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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SECRET**Memorandum**TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *also*

DATE: 5-18-60

FROM : R. O. L'ALLIER *ROL*SUBJECT: **{CLIP}** *(u)*

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The following information was furnished to the Liaison Agent on 5-17-60 by Messrs. Herman Horton, [redacted] and [redacted] CIA, concerning the captioned project which deals with CIA activity directed against the Castro regime. *(S)*

The screening and selection of Cuban exiles for the operation have been moving rapidly. The following Cubans now make up the nucleus of the organization of exiles which will be moving against Castro: Justo CARILLO Hernandez; Antonio VARONA Lored; Pedro MARTINEZ Fraga; Manuel ARTIME Buesa; Ricardo de LORIE Bals; Andres VARGAS Gomez; Jose Ignacio RASCO; Bernard Barker; Higinio DIAZ Ane; Enrique VILLARREAL de la Concepcion; Michel YABUR Justiz; Manuel Federico GUDIE Monteverde; Joaquin SANJENIS Perdomo; and Manuel A. VILLAFANA y Martinez. *(S)(u)*

It is believed that all of these individuals are well known to us. On or about 6-1-60 this group will publicly announce its existence under the name of Frente Revolucionario Democratico (FRD) (Revolutionary Democratic Front). The organization so far does not have a leader and for the time being will be administered by a four-man directorate consisting of Carillo, Varona, Artime and Rasco. *(S)(u)*

[redacted] stated that the problem of selecting and promoting an acceptable leader is a sore spot in the entire project. No one seems to stand out at the present time, although [redacted] commented that Artime looks like a good bet. He is young, enthusiastic, aggressive and may have the qualities to attract the support of all the various exiled factions. *(S)(u)*

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- SJP/nmn
 (7)
 1 - Mr. Parsons
 1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Donahoe
 1 - Mr. Nasca
 1 - Mr. L'Allier
 1 - Mr. Rapich

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Memorandum for Mr. Belmont

RE: ~~CLIP~~ (u)

[redacted] does not expect that the announcement of the FRD existence will be of any unusual nature. CIA anticipates that Castro will give it little attention and regard it only as another organization of exiles. However, it is expected that FRD will grow rapidly in strength and prestige. (S)(X)(u)

[The Liaison Agent was furnished a list of locations in the Miami area now being utilized by CIA in this operation. The list is enclosed herewith.] The same data was furnished to SAC [redacted] (u) Teague of the Miami office.

Liaison has previously reported that CIA would be utilizing Swan Island located in the Gulf of Mexico for the mounting of a radio broadcasting operation. Broadcasts will, of course, be directed against Castro and will be beamed to Cuba. Broadcasts are to be initiated on or about 5-19-60. (S)(X)(u)

CIA is spending considerable time and effort to bring certain anti-Castro Cubans outside of Cuba so that they can be utilized in this operation. This is being done on a selective basis in an effort to obtain the services of certain key men. (S)(X)(u)

You previously have been informed that a Cuban who is held in high regard by CIA and apparently was to be utilized in this operation was Colonel Ramon Barquin. This individual is still connected with the Castro Government and is assigned to an Embassy abroad. According to [redacted] Barquin has not been able to make a clean break with Castro because of action which might be taken against members of his family in Cuba. He now feels that he has this matter under control and CIA thinks that he will officially sever his connections with Castro within the next few weeks. He could become a key figure in FRD. (S)(X)(u)

The headquarters of FRD will be reported as being in Cuba and will exist in that country in a clandestine status. Branches will be established in various Latin American countries, and in the United States. Costa Rica undoubtedly will be a key location. CIA does not plan to utilize a large number of Cubans for this operation. There probably will not be more than 40 or 50 who will have been briefed and trained by CIA. This group, however, will be engaged in a program of training other Cubans outside of the U.S. There is a plan to use a U.S. base in the Panama Canal zone for some of this training. (S)(X)(u)

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