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FOLDER 24  
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Manuel Ray Rivero

( HSCA 4009605 memo to  
a R [unclear] att 6/29/74  
[unclear] Interview w/ Manolo  
Ray Rivero from  
FBI/DOJ [unclear])

Ray was born in Cuba in 1924. Because of his outstanding performance as a Civil Engineer he was granted a scholarship in 1947 by the Cuban Ministry of Public Works to study at the University of Utah. Ray was in the U.S. for two years but did not complete his work for a Masters degree. (Ibid) He held various positions in the engineering field, one of which involved was Project Manager for the construction of the Havana Hilton Hotel. (Ibid) In May 1957 he organized the Civic Resistance Movement which supervised sabotage & acts of terrorism against the Batista regime. (Ibid) Fidel Castro appointed him Minister of Public Works in February 1959. (Ibid) In October 1959 he was arrested and relieved of his <sup>official</sup> position [FBI Correlation Study, Ray file, # 97-4546, See 1, HSCA 005990, P 27] Ray deserted Castro because of his Communist connections (Ibid) He founded the Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP) in 1960, serving as its Chief with the following individuals completing the leadership: Raul Cebas, Special Assistant to Ray; Juan Estevan Ramirez, Secretary; Ramon Bargiun, Military Intelligence Matters; and Rogelio Cisneros, Chief of MRP in Cuba. (CIA/DOJ Ray Vol II)

In the summer of 1960, Ray was being

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RETURN TO CIA

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Agent - Another CIA officer, who met privately with Ray in Nov 1960, stated that his political posture was doubtful as far as U.S. Government acceptance is concerned. (CIA/DDO-Ray Vol II, Cable to Director from MASH, 11/17/60)

actively recruited by the CIA to become a member of the FRD, (CIA/DDO approaches being made through Raul Chibas. (CIA/DDO Ray Vol I) Ray's background was questioned by the State Department (CIA/DDO Ray Vol I memo to WH/4 Chief from Acting Chief, WH. 27 Sept 1960, Subject: State Approval to Include Manuel Ray Rivera into the FRD Complex) and by the Miami CIA office (CIA/DDO Ray VOL I, Cable from MASH to WH/9, Sept 29, 1960) but he was granted Provisional Operational Approval by the CIA on 25 Oct 1960 (CIA/DDO Ray Vol 1 - POA form). His personnel papers contain the following assessment: "Subject has definite political action potential, is a pro-democratic official of government who is not in sympathy with aims of international Communism and who is interested in strengthening ties between Cuba & U.S." (CIA/DDO Ray Vol I, (PRQ Part 2) Sec. VI)

Not everyone in the CIA who had dealings with Ray were in agreement with this assessment. In a Memo for Record dated 11/21/60, it was reported that, "... Ray did not politically represent anything to cheer about." (CIA/DDO Ray Vol II, Memo for Record 11/21/60 subj: Meeting with King and Catesline on subject of handling MAF.)<sup>agent</sup> Another later memo for Record states that Ray's actions all seemed directed toward making him the future

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power in Cuba rather than overthrowing Castro  
(CIA/DDO Ray Vol II, Memo for Record, 2 June 1961,  
Subj: Relations w/ Manolo Ray & the MRP from (James A. Noe))  
The memo further pointed out that it was  
believed Ray was so far "left" in his thinking  
that he would be as dangerous (or more so in the  
long run) to U.S. interests as Castro, if he ever  
got to be a power in Cuba. (Ibid) Ray  
submitted a detailed study of a general program  
to attain the liberation of Cuba whose general  
thesis stated that the MRP believed the best way  
to represent the aims of the Cuban people  
is offered by the democratic left. (CIA/DDO  
Ray Vol. VI, 9 June 1961, general program study)

