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COUNTRY Cuba/Brazil

REPORT NO - 00-3 2,173,676

SUBJECT Reported Forthcoming Support by President

DATE DISTR. 11 February 1961

Quatros for Manuel Ray and the efforts of Paul Chibas to swing the MRP politically to the right/ Report that new alignment among Miro Cardona, Rufo Lopez Presquet, and Antonio de Varona is a "trial balloon"

NO PAGES

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REFERENCES

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de Varona

US citizen, free-lance writer and part time sugar broker.

Source speaks Spanish, has resided at intervals in Cuba since youth, has had contacts for many years among Cubans in the sugar business, and knows personally many present and former Cuban political and administrative personalities. Source lived in Havana during the entire calendar year 1959, working with the [Sugar Stabilization Institute] and collecting material for an analysis of developments in Cuba since Fidel Castro's victory.

1. I have just learned from one of my Cuban associates that the new President of Brazil, Quatros, is definitely going to support Manuel Ray and the MRP, among the organizations opposed to Fidel Castro, and that he will have nothing to do with Antonio de Varona and the Democratic Revolutionary Front. Quatros has apparently decided to let the US know this and has been influenced by his decision by the former Brazilian ambassador to Castro's Cuba. This latter person has been recalled to Brazil and will shortly assume an important post in the government there. This former ambassador is said to be very much in sympathy with Ray and the MRP, because his personal political ideas and those of Ray have much in common. The former ambassador apparently exercises much influence over Quatros and is a bitter enemy of Varona and the Democratic Revolutionary Front.
2. Paul Chibas is very depressed these days, because he is convinced that the US will never give any encouragement to Ray and the MRP. Many of his Cuban friends have told him this and have emphasized that the MRP is too left-wing and radical to suit the US. Consequently, Chibas is beginning to attempt to lead the MRP away from radicalism, to the right, politically. Just how he proposes to do this, my Cuban friends are at present unable to say.
3. My Cuban friends think that the reported new alignment among Miro Cardona, Rufo Lopez Presquet, and Antonio de Varona, in which Miro would be a "co-ordinator" and mediator between the "left-wing" Rufo and his followers and the "right-wing" Varona and his adherents, is nothing more than a "trial balloon" launched for the purpose of seeing what the reaction among Cubans would be to such a realignment. It is still too early to assess the effect of this report, trial balloon or not.

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