

For Harold Weisberg only

Bruce S. Lewis
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Berkeley, California 94709
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Tom Bethell
638 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Mr. Bethell:

I am indebted to Mr. Garrison for the letter of introduction he furnished. I made use of it last Tuesday when I visited the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace located on the Stanford University campus. The Institution houses an extensive collection of books dealing with all phases of U.S.-Cuban relations. They possess approximately one hundred seventy-five works published under the names of thirty exile organizations not to mention a fair selection of periodicals. I have appended a partial listing of the organizations represented for your perusal. They also maintain a tiny pamphlet collection which is quite interesting but severely limited in extent. No more than a dozen exile groups are shown. Nevertheless, I did cull a few items from their holdings which seemed of more than average interest. Enclosed you will find a partial sampling of that data.

Among the pamphlets, I found several tracts issued by the Cuban Freedom Committee. There are three points I wish to bring to your attention concerning this group:

- 1) When Harold Weisberg visited the San Francisco Bay Area last fall, he mentioned the surname "Casariego" and requested any information we might have relative to it. The name "Issac A. Casariego" accompanies a man's photograph on page ~~four~~ of "5 Powerful Voices of The Cuban Freedom Committee Cover Cuba and Latin America." I have enclosed a facsimile of the item and trust it will prove of value to you.
- 2) The Freedom Committee's Advisory Board includes the name "Oveta Culp Hobby," published of the Houston Post. The New York Times of February 21, ~~1967~~, 1967, identifies the Hobby Foundation as a Central Intelligence Agency conduit. The Freedom Committee garnered support from several foundations as evidenced by the September 12, 1963, testimony of its Executive Secretary, Marianda C. Arensberg, before the Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I think it likely the Hobby Fund may have been one of these. Parenthetically, it should be noted Edward Scannell Butler testified before this same Committee. It would be well worth your while to review his statements.
- 3) An April 25, 1962, press release entreats the reader to listen to Radio Americas broadcasts beamed from Swan Island, the C.I.A.'s Caribbean retreat. One is offered "straight news and commentary interspersed with interviews and music.

In the aggregate, I discovered some fifty shelves of propaganda in the envelope devoted to the Freedom Committee, and I have tried to review the most salient points contained in the data.

Only Comandos "B" gave the University an equally interesting assortment of leaflets; a few of which I will review. In their accumulation, I noticed an article from the Miami News of September 22, 1963, concerning an arms seizure. It is my feeling that arsenal confiscations, especially during the latter half of 1963, are of the utmost importance. Therefore, I am sending you a copy of the story and some additional material gleaned from DIARIO LAS AMERICAS (Miami, Florida.) You will also find an excerpt from a Comando "L" brochure entitled, "Cuban Exiles Right to Fight for Freedom." The copy I duplicated contains a specific listing of the items seized, but I cannot vouch for its veracity.

My time was limited Tuesday, and I succeeded in locating handbills, pamphlets, brochures, and tracts from only three other exile groups: Asociacion Educativa y de Investigaciones para la Reconstruccion de la Economia Cubana; Asociacion de Funcionarios del Poder Judicial de Cuba (en el exilio); and el Colegio Medico Cubano en el Exilio. No worthwhile intelligence could be gathered about these societies, and I do not include any material from their collections.

In addition to the holdings I previously cited, the University's "Draper Collection" ~~contains~~ several hundred works devoted solely to the subject of Cuba. However, very few of these books will prove of any value whatsoever in relation to John Kennedy's murder. The most enticing pieces, the publications issued by the many exile groups, tend to contain long diatribes against the Castro regime but very few facts relative to exile activity. Many of the other works are in praise of the Cuban dictator and sing his praises in his behalf but fail to document the freebooting actions of the anti-Castroites. There are exceptions, of course, but I do not know of a single incisive work which adequately reviews exile operations from 1963 to the present. If you can enlist the cooperation of the Cuban filibusteres themselves, you'll gain more knowledge than a thousand books can offer. Haring this course, refugee publications and handbills are helpful. Daily newspapers fall next in line, but it is a time-consuming process to search back issues. Newspaper clippings collections, if available, can save months of labor and yield an overall picture not obtainable elsewhere.

