

21 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Plans for the Establishment of a Provisional Government

REF: Paragraph 3, 20 March 1961 Memo for the Record, Subject as Above

1. On 20 March 1961 at 1730 hours Mr. Hunt telephonically advised Mr. Napoli that Miro Cardona had been unanimously elected Provisional President. The MQP, with Ray in attendance, voted in the election.

2. At 2315 hours 20 March Mr. Noel informed the undersigned telephonically from Miami that Miro Cardona and some members of the Assembly would proceed to New York and that Mr. Carr would also fly to New York in order to be on hand. The undersigned informed Mr. Noel along the lines of Bell 3004 (OUT 7728) attached.

3. On 21 March Mr. Napoli was dispatched to New York after he had been briefed along the lines of Bell 3004 in order to assist Mr. Carr in every possible way. By 1600 hours we had been informed that the following 19 Cubans, including Miro Cardona, were proceeding to New York: Miro, Passo, Ray, Chibas, Artimo, Varona, Carrillo, Alvarez Diaz, Vargan Cozaz, Carbo, Fernandez Traviesa, Ollada, Orlando Rodriguez, Hevin, Miguel Gonzales-- interpreter who is coming at the request of Miro--Barquin, Beruff. Bernie Barker is going along as general handy man.

4. In New York, as matters now stand, the Cubans will first meet in private in order to finalize their joint declaration and their program. The entire Assembly will then call a press conference at which time they will announce their unity in electing Miro Cardona as the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and in having agreed on a program. After this Miro will make his acceptance speech. In this connection it should be noted that it is hoped to have the publicity and handled by both Beichman, a member of the "Christian Science Monitor" staff and an acquaintance of Schlesinger, and Len Jones.

5. At noon of March 21 the undersigned was in telephonic contact with Mr. Bradock of the State Department and the undersigned asked Mr. Bradock whether or not the Department of State was in agreement to the release-- by the Cubans-- of their platform, a resume of which had been made available to the Department of State (Mr. Berle) on 7 March. Mr. Bradock advised the undersigned at 1400 hours that the Department was in full agreement with the platform and had no objections to its release.

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6. In the noon hours of 21 March the first press story (UPI) on the creation of the Revolutionary Council appeared on the wire (a copy is attached).

GERARD DROLLER
C/WH/4/PA

Attachments: (2)

1. BELL 3004 (OUT 7726)
2. UPI Story of 21 March 1951