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Varona dossier

3 October 1960

CONTACT REPORT

SUBJECT: Meeting with Tony Varona, La Modernas Motel, Coral Gables, Florida, late evening 28 September 1960.

1. Cupton and I met with Varona at the latter's urgent request. Varona informed us that he had had meetings with the Propaganda Committee and with the Military Committee. He indicated that he had approved certain actions to be conducted by the Propaganda Committee. He discussed these actions in detail with Cupton, and there is no difference of opinion on the usefulness of what Varona intends to do.

2. In the military field, Varona made the point that Goudie and Elena felt badly about ^{of} [Jim Smith] dealing over their heads with the second and third echelons of their commissions. He, Varona, felt that it would be best for ^{of} [Smith] to deal only with Goudie, Elena, and the other members of the Frente's general staff and not with the subordinates of these people. He also said it is important for Elena and Goudie to have an early understanding as to our strategic planning, and that we should insure that Elena becomes not too unhappy at being kept in the dark. (Comment: These two items were transmitted by me to COS/MASA during the late hours of 28 September. COS/MASA indicated that he would strive for the solution of these two issues.)

3. I told Varona that we would send in the future certain equipment into Cuba. If everything went well, I would inform him and the FRO could take the credit. If something went wrong, the FRO, however, would have to take the blame (this was along instructions received from C/WH/4). Varona again reiterated the fact that he has received broad powers, that he intends to reorganize the Propaganda Department, and perhaps remove some people from the Military Department.

4. Varona also requested advice as to whether or not he should buy a number of C-46's which he could get cheap. We did not hold out too much hope for this. (See memorandum to C/WH/4/PM on this subject, dated 30 September 1960.)

GERARD DROLLER
C/WH/4/PA

GD:da (30 Sept 1960)

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