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03

C/WH/L/CI - [redacted]

1 April 1961

WH/L/CI - Jean Pierson

Defection Program - Luis BUCH

The following is, briefly, the picture of the BUCH defection as I have been able to put it together:

- Monday, 27 March: Announcement of defection at Staff Meeting.
- Wednesday, 29 Mar: Spanish language program (Tribuna Democratica) from WRCM, New York at 2300 hours, concerning the arrival at Key West of Luis BUCH and two other functionaries and their "emotional reception".
(Progress report written prior to 3PM.)
- Thursday, 30 Mar: COBE reported the above info during a telephone conversation at 8:45 AM - wondered whether "our friend" (ORTA) was one of them. This was reported to FI and to PROP - Dave Phillips. When I told Dave he indicated that since the story had broken on the radio, he would check Miami to see if he could use it - he had been instructed not to use the info until it broke somewhere else.
- Friday, 31 Mar: Unable to catch Dave to determine source of the original report.
- Saturday, 1 Apr: Dave advised that the original source of the info was [Carlos TOBE] former [Habana] newspaper editor. The picture seems to be now that the whole thing is a mistake - that we do not have BUCH debriefing him.

OS

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