

[Reference: NARA RIF # 124-10302-10238]

Date: April 1, 1959

To: Mr. DeLoach

From: M. A. Jones

Subject: FRANK FIORINI, AKA.

FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS

IS - CUBA

SYNOPSIS:

Subject, an American citizen and Captain of Cuban Rebel Army, was interviewed on March 31, 1959, upon referral from the Director's Office. Fiorini advised that he was in the United States on a confidential mission at the behest of head of Cuban Air Force who is concerned with the growing menace of communism in the Cuban Government. Fiorini furnished information concerning members and leaders of the Cuban Government alleged to be communists or communist sympathizers. He also furnished information concerning plans for potential revolutions in Caribbean countries. Fiorini requested aid in fighting communism in the Cuban Government. Fiorini's trip was not known to Fidel Castro, Premiere of Cuba. Fiorini offered his services as an "agent" for the United States Government in the fight against infiltration of Cuban Government by communists. Subject has previously been arrested by United States Customs on arms charge and by Cuban authorities as suspected rebel courier and by Mexican authorities in connection with arms smuggling.

Due to unofficial nature of this approach and because of the highly unstable Cuban situation, no commitment was made for future cooperation. Such a commitment, if revealed in Cuba, might bring irrational charges by Castro of "American interference." At same time Fiorini obviously has excellent potential to furnish us valuable data and door was left open for future contact. Since Legal Attache Haverty has been in contact with him we are soliciting comments and recommendations of Haverty as to utilizing Fiorini to our advantage. With clear and present need for first-hand data out of Cuba it is not believed Fiorini's background should bar use of him but we

must, of course, be careful.

SEE RECOMMENDATIONS NEXT PAGE

1-Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Donahoe
1-Mr. Nasca
1-Liaison

RWK:mjg (10)

M. A. Jones to Mr. DeLoach Memorandum
Re: FRANK FIORINI

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That a letter be prepared disseminating the pertinent information furnished by Fiorini to State, CIA, military agencies, Customs and the Department. Fiorini's name will not be divulged as the source of this information in view of his potential future usefulness to Legat, Havana.

(2) That a letter be prepared transmitting the information furnished by Fiorini to the Legat, Havana, requesting his comments and recommendations relative to the development of Fiorini as a source of the Legat, Havana.

Frank Fiorini, also known as Frank Anthony Sturgis, was interviewed by SA Krant and SA V. H. Nasca on March 31, 1959, upon referral from the Director's Office. Fiorini exhibited a letter purportedly from the Director of Inspections of the National Lottery Institute, Havana, Cuba, appointing him Chief Inspector for all gambling casinos and cabarets in Havana. Fiorini described himself as a Captain of the Rebel Army and exhibited a document which he described as a credential of his rank. He furnished his local address as the Mayflower Hotel and indicated he planned to return to Havana by way of Miami April 1, 1959. He gave his Havana address as the Inspector General's Office, Camp "Tte Brihuega," Ciudad Militar, Havana. He advised his father resides at 326 Bank Street, Norfolk,

Virginia.

By way of background, Fiorini stated that he had served with Fidel Castro's forces for the past two years. He stated that he had been engaged in the raising of funds and arms both in Miami and Mexico, and in other countries of Latin America. He stated that he had also been engaged in the fighting in the mountain provinces of Cuba. Upon the victory of the Castro forces, Fiorini was appointed to his position as Chief Inspector of the gambling casinos and as a Captain of the Cuban Air Force. His duties with the Air Force involved his acting as liaison officer between the U. S. Air Attache, Havana, and the Cuban Air Force. In connection with this position he had, within the past week, presented his credentials to the American Air Attache, Colonel Nichols (ph.). During the course of his conversation with Colonel Nichols at the American Embassy, he mentioned that he was concerned regarding the present status of his American citizenship. Fiorini explained that while he had been involved with the Cuban Rebels for the past few years, he cherished his American citizenship and intended to protect it at all costs. He was referred to the American Legal Attache James Haverty. He indicated he planned to recontact Haverty later this week in Havana. Fiorini was not advised that the Legal Attache was an FBI representative.

PURPOSE OF VISIT TO THE BUREAU:

Fiorini stated that recently there was held in Havana a Ministers conference attended by the heads of state of the Cuban Government,. In attendance at this meeting was Fiorini's military superior, Commandante Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, who is Chief of the Cuban Air Force. According to Fiorini, Diaz Lanz became concerned during this meeting and afterward at the degree of control which communists in the Cuban Government were able to exercise upon policy making functions of the Government. Diaz Lanz discussed this with his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, who is the Inspector General of the Cuban Air Force and, as such, is the Number Two man in that organization. Fiorini described the Diaz Lanz brothers as sincere and ardent anticommunists. He stated that as part of his duties as liaison representative with the American Embassy, he had attempted to arrange social gatherings between the Embassy staff and the Ambassador and the Cuban Air Force officials. His efforts in this regard had been thwarted in

