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1/21

SECRET

6 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: Alexander I. Roarke, Jr.

1. Pursuant to a request at the end of last week from General Goodpasture of the White House, a representative of OO/C in New York City interviewed the Subject on 5 July.

2. Following a rambling narrative of his experiences over the years in Central America and the Caribbean, Mr. Roarke came to his major point which was that the most capable Cuban exiled military leader, and the one who is most deserving of U. S. support is Pedro DIAZ Lanz. Mr. Roarke knows DIAZ Lanz and was planning to appear with DIAZ Lanz on a television program in New York City on the night of 5 July. Mr. Roarke considers DIAZ Lanz superior to General PEDRAZA, Francisco CAJIGAS and Antonio VARONA, all of whom he claims to know.

3. Mr. Roarke said that the SOMOZAs have agreed to give DIAZ Lanz a military base in Nicaragua. Mr. Roarke himself plans to organize an American committee to back DIAZ Lanz. He will call it the Committee to Rescue Latin America from Communism or something similar. Mr. Roarke claims that Spruille Braden has tentatively agreed to support this committee.

4. At the present time, Mr. Roarke is preparing a documentary television film dealing with a number of Cuban opposition groups. The money for this project has been put up by Channel 5 in New York City.

5. Mr. Elmore Haring, the OO/C officer who interviewed Mr. Roarke, will submit a more detailed report through his own channels to us in the next day or so.

J. D. Esterline
Chief, WH/4

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Chief, Contact Division
ATTN : Support and LA Branch
Chief, New York Office

6 July 1960

Conversation with Alexander I. Rorke, 51 Chambers Street,
New York, N. Y.

1. Rorke called on Rorke the morning of 5 July 60 as a result of a telephone call from Robert Reynolds, WH Division, who stated that Rorke might have information of value concerning Cuba.

2. Rorke is a tall, slender, personable man, about 34 years old, who by his own admission is somewhat garrulous. He did not appear to be a sharp operator. Rorke described himself as a free lance reporter and photographer who has worked mostly for the National Broadcasting Company on assignment. He says he is also trying to make a living by producing documentary films for television station WNEW in New York. He claims that he will shortly finish for them a documentary concerning the various groups which are in opposition to Castro. Rorke's business address is the office of his father, an attorney. Biographic data concerning Rorke is being forwarded 6 July 60.

3. Rorke explained that he knows many people in Cuba and other Caribbean countries as a result of his reportorial work in Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba and other areas, and he says that because of a keen interest in the problem of what can be done about Castro and Communism in Cuba, and his work on the current documentary film, he has been keeping in close touch with various Cuban opposition groups. He insisted on going into his Caribbean background at great length and described in detail his visits to Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba etc. The events he mentioned are all past history now, however, and we will not attempt to recount them here.

4. Rorke gave all this background merely to try to prove that he is well acquainted with the situation in Cuba and understands the various opposition groups. He then came to his real point which is that he regards Diaz Lanz, whom he has seen a great deal of recently, as the most solid of all those who want to take action against Castro. He feels that Lanz is completely able, and is in contact with the right people in the Cuban army and other Cuban organizations who can lend the support when the right time comes. According to Rorke, Lanz believes that the job should be done by Cubans from a base outside the US, and that Lanz is brave and resourceful enough to lead a successful action if he is furnished the necessary arms and ammunition. Rorke believes, further, that Lanz is politically in the middle of the road, that he is not motivated by hatred and would not bring about a blood bath in Cuba. In short, he feels that Lanz would be with the US all the way.

HH-6274

1/7/60

SUBJECT : Conversation With Alexander I. Rorke, 51 Chambers Street,
New York, N. Y.

On the matter of a base from which to operate, Rorke says that he has talked with agents of Nicaragua and they say that the Somozas will furnish one.

5. In comparing Lenz with other figures who are in opposition to Castro, Rorke mentioned Cajigas, Pedraza and Varona, none of whom he feels compares favorably with Lenz. Varona, for instance, is too far to the left. According to Rorke, Lenz has met with 5 different groups in the last few days in New York, all of which promised to join Lenz if he can get the right backing. Rorke says that he does not know the names of these groups but can get them if we are interested.

6. Rorke said that he was going to appear with Lenz at 11 PM 5 July 60 on Barry Gray's radio show for a period of about 2 hours. A chief topic of discussion according to Rorke will be the anti-semitism of the Castro government. At the end of the week Lenz expects to return to Miami.

7. Rorke stated that he hopes to form an American front committee which Spruille Braden has agreed to head if the right people can be brought into it. The group would have some such name as "Committee to Rescue Latin America from Communism" and Rorke believes that this organization might furnish excellent cover for CIA participation.

8. While we were in Rorke's office he received a telephone call from Diana Alexandria about 1:30 PM. She wanted to report that a warrant had just been issued in Cuba for the arrest of her boy friend Yves Pelletier. Rorke described Pelletier as a personal aid to Castro whose real job had been to procure women for Castro and his assistants. Pelletier had fallen into disfavor as a result of the story of Castro's affair with the Lorenz girl having appeared in Confidential Magazine.

9. At the end of our interview, Rorke handed us the attached list of 65 names of Pedraza's men who had been held by Trujillo. All 65 were in jail 2 weeks ago but according to a telegram which Rorke claims was received 4 July, from a brother of one of the men, only 20 are in custody now.

10. If there is any interest in the details of Rorke's current Cuban contacts, he will be available for questioning.

JAY B. L. REEVES

Attachment: as stated above

EEHaring:ad

- 1.- Jose E. Pedraza Cabrera
- 2.- Lutgardo Martin Perez
- 3.- Tomas Rodriguez Fuentes
- 4.- Angel S. Gandara Rofriguez
- 5.- Pedro Oliverio Santana
- 6.- Luis Padron Molina
- 7.- ~~Estan~~ Ramon Machin Molina
- 8.- Sotero Delgado Mendez
- 9.- Rafael Gutierrez Martinez
- 10.- Angel Alvarez Granados
- 11.- Raul Miranda Rodriguez
- 12.- Sergio Fernandez Echevarria
- 13.- Andres Bassoly Pozo
- 14.- Elio Riveron Perez
- 15.- Gilberto Azcuy Verea
- 16.- Saturnino Espinosa Alfonso
- 17.- Pedro Perez Gonzalez
- 18.- Rodolfo Diaz Hernandez
- 19.- Abelardo Montes de Oca Lopez
- 20.- Margarito Diaz Medina
- 21.- Paulino Rodriguez Barrio
- 22.- Luis Sierra Perez
- 23.- Bartolome Valdes Mauri
- 24.- Gerardo Alvarez Mauri
- 25.- Roberto Pedraza Llanes
- 26.- Candelario Bravo Guerra
- 27.- Antonio Fabelo Gonzalez
- 28.- Heriberto Izquierdo
- 29.- Heriberto Ravelo Aguiar
- 30.- Roger Galindo Martinez
- 31.- Alejandro Mayoli Iglesias
- 32.- Jose M. Ledo Fernandez
- 33.- Tulio I. Navarrete Vidal
- 34.- Maria Delia Santos Rivero
- 35.- Hildelisa Santos Rivero
- 36.- Georgina Santos Rivero
- 37.- Blanca Maria Ravelo Santos
- 38.- Armentino Fera Izquierdo
- 39.- Berta Ramirez Crespo
- 40.- Antonio Policarpo Ochoa
- 41.- Ismael Gonzalez Beruvides
- 42.- Gilberto Morales Cruz
- 43.- Jose Wecslao Maiquez
- 44.- Emilio Izquierdo Hernandez
- 45.- Felipe Hernandez Jorge
- 46.- Antonio Hernandez Acosta
- 47.- Luis Valdes Hernandez
- 48.- Luis M. Abreu Rodriguez
- 49.- Evelio Mulet Torres
- 50.- Ruben German del Busto
- 51.- Amado Rodriguez Rodriguez
- 52.- Miguel Victorero Gracia
- 53.- Alfredo Murillo Fleitas
- 54.- Sergio Valdes Martinez
- 55.- Marcos A. Suarez Cruz
- 56.- Antonio de la Torre Parodi
- 57.- Wilfredo Arias Arias
- 58.- Francisco Javier Castrillejo
- 59.- Wilfredo Riveron Martinez
- 60.- Erson Martin Carrera
- 61.- Joaquin Muniz Martinez
- 62.- Juan Fernandez Muro
- 63.- Elias J. Trull Rodriguez
- 64.- Jose H. Virues Moraga
- 65.- Conrado Carratala Ugalde