

CIA
17 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, W/E/S
British Liaison Control Officer

SUBJECT: Report Arrest of Movimiento Revolucionario Sozial
Pueblo (MSP) Brothers

REFERENCE: WO/2232 dated 3 November 1961

Information available is insufficient to evaluate the Cuban Ministry of Interior claim that the MSP has been destroyed by the alleged round-up of a large number of its members and the arrest of Bryant GONZALES, internal MSP coordinator. Cuban exiles have commented that some of those listed as arrested have actually been held in custody for as long as three months. It has been the practice of the Cuban Government in similar cases to imply one large round-up of an opposition group when in fact most of those seized have been known to have been arrested some earlier before. Ignacio MARELLA, coordinator of the ISP in exile, commented to the press as follows: "The arrests have lost our movement very much, but this is by no means a death blow."

There is no doubt that GONZALES was under extreme pressure during the period after his arrest and before his television appearance, which, according to MARELLA's press statement, was on carefully edited film, instead of the usual "live" program presented by the CANTIN government with other captives. A reliable source of this Agency, who is acquainted with GONZALES and knowledgeable of recent internal resistance activities, heard the broadcast and commented that it was definitely GONZALES' voice, and that he "fended well with the interrogators and named only people out of reach, i.e. in asylum or exile, or those already in custody and beyond hope of saving."

J. C. ZIEG
Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

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