view of the strong anti-American feelings rampant in Havana at the present time. Fiorini attributes this anti-Americanism to communist infiltration of all phases of the Cuban Government. He advised that the Diaz Lanz brothers are acutely aware of the situation. He suggested to them that contacts be made and maintained with the American Embassy in Havana in order to secure leadership or advice in fighting communism in the Cuban Government. Not only was this suggestion turned down, but all attempts at social contact between Air Force officials and the American Embassy were expressly forbidden. In fact, a dinner engagement arranged between the American Ambassador and the Diaz Lanz brothers was called off upon orders from higher authorities. As an example of communist power in the Government, Fiorini described a recent incident in which an unnamed Cuban Air Force Officer had publicly made an anticommunist statement. Pressure was brought to bear upon the Commander of the Air Force by Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who was able to immediately have this Air Force officer removed from the service. Fiorini described Guevara as an Argentine medical doctor who has been with Castro since the early days of the revolution. Guevara is also described as a communist by Fiorini.

As a result of above incident and the growing communist threat in Cuba, Fiorini was sent by the Diaz Lanz brothers to the United States specifically to seek an interview with the Director for a twofold purpose. The main purpose of the visit was to further acquaint the Director with the power of the communists in their country, and secondly, to state affirmatively their own anti-communist feelings and beliefs. At the same time, they desired to offer to the U. S. Government their services in the fight against communism in their country. Fiorini emphasized that his visit to the Bureau was strictly unofficial and only known to the Diaz Lanz brothers. He noted that it was without the approval of Fidel Castro and that if this visit becomes known to Castro, Castro would probably take serious action against them. In addition, Fiorini transmitted the desire of the Diaz Lanz brothers for aid from the FBI in the fight against communism in their country. It was tactfully explained to Fiorini that any request for such assistance would have to be made officially and emanate from the Cuban Government and that this Bureau could not offer advice as to how communism should be fought in Cuba. For his own part, Fiorini offered to serve as an "agent" for the U. S. Government in the battle against

communism. Fiorini stated that his position as an American citizen was unique in that he held a high position, had fought the Batista Government with Castro and presently enjoyed the trust and confidence of the Castro Government. Fiorini was also advised that while the Bureau has no jurisdiction overseas, his offer of cooperation would be made a matter of record and any information he desired to volunteer would be accepted.

Fiorini indicated a desire to furnish further information to the Bureau and stated he would either transmit this data by letter to the Director or to the Legal Attache on his visit to him.

Fiorini indicated that the Cuban Government was extremely anxious to have an FBI Identification check made of the gamblers in Cuba and he believed that such a request would be officially made through the Embassy. He added that regulations concerning the gambling industry in Havana were chaotic at the present time. He stated while he had been appointed Chief Inspector of the gambling casinos, he had only a rudimentary knowledge of gambling, particularly as it is applied in casinos.

He noted that the ruse used in making this trip was an ostensible trip to Miami for the purpose of purchasing military clothing for the Cuban Air Force. At the time of his visit to the Bureau, Cuban officials in Havana were of the belief that he was visiting relatives in Norfolk, Virginia.

COMMUNISM IN CUBA:

Fiorini brought with him a list of eight names of officials and leaders of the Cuban Government. According to Fiorini, these men are commonly referred to as communists in Cuba. These are: Alfredo Guevara, described by Fiorini as a "teacher" of military officers of the Cuban Armed Forces. Fiorini stated that Guevara had recently given an indoctrination speech to Air Force officers which he had attended. This speech was openly procommunist.

Baco Alonso. Fiorini stated that Alonso is a member of the National Fine Arts Commission.

Antonio Nunez Jimenez and Emil Roig de Leuschenroig, described by

Fiorini as authors who are currently indoctrinating the military and school personnel with communist propaganda.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, described above, is said by Fiorini reasons that Guevara, because of his known communist beliefs, is intentionally keeping out of the public eye and awaiting developments which might present a better opportunity for him to press his beliefs upon the Cuban government.

Carlos Franqui, described by Fiorini as the Editor of the newspaper, "Revolucion."

Antonia Antuna, described by Fiorini as an official of the National Institute of Culture which is under the Education Ministry.

Casals Perez, described by Fiorini as the Chief of the "Rebel Radio."

Fiorini stated that he could furnish no further information concerning the above-listed or others suspected of communist beliefs in the Cuban Government at this time. He advised that he believed he could secure further information concerning the communist problem from his sources in Havana and throughout Cuba. When this material is assembled, he will offer it to the American Government by writing to Mr. Hoover directly or through personal contact with the American Legal Attache, Mr. Haverty.

