0-20 (Rev. 1-11-60)

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
Felt
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

UPI-84
(CUBA)

A NEW GROUP WHICH HARSHLY CRITICIZED U.S. NEWS COVERAGE OF THE FIDEL CASTRO REGIME WAS ORGANIZED WITH HELP OF CUBAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID HERE TODAY.

THE GROUP, WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE AND IS HEADED BY AUTHOR WALDO FRANK, PLACED AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES YESTERDAY. IT DENIED CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT HAS COMMUNIST TIES AND THAT AMERICAN PROPERTY HAD BEEN CONFISCATED IN CUBA. IT ACCUSED THE U.S. PRESS OF "SOPHISTRY OF JOURNALISTIC FACTS WHICH DISTORT THE TRUTH."

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE SAID OFFICIALS OF THE CUBAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK MET WITH A SMALL GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 19. THEY SAID IT WAS DECIDED THEN TO FORM A PRO-CUBAN GROUP IN THIS COUNTRY TO BE CALLED "AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CUBA."

A FEW DAYS LATER, SOURCES SAID, A LARGER GROUP WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A SECOND MEETING AT THE CONSULATE ON APRIL 1.

THERE WAS NO INFORMATION HERE WHETHER IT ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE. FRANK WAS AMONG THOSE SAID TO HAVE BEEN INVITED.

A CUBAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO TAKE "A NEW APPROACH" IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY BY FORMING A GROUP HERE WHICH WOULD TELL CUBA'S SIDE OF THE STORY.

MEANWHILE, IT WAS LEARNED THE FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE HAD ASKED A LARGE GROUP OF PROMINENT AMERICANS, INCLUDING MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND FORMER U.S. SENATOR HERMAN LEHMAN OF NEW YORK TO SIGN THEIR NAMES TO YESTERDAY'S ADVERTISEMENT, BUT THEY REFUSED.

OTHERS SOLICITED FOR USE OF THEIR NAMES, BUT WHO REFUSED, WERE PUERTO RICAN GOV. LUIS MUNOZ MARIN, AUTHORS VAN WYCK BROOKS, EDMUND WILSON, CARL SANDBURG, ERNEST HEMMINGWAY, LEWIS MUMFORD AND NEGRO POET LANGSTON HUGHES.

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NOT RECORDED
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