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|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| <b>DISPATCH</b> |   | C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L                          | HK3A-327        |
| TO              | Chief, WHD  | HEADQUARTERS FILE NO.                            |                 |
| INFO            | Chief of Station, Habana  |  | 19-9-5          |
| FROM            | Chief of Base, Santiago de Cuba   | DATE   | 13 January 1960 |
| SUBJECT         | Political Organizations - Movimiento Democrático Cristiano (MDC, Christian Democratic Movement) | RE (3) - (CHECK ONE)                             |                 |
|                 |   | MARKED FOR INDEXING                              |                 |
|                 |   | NO INDEXING REQUIRED                             |                 |
| ACTION REQUIRED | None  | INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY |                 |

**SECRET**

1. Attached for the information of Headquarters is the "political bible" of the MDC, a recently announced organization which has hopes of blossoming into a political party. Also attached is the Boletín Formativo e Informativo No. 3, dated 15 December 1959, which states that the MDC will announce soon the date of its first national congress. Further, the MDC hopes to invite Christian Democrats from many countries of the world including Dr. Rafael CALDERA, Secretary General Nacional del COPEI in Venezuela.

2. The MDC has its national offices at 263 Ninth St. in Vedado, Habana. The following persons are the leaders of the MDC:

Lic. Josef Ignacio FRASCO - president  
 Ing. Melchor GASTON, owner of the Central Dolores  
 Lic. Valentin ARENAS  
 Amalia FIALLO

The MDC is not highly organized. A basic organization exists in all provinces with Camaguey the best organized having a membership of 600-1,000. The Santiago de Cuba organization is headed by Laureano GARROTE Jr., broker, and Lic. Guillermo MARTINEZ. The Santiago organization has its political sights pointed primarily at the campesinos, labor, and students. The MDC has a basic organization of twelve students at the University of Oriente and can count limited strength in the teachers' organization. However, at this time the MDC has no means of reaching other students except through word of mouth. No plans exist at this time for publishing MDC propaganda. However, in the future the MDC in Habana plans to mimeograph selected articles and send them to the provincial organizations for distribution. The local MDC is looking for a person or avenue which they can use to reach the campesinos and labor.

3. MDC representatives have travelled to most countries of Europe and some countries of South America to study Christian Democratic movements wherever they have existed to learn the modus operandi of those movements and to capitalize on their experience.

4. The MDC realizes that it must be very careful in its actions having already been attacked by Prime Minister CASTRO. The MDC will do everything possible to avoid being connected with counter-revolutionary groups so that they cannot be classed in the same category as BATISTA elements.

5. The above information was received from [redacted] who is under development by the writer. [redacted] is pro-US having received his education in the United States. As a representative or broker, most of his business has come from US firms. He is now affiliated with a US firm in Habana.

6. None of the above information has been placed on a "mat" on the assumption that most of it has already been reported by the Habana Station.

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