

CTA - 137  
12 April 1962

Chief, Task Force/W  
Chief of Station, JMWAVE

Operational/JMWAVE  
D&E, Santiago de Cuba

ATTENTION REQUESTED: RU/ECAGE/NTURE. 06

1. On 9 April 1962, Jose Antonio Saturni Casas (aka "Che"), born 11 April 1931, Santiago de Cuba; Miami address: 510 Eliza Saturni Casas, 1619 Meridian Ave., Apt. C-10; Miami Beach, telephone: JE 2-3641, was interviewed. 08

2. Source said that during the revolution he was a member of the DRE in the University of Habana. After the revolution he went to the University of Oriente, Santiago de Cuba, and eventually became the DRE chief for the city. In regard to his former DRE association he had no operational leads, claiming that all contact with DRE members terminated in 1959, and he knew no one who attained any stature in the Castro Government.

3. As DRE chief for Santiago, the source claimed that he had 50 members who he considered well organized and capable of any type of action. He said that there were, and are, other members, but he does not consider them in the same category with the 50 who are organized into cells. He said each cell has nine men. There are four cells in the University of Oriente and two in the high school.

4. He said that he left Santiago in March 1962 and turned the DRE over to his deputy. He then went to Habana and informed the DRE leadership that the second in command had taken over and he was told that Habana would initiate contact with the new leader. (Note: Since close relations are maintained by the JMWAVE Station and the DRE, no attempt was made to press the source for names and addresses, etc., as this information can be obtained in subsequent outside debriefings. The JMWAVE Officer responsible for the DRE operational matters was informed of the source's arrival and processing.)

5. Source said that at the time he left Santiago, the remnants of the Catholic student organization was trying to make contact with the DRE and he believed that by this time this contact has been made. He said that the DRE member who was following this matter, and who would follow through, was a blind person.

6. Listing the arms and supplies in the possession of the DRE in Santiago, the source said that it has about 5-6 pounds of plastic remaining out of a shipment of 20 pounds which was received from the DRE in Habana. He said the DRE in Santiago placed bombs in places where the explosion would not injure anyone. As far as arms are concerned the source said that the DRE in Santiago has ten .45 caliber pistols; five .38 caliber pistols; one M-3; and one Tommy gun.

7. The source furnished the following KUBARK-type information:

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