth by representatives of the US Government. But, says Varona, he will accept it, because he sees no alternative.
5. The MRP feels that the plan is too favorable to the DRF and is very unhappy that the US seems to have selected Cuban military officers on the basis of their military leadership ability and their knowledge of English, rather than on that of their political suitability. The MRP is resentful of the treatment which they say has been given Martin Elena and his staff, all of whom have apparently been ousted. The MRP is also unhappy over what it regards as too obvious US domination of the whole political effort of Cubans in exile. In short, the MRP thinks that, under present plans, should Fidel Castro and his regime be overthrown, the only result will be the imposition by the US upon Cuba of a government unpalatable to the MRP, in particular, and patriotic Cubans, in general.
6. My Cuban friends inform me that although the MRP is dissatisfied with things, as outlined above, it will accept Humberto Sori Marin as a military leader. I learned recently, by the way, that Sori Marin has become the "military coordinator" of UR. The MRP is now preparing to submit their counterproposal to the above plan. The MRP will propose that the above scheme be discarded and that in its place there be organized a "Junta". This "Junta" would be composed of three individuals selected by the MRP and three selected by the DRF. These six people would then select a seventh, who would become the "Provisional President" of Cuba. The MRP will accept Justo Carrillo as this seventh person and "Provisional President". Its reasons are that it knows that Justo Carrillo is really owned by the MRP, but that his selection would please the DRF (who, presumably, thinks that it owns him).
7. My Cuban friends inform me that the MRP objects particularly to the presence of Lebo, Batista, Rasco, Marques Sterling, and Carto on the above list and that it feels strongly that the remainder of the names on that list are those of right-and extreme right-wingers.

3. Finally, I am told that the US representatives at the meeting in Washington insisted that the plan described above be adopted as presented. These individuals are said to have stated that if the plan is not accepted by the Cubans, efforts to unseat Castro will proceed without either the DRP or the MRP.

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