Ray made his political position very  
clear during a private meeting with ~~two~~ a  
CIA officer on Nov. 15, 1960 (CIA/DDO Ray Vol II,  
Cable to Director from MASH) He said the MRP  
did not wish to reinstate the 1940 Cuban  
Constitution and that the Castro laws passed at  
the beginning of his regime would be  
promulgated. (Ibid) Ray ~~told~~ further ~~said~~  
informed the CIA officer that he believed  
the state should regulate private investments  
and utilities should be nationalized. (Ibid)  
Charges of "Fidelismo without Fidel" were made  
against Ray's MRP. (CIA/DDO Ray Vol II, Contact report  
from Wallace A. Parlett, 10/17/60, Subj: Meeting w/ Juan Estoyan

12/22/60) and also said Ray was bitterly

anti-American as well as probably totalitarian

in his thinking. (CIA/DO Ray Vol II, "memo to S-Brie

from ALA - Philip W. Bonsal  
from ALA, March 16, 1961. Subj: Recent Cuban Developments)

Manuel Artime advised that the MRP Ray group,

MRP, was opposed to banning the Communist Party

and in favor of "nationalizing everything." (CA/DO

Ray Vol II, Cable to Bell from INWAVT, March 1, 1961)

Mr. Although aware of his controversial stand,

Ray was actively recruited to join the FRD by  
the CIA. (CIA/DO Ray Vol II, Cable to Director from

MASH, 11/17/60) Ray was described as "a

natural leader of highest intellect, deepest sincerity  
and conviction." by his recruiter (Obit)

Ray received full operational approval as a

political asset on 7 Feb. 1961 (CIA/DO Ray Vol II)

and accepted appointment to the CRC on 27 March

1961 (CIA/DO Ray Vol II, Memo for Record, 27 Mar 1961,

Subj: Ray Accepts appointment to Council -

he too restrained and  
which someone else was  
Monolo Ray Rivero, 6188(78)

The CIA received information about Ray from  
prominent exile Cubans. Ray was described as  
highly dangerous because of his ambition  
to play a prominent role in the Cuban Government  
after Castro's overthrow. (CIA/DO Ray Vol II, memo for  
Record - John D. Peters, 11/8/60, Subj: Contact report on  
Meeting with Rogelio Gonzalez). Mario Andona  
was opposed to Ray, believing his program was too  
Marxist (CIA/DO Ray, Vol III, Information Report from  
U.S. citizen, free-lance writer & part-time sugar broker,

negative

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(He has stated to HSCA investigators that certain influential & wealthy Americans, among them William Buckley, opposed him and a lot of heavy propaganda was being circulated accusing him of being communistic. (HSCA 7005-612878 by Foreign Service) D

Memo D.G. R.R. -  
Bobby

Within a week, Ray met with a CIA officer and complained that Miro was backing away from his commitments & was not willing to give Ray any voice in the Council. (CIA/DOO Ray Vol V, Cable from JM WAVE to Bell, Apr. 3, 1961) Ray

withdrew from the CRC/FL shortly after the Bay of Pigs invasion and requested the CIA to give him support independent of the that organization. (CIA/DOO Ray Vol. II, Memo for Record, 2 June 1961, Subj: Relations with Manolo Ray & the MFP, signed (James A. Noel))

In October of 1961, the Puerto Rican Planning Board announced that Ray had accepted a position as consultant to that Board & would be residing in P.R. (CIA/DOO Ray Vol. II, Memo for Chief/WH Division, 10 Oct 1961 to (Warren S. Younger), Subj: General Cuban matters; Specific - manuel (manolo) Ray) Ray was looked upon with great favor by the Puerto Rican government. (CIA/DOO Vol III, Cable dtd 2 July 1962 to Director from (San Juan))

Manuel Ray became actively engaged in recruitment of Castro defectors in the summer of 1962. (CIA/DOO Ray Vol III, Cable dated 25 July 1962) His efforts were directed toward the (Cuban Ambassador in Mexico) (CIA/DOO Ray Vol III, Cable to (Mexico City) fr. Director, 23 Aug 1962) ~~and~~ <sup>later</sup> and Cuban officials in Paris and Brussels (CIA/DOO Ray file Vol IV Cable to Director (from Paris), 19 June 1963, # 77272). File review failed to ascertain if any of his endeavors were fruitful.

