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The following is a translation of an article from the Spanish language daily, "Diario Las Americas", September 6, 1963, page 1, cols. 6-8, page 15, col. 7:

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ ADVOCATES COEXISTENCE WITH
THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO

Cuban ex-journalist, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, charged with being a spy by the Christian Democratic Movement of Cuban exiles, repudiated the taped confession of his activities in behalf of the Communist regime of CASTRO, and according to a statement to "The Miami Herald", he claimed that it had been obtained from him under threats and torture.

FERNANDEZ told the authorities of Miami that the members of the Christian Democratic Movement had tortured him by tightening a cord around his neck and placing a pistol at his head in order to force him to confess that he was an agent for CASTRO.

The members of the Movement insist, however, that the aforementioned confession was voluntary, and for that reason, he had been taken to the FBI four days ago and presented along with a taped recording of the above-mentioned confession, LAUREANO BATISTA, leader of the anti-Castro organization, who obtained the confession, declared that it had been made voluntarily and that there had been no coercion.

FERNANDEZ appeared voluntarily before the officials of the Intelligence Section of the Miami Police Department, and told them that he had been beaten and "tortured" at pistol point for twelve hours. He asked that charges of kidnapping, assault and battery be lodged against his supposed torturers.

In regard to his politics, FERNANDEZ, himself, describes himself as being neither "anti-American nor anti-Castro", and says that he favors "peaceful coexistence with Cuba", in spite of the fact that he came to Miami as a refugee in 1961.

He also said that he would like to return to Cuba to stay there and to suffer along with his parents, his sister and his aunt.

He stated that the confession in question was false and that it had been obtained from him under threat of death if he did not make it just that way; therefore, after hearing his charges, the authorities decided to present them to the

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although these camps operated in open violation of U.S. law and declared national policy. Yet one was raided by this same FBI, which confiscated a considerable quantity of stolen munitions but does not go into this in the reports. Is there any wonder the assassination is not solved and that the investigation left more questions than it answered?

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District Attorney's Office in case some legal action should have to be taken.

ARTHUR E. HUTTON, Assistant District Attorney, said Wednesday that he had informed the Intelligence officers who were to hear FERNANDEZ, and that there would then be an investigation to find out if any law had been violated.

The members of the Christian Democratic Movement say that FERNANDEZ accompanied them to the FBI office of his own accord. FERNANDEZ was released Tuesday.

At no time have the FBI Agents or the Miami Intelligence officials said that the confession was true or that it was obtained under pressure, but it has been said that there would be an investigation to see whether the Movement took the law into its own hands in order to obtain a confession.

In regard to this matter, BATISTA said that they did not intend to continue the controversy, since they did their duty by turning FERNANDEZ over to the authorities in order to let the law take its course.

DENUNCIATION

In a report published by "The Miami News" on the case of the supposed Castro spy, it says that FERNANDO FERNANDEZ told the police of Miami that he had confessed to having engaged in espionage work for CASTRO only after he had been tortured for 12 hours by the exile leaders of the Christian Democratic Movement with a 45-caliber pistol aimed at his head.

According to his vague explanation, FERNANDO JOSE FERNANDEZ BARCENA, 34 years of age, tried to hinder the plans of the action groups among the exiles in order to prevent a "massacre".

"The exiles will not get anywhere in their fight against CASTRO because they do not have the proper conditions," FERNANDEZ summed up.

FERNANDEZ told the police that during his alleged ordeal of 12 hours he was subjected to "physical and mental" torture, and he finally invented a "false and exaggerated" story, which was his "confession".

He now said, "I was confused and I did not know what to do. I want to return to Cuba because I believe that FIDEL is going to stay in power, and I want to suffer along

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with my people."

In the tape-recorded confession, which was turned over to the FBI, FERNANDEZ said that he had infiltrated the CIA as well as groups of exiles and that he was about to be sent to Cuba as an agent of that American agency.

In yesterday's explanation, he admitted having written a letter to Ambassador CARLOS LECHUGA in Mexico, warning him about the exiles' proposed plans for attack.

He also said that he had been "filled with anxiety" when he aroused suspicion upon infiltrating the group.

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The following information pertaining to FERNANDO FERNANDEZ was developed at Miami, Florida, during investigation conducted in August and September, 1963.

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On August 3, 1963, VICTOR PANEQUE BATISTA and HERIBERTO VALDES MOLLINEDA, Assistants to LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, the Military Coordinator of the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (MDC - Christian Democratic Movement), appeared at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advised as follows:

Approximately a month previously, FERNANDO JOSE FERNANDEZ BARCENA was brought to the MDC office by a relative named JULIO POWER. FERNANDEZ had recently arrived in Miami from Kansas City, Missouri, and desired to join the MDC. Certain members of the MDC soon noted that FERNANDEZ took an unusual interest in the activities of the MDC, and they became suspicious of his motives. MDC member HENRY INFANTE LEDEA was delegated by the MDC to develop a close association with FERNANDEZ, in order to learn of his activities and motives. INFANTE was successful in developing such a close association, and subsequently intercepted certain correspondence which had been entrusted to INFANTE by FERNANDEZ for mailing. Among the items of correspondence which were made available by the MDC to the FBI, either in original or copy form, was a letter written by FERNANDEZ to the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico, marked "Personal and Confidential". This letter, which was not mailed, was as follows:

"August 1, 1963

"Cuban Ambassador in Mexico

"Your Excellency:

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Where are "the other items of correspondence which were made available...to the FBI"? Someone on the Commission staff saw the importance of this and underscored it. There is nothing of this description in the file, typical of the investigation of the murder of the President. The propaganda, however, is here.

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"I have by chance infiltrated in a commando group which is preparing to engage in a serious operation in Cuba. I have some detailed reports on this military plan.

"The attack, which is imminent, is leaving from Central America.

"It is possible to prevent it, and for that purpose, a comrade and I, who wish to return to serve (or "again to serve") the Revolution of Dr. FIDEL CASTRO, offer our services.

"Obviously, we are not in Mexico now. This letter has reached you through friendly hands.

"My comrade and I wish to return to Cuba. We ask you to intercede for us. Also, what way can we use to return? Is it possible to get diplomatic asylum in some Embassy in Central America? Is it possible to escape by some clandestine means.

"In short, we await instructions.

"It is vital for you to remain alert from now until the 8th in order to receive our communication.

"Our code name will be: HENRY PRIETO.

"We can assure you that this demoniacal commando plan has very serious implications and consequences. And we wish to warn you in time and to prevent it.

"Wait for more news from us.

"Very truly yours,
HENRY"