

ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS  
JUNTA DEL GOBIERNO DE CUBA EN EL EXILO (JGCE)  
HSCA VOL. 10  
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SUMMARY

*For the most part, the HSCA merely gives a history of the JGCE and the environment in which it was formed. Of particular note is a line which states "... certain factors about the junta discovered in preliminary research indicated a need to carefully examine the purposes and activities of the group."<sup>1</sup> It also notes that JGCE's founder, Paulino Sierra Martinez, was a target of a Secret Service investigation of a "threat against the president" in Chicago at the time of the assassination. No further elaboration of this "threat" is given. The JGCE dissolved by the end of 1963.*

BACKGROUND

*By the beginning of 1963, the atmosphere in which the anti-Castro exile community operated was charged with dissension. The US government had officially withdrawn support for their efforts, and was now clamping down on illegal activities such as gun-running and commando raids on Cuban and Russian ships. In addition, personality clashes and political differences were causing serious friction within the exile community. Into this maelstrom stepped*

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<sup>1</sup>HSCA 10:96.

Paulino Sierra Martinez. An unknown exile who had had no prior experience in the anti-Castro movement, Sierra surprised many of the exiles when he announced that he had backing from American "business interests" and could secure up to \$30 million dollars for the cause of deposing Castro. The only catch was that the Cubans had to present a united front in order to receive this support. Within a few weeks, Sierra had united several groups, mostly right-wing, under the JGCE umbrella.

A constant source of speculation about Sierra was the source of the promised financial backing. At first evasive about the sources, Sierra finally enumerated big businesses like United Fruit, DuPont, Esso, and Standard Oil. However, it was rumored at the time, and alleged by the *Miami Herald*, that the true source was "gambling interests", i.e., the Mafia. It is clear that Union Tank Car of Chicago was paying Sierra's salary and funding initial arms purchases.

The FBI concluded an investigation of the JGCE in June 1963. In its report, the FBI believed that Sierra was pulling a "con job" as opposed to seriously planning any anti-Castro activity. Sierra's credibility began to wane even within the community, however, and by November 1963, both the JGCE and Sierra were no longer a factor in the exile community. A CIA memo of November 20 states that Sierra's long term objective was still unclear, and questioned how Sierra had even managed to remain important in the anti-Castro community for as long as he did. The writer speculated that perhaps Sierra's "mysterious backers are providing him with sufficient funds to keep the pot boiling for the moment." The JGCE, however, ceased to have any influence after the end of 1963.

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95            *Atmosphere of early 1963 and founding of JGCE.*

96-97            *Background of Sierra and initial activities of JGCE.*

97-99            *Speculation as to source of JGCE financing.*

99-101    *Later activities and disintegration of JGCE.*

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