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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

SSCI BOX # 377-

TO : Director, FBI (97-4110)

DATE: 3/4/64

FROM : SAC, Miami (97-328) (P)

SUBJECT: MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO  
(MDC);  
IS - CUBA.  
(OO:MM)CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO  
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR  
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION  
IN THIS DOCUMENT. GMB 2/3/94  
(9803 RDD/scl 2/3/94) REC-1  
JFK

Re Miami letter, with enclosures, 11/22/63.

Enclosed are twelve copies of a LHM, dated and captioned as above.

Copies of the LHM are being disseminated to INS; CIA; G-2, Ft. McPherson, Georgia; Coordinator of Cuban Affairs; Department of State; U. S. Coast Guard; U. S. Customs; U. S. Customs, Region 2; U. S. Border Patrol; ONI; and OSI, 6th District, Robins AFB, Georgia.

MM T-1 is ~~Source~~MM T-2 is ~~Source~~

Enclosed LHM is being classified Confidential, inasmuch as it contains information from CIA which was so classified.

Miami will continue to follow and report activities of captioned organization.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
- 2 - Miami

RJJ  
(4)

Copy to: CIA/State/NSA/INS/DIA/Customs/ONI/OSI/ACSI/Coast Guard  
by routing slip for info.  
Date 3/4/64 by J.M.W.1st

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

SSCI BOX # 377-

Miami, Florida  
March 4, 1964

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RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION  
IN THIS DOCUMENT. 2/3/94 GMB  
(9803 RDD/SC 2/2/94 JFIC)

RE: MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO (MDC);  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA.

On November 20, 1963, MM T-1, another Government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised that the following information had been received from a member of a group of Cuban emigres trained in the techniques of information collection, which group has provided useful reports for over two years:

On November 2, 1963, a meeting was held by the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (MDC), during which Laureano Batista Falla made an analysis of the MDC's military potential. Batista concluded that the potential is almost nil, because no ship could move out from the Miami River without encountering problems. In addition, Batista said the MDC does not have sufficient financial resources to move to Central America. Laureano Batista Falla is the military leader of the MDC.

On December 16, 1963, Laureano Batista Falla, interviewed at MDC headquarters, 1732 N. W. 7th Street, advised

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~~GROUP 1~~

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ON 2/2/94 (JFIC)

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RE: MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO (MDC).

that he continues as head of the military section of the MDC.

Batista said the MDC was organized as a political party in 1959, and is still a political party, although it does have an action group. The MDC would like to separate itself from this action, or military group. Batista is interested in forming a unity organization with the action and military groups of the different anti-Castro organizations.

Batista said he had been negotiating military action unity with the Comandos-L organization, but this unity never materialized. The early negotiations between the two organizations were to establish a mutual exchange of intelligence and military equipment. Batista would have liked to have seen this unity develop into a unity of all action groups, with each individual group discontinuing its former identity. Batista said that although he disagrees with Manuel Ray, head of the anti-Castro organization Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE), he would work with JURE, and thinks Ray operates a very efficient organization.

Batista said that every six months the members and Executive Committee of the MDC hold a conference during which

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they set forth the current problems facing Cuban exiles in the United States, and debate the possible solutions. From these debates, MDC policy evolves. This policy is then printed in a booklet entitled, "Our Position." This policy covers the social, military and economic plans of the organization. The officers and Executive Committee of the MDC are under obligation to follow this policy for a six-month period, at which time another congress is held.

At the following congress, the policies are changed or revised, depending on current conditions affecting Cuban exiles.

On January 13, 1964, Detective Henry Suarez, New York City Police Department, advised he interviewed Gaspar Vilato, Jr., on January 9, 1964, and Vilato furnished the following information:

Vilato stated he was born in Camaguey, Cuba, and entered the United States in January, 1962, at Miami, Florida. He previously resided in Miami, Florida, and is a member of the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano. Vilato said that Victor Paneque Batista, commonly known as Comandante X Diego, is connected with the MDC, and frequently travels to New York City from Miami in order to pick up money,

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supplies and explosives for anti-Castro activities by the MDC. Vilato stated Paneque was in New York recently, and departed several days previously, driving a green Volkswagon in which he was carrying "something." Vilato declined to identify the material which Paneque took back with him to the Miami area.

Vilato stated the green Volkswagon is the property of Laureano Batista Falla, who is in charge of the action group of the MDC in the Miami area. Paneque frequently drives this green Volkswagon, and is closely associated with the MDC.

On January 14, 1964, inquiry made at the residence of Laureano Batista Falla, 1300 S. Bayshore Drive, Miami, Florida, reflected he was not there.

On January 14, 1964, Benigno Galnares, Office Manager, MDC headquarters, 1732 N. W. 7th Street, Miami, advised he had not seen Laureano Falla for about a week or two, and that he did not know where Batista could be located. Galnares said the 1964 green Volkswagon bus, Florida Registration ID 59360, is the property of Laureano Batista Falla, and at that time was parked behind MDC headquarters.