Regarding Fidel Castro, Fiorini stated that it is his belief that Castro is not a communist; however, he and the Diaz Lanz brothers and other anticommunists in the Cuban Government are concerned and alarmed over the fact that known communists are being appointed to positions of power in the Cuban Government. Also, Castro, at meetings over which he presides has permitted procommunists and anti-American utterances to be made without protest when he could, in Fiorini's opinion, cut off such talk merely by indicating that he disapproves of it. Fiorini also feels that there is a possibility because of the growing unemployment and accompanying unrest that the political situation might get out of control of Castro and that the communists might then take over the Government. He stated that Castro is, in his opinion, a socialist and that he has the best interests of the Cuban people at heart; however, Castro is somewhat of an idealist, and it is his fear that Castro might be swayed by the communists to the belief that

communism might be necessary to fulfill the purposes and ideals of the revolution.

INFORMATION CONCERNING PLANS TO INVADE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES:

Fiorini advised that there were various revolutionary groups in Havana, all of which were trying to contact Fidel Castro for assistance. He stated that these groups were having a difficult time in contacting Castro as Castro was too busy with Cuban affairs to deal with them directly. Accordingly, representatives of these groups have been referred to other Cuban officials. He stated that he has personally been contacted by representatives of these groups. He stated that he is presently assisting in the organization of a General Staff which includes General Ramirez, a Dominican, and a Colonel Gomez, a Nicaraguan, ultimate purpose of which is the overthrow of the present Nicaraguan Government. The present procedure, according to Fiorini, is to establish a General Staff and to lay plans for an invasion of a particular country. When the Staff is organized and the plans formulated, the General Staff goes to Fidel Castro to seek financial and military aid and personnel to carry out their plans. Fiorini stated that the ultimate objective of all revolutionary groups in Cuba was the overthrow of the Dominican Republic. He stated the general plan is to neutralize Central America by ridding the area of present dictators and utilizing Central America and Cuba as bases of operations against the Dominican Republic. He stated these plans call for the elimination of President Somoza of Nicaragua first and the establishment of an "honest" Government there. With the help of the Costa Rican Government, their intent is then to unite Central America against the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic.

Fiorini stated that the revolutionary groups intend to overthrow the present Government of Panama. He stated they felt that the American Government would aid in this endeavor inasmuch as the present Panama Government was not considered to be pro-American.

Upon the neutralization of hostile governments in Central America, the revolutionists intend to place guerrilla troops in the northern mountains of the Dominican Republic. Their intent to place guerrilla troops in the

northern mountains of the Dominican Republic. Their intent is to divide the Trujillo forces by this maneuver. To secure another base for their operations, it is planned to overthrow the Government of Haiti. Fiorini stated that the revolutionaries are aware of the power of Trujillo. He stated that at the present time they cannot count upon the help of the "peasants" of the Dominican Republic. He stated that if Trujillo military forces could be divided, then the government could be overthrown.

Fiorini was pressed for specifics concerning all these plans but he repeatedly stated that they were all in the talk, planning for formative state and that no concrete dates had been set for any of these alleged invasions. He emphasized that the people connected with these plans were, at the present time, without sufficient funds, personnel or equipment to initiate operations.

Fiorini advised that he took the position on the General Staff so that he would be in a position to furnish information to the U. S. Government. He stated that he had been asked to accept this position on the General Staff by Dr. Enrique Henriquez, brother-in-law of former Cuban President Carlos Prio Socarras, who was presently in Cuba. Fiorini indicated that he would be most willing to continue his work on the General Staff planning invasions if he could be of use to the U. S. Government. He was advised that this was a decision that he himself would have to make.

Fiorini advised that at the present time there was no group in Cuba powerful enough to overthrow Castro and he mentioned that Fidel Castro in a recent speech indicated there was anti-Castro activities in Miami. He was pressed for specifics but could only advise that he had heard that the Rolando Masferrer group in Miami was active against Castro and that a boat allegedly had been purchased in Miami for an invasion of Cuba.

Fiorini advised that he will make available to the Director or to the Legal Attache, Havana, any further information which he received concerning potential invasions of Caribbean countries.

Fiorini is the subject of a pending investigation which was initiated in July, 1958. This investigation indicated that the subject was engaged in Cuban revolutionary activities in behalf of the July 26 revolutionary movement and

possibly served as a courier for the Cuban Rebels from the United States. Investigation indicated that subject was arrested in Cuba 7-18-58 as suspected rebel courier and informally deported. He engaged in the smuggling of arms to Cuba and was arrested July 30, 1958, by Customs for the illegal possession of arms and exporting arms without a license. He was interviewed 9-24-58 concerning his activities by Miami Office, admitting revolutionary activity but denying arms and courier charges. He was reportedly arrested by Mexican authorities in connection with plan to carry arms from Mexico to Castro and was released.

The Department on October 22, 1958, advised that the subject's activities brought him within the purview of the registration Act and was soliciting his registration. We have continued to follow Fiorini's activities in view of his activities with Castro forces. His FBI Number is 948362C and his record indicates he was arrested 7-18-58 by the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service on a charge of investigation and by U> S. Marshal, Miami, 7-30-58 for illegal possession of arms. No disposition of these charges is shown. There is no indication in the files of the Identification Division that the subject is wanted. We have disseminated reports concerning Fiorini to the Department, State, CIA, the military agencies, INS and Customs.