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CUBA'S REACTION TO KENNEDY'S MURDER

27 Nov 63 0710
Routine

On 24 November [redacted] reported from Havana:

1. All information connected with the assassination is being studied in detail by the local leadership. They believe the present situation to be very serious. Their presumption was confirmed by the direction taken by the search for KENNEDY's murderers, that is among Castroites, Communists and USSR influence. They are concerned with the anti-Cuban and anti-Soviet past which will exert a substantial influence on the foreign and domestic policy of the USA. This will be possible because there is a lack of a head of government with the authority and modernistic leanings which KENNEDY represented.
2. Ultrareactionary circles in the USA, the Pentagon and the (B val C) IA considered KENNEDY's policy too weak and conciliatory and its continuation as dangerous to them. It is believed here that the assassination may be connected with the partially controversial position of KENNEDY and that it actually could have been planned or committed by these circles. The fact of the assassination was immediately used by them to increase positive influences on the Department of State and to turn world opinion away from the real culprits and intention.
3. The assassination is being used to strengthen conservative circles throughout Latin America. They fear that an adventurous decision will be made with regards to Venezuela.

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 2 PAGES

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4. Immediately after the first information was received on 22 November, a quiet military alert was declared in Cuba. They will begin the legal draft of recruits on 25 November. Military units are being relocated.

5. FIDEL's speech (see the [redacted] message of 24 November) was received with gravity and it was in accord with the political thought of the more mature circles. An immediate political evaluation of the existing and growing situation especially around Cuba was needed.

[redacted]

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