

## ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

### MANUEL RAY/REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE (MRP)

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## SUMMARY

*Manuel Ray was briefly discussed by the HSCA in its section on the JURE; this section focuses on him more extensively, from his days in Cuba up to the point of his forming the JURE. His first anti-Castro group was called the MRP. This section is merely a brief biography of Ray and the short history of the MRP. The background below summarizes this report.*

## BACKGROUND

*Ray was a left-wing anti-Batista rebel whom Castro originally welcomed into the new government as the Minister of Public Works. Ray gradually came to see Castro's Communist intentions, and withdrew from the government in May 1960. In contrast to most of the other anti-Castro leaders, Ray was still a left-winger. He did not wish to reinstate the 1940 Cuban Constitution; he believed that the changes made in the early months of Castro's regime were necessary and beneficial. For these beliefs, he was mistrusted and suspected by most other anti-Castro exiles. However, the Kennedy administration believed him to be an important asset, and pressured the FRD/CRC into accepting the MRP for membership in 1961. (It was this that prompted E. Howard Hunt to resign as CIA liaison with*

the CRC.) Shortly after the Bay of Pigs, however, Ray withdrew his organization, after a falling out over promises he claimed the CRC failed to keep to him. The CRC, for its part, labeled Ray a Communist. Thereafter, Ray worked in Puerto Rico in anti-Castro activity for a year before returning to the United States mainland to form the JURE in 1962. (JURE has been summarized in a separate section of Volume 10 of the HSCA report.)

Ray continued anti-Castro activities into the early 1970s, but the credibility loss he'd suffered and the Communist label he'd been stuck with hindered his effectiveness. By the time of the HSCA, he had given up the fight and owned a consulting business in San Juan.

Volume 10

137-141      Biography of Ray; history of the MRP.

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