And, as you may be aware, the main purpose of my journey was the inspection of the newspaper cuttings and related archival material formerly used in the preparation of the Hispanic American Report. The Hoover Institution "fell heir" to this stuff when the Institute of Hispanic American and Luso-Brazilian Studies ceased to exist. Supposedly, there are twenty-eight file case drawers devoted exclusively to 1963. A substantial portion of these writings probably concern this country's tense relations with the Cuban dictatorship during the time period cited. Unfortunately, Mr. Bingham, the librarian, has temporarily denied me access to the clippings. The exact status of these files seems to be in doubt as they are not part of the special collections available to every researcher working at the Institute. Mr. Bingham was ambiguous when referring to the clippings, and I honestly do not know if I'll be allowed to work with them. No doubt a tremendous amount of money was expended in their compilation, and there is an understandable hesitancy in permitting access. In the meantime, I plan to occupy myself scanning past issues of the daily Cuban press housed in a subterranean vault near the Hoover tower. I intend to travel to Stanford every Monday and Tuesday until the relevant material is exhausted. You will

to make on my progress.

In regard to another matter, I have included copies of various articles obtained from the library of the El Paso Herald-Post. The news item tends to substantiate the story of Richard Cass Nagell as reported in the January, 1968, issue of Harvard Magazine. I see also including a piece taken from the Costa Mesa Daily Pilot of January 5, 1968, in which Mr. Kicks is reported to have made some remarks over an KNID, Orange, television station. Flips of the tongue have been known to happen, and Kicks may have said something unintentionally that will aid you.

Before closing, I'd like you to refer to page fourteen of Stanley Trimmer's transcription of the Blazewick interview. Mention is made of a Miami fascist organization a currently composed of Cubans; perhaps members of Alpha 66. Page 14 of the August 11, 1963, Miami Herald contains a very short news story about just such a group. Under the heading, "The Tipoff, An Inside Look - Behind the New Scenes, it is claimed 'Rumors are going around that a nationalist group is being formed among Miami's Cuban refugee population. The leader is a 24-year-old Cub who broadly notes he looks like Hitler.'" If true, this article would tend to corroborate the existence of the cabal Blazewick referred to.

Cordially yours,

Bruce M. Lewis

cc: Hal Verb
Harold Weisberg
Paul Koch

Enclosures:

- "5 Powerful Voices of the Cuban Freedom Committee Cover Cuba on 'Latin America' (4 pages)
- New York Times reprint, February 21, 1967, "Hobby Foundation of Houston Affirms C.I.A. Tie" also February 21, 1967, "Berlin Students Ask C.I.A. Inquiry"
- Pages 570-575 of the September 12, 1963, testimony of Miranda Arensberg before the Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, 88th Congress, 1st Session; Part V "Ending the Cold War: The U.S. Ideological offensive - The Impact of Special Activities of Selected Private U.S. Organizations"
- Cuban Freedom Committee, April 25, 1963, press release
- Cuban Freedom Committee, April 17, 1963, press release
- Miami News, September 21, 1963, reprint, "Explosive Bomb Cache Seized in Hialeah"
- Mexico Las Americas, September 24, 1963, reprint entitled, "Protesta Comandos L' Por Confiscacion de Sus Armas en Miami"
- Exert from "Cuban Exiles Right to Fight for Freedom" issued by Comandos "L"
- Miscellaneous news articles from the El Paso Herald-Post regarding Richard Cass Nagell
- Costa Mesa Daily Pilot clippings from the January 5, 1968, issue

Partial listing of the Cuban exile organizations represented
in the collections at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution,
and Peace

Agencia de Informaciones Periodisticas

Agrupacion Montecristi

Asociacion de Funcionarios del Poder Judicial de Cuba
(en el exilio)

Asociacion Educacional y de Investigaciones para la
Reconstruccion de la Economia Cubana

Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba (heavy American representation)

Colegio Medico Cubano en el Exilio

Colegio Nacional de Ingenieros Agronomos y Azucareros
de Cuba en el Exilio

Cruzado Femenina Cubana

Defensa Institucional Cubana

Directorio Regimenteral Revolucionario (en el exilio)

Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil

Frente Anticomunista Cristiano

Frente Democratico Revolucionario

Frente Obrero Revolucionario Democratico Cubano

Grupo Cubano de Investigaciones Economicas

Judicatura Cubana Democratica

The Truth About Cuba Committee

Unidad Revolucionaria

Union de Cubanos en el Exilio (Caracas)

Union Deportiva Cuba Libre

News is taken from Associated Press and United Press International offices. Refugees are interviewed on their arrival in Miami, Key West or New Orleans.

