

25 mei 1959

U 5127/15899-59 - C 46 - P1/PS9

CA 9710717
GEHEIM

Land: Cuba.

Onderwerp: Plans of the Catholic Church for neutralizing
Communist penetration of the Cuban Government.

Referenties:

Datum van
waarneming: 31 maart 1959.

From: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

's-GRAVENHAGE.

GEHEIM

Cuba

PLANS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR NEUTRALIZING COMMUNIST
PENETRATION OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

On 31 March 1959 the Papal Nuncio held a meeting in Habana with the bishops and priests assigned to Catholic action groups. The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the present situation in Cuba and to plan action to be taken by the Church. The following conclusions were reached:

- a. That the majority of the Cuban people support the revolution.
- b. That a large percentage of the Cuban masses consider the Church to be reactionary, counter-revolutionary, and to favor dictatorship.
- c. That the Church does not oppose reform laws, but does, in many instances, deplore the methods used in executing these laws.
- d. That the Communists have succeeded in convincing large segments of the Cuban populace that reform benefits have resulted from Communist influence.
- e. That militant Catholics in the government outnumber the Communists.
- f. That the principal objective of the Communist agents in the government is to provoke the non-Communist leaders into a situation which will require the intervention of the United States.

It was decided that the Catholic strategy will be to capture the revolution and to prevent the Communists from taking over. The following activities were planned:

- a. To issue a pastoral letter in support of revolutionary reform.
- b. To order all action groups to concentrate on the collection of specific information on Communist operations, especially on their operations in the government and armed forces.
- c. To mobilize all members of Catholic action groups in the government and armed forces for unified action to influence government policy and to remove Communists from influential positions.

For several years the Catholic Church has maintained a highly secret organization which has been for the purpose of collecting information on the Communists. This group now will coordinate all collection activities.

31 maart 1959.