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Ray

24 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Staffing of the Revolutionary Council

1. Around noon of 24 March 1961 Mr. Carr advised us telephonically that he had been in touch with Miro Cardona. Miro intends to appoint Varona, Novia, Carrillo, Artins and Ray (or Fanes) to the Council.

2. Miro wanted to be advised whether Varona and Novia would be acceptable to positions as Secretaries of Defense and State (Miro did not feel strongly as to which of the two got which position). The other above-mentioned individuals would temporarily act as ministers without portfolio. Even the appointments to the positions of State and Defense would not now be announced. Carr wanted to know if the foregoing was alright with us.

3. The question of the best suited ⁰³ candidate for the position of Secretary of Defense was discussed by Messrs [redacted] and Droller subsequent to Mr Carr's telephone call. It happened that C/WJD and AC/MH/A were at that moment in the office of the DCI and thus the problem was referred to that level for the decision. The following decision relayed to Messrs [redacted] and Droller by the AC/MH/A was transmitted to Mr. Carr at 1630 this date. ⁰³

a. Mr. Carr should try to persuade Miro to give Artins the portfolio of Defense Secretary; Carr could give as reasons for our feelings Artins's popularity, his youth, his ability and readiness to go into Cuba together with the assault force.

b. If Miro does not want Artins assigned to this position, Carr should inform Miro that our next preference would be Carlos Novia; our reasons are that Varona might raise many problems in view of his well-known position concerning strict Cuban control of troops at this particular time.

c. Whatever develops during this forthcoming meeting with Miro, Mr. Carr should at all times be most flexible and not demand anything.

Mr. Carr was also advised to tell Miro that we would prefer only the man given the portfolio of Defense to accompany Miro on his forthcoming trip to the camp. If however either Novia or Varona were given the portfolio, then we feel either one should be accompanied by Artins for reasons already stated above.

GERARD DROLLER

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