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Chick file
63 NOVEMBER 1960

SECRET

RECENT INFO

CAF 157: Meeting with Manuel Ray and Noel Chibes in the latter's apartment (30 West 60th Street, New York City) on 22 November, 1960.

PAR. TIKES OF INFO:

1. This portion of the report on above meeting deals with miscellaneous information which came up during that meeting and throws, perhaps, new light on the MRP's political posture.

2. Background: The above conversation it became quite clear that Manuel Ray and Noel Chibes are both opposed to the MRP's program. It appears to me that the MRP is beginning to lose some of its more controversial positions. There was repeated reference to the MRP's desire and intention to work at the best of terms with the U.S. and to be fully committed to all free world movements. Ray rejected any idea of a "Latin American Bloc" and his group might have "neutralist" aspirations. He does not see himself as the ruler of a "Latin American Bloc". Again and again, Manuel Ray expressed the need to fight the Soviet Union's influence in Cuba to the extent that he would retain the Soviet/Chinese influence in Cuba. He first tried to talk around the subject, saying that these relationships would have to be considered in the light of reality. I was struck at any given time he raised this point by saying that these issues of international relations had not been fully revealed as yet by himself or his staff and that any real progress would be made in the forthcoming weeks.

3. When asked to define his position vis a vis the Church, Ray pointed with pride to Fidel Castro and Fidel Gonzalez—the former an important lay Church leader, the latter an important figure in Cuba's Catholic hierarchy. According to Ray, some dissenting priests are also already affiliated with the MRP. In other words, Ray claims that he is working well with the Church and the Church is working well with his movement. He, Ray, said that I had received the final copy of the MRP's program, which he said was quite different from the first draft that had been given to me. (Context: this program was recently published in Havana and is currently being translated by Mr. A. Conroy examination notes that Manuel Ray's platform has been taken from a file.)

4. Ray informed me that the Cuban Executive Committee of Escalante's MRC group has broken with Castro and is now working closely with the MRP.

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13. Approximately five MAF people currently stationed in New York are in contact with the MAF in the area, NY state. The MAF people are obtaining intelligence from these Castro followers and at the same time looking to them to induce their defection. They did not want to give the name of these people to me and I did not pursue the matter further at all times.

OBJ: 3 DRYLES
4 12/1/54

CD: 21

13. 01/01/54

1 - NY

1 - NY

1 - NY & C/AS/ATS (not to RA)

1 - VILY

1 - AVIS

SECRET