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ORIG : Stephen G. Chaconas:DEW
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DATE : 12 March 1966 FILE IN CS FILE NO.

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- REF A. WAVE 9593 (IN 73408)
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1. ALTHOUGH NO HARD EVIDENCE ON HAND CONFIRMING ANTI-GOVT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS RE AMLASH-1 TRIAL, HQS CONCURS THEME VALID IN KEY SET BY STATION AND WARRANTS CONTINUED PROP PLAY.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORTS SMOTH AMBASSADOR 10 MARCH HAVANA CONFIRM "WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE INTEREST" IN UNIVERSITY HAVANA RE TRIAL. AMBASSADOR UNABLE REPORT EVIDENCE RIOTING OR DEMONSTRATION STUDENTS BUT AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED REPORTS PLACARDS ON WALL UNIVERSITY THREATENING CASTRO IF AMLASH EXECUTED: "ONE HEAD PAYS FOR ANOTHER."

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO REPORTED RUMORS OF WIDESPREAD ARRESTS WESTERN END OF ISLAND: SOME SEVENTY PERSONS ARRESTED, INCLUDING MILITARY.

4. CASTRO LETTER 9 MARCH TO TRIAL PROSECUTOR SERGUERA CLEARLY INDICATES GOC TRIMMING ITS ACTION IN FACE UNFORESEEN PUBLIC OPINION REACTION: "THERE ARE FEW PERSONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO DOUBT SUCH DEEDS SHOULD MEET WITH SUCH PENALTIES" AND ALSO "CONSIDERABLE PORTION PUBLIC OPINION MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND." THIS IS FAR CRY FROM EARLIER PRACTICES WHEN THE ACCUSED WERE MARCHED TO THE PARDON.

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5. ON BALANCE IT APPARENT TRIAL GENERATED MORE ADVERSE PUBLIC OPINION THAN EXPECTED BY GOC WHICH NOW TAKING MORE MODERATE STAND AND NOT IMPOSING "HARSH MEASURES." PROP PLAY SHOULD THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON GROWING UNREST, AGITATION (NOT RIOTS) AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, DISCREET BUT OPEN DEFIANCE GOVT. CASTRO OBLIGED INSTITUTE PREVENTIVE AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, SENDING STUDENTS TO CANE FIELDS AND PLACING UNIVERSITY UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL.

END OF MESSAGE

John T. Flynn
William V. Broe
for WHD

WH/C/CA *Lehmann*
WH/C/MO *J. Olin*

85
John T. Flynn
A/DCWHD/C

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