

44/4/721
1 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Devine (Department of State) 1 November 1960,
in my Office

1. NOTE: This morning Col. Mallard requested advice on what to tell Mr. Devine concerning the anticipated visit of Miro Cardona to the Department of State. It was thought best to use this opportunity to brief Mr. Devine on our recent flexible policy vis a vis the FRD and other groups. Thus, Mr. Devine was invited for a meeting in which the undersigned, Col. Mallard and Mr. Whedbee participated.

2. I outlined briefly our current operational policy i.e. our dealings with the FRD and with groups outside the FRD as well. We mentioned that we had not allowed FRD representatives to come to Washington and lobby in behalf of their organizations; on the other hand many individuals and groups in opposition to the FRD were engaging heavily in such lobbying activities. Thus perhaps a somewhat unbalanced picture has been painted of the Frente and may have even taken hold. In view of this consideration might be given to have the FRD send a representative to Washington whose primary job would be to make contacts with the OAS and secondarily to articulate - vis a vis U.S. Government officials - the FRD policies.

3. The foregoing, I said, was called to mind by Col. Mallard's question to me on how to handle the projected Miro's visit to Washington. It was my personal opinion that, should Miro inquire about the Bender group, the Department might indicate in a non-passive way its awareness of the group; should Miro not mention the group perhaps a way could be found to tell Miro that for matters which could not be handled by the Department, he undoubtedly had already his own contacts which he will find satisfactory.

4. The discussion on Miro led to a further examination of the MRP which is very close to Miro. I said that I was puzzled about the MRP political posture; I had a number of discussions with MRP representatives in the U.S., had received its platform but had not been able to make up my mind whether or not - from a long range viewpoint - the MRP goals were compatible with U.S. self interests. On one hand - and I referred here to a comment Mr. Devine had made previously - important U.S. business people would not give the MRP "a place in hell;" on the other hand, people like Sanchez Arango, Rojas, Figueres and others seem to feel that this

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group would present us with a long sought solution to the problem. I simply did not know what to think and wondered what Mr. Devine's views were.

5. Following this examination of the MRP, I raised the theoretical question whether or not the time might come in the near future for the U.S. to determine which of the number of groups would get U.S. blessing. Our current flexible operational policy i.e. the dealings with a number of groups is workable enough but perhaps there might come a time in the not too distant future when we may have to fish or cut bait. By this I did not mean to imply an official announcement that any specific group had been selected; rather a fairly understandable, sympathetic official attitude towards one single Cuban segment might be shown.

6. We ended the meeting by stating our appreciation of having the opportunity to express our own personal views in an informal manner; we added that the conversation in no way constituted a request for answers to the topics discussed.

GERARD DROLLER
C/EA/4/PA

GD:sc (1 Nov. 1960)

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