

ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS--CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (CRC)

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SUMMARY

The background below is by and large sufficient for the purposes of the HSCA. The CRC is relevant to the assassination only in two senses: (1) that many of its principal members were among the most outspoken Castro opponents who would have had the motive to kill JFK, and (2) its activities were carried out in coordination with the U.S. Government, which might indicate the presence of ties between intelligence agencies and radical anti-Castroites that would warrant further searches.

BACKGROUND

The Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC) was an offshoot of another organization, the *Frente Revolucionario Democrático*, (FRD) which in itself was more of a consortium of anti-Castro groups that had already been established. The purpose of the FRD was to show that despite the differing perspectives and opinions in the Cuban exile community, all the groups were united in their goal of deposing Fidel Castro. The FRD was made up principally of the leaders of five major groups: Aureliano Sanchez Arango of the *Triple A*; Justo Carillo of *Montecristi*; Antonio de Varona of *Rescate*; Manuel Artime of the *Revolution Recovery Movement (MRR)*; and Dr. Jose Ignacio Rasco of the *Christian Democratic Movement (MDC)*. The group

expanded shortly after its inception to include former Cuban president Carlos Hevia, Dr. Antonio Maceo, and Rafael Sardinas, a conservative leader.

Under pressure from the State Department (which in turn was acting on pressure from the White House) to broaden the political base of the FRD, the FRD accepted the *Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo* (MRP) in March 1961. Dr. Jose Miro Cardona became the new president of the group. Shortly afterwards, the FRD became the CRC, and had personal access to President Kennedy in order to coordinate the group's activity with U.S. support. CRC chapters were established in several U.S. cities (including New Orleans). Delegates were appointed to several Latin American countries.

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion demoralized and angered the CRC. It had a meeting at the White House with President Kennedy, at which he took personal responsibility for the failure. This action was taken as a betrayal by many of the members of the CRC. Those who still believed that the president was on their side stopped believing so after the Missile Crisis and JFK's promise not to invade Cuba. As JFK began to crack down on the very activity he had once condoned, relations deteriorated rapidly between the White House and the CRC. In April 1963, Cardona resigned in protest of U.S. Cuba policy. Government funds for the CRC were cut off in May 1963, and after a year of in-fighting among the exiles, ego clashes, and embarrassing attacks on its credibility, the CRC quietly disintegrated in 1964.