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SECRET

1 Oct 62

To: Chief, TFW/FI

From: 3

Subject: AMLACE 1 response to questions about succession in the event of Castro death
(29 Sept 62)

1. QUESTION: If Fidel should suddenly die or be killed, what kind of struggle for power would ensue and what element would win out?

2. ANSWER: "Even the gusanos say it would be useless to kill Fidel; the thing would go on. No one thinks Fidel's death would be useful to the counter-revolution. Maybe it would in the long run, but certainly not in the short run. It is hard to say what would happen. Power is in the hands of a few people. Some small group (grucito) would form and take power strongly into its hands and hold the thing together. What would happen then is again hard to say; even harder is it to predict which element would win out. But generally speaking, the barbudos (and a small group of them, at that) would win out, and not the communists. In the latter connection, people in Havana seem to think that Blas Roca and Lazaro Pena are now longer powerful figures. Of the old communists, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez is the most prestigious. Ruiz Jimenez could make a comeback, although he is not too important at this time. The Minister of Labor, Martinez Sanchez, is very important.

801-43739

AMLACE

YMC