

## MEMORANDUM

To: Jeremy Gunn and Phil Golrick  
From: Kevin Tiernan  
Date: March 31, 1995  
Re: FBI Counterintelligence Program  
Cuban matters (pro-Castro)

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The following is a summary of my review of the FBI documents from the counterintelligence program against pro-Castro Cubans located in the FOI reading room in the Hoover Building. The file consists of 59 pages released under the Freedom of Information Act. The Bureau was particularly concerned with two groups during the relevant period (1961-1965), the July 26th Movement and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Of the two, most of the documents relate to the July 26th Movement. From December of 1961 until October of 1965, there are no documents in the released file.

In 1961, the New York field office obtained membership and mailing lists for the July 26th Movement and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. In a memo to the Director dated June 2, 1961, SAC New York recommended implementing a counterintelligence program against these two groups. He writes:

"...both organizations represent a formidable

number of pro-Castro element. NYO feels the implementation of a counter intelligence program in the Cuban field might have valuable ramifications for the U.S. Government..."

SAC New York is seeking a general expression of Bureau opinion, and writes that the New York field office will get approval for any specific implementation of such a program. In their response dated June 9, 1961, Headquarters acknowledges the potential for effective counterintelligence program. They suggest that agents assigned to Cuban matters consult with agents responsible for the so far effective counterintelligence program against the Communist Party, USA.

Both Headquarters and the New York field office discuss a variety of methods, including Spanish speaking agents making anonymous phone calls to movement members, embarrassing movement members by having them arrested on local vice charges, writing anonymous letters to officials in New York and Cuba accusing other movement officials of embezzling donated money, exploiting factional disputes, and having high-level informants in these organizations.

In an October 31, 1961 Airtel to several field offices on the east coast and in Los Angeles, the Director writes:

"...following Grand Jury subpoena of July 26 Movement records, (redacted name) and (redacted name) panicked at the thought of possible prosecution and imprisonment. They fled by plane

to Canada en route to Cuba, carrying with them vital Movement records. They issued instructions that national movement headquarters should be abolished.

Bureau must capitalize on the successful disruption of Movement activity and leadership. Every opportunity must be taken to place aggressive, knowledgeable informants in important positions within the Movement."

By December of 1961, New York and Headquarters were aware that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was prepared to bring legal action against the FBI if an FPCC member was contacted at his place of employment by the FBI. Specific Headquarters authority was to be secured prior to interviews of this kind. A December 12, 1961 letter to all SACs attributes this information to "sensitive coverage," and refers to a conversation between two FPCC officers. This letter is the last item until October 19, 1965. Counterintelligence operations following this gap were directed more against the Communist Cuban government rather than against domestic political organizations.

### File numbers

HQ 105-99938

Headquarters cointelpro file against pro-Castro Cubans.

NY 105-48580

New York field office cointelpro file against pro-Castro Cubans.

NK 105-11521 Newark field office cointelpro file against pro-Castro Cubans.

NH 105-4290 New Haven field office cointelpro file against pro-Castro Cubans.

HQ 97-4196 Headquarters Fair Play for Cuba Committee file.

NY 97-3243 New York field office file on the July 26th Movement.

PH 97-3938 Philadelphia field office file on the July 26th Movement.

NY 97-3874 New York field office file on Casa Cuba, a Cuban social organization.

NY 105-95920 8/29/61 letter SAC NY to Director routed to this file as well as NY Casa Cuba file and NY July 26th Movement file. Subject redacted.

105-85774 Miguel Morera. Field office not listed.

NY 105-48479 unidentified NY subject. Interviewed regarding the hijacking of planes to Cuba and uncooperative.

NY 105-44964 unidentified NY subject. Interviewed regarding

*legal expenditures of July 26th Movement.*

*NY 109-81*

*9/22/61 anonymous letter to July 26th Movement officials accusing (redacted name) of embezzling money routed to this file.*

*NY 105-35132*

*New York field office file on Efrain Trujillo. (July 26th Movement)*

*HQ 105-78590*

*Headquarters file on Efrain Trujillo.*

*NY 100-117357*

*Along with 105-44651, New York files on the projectionists/custodians of revolutionary films shown to July 26th Movement members. Their names were redacted.*

*NY 105-44651*

*see above.*

*Attached are four documents from file on the FBI counterintelligence program against pro-Castro Cubans.*