Source: Spanish. Has residuated in 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 recently learned that Niro Cardona has accepted, effective in early Jan 60, a teaching position at a university in Puerto Rico and that he is withdrawing, at least for the foreseeable future, from all political activity. His anti-Castro sentiments remain as strong as ever, but he is disgusted with the bickering among anti-Castro Cubans and has made up his mind to sit on the sidelines for a time. Niro has a particular dislike for, distrust of, Manuel Ray and his NRP group. He feels that Ray's progress is too collective, Marxist, and opportunistic. He also recently said that he was informed by a friend that Ray is considering expanding his activities to Puerto Rico. This information has been checked and verified by Niro and other sources such as Antonio de Verona.

2.

Conflicts have recently developed within the ranks of the NRP both inside Cuba and elsewhere. Raúl Plascénce has become the 'Military Chief' of the NRP during the Fall of 1959 and continues nominally to hold that position. One of my Cuban friends has just had a long talk with Buryada and reports that he intends to have nothing further to do with Ray. Of course, he has not yet told this to Ray. His reasons for his change of heart are basically the same as those cited by Niro. Some NRP adherents are attempting to court Ray from his position in the NRP and to replace him as leader by Felipe Ponce. Jorge Beruff is said to be the main spring of this anti-Ray movement. Of course, Beruff and Ponce are extremely ambitious, which is one factor in their schemes. The other factor is that many NRP adherents are now having second thoughts about Ray and fear that his character, personality, and progress will serve to alienate more people, in the long run, than they will to attract new members and sympathisers. They also feel that Ray will eventually alienate the moderates and will also alienate popular and official US opinion. Therefore, they reason, Ray must go and must be replaced by somebody like Ponce, who, they feel, does not have Ray's liabilities. Some of the anti-Ray elements in the NRP hold this position for...
the sake of expediency (i.e., they wish to get rid of an albatross); others, however, genuinely think that Fayo is fundamentally antagonistic to what they believe in. These people thus oppose him on principle, and that they have learned more about the details of his character and his program. In any event, Fazio seems perfectly willing to go along. The only trouble, as I see it, is that neither Fazio nor Beruff have any personal following inside Cuba. Martiano Perez does have a personal following there, but he favors Fayo and not Fazio. Now, Barquin is very much interested in Delio Carrizo-Cochin, the old "compadre" during the Castro rebellion against Batista, and now in jail in the Dominican Republic. Barquin feels (as do many others) that Delio might well serve as a cohesive force within the DGP, to pull together the "rightists" (Beruff and Pozos) and the "leftists" (Fayo and Perez), because everyone holds him in such high esteem. Of course, the only trouble is that Delio is not currently "available".

3. One of my Cuban friends, who is well-versed in affairs in Oriente Province, has informed me that the "saloon" and others there feel pretty much the same about the DGP situation as I have described above. Thus, the conflicts outside of Cuba within the DGP are mirrored inside Cuba, or at least are so mirrored inside Oriente Province.