Galnares advised that Victor Paneque Batista, a friend of Batista Falla, had recently returned from New

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York with this Volkswagon bus. Galnares claimed he did not have any further information concerning Paneque's trip or what he might have brought back to Miami in the bus. Galnares claimed that various members of the MDC use this Volkswagon bus, and it is frequently parked behind the MDC headquarters.

On January 14, 1964, MM T-2, [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] and is a personal friend and acquaintance of [REDACTED]

MM T-2 advised he knows a girl who lives in the same apartment building as Batista Falla, and had just telephonically contacted this girl. MM T-2 said he was told by the girl that Batista left Miami on January 8, 1964, and would be gone for about two weeks. The girl did not know where Batista had gone, but did not indicate he went to Cuba or left the United States.

On January 14, 1964, Mr. Stanley Schachter, U.S. Customs Agent, Miami, advised that in September, 1962, U. S. Customs Agents in Miami, Florida, confiscated a cache of arms belonging to Batista Falla and Victor Paneque, at Paneque's residence.

Mr. Schachter advised U. S. Customs was interested in the present whereabouts of Batista Falla, and at that time was attempting to locate him.

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On January 14, 1964, MM T-2 advised that Batista Falla's parents reside in New York City, and that he frequently contacts them at their residence, 910 - 5th Avenue, New York City, when he, Batista, is in New York.

On January 22, 1964, Jose Mestre, 910 - 5th Avenue, New York, New York, advised he had not seen Batista Falla in several weeks, and had no knowledge as to the present whereabouts of Batista.

Mestre said he was positive Batista was not in New York City, and that Mr. and Mrs. Agustin Batista reside in the same apartment building, and at the present time were in Miami, Florida, and had no knowledge of the present whereabouts of their son, Laureano Batista.

Mestre continued that Laureano does not mention anything to his family about his activities, and his family is concerned about his safety and hope Laureano will get out of the military activities in which he is engaged. Mestre stated he usually contacts Adela De La Campa, who is very close to Laureano, and the last contact with De La Campa was about a week previously, at which time she said she did not know Laureano's whereabouts, but that he would return to Miami in about fifteen days from then.

On January 27, 1964, MM T-2 advised he had ascertained from a friend of Batista Falla that Batista

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left Miami on January 7, 1964, for Oriente Province, Cuba, on a Sigma-type fishing boat, with another small, fast boat accompanying it. About seven or eight persons went on this mission. Photographic equipment, medicine, and a few small arms were taken. The purpose of the mission was to infiltrate several people into Cuba.

As of January 27, 1964, Batista was three days overdue in returning to Miami.

On January 27, 1964, Mr. Schachter, U. S. Customs Agency, advised that about five days previously, a U. S. Coast Guard airplane spotted a Sigma-type boat near Racoon Cay, Bahamas, which cay is about fifty miles off the north shore of Cuba. It was believed that this Sigma-type fishing boat was identical with the one owned by Laureano Batista Falla.

The U. S. Coast Guard notified British authorities who dispatched a British frigate to intercept the Sigma-type fishing boat. It was believed that if the British did not arrest and detain the occupants of the boat, the U. S. Coast Guard would bring it and its occupants back to Miami.

On February 3, 1964, local police, Miami, Florida, located the Sigma-type fishing boat at Crandon Marina, Miami, Florida, and noted the boat was abandoned, but contained

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a note stating that the crew had gone for spare parts to make repairs on the boat.

On February 3, 1964, Mr. Schachter advised that two crew members had returned to the boat, had been detained by U. S. Customs authorities who confiscated the boat.

On February 3, 1964, Fidel Alberto Zaldivar Farinas, 1567 S. W. 4th Street, Apartment 3, Miami, Florida, advised he is a member of the MDC, a student by occupation, and operates "Sigma X," a thirty foot fishing boat owned by Laureano Batista Falla. Zaldivar said he used the boat periodically for commercial fishing, and had returned to Miami on the boat at about 1 A.M. on February 3, 1964.

Zaldivar stated he, along with Laureano Batista Falla, Angel Vega, Emerito Ruiz, Leovino Interan and Enrique Infante, left on the "Sigma X" boat from the Miami River, Miami, on January 8, 1964, at about 11 P.M.

They subsequently arrived at Nurse Cay, Bahamas, and waited there for nine days. They were waiting for Cuban refugees who were supposed to flee Cuba and be taken back to the United States on the "Sigma X." After nine days at Nurse Cay, the "Sigma X" was running low on fresh

30 Foot Boat

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water and food. In addition, difficulties had developed with the motor's fuel pump. "Sigma X," with the above occupants, then went to Staniel Cay and remained there for about five days. During this time, Laureano Batista Falla boarded a commercial airplane and flew to Nassau, New Providence, where he spent two days and then returned to Staniel Cay with a new fuel pump for the boat. The boat then departed Staniel Cay and via northwest Providence Channel, arrived at Great Isaac Light, and from there returned to Miami, Florida, arriving at about 1 A.M., on February 3, 1964.

Zaldivar stated the boat contained no automatic weapons, no guns or any articles of war. The purpose of the mission was to bring refugees back to the United States. These refugees were friends of Enrique Infante. Zaldivar stated the mission was not an MDC operation, as such, and the persons on the boat went together voluntarily, rather than at the directions or orders of the MDC.

