

#34525-A

DATE: October 6, 1958
TO: Thomas J. Kelly, Metropolitan Sheriff
FROM: W. D. McKee, Criminal Intelligence
SUBJECT: CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

On September 28, 1958, Agent A.L. Tarabochia attended a meeting sponsored by the Labor Section of the 26th of July Cuban Revolutionary Movement. The rally was held at the "Flagler" Theatre and had been previously advertised by means of posters on cars and shops patronized by Cubans. An estimated 500 persons attended the meeting.

There was the usual compulsory sale of bonds, pamphlets and other items including cigarette lighters bearing the colors and insignia of the movement.

A group of about 25 young men wearing the movement's brassards were charged of keeping order in the theatre, but their constant movements kept the audience distracted during the biggest part of the meeting.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 9:30 AM, but did not begin until 10:30 AM due to the fact that most of the speakers were very late in arriving.

After the playing of the U.S. and Cuban National Anthems, Rafael Valdez, officer of the movement introduced the first speaker, Armando Vásquez, head of the hotel and food workers section of the movement, who advocated the reinstatement of the workers dismissed by the Batista regime.

The next speaker, Ramón García, head of the transport worker's section used the usual flowery and vehement manner of speech, common to these meetings, to denounce the Cuban Ministry of Labor.

The third speaker, Sergio Cardoso, chairman of the movement's Labor Section, after the usual tirade of praising the rebels and denouncing the oppressors, stated that the movement, after victory, would free Cuban economy from its slavery to "foreign capital" (obviously meaning the U.S.).

He also praised the Puerto Ricans who offered their adherence to the revolution.

R. Flores, head of the electrical workers section was the most radical in advocating the formation of a socialistic government in Cuba. Flores admonished the hierarchy present at the meeting that the workers were to be a part of the new government and that they had a right to mix in politics in order to control the expenditures of the monies collected by the state.

Flores went on to say that the rifles used against Batista now would be used without hesitation against any government trying to usurp the worker's rights.

Flores was followed by David Herman, president of Local 255, Hotel Employees Union, Miami Beach, who spoke in English and offered his personal adherence to the cause, stating that it was a good cause since the people fighting for it were good people who had "guts". According to him, the majority of the American people shared his views.

The sixth speaker was Dr. Cardona, secretary-coordinator of the Frente Civil (Civil Front) who gave an account of the negotiations that led to the Caracas meeting and the formation of the Frente Civil. He then introduced the provisional president, Dr. Manuel Urrutia Lleo.

Dr. Urrutia gave a brief account of the wrongs done to the Cuban people by past governments. Mentioned was; President Machado who stipulated a commercial agreement with the U.S. for marketing Cuba's main product, sugar. Dr. Urrutia accused the U.S. of taking 80% of the profits in the deal.

Further in his speech, Dr. Urrutia professed to be a socialist but deeply nationalist, and agreed with Flores that the workers should have a part in the future governments of Cuba. After thanking all present, Dr. Urrutia concluded the meeting.

Present at the meeting as representative of the Cuban officers in exile was R. Villamar Rodriguez.

Respectfully submitted,



W. D. McKee, Supervisor
Criminal Intelligence



A. L. Tarabochia
Intelligence Agent

CC: Given to A. L. Tarabochia
U. S. S. by A. L. Tarabochia
by A. L. Tarabochia 2-20-62