

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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ORF - CUBELAS, Reinaldo S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY	Uruguay/Cuba	REPORT NO.	CS -3/443,924
SUBJECT	Private Conversation between Cuban President DORTICOS and Group of Communist and Student Leaders	DATE DISTR.	21 June 1960
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DATE OF INFO. 30 May 1960

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Uruguay, Montevideo (30 May 1960) FIELD REPORT NO. HUM-1070

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: Uruguayan official (B); from student (F) who participated in the conversation. Appraisal of Content: 3.

- Oswaldo DORTICOS, President of Cuba, leveled severe criticism against the U.S. and admitted that his visit to Uruguay had not been welcomed in some circles of the Uruguayan Government, during a fifteen-minute conversation in which he participated with approximately twenty other persons, most of whom were Uruguayan university students actively interested in Communism and in the Federacion Universitaria del Uruguay (Federation of University Students of Uruguay - FEUU). This conversation took place on 30 May 1960, immediately after DORTICOS had spoken at a conference and rally at the National University of Uruguay.
- This small gathering was arranged before the DORTICOS visit by Ambassador GARCIA Inchaustegui. During visits made by GARCIA to the University Law School he had told FEUU leaders that the Cuban Government was interested in becoming acquainted with those Uruguayan student leaders who, in the name of the Movimiento Latinoamericano-26, had actively repudiated the March 1960 visit of President Eisenhower to Uruguay.
- Ambassador GARCIA introduced some of the group to DORTICOS, who asked GARCIA, "Are we among really true comrades?". GARCIA answered in the affirmative, whereupon DORTICOS explained that, in spite of his having been received at the Montevideo airport by Benito Mardona, President of the Uruguayan National Council of Government, he was informed that in some high levels of the Uruguayan Government, his visit had not been welcome. He then said that Mardona had nevertheless met DORTICOS at the airport for personal political reasons and in order to demonstrate that Mardona was taking orders from no one and could act upon his own authority, apart from the National Council of Government.
- DORTICOS said that, regardless of Mardona's action, the true interest of DORTICOS and of Fidel CASTRO was to be in contact with the people, and students who in Uruguay are the same as those of Cuba, namely, "the vanguard of liberty" with the desire to emancipate themselves from United States tyranny. He referred to Fidel CASTRO as a former

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university student and an idealist of proved valor. DORTICOS launched into a brief criticism of the United States, accusing the United States of wanting to "monopolize Latin America." He referred to the Pentagon as "an octopus with long tentacles which has sent agents into all parts of the world", including "Uruguay, for the purpose of undermining unity among students. DORTICOS said that additional United States agents have been sent to Uruguay since the visit of President Eisenhower.

5. DORTICOS invited the students in the group to visit Cuba as guests of himself and Fidel CASTRO, saying that this was an idea of CASTRO who is in sympathy with the Uruguayan students and who has expressed the desire to have Uruguayan students visit Cuba as students from other countries have done. He said that the Cuban Government would pay the expenses of such visits. He also offered to make a financial donation to the FEJU.¹

6. The group included the following:

Dr. Mario GARCIA Inchaustegui, Cuban Ambassador to Uruguay.
Comandante Rolando CUEELAS Secades, President of the Cuban Federation of University Students.²

Alfredo Mario ERRANDONEA Fernandez, FEJU leader and active Communist.
Raquel GONZALEZ, FEJU leader, and Communist leader among the university students.

Jose BLANCO, active Communist leader.

Mikhail Kovlerko, Communist with an active interest in the FEJU, although not a student.

Igor MARTINEZ, Communist student in the University Law School, who recently visited Cuba.

Raul PASTORINO, pro-Communist interested in student and labor matters.
Carlos Mainardi.

7. During the general conference at the University unidentified members of the Uruguayan Communist Party "shock force" acted as bodyguards for DORTICOS. These men were armed with metal bludgeons and firearms, and were among those who took part in certain street fighting incidents during the DORTICOS visit.

1. Source Comment. Some members of the group thought it unusual and disillusioning that a visiting chief of state should offer money to the FEJU.

2. Field Comment. CUEELAS was in Montevideo temporarily on an ostensible goodwill mission and was active among pro-Communist student and labor groups while in Montevideo. Inasmuch as there are conflicting reports from other sources concerning CUEELAS' date of arrival at Montevideo, source may have mistaken a member of the DORTICOS group for CUEELAS.