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In the two months preceding the assassination of JFK, Ray was travelling in Latin America -  
Honduras ~~in October 1963~~ (CIA/DOO Ray Vol. II - Field Info.  
Report dtd 1 Oct 1963) & Costa Rica ~~in~~ in late Sept 1963  
(CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II Dispatch to Chief/WHD from (CS/Panama)  
dd 3 Oct 63), and Venezuela in October (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II,  
Memo for Record 2 Oct 1963, fr. Alfonso Rodriguez) devoting  
his full time to JURE (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, Draft,  
dd 4 Oct 63 by Rodriguez, Subj: Manuel Ray Rivero)  
On Nov. 1, he met with a CIA agent ~~out~~ on  
St. Thomas Island to discuss JURE plans to  
begin operations inside Cuba by the end of  
December. (Memo for Record from Alfonso Rodriguez,  
Subj: Meeting w/ Ray in St. Thomas, 31 Oct & ~~Nov~~ (Nov 1963))  
JURE was to be involved in an infiltration  
plan, known as Operation Bola, (CIA/DOO Ray Vol. II, Cable  
to JMWAVE fr. Director dd 3 Dec 1963) to commence when  
the CIA cached materials for JURE on 25 Nov. (CIA/DOO  
Ray Vol. II, Cable to JMWAVE fr. Dir. 3 Dec 1963: 8 Nov 1963),  
Ray told HSCA investigators that he was in Caracas  
on Nov. 22, 1963 with Rogelio Cisneros and could not  
recall the dates the CIA/JURE operation was to  
have taken place. (HSCA # 009005, Interview w/ Manolo Ray  
Rivero, 6/78 by Gonzi & Gonzalez). The JURE  
ship failed to pick up the cached materials on 25 Nov.  
1963 and Ray <sup>got the CIA</sup> had no full explanation for ~~his~~ this  
failure (CIA/DDO Ray Vol. II, Memo for Record 13 Dec 1963,  
from Alfonso Rodriguez)

~~from U.S. foreign, the CIA made a final proposal  
to our offer of suffice DUCE to move the detention  
(CIA/DDO Day 66 XV, Call & Boarder from JMWAVE, 6/10/64.)~~

~~was absolute for post among the CIA of  
~~of the allied foreign force for a for  
are drawn in the DUCE detention. If the  
1964 survived surveillance plan into Cuba and  
high primary structure the first day to  
move from (the group) (SECRET) att DD, 2, 1964 FB: source)~~~~

~~the FBI (HSCA #006468, Att 5, p. 1, FBI #97-4546,~~

~~Journal Day June Case # COZ 3315, July, #20311) and  
DD - Surf decree Detention force, 3/27/75 on  
was drawn to the border force (HSCA #008290,~~

~~don't~~ could not be reached. This information  
that he were a "CIA" agent and the CIA is the  
the identity of the intelligence, and was accused  
by surveillance and when HSCA recorder asked for  
the source of this information were afforded of  
WIT/SA from Day 9 July, JMVADE, tel 1442, 1964 in Havana, AF,

~~(CIA/DDO, Day - unclassified - disposition is being done,~~

~~attacker~~ were made at Bella House - ditto?)

~~Answer~~ to the Chile detention + accusation

(But: Lumumba notified as the time detaining the

& the group that had to accuse of murder. C

who were working on the formation of the detention  
community, if we were friendly with the Force Force

already associated with a Communist Front Force

With detention as the CIA and the Force had to work

On July 26 1964, word were received by the

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To Ray group of \$75,000 for the period of 1 Oct - 31 Dec  
1964. (CIA/DOO) Ray Vol ~~XVII~~, Autonomous Operations -  
Operating Plan.)