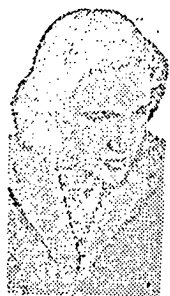


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Comment:

Exile Confident His Group Can Oust Castro

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

Can a middle-aged Cuban businessman overturn Fidel Castro?

Dr. Jose M. Bosch, called familiarly 'Pepin'—the Spanish for Joey—believes he can.

He has spent two years and around \$100,000 creating an exile organization called the Representation of Cuban Exiles (RECE).

No RECE is helping create a militant anti-Castro force built around the Brigade 2506 Bay of Pigs veterans.

"We've taken a census of Cuban exiles of military age the world over," says Dr. Rafael Labrada, a Brigade 2506 spokesman in New York City.

"We have lists of 30,000 men in the U. S., Latin America, Europe, even the Philippines and the Congo—young men who want to overturn Castro. We have a list of 1800 right here in New York City."

Many are in training.

"Of course we can't give military training on account of your neutrality laws," he said. "But many are taking physical fitness courses on farms of friends not far outside New York City."

Other sources say cadres started leaving for Latin American military camps this month.

Over 200 former officers of Brigade 2506 are ready to help train a new anti-Castro army, said Dr. Labrada. Most have U. S. Army training since they were freed from Castro jails.

"When we hit Cuba, the second time," he said, "we'll have ships, anti-aircraft, tanks, guns. We won't make the same mistake twice. At the Bay of Pigs, we had supplies for six hours of fighting. Next time we'll have enough for 10 days."

The former Brigade officer

speaks confidently, tho he does not know the RECE timetable.

"All I know is, we have everything in our hand to overturn Castro."

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The factor lending weight to the new 'mobilization' by the Brigade veterans is that Pepin Bosch has the one thing no other anti-Castro leader could lay his hands on—many millions of Cuban-controlled dollars.

Dr. Bosch is head of the family-owned Bacardi interests, which include prosperous rum factories in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Brazil. The Bacardi group, it is estimated, may clear \$15 million a year on rum.

"If Pepin Bosch will put up \$1 million, he can get from \$50 million to \$100 million more," says an internationally respected Cuban personality. "So far, we haven't seen the million."

Brigade 2506 veterans believe there is money behind them. Experts say it takes \$1200 to put each soldier in battle. If the RECE-Brigade backers can raise even \$50 million, presumably they can finance an army of over 40,000 men.

This is not enough to overwhelm Castro. But it is enough to hit the island and bring the whole Cuban situation to a climax.