

Box 7 - Folder 46 ~~SECRET~~

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997

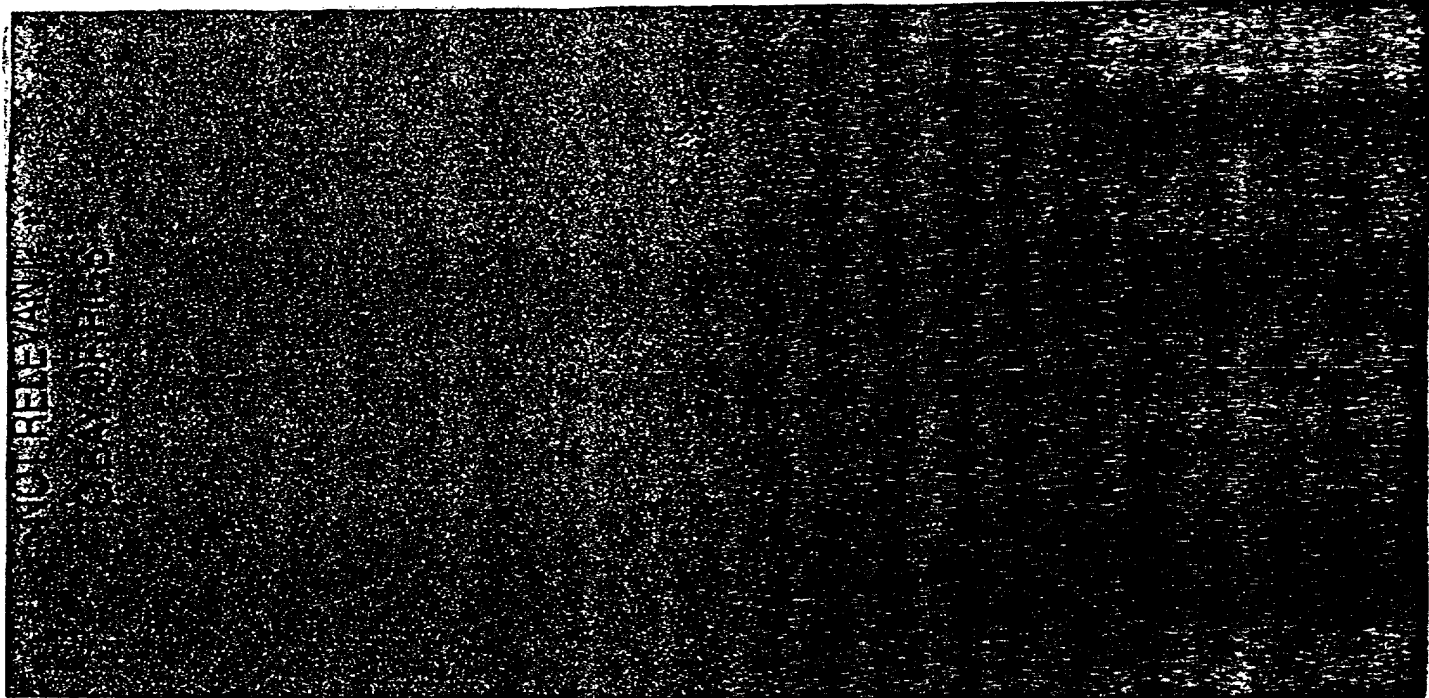
14 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: HSC Briefing, 14 April 1960

1. The following topics were prepared:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. Cuba
- d. [REDACTED]



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6. On Cuba he followed his text closely, and in addition, read verbatim TDCS 3,433,869.

RICHARD LESTER

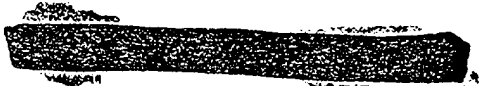
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CUBA

- I. A former high Cuban official and ardent Castro supporter (Ernesto Betancourt) defected in February and came to US. Defection known only from intelligence sources.
- A. Completely disillusioned; his views are probably representative of group of moderate, professional men who once gave strong support to Castro.
- B. He sees three alternatives for Cuba:
1. Castro's assassination--"the worst thing that could happen...Castro would become a martyr to be imitated and revered by young Cubans for years."
 2. Castro's suicide--"a very real possibility when Castro realizes that his methods will fail. I know personally that suicide is always in his mind...he is interested only in his place in history; material things, even his own life, mean little."
 3. Continuation of present trend, resulting in "socialist dictatorship" with Castro drifting toward repetition of Batista's terror, until a new revolutionary movement by an aroused public ousts him.
- C. He regards Fidel as driven by a warped personality and says that US, in order to understand him, should form a committee of three to deal with him: a tough diplomat, a competent psychiatrist, and a flamboyant actor like Orson Welles.

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1. Cuba's invitation of ten Honduran students and pro-Castro congress-
men to "underdeveloped nations" conference ^{now set to start} indicates Cuba now re-
signed to accept unofficial delegations from all or most LA countries.

A. Conference thus will be far cry from the meeting of official
delegations headed by prominent personages which was originally
envisaged by Castro.

B. But carefully selected unofficial delegations will assure
Castro's control.

III. Cuba preparing establish diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia,
first with any Sino-Soviet bloc country since 1952.

A. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] of imminent Czech request for
agreement for Vladimir Pavlicek as ambassador to Cuba.

1. Pavlicek, who [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], has served
as chief of American division of Czech foreign ministry
for past two years.

IV. Communists stepping up efforts to win complete control Cuba's power-
ful labor confederation.

A. Labor minister Martinez Sanchez, close associate of Raul Castro,
is putting government's weight on side of Communists in bitter
sub-surface maneuvering in labor confederation.

V. President Eisenhower's letter to Chilean students received wide
notice in Cuba.

- A. Government line is that reference to Cuba in letter is "pretext for launching a direct attack on revolutionary government"; ~~that~~ President is "~~as almost always~~[^] badly informed"; that letter is proof of falseness of the claim that US does not intervene in affairs of LA countries; that President never demonstrated concern over democratic processes in Cuba during Batista dictatorship.
- B. However, reaction to President's letter favorable among many Cubans disillusioned with Castro.

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NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS

