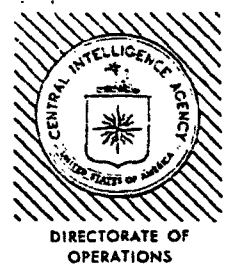


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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~-WNINTEL-NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-ORCON

COUNTRY: CUBA

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS ON APPOINTMENT OF RAUL ROA KOURI AS CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK [Redacted]

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SOURCE :

[Redacted]

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SUMMARY: MOST OFFICIALS OF THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPROVE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF RAUL ROA KOURI AS CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED ROA FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. ROA WORKED WITH RODRIGUEZ ON UNITED NATIONS MATTERS, HE IS A LINGUIST, HAS LIVED IN NEW YORK PREVIOUSLY, AND HAS EXPERIENCE AS AN AMBASSADOR HAVING SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY IN BRAZIL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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ROA HAS AN ENGAGING PERSONALITY AND REFLECTS, IN THE OPINION OF MANY CUBAN OFFICIALS, THE TYPICAL SPIRIT, THE CUBAN MALE IDEAL, INTELLIGENT AND ONE WHO ENJOYS A GOOD TIME BUT GENERALLY OBSERVES REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE. CUBA'S STAND ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT CHANGE UNDER ROA. JOSE ARBEZU, AN OFFICIAL OF THE AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BE ROA'S DEPUTY IN NEW YORK AND HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE PUERTO RICAN MOVEMENT LEADERS IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST OFFICIALS OF THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) APPROVE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF RAUL R O A KOURI, SON OF FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RAUL R O A GARCIA, AS CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. ALTHOUGH MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE ANSWERED AS TO WHY HE RECEIVED THE ASSIGNMENT, IT IS NOTED THAT CARLOS RAFAEL R O D R I G U E Z, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED HIM FOR THE POST. THIS REMARK WAS NOTED IN THE NOMINATING DOCUMENT AND PROBABLY HELPED ROA KOURI RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA (PCC) POLITBURO.

2. MFA OFFICIALS NOTE THAT ROA KOURI WORKED WITH RODRIGUEZ IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT. RODRIGUEZ WAS WELL SATIS-

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FIED WITH ROA KOURI'S WORK AND PRAISED HIM. THERE ARE SOME IN THE MFA WHO NOTE THAT RODRIGUEZ MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO MEND FENCES WITH ROA GARCIA, AS IT WAS RODRIGUEZ WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN REMOVING ROA GARCIA FROM THE POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER IN LATE 1976. ROA GARCIA WAS DEEPLY HURT AND CRITICIZED RODRIGUEZ FOR HIS ACTIONS. RODRIGUEZ DOES NOT REGRET REMOVING ROA GARCIA FROM THE POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER; HOWEVER, HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE SPONTANEOUS OUTPOURING OF RESPECT FOR ROA GARCIA LAST YEAR WHEN HE WAS EULOGIZED REPEATEDLY AND HONORED AT A NUMBER OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY. RODRIGUEZ WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT ROA GARCIA WAS SINCERELY LIKED AND RESPECTED BY SO MANY. CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL C A S T R O HIMSELF EULOGIZED ROA GARCIA AND RODRIGUEZ ALSO WROTE AN ARTICLE PRAISING HIM.

3. ROA KOURI POSSESSES VALUABLE ASSETS WHICH QUALIFY HIM FOR HIS NEW POST. HE WORKED FOR RODRIGUEZ ON UNITED NATIONS MATTERS AND ACTED AS AN ADVISER TO RODRIGUEZ. HE IS A LINGUIST AND SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, CZECH, AND PORTUGUESE. HE HAS A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF NEW YORK, HAVING ATTENDED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN NEW YORK. HE HAS EXPERIENCE HAV-

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ING SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HAS A GOOD WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN AS A RESULT OF HIS JOB WITH RODRIGUEZ.

4. WITH ROA KOURI'S APPOINTMENT, RODRIGUEZ IS ASSURED OF A MAN IN NEW YORK WHO WILL RESPOND TO HIM AND WHO IN LARGE MEASURE WILL OWE HIS POSITION TO RODRIGUEZ. IT IS KNOWN IN THE MFA THAT CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISIDORO M A L M I E R C A PEOLI FIRST PROPOSED A L D A N A, ^{Carlos} ~~(FNU)~~, AN OFFICIAL OF THE PCC SECRETARIAT, FOR THE POST. ALDANA, HOWEVER, HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SPEAKS NO LANGUAGES. HE IS ALSO A MOROSE AND ILL-HUMORED INDIVIDUAL.

5. ROA KOURI IS NOT A MEMBER OF CUBAN INTELLIGENCE; AS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FRICTION BETWEEN THE MFA AND CUBAN INTELLIGENCE, THIS IS ANOTHER FACTOR IN HIS FAVOR. MFA OFFICIALS NOTE THAT EVEN RODRIGUEZ HAS HAD DIFFICULTY WITH CUBAN INTELLIGENCE. ROA KOURI ALSO GETS ALONG WELL WITH THE SOVIETS, WITH WHOM HE WILL HAVE CLOSE CONTACT IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

6. MOST CUBANS WHO HAVE LEARNED OF ROA KOURI'S APPOINTMENT HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY AS ROA IS A POPULAR FIGURE. SOME OF THIS IS A RESULT OF HIS FATHER'S POPULARITY; HOWEVER, HE HIM-

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SELF HAS AN ENGAGING PERSONALITY AND MANNER THAT GAINS HIM
MANY FRIENDS. HE IS CORDIAL, OUTGOING, AND COURTEOUS AND WAS
ABLE TO RETAIN THE FRIENDSHIP OF THOSE WHO DISLIKED HIS FATHER.
ROA KOURI IS INTELLIGENT AND EXPRESSES HIMSELF WELL. HE IS
ALSO AN EXCELLENT MIXER, PARTICULARLY AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS. HE
LIKES PARTIES AND ENJOYS PLAYING A NUMBER OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
INCLUDING THE PIANO, GUITAR AND SAXOPHONE. HE ARRIVES AT WORK
EARLY EVEN THE MORNING AFTER A LATE NIGHT. HIS ENGAGING PERSON-
ALITY REFLECTS TO MANY CUBAN OFFICIALS THE TYPICAL SPIRIT, THE
CUBAN MALE IDEAL, INTELLIGENT AND ONE WHO ENJOYS A GOOD TIME BUT
STILL GENERALLY OBSERVES REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE. CASTRO HAS
FORGIVEN HIM HIS PAST TRANSGRESSIONS AND SHORTCOMINGS AND ADMIRES
HIM FOR TAKING HIS PUNISHMENT WELL. HE SERVED HIS TIME IN ONE OF
THE MOST DIFFICULT MILITARY UNITS.

7. ROA KOURI IS A "LADIES MAN" IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD,
MARIA de los ANGELES RODRIGUEZ DOMINGUEZ
BUT HE RECENTLY MARRIED HIS THIRD WIFE AND SEEMS, AT PRESENT, TO
BE THOROUGHLY IN LOVE WITH HER. SOME MFA OFFICIALS WONDER IF HIS
WIFE, A PLEASANT YOUNG WOMAN, IS SUITED TO ACT AS AN AMBASSADOR'S
WIFE. SHE IS THE SISTER OF SILVIO R O D R I G U E Z, THE FAMOUS
CUBAN PIANIST AND COMPOSER.

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8. CUBAN LEADERS WOULD TOLERATE MUCH FROM ROA KOURI AND ANY SHORTCOMINGS WOULD PROBABLY BE OVERLOOKED. HE IS VERY OPEN ABOUT HIS WEAKNESS FOR WOMEN AND GOOD TIMES. UNLIKE RICARDO A L A R C O N DE QUESADA, WHOM HE WILL REPLACE IN NEW YORK, HE WILL TEND TO SOCIALIZE MORE. ALARCON IS STIFF AND UNFRIENDLY EVEN WITH MEMBERS OF HIS OWN STAFF.

9. CUBA'S STAND ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT CHANGE AS ROA KOURI WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, A MAJOR POLICY ISSUE IN CUBA. THE NUMBER-TWO MAN IN THE CUBAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK UNDER ROA KOURI WILL BE JOSE A R B E Z U, AN OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF THE PCC. IF ARBEZU RECEIVES THIS POSITION, AS EXPECTED, CUBA WILL BE REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK BY AN OFFICIAL WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT LEADERS IN NEW YORK.

10. ALARCON SEEMS TO BE SATISFIED WITH HIS NEW POST, WHICH IS A PROMOTION FOR HIM. HE WILL BECOME DIRECTOR OF PLANNING FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE MFA AND WILL HAVE VICE MINISTER STATUS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME A KEY OFFICIAL WITH REGARD TO NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT MATTERS. HE IS SCHEDULED TO

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BEGIN A SERIES OF TRIPS RELATED TO THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, INCLUDING ONE TO YUGOSLAVIA, SHORTLY AFTER HE LEAVES HIS PRESENT POST IN APRIL.

11. ROA KOURI'S ABSENCE FROM THE MFA FOR SOME TIME HAS CAUSED SOME OF THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS AMONG MFA OFFICIALS TO LAPSE. HOWEVER, OF SIGNIFICANCE IS HIS VERY CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH MFA VICE MINISTER JOSE V I E R A LINARES. THEY ARE SEEN TOGETHER OFTEN. ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND IS ROGELIO M O N T E N E G R O, WHO REPLACED ROA KOURI IN HIS FORMER POSITION AS CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (COMECON); MONTENEGRO ALSO WORKED FOR RODRIGUEZ AT ONE TIME AND WAS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO ROA GARCIA IN THE PAST.

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