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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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

COUNTRY Cuba REPORT NO OO-B 3,179,768

SUBJECT Conflicts Within the MRP and Between the MRP and the DRF DATE DISSE 27 February 1961

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REFERENCES Supplement to OOB-3,174,438

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US citizen, free-lance writer and part time sugar broker. [Redacted]

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 Sugar Stabilization Institute and collecting material for an analysis of developments in Cuba since Fidel Castro's victory.

The conflicts within the MRP, which I described earlier [See Report No. OOB-3,174,438], seem to continue pretty much as before. One of my Cuban friends, who is in a position to know, because he himself is an ardent MRP worker, has just informed me that Raul Chiles will not play a very important part in MRP affairs, but will remain in the background. This same individual also said that Bernardo Barquin, who became the "military chief" of the MRP during the Fall of 1960, is now definitely flirting with Antonio Varona and the DRF. His purpose in so doing, apparently, is to make the best deal possible for himself, playing off the MRP and the DRF against each other. Barquin is spiritually not a real believer in the principles of the MRP and is willing to desert it. My Cuban friend told me, additionally, that some other people inside MRP (no further data available) are also flirting with the DRF, but for different reasons from Barquin. These people, apparently, have told Varona that they will support him and the DRF now, if, in return, he will allow them to participate in the political life of Cuba, after the hoped-for victory over Fidel Castro. They are not making this proposition so much for selfish reasons, as they are because they believe that the US will back Varona, rather than the MRP, and that, consequently, maybe Varona will win. By coming to terms with Varona, so these MRP people reason, they may be able to put across some of MRP's program, after the elimination of Castro.

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