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93041

Chief, Contact Division
Support and Liaison
Chief, New York Office

6 July 1960

A-88911
R 5-136

Conversation With Alexander I. Burke, 51 Chambers Street,
New York, N. Y.

1. Having called on Burke the morning of 5 July 60 as a result of a telephone call from [redacted] Division, who stated that Burke might have information of value concerning Cuba.
2. Burke 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 heavy operator. Burke 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 WISN in New York. He claims that he will shortly finish for them a documentary concerning the various groups which are in opposition to Castro. Burke's business address is the office of his father, an attorney. Biographic data concerning Burke is being forwarded 6 July 60.

3. Burke 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. Burke gave all his 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 Blas Leas, whom he has seen a great deal of recently, as the most serious of all those who want to take action against Castro. He feels that Leas is completely able, and is in contact with the right people in the Cuban army and other Cuban organizations who can lead the support when the right time comes. According to Burke, Leas believes that the job should be done by Cubans from a base outside the US, and that Leas is brave and resourceful enough to lead a successful action, if he is furnished the necessary arms and ammunition. Burke believes, further, that Leas is politically in the middle of the road, that he is not motivated by hatred and could not bring about a blood bath in Cuba. In short, he feels that Leas would be with the US all the way.

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