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16 December 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: [redacted] and Jack Gillespie

DATE: 12, 15, and 16 December 1959

SUBJECT: Cuban Political Matters

1. GILLESPIE phoned me on 12 December from Atlanta. He said that he had been told by Francisco CAJIGAS that the tentative date selected for the invasion of Cuba is between 26 December and 3 January. There are eight to ten thousand men available in the Dominican Republic who already have Cuban uniforms. They are volunteers and most are Dominicans. The initial target will be the Isle of Pines.

2. CAJIGAS was to leave for Puerto Rico on 12 December and from there he was to go to the Dominican Republic on the same day. He planned to return to Puerto Rico the night of 12 December and will be back in Miami on 13 December. CAJIGAS was to be accompanied on the trip to the Dominican Republic by (fn) VIDANA.

3. CAJIGAS said he feels that TRUJILLO will collapse if the situation in Cuba continues as it is for the next six months.

4. GILLESPIE said he had reported the above information to Charles HARDING, the FBI agent in Atlanta with whom he is in touch.

5. On 15 December GILLESPIE phoned me again to report that CAJIGAS and Rudy FERNANDEZ had just returned to Atlanta. CAJIGAS told GILLESPIE that William PAWLEY was back in Washington. TRUJILLO told CAJIGAS that PAWLEY had promised that he would have information on the United States official position on the Cuban matter within three days. An important personage from the Dominican Republic was to come to the United States on

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15 December to meet with PAWLEY on 15 or 16 December. TRUJILLO said that he is holding the PEDRAZA force until the United States' position is known.

6. CAJIGAS told GILLESPIE that he fears and dislikes PAWLEY because of some earlier transactions in Cuba in which both were involved. CAJIGAS expressed a dislike for having PAWLEY support TRUJILLO since this might involve some future commitments.

7. CAJIGAS told GILLESPIE he knows where to get some arms in the United States, but wants assurances that the United States Government will not interfere with such action.

8. On 16 December GILLESPIE phoned to report that CAJIGAS had been phoned on the night of 15 December by Emilio NUÑEZ Fortuondo. NUÑEZ said he had seen PAWLEY on the night of 15 December after the latter had dined with Vice President NIÑO. According to NUÑEZ, PAWLEY claimed that he was to meet with the DCI at 0900 on 16 December. NUÑEZ mentioned several names, including Julio SANCHEZ and Juan GERARD (phonetic), who were to be members of a junta. NUÑEZ said that PAWLEY wanted to drop him as head of the revolutionary movement. According to NUÑEZ, TRUJILLO would not allow the revolutionary army to leave the Dominican Republic without the United States Government's approval.

9. CAJIGAS said that PAWLEY is having General PEDRAZA sign notes in excess of a million dollars. CAJIGAS said that he does not like the way the situation is developing and he will step out of the picture rather than work with the generals and TRUJILLO, although he would be willing to work with a group of businessmen.

10. CAJIGAS said that GERARD, who was hung from his balcony on the night of 15 December, was the first man on the list given to PAWLEY by TRUJILLO.

11. GILLESPIE expressed personal distrust of PAWLEY, and said that he had discussed PAWLEY with H. Graham MORISON, former Assistant Attorney General now a prominent Washington attorney. MORISON spoke adversely of PAWLEY, whom he characterized as a great opportunist.

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12. GILLESPIE urged that someone contact CAJIGAS, whom he considers to be a "great gentleman." CAJIGAS is presently staying at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta, room 603. According to GILLESPIE someone tried to locate CAJIGAS a couple of days ago. GILLESPIE asked if we had tried to do so and I replied that we had not insofar as I knew. I told GILLESPIE that it might be the FBI.

[REDACTED]

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