

## ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ QUESADA

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### SUMMARY

*The HSCA includes a brief biography of Carlos Quesada, the leader of the 30th of November group, in its report. Quesada is judged by the Committee to be a minor figure; consequently, the section on him is only two pages long.*

### BACKGROUND

*Carlos Quesada was the leader of a Cuban underground movement called the 30th of November, named after a labor uprising in 1956. Quesada was a socialist, but not a communist, and therefore grew disgruntled at the path Castro followed. Until the Bay of Pigs, the 30th of November was considered one of the most effective groups in the Cuban underground. Castro tightened his grip, however, and Quesada and others fled to the US in the spring of 1961. Upon arrival, Quesada and his group joined the CRC, though they had misgivings about US policy toward Cuba. Quesada, however, initiated discussions with some of the harder-line groups about forming their own umbrella organization, and for that "lack of discipline", Quesada was kicked out of the CRC by Tony de Varona. Quesada promptly called a press conference and criticized the council. This criticism led to a schism in the 30th of November; some members followed Quesada, others remained within the CRC. Quesada then turned*

more hawkish and outspoken in his criticism of US policy before joining Sierra's JGCE.

Quesada was a suspicious character even within the exile community; many rumors circulated about his illicit behavior, the types of people he surrounded himself with, and his lack of commitment to truly deposing Castro. He was kicked out of a second group he'd founded, the MRFP, in 1964, for misappropriating funds. In the end, it appears that Quesada was an opportunist, in the game for the recognition and personal gain, but not committed to any real goals.

Volume 10

143-145      Biography of Carlos Quesada.

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