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USSR

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2nd RE-ISSUE

"MACHADO" (1944)

From: MEXICO CITY

To: MOSCOW

No: 537

27 June 44

To VIKTOR. [1]

To the post of Counsellor of the Cuban Legation in MOSCOW has been appointed the former [B% First Secretary] of the Cuban Embassy here, José Antonio FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO, [ii] in future "MACHADO", doctor of literature, about 50 years old. Here MACHADO, under the influence of political ideas imparted in MADRID, [B% has been friendly] with LUCHADOR [iii], "STAKHANOVITE [STAKHANOVETS]" [iv] and "BASQUE [BASK]" [v], I too [B% used to meet] him and [3 groups unrecovered] with him sufficiently. M. [vi] takes a distinctly unfavourable view of GRAU [vii], the new Cuban President, and considers his election a great misfortune for the Cuban people - [3 groups unrecovered] [0%]. About this [4 groups unrecovered] and informs STAKHANOVITE. M. very easily [3 groups unrecovered] his sincere sympathies with us and the following personal motives: he has a defective 18-year-old daughter whose mental level is equal to that of a ten-year-old child. M. and his wife place great hopes in our methods of bringing up defective children, therefore if we help him [D% in this] it will put him under a strong obligation [EGO SIL'NO SVYAZHET]. Besides, M. as distinct from the other professional [KADROVLY] diplomats has no private means and lives only on a salary of 600 American dollars, which is insufficient for life in MOSCOW and the treatment of his daughter. In MOSCOW he wants to get into close touch with EHRENBURG [viii], to whom at his request I will give a letter. While reserving the possibility of direct contact between M. and our man or a tried agent from among the writers or journalists, I promised him to write to my friends about him

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

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[18 groups unrecoverable]

might be used successfully on the Diplomatic Corps. He is not experienced in our affairs and requires instruction [INSTRUKTAZH] and guidance. STAKHANOVITE upon my instructions explained in detail to M. that in MOSCOW diplomatic circles he should not show himself to be an enraptured admirer of the U.S.S.R. or flaunt his acquaintance with EHRENBURG and other writers, for his pro-Soviet sentiments might lead to his being denounced to the new reactionary President and quickly posted away from MOSCOW.

No. 239

YuRLJ[ix]

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- Comments: [i] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
- [ii] José Antonio FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO: 1st Secretary at the Cuban Embassy in MEXICO CITY prior to his appointment to MOSCOW.
- [iii] LUCHADOR: Unidentified cover-name.
- [iv] STAKHANOVITE: Unidentified cover-name.
- [v] BASQUE: Unidentified cover-name.
- [vi] M. : I.e. MACHADO.
- [vii] Dr. Ramón GRAU SAN MARTIN, President of CUBA 1944-1948.
- [viii] Il'ya EHRENBURG, author and journalist.
- [ix] YuRLJ : Lev A. TARASOV, Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in MEXICO.
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