On February 3, 1964, Emerito Ruiz Comas, 1177 N. W. 7th Court, Miami, Florida, advised he is a Cuban national who was born in Cuba on January 18, 1921. Ruiz said he is a fisherman by occupation, and is a member of the MDC.

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Ruiz stated he, along with Fidel Zaldivar, Angel Vega, Leovino Interan, Enrique Infante and Laureano Batista Falla, departed from Miami about January 8, 1964. They were aboard the "Sigma X," a thirty foot commercial fishing boat owned by Batista, but did not have any arms or articles of war aboard the boat.

They subsequently arrived at Nurse Cay, Bahamas, waited nine days for Cuban refugees to meet them, and after running low on food and water, decided to return to Miami. They put in to Staniel Cay, and lay there for about five days while Batista went to Nassau to obtain a new fuel pump for the boat. The "Sigma X" boat was in bad operating condition; the motor would only give the boat a speed of about six knots; and, there were other difficulties with the motor besides the fuel pump. The "Sigma X" returned to Miami about 1 A.M., February 3, 1964, and was left at a marina because of motor failure.

Ruiz and Zaldivar went into Miami and located a couple of friends who also had a Sigma-type fishing boat. These friends volunteered to tow the "Sigma X" back up the Miami River where repairs could be made. When Ruiz and Zaldivar got back to the "Sigma X," they were detained by U. S. Customs Agents, and the boat confiscated.

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Ruiz stated that none of the occupants of the "Sigma X" went ashore in Cuba or went near the Cuban coast, but they did go ashore in the Bahamas.

Ruiz advised they encountered no British frigate or other government boats, but did see a U. S. Coast Guard plane fly over them. Ruiz advised the trip was not authorized by any branch of the U. S. Government, and was made without U. S. Government knowledge.

On February 6, 1964, Laureano Batista Falla advised he had no comment concerning any information to the effect that he may have been out of the United States and in the Bahamas during the past month.

Batista stated as the Military Security Officer of the MDC, his duties are to brief MDC officials on general military matters as they affect Cuba. The organization has not authorized him to carry out any military operations. If, and when, Batista is involved in military activities in Cuba, he is in no way acting as an agent of the MDC.

Batista said that he helped found the MDC and he created the post of Military Secretary. He continues in this position, and nobody in the organization has sought the position or has objected to Batista's having this position. Batista said that all the equipment used by the

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Military Section of the organization is Batista's personal property, paid for by himself, and in no way belongs to the organization.

Batista said naturally he has some opposition in the organization. Some people consider him as being at odds with U. S. Government policy. Batista said it was his opinion that the United States political aims and foreign policy does not coincide with that of the Cuban exiles. To work with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is to work for the U. S. aims and goals, which are not necessarily the aims and goals of Cuba for Cuban exiles.

According to Batista, there is no mutual field of interest between the United States Government and Cuban exiles. For the U. S. Government to overthrow the present government of Cuba, is to resolve a United States problem, not a Cuban problem. If Cuban exiles would overthrow the present government of Cuba, there would still be many U. S. Government problems not resolved. Batista said he had in the past visited Washington, D. C., and conferred with U. S. Government officials in an effort to establish a mutual field of interest where Cuban exiles and the U. S. Government could work for mutual benefit, without success. Batista charged that while the U. S. Government complains there is no unity among Cuban exiles, he believes the United States actually does not want unity. He alleged that during 1960,

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when the Frente Revolucionario Democrato existed, and later became the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), a unity organization, the CIA still worked against unity of Cuban exile groups. He said CIA did not work for unity within the CRC, but dealt with each individual organization on different terms. CIA refused to work with the leaders of the CRC as representatives of the several organizations. He alleged this policy has persisted to the present time.

Batista stated that military operations from the United States against Cuba would probably be continued by himself and other MDC members. They prefer to work in the Miami, Florida, area, because of its closeness to Cuba, good facilities for operating boats, availability of the large number of Cubans to serve as mechanics, and to do other necessary labor.

Batista said that many of the Cuban exiles in Miami have jobs, can contribute money, and can work for organization on weekends and during their off hours. The large community in Miami, Florida, makes it easier for the Cuban exiles to obtain necessary equipment to go on military expeditions against Cuba.

In addition, he alleged that in Latin America, United States diplomats influence the local governments to stop the Cuban exiles from going on military missions. He said when they are stopped by the local police in Latin

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America, these police treat the Cubans in a harsh manner; violate their civil rights; and, confiscate property and equipment belonging to these Cuban raiders. By contrast, local police and Federal Agents in the United States treat the Cubans courteously, and very seldom prosecute anybody. Batista said it is apparent that although the United States Government has a policy of stopping Cuban raiders, it does not have a policy of prosecuting them.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

SSCI BOX # 377-

Miami, Florida  
March 4, 1964

RE: MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO (MDC);  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA.

Reference is made to the memorandum, dated and captioned as above, at Miami.

MM T-2 has furnished reliable information in the past.

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