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WHITTEL, REED

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15 January 1960

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cuban Revolutionary Activity in Florida

1. On the evening of 4 January Mr. Rollie Atwood, Director of ICA for Latin America, telephoned me at my home and told me that he had received a telephone call from a Mr. Head Whittel, a prominent Florida rancher and former student of his, telling Atwood that he was in touch with certain people interested in overthrowing the Castro government and seeking Atwood's advice. Whittel said that he was in touch with Mr. Robert Lehman, Mr. Lyles of Lyles Steamship Company, and a United Fruit Company representative, all in Florida; that these gentlemen also had the backing of an undisclosed London banker, and their objective was to assassinate Fidel and Raul Castro, also Che Guevarra, then take over the Cuban Government and place at its head one Francisco CAERAS; that Whittel wanted to know whether he should become involved in this or not. Atwood called me to give his guidance. I told Atwood the best I could do was to put Reichhardt, our Miami representative, in touch with Whittel and have Reichhardt determine what Cuban group these people were connected with, and then we would proceed from there.

2. I then telephoned Mr. Reynolds, who called Reichhardt, and arrangements were made for Reichhardt to meet Whittel in Orlando, Florida, the following day. As a result of this meeting with Whittel, Reichhardt found out that the Cuban group these people were connected with is the ~~MARX~~ Fortunado Cajigas group. Reichhardt cautioned Whittel as to the danger of getting involved in such revolutionary movements.

3. On 6 January I telephoned Atwood and told him that in our opinion the Marx Fortunado group was not one looked upon with favor; however, it was not up to us to tell Whittel that this group was looked upon with disfavor but that Atwood should get his guidance from Mr. Hill or Mr. Rубottom in State. In the meantime, I made John Hill aware of the foregoing.

4. On the evening of 14 January Atwood telephoned me at home again and told me that Gillespie (whom I later ascertained to be identical with Jack B. Gillespie, President of Dixie Industries, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia) and who is in touch with Tom Flores and also in touch with the Bureau) had contacted him concerning participation in revolutionary activities of this group. Whittel said that other people involved were a Rudolph Fernandez and a Rudolph Mendez; that the aims of the group were to hold elections after thirty months, during which time they would have U. S. advice; that they would have

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the cooperation of Generalissimo Trujillo and also of the Somozas; that in order to accomplish this, the interested parties would make a contribution of \$5,000,000 and would be repaid at a reasonable rate of interest by the new Cuban Government after it took over. Again, Atwood wished me to advise him as to what he should tell Whittle. I told Atwood that as far as I was concerned, I could not tell him to give Whittle any further advice than that which Reichhardt had already given him; that I knew Gillespie to be a bona fide American businessman who was in touch with us and with the Bureau, and that Atwood should contact John Hill and get instructions from him.

Rudolph E. Gomez  
DCWH

Distribution:  
Reynolds  
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