Recently a new type of program was added to the schedule for broadcast over WFL and Radio Caribe. Called "Programa Para El Hogar" (Program for the Home), it is directed to the Cuban woman and the women of Latin America in the middle and lower classes. A 13-minute discussion of the problems affecting families living under Communism, it is voiced by two professional Cuban women, known to their listeners as "Rosa and Maria Luisa." Their purpose is to expose the Communist system so that their listeners will know how to combat it most effectively. They stress that the strongest force for liberation is the Cuban family, and success depends on the spiritual and moral resistance of each member.

Another, "Hermanos de Americas: Aqui, la Democracia" (Brothers of America: Here is Democracy), is tailored for Latin Americans who of America: Here is Democracy), is tailored for Latin Americans who could happen to them. Many listener groups have been formed for the preservation of freedom and democracy in these countries. This program is heard only on Sundays over Radio Caribe.

Most of the Cuban Freedom Committee programs are in Spanish, but some of the news spots on Radio Americas are in English for the West Indies and in Cantonese for the large Chinese population in Cuba.

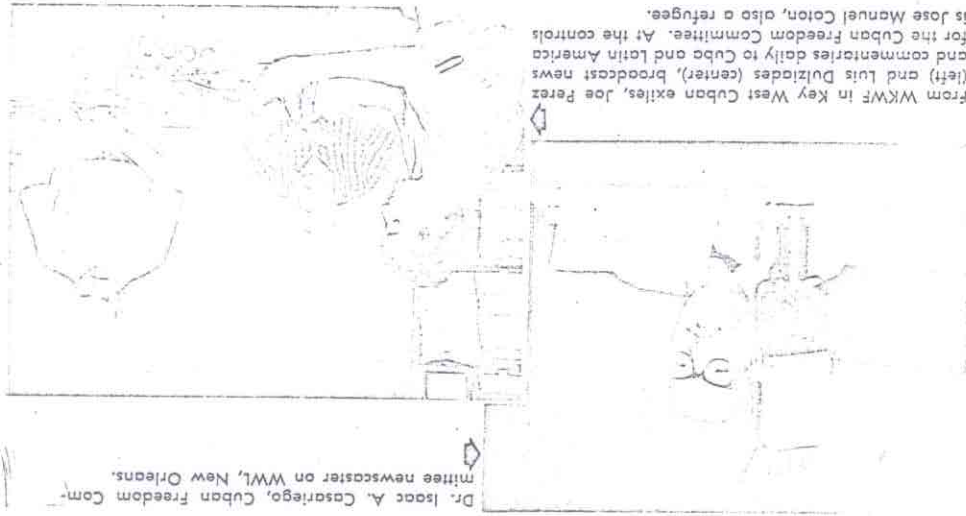


Executive Secretary of the Cuban Freedom Committee is Mrs. Mariada C. Arensberg, who supervises and plans the programs for all five stations from its headquarters in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Arensberg lived in Havana for 15 years before her return to the U. S. in 1960. It has been her responsibility to assemble and direct the staff which now numbers 13 full-time employees and several freelance writers.

Working with her on the programs are:

- ** Former owners of radio and television stations in Cuba
- ** Award-winning radio-TV and screen producers and writers with Hollywood experience
- ** Advertising executives
- ** University professors

Dr. Isaac A. Casariego, Cuban Freedom Committee newscaster on WFL, New Orleans.



From WKWF in Key West Cuban exiles, Joe Perez (left) and Luis Dulzides (center), broadcast news and commentaries daily to Cuba and Latin America for the Cuban Freedom Committee. At the controls is Jose Manuel Colon, also a refugee.