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3 July 1962

FILES-
SUBJECT 201

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Frank FIORINI

1. Subject is an American citizen who has been active in Cuban affairs for many years and who is one of the original supporters of Castro. He first came to the attention of the Agency in October, 1958, when he was arrested by the Batista Intelligence Service on suspicion that he was acting as a courier for the 26th of July Movement between Miami and Santiago de Cuba.

2. In late 1958, he was active in obtaining supplies for ~~Gabo~~ and Castro at which time he was associated with Pedro DIAZ Lanz in these activities. After Castro came to power in early 1959, subject was reportedly working with Raul Castro and engaged in the training of militia in the Santiago de Cuba area. Later in 1959, subject had a falling out with the Castro regime and by late 1959 was engaged in anti-Castro activities. During 1960 he was frequently reported engaged in various anti-Castro activities and once more was associated with Pedro DIAZ Lanz in these activities.

3. Subject is a qualified pilot and most of his activities have revolved around the purchasing of and planning for the use of various type aircraft in anti-Castro activities. He reportedly proposed to anyone who would listen to him that he had small groups of men who would follow him and he has proposed many times to land on Cuban soil with these alleged groups of men.

4. For the past several years, subject has been involved with one Alex RORKE (American freelancer engaged in anti-Castro activities) in a variety of proposals of action against the Castro regime.

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5. In June, 1961, subject again came to the attention of the Agency through Michael J. Malone (Vice President, Czarnikow-Rionda Corporation, New York City, a sugar and cattle raising firm with extensive holdings in Cuba which were intervened.) At this time, Malone reported that FIORINI had told Ruby Phillips of the New York Times that he had 50 men who were willing to engage in commando-type raids in Cuba and asked Miss Phillips to obtain official U. S. support for his activities. In August, 1961, Malone reported to C.I.A. that RORKE and FIORINI were attempting to obtain funds for an anti-Castro program involving 5,200 men which would operate from off-shore islands, possibly the British Isles. The program again involved aircraft and PT boats. During November and December of 1961, Malone reported that RORKE and FIORINI were working with ex-Ambassador Sergio ROJAS and had flown two leaflet operations against Cuba, the last being approximately 12 December 1961. On these flights FIORINI flew one aircraft while RORKE was a passenger on the other. (On the 12 December flight, one aircraft crashed at sea and the wife of the American pilot was causing a fuss due to reported U. S. Government involvement in the activity.)

6. By late December, 1961, RORKE and FIORINI appeared to have fallen out with ROJAS and Malone reported that Pedro DIAZ Lanz (who by this time was also associated with RORKE/FIORINI/ROJAS combination) appeared to have become ROJAS' military advisor with FIORINI shunted aside. About this time, when ROJAS had to withdraw from active anti-Castro activities due to his funds running out, it appears that FIORINI, Pedro DIAZ Lanz and RORKE formed their own group and attempted to obtain funds in a variety of ways. In May, 1962, Malone reported that FIORINI and DIAZ Lanz, along with 27 other people had departed Florida in an unnamed boat around the middle of April. They were to land on one of the Cuban Cays, return to Florida to pick up RORKE whereupon all would return to Cuban waters and commence harassment operations against the Castro regime. According to Malone, the U. S. Coast Guard intercepted the FIORINI/DIAZ Lanz expedition while enroute to Cuba and gently "urged" them to return to Florida, which they did. Since May this group has been raising funds for their anti-Castro activities and reportedly had purchased or could get an aircraft and also had several boats at their disposal.

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7. An interesting sidelight is a May, 1960 report that FIORINI had been trying to line up some University of Miami radio hams to assist him in setting up a seaborne/commo system and training others in the operation and maintenance of radio equipment.

Charles W. Matt
CHARLES W. MATT
TFW/PM

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