

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Nicaragua, Cuba/Costa Rica	REPORT NO.	CS -1732,532
SUBJECT	1. Increasing Support for Indolito PASTORA in Cuba (Assassinate opponent leader.) 2. Persons in Cuba involved in Nicaraguan Revolutionary Affairs	DATE DISTR.	4 April 1960
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

SOURCE: A person associated with Nicaraguan revolutionary activities (F).
Appraisal of Content: C.

- 1. In February 1960 Indolito PASTORA Molina, Nicaraguan opposition leader who left Costa Rica about 30 February 1960 after leading guerrilla attacks against Rio Fama from the Costa Rican border area for several months, was winning increasing support among Cubans who favored the overthrow of Nicaragua President Luis SORDIA Becerra. If PASTORA initiated a campaign against the Nicaraguan Government he could count on immediate and substantial aid in arms and men from Cuba. The Cubans would arrange public demonstrations to seek aid for PASTORA, ostensibly spontaneous, but in reality pre-organized with governmental approval. Communists in Cuba would take advantage of the situation to penetrate the revolutionary movement, following the guidance of Ernesto GUEVARA Serra and Abel CASTRO Ruz, high-level officials in the government of Fidel CASTRO Ruz. Fidel CASTRO, Prime Minister, was not alleged to support foreign revolutions because he feared an invasion of Cuba and wanted to be in a position to defend his country. GUEVARA and Abel CASTRO supported the Communist faction, seeing a possibility for infiltration and an opportunity to take advantage of the chaos that they believed would follow a successful revolution, since no political leader had the ability to govern Nicaragua after the fall of SORDIA.
- 2. Francisco FRIXIONE Barrios, Nicaraguan revolutionary leader in Cuba, had hoped to attend a meeting of opposition leaders in Maracaibo the last week of February 1960 but was unable to obtain a visa in time for the trip. FRIXIONE and Enrique LACATO Farfa, opposition leader in Costa Rica, were quarrelling and no longer co-operated in plans and activities. Francisco IBARRA Mayorga, also involved in a quarrel with FRIXIONE, did attend the Maracaibo meeting. In February 1960 FRIXIONE made a trip, traveling free of charge, to Oriente Province, Cuba, to raise funds for the revolution.
- 3. The fifth floor of the Sevilla-Biltmore Hotel in Habana, as well as rooms in International House, operated in conjunction with the hotel, housed persons associated with Nicaraguan revolutionary activities free of charge. The following paragraphs list persons in Cuba in

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February 1960 who were participating in or supporting Nicaraguan revolutionary plans and gives known details of their activities.

- a. Herminio GOMEZ, a Cuban about thirty years old, had experience in sabotage. He quit his university studies before writing a thesis for a law degree to join the fight against Fulgencio BATISTA, former President of Cuba. Fidel CASTRO offered him a position in the Cuban Government, but he refused, preferring to participate in Nicaraguan efforts to overthrow SOMOCIA. For Nicaragua he favored social and political reforms similar to those instituted by Fidel CASTRO. He gave Francisco FRIXIONE Saravia, Nicaraguan revolutionary leader in Cuba, his full support. GOMEZ' twin, Luis, also had offered to fight with FRIXIONE, but he did not support FRIXIONE as wholeheartedly as Herminio GOMEZ.
- b. Luis Miguel GARCIA, a Cuban, performed sabotage operations in Habana against BATISTA. He was in Honduras when Pedro Joaquin CHAMORRO Cardenal invaded Nicaragua in early 1959, going afterward to Cuba. He claimed to have access to a small airport near the Honduras/Nicaraguan frontier, which would be usable after some repairs.
- c. Miguel Ernesto VIGIL Icaza, an engineer about twenty-two years old, appeared to be important in FRIXIONE's organization. He claimed that FRIXIONE intended to send him to Washington, D.C., and then to Nicaragua to assist in revolutionary preparations. He also was in Honduras when CHAMORRO invaded Nicaragua.
- d. Yeto BANDERA, a friend of Camilo CILIBURGOS, was highly esteemed by FRIXIONE and had helped much in preparing for a revolution.
- e. Aristides REYES, from Leon, Nicaragua, also was a member of FRIXIONE's group.
- f. Donald CASTILLO, a Nicaraguan eighteen years old, had become disillusioned with FRIXIONE and wanted to join PASTORA. He and two other young Nicaraguans, Ronald MALESPIN and Ivan YACA, were among a group of Nicaraguans at the air base at San Julian, in Pinar del Rio Province, some in training and others employed by the Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR--Cuban Air Force). An officer at the base, Ramiro VALDES, had captured nineteen arms, but the purpose of these arms had not been established.
- g. Octavio GUTIERREZ, called "Marciano," was a civil employee of FAR. He entered Cuba from Honduras as an exile in August 1960 under the name Godofredo SANCHEZ Uriarte.
- h. One Pedro GONZALEZ had trained saboteurs in Nicaragua after entering Nicaragua illegally from the Costa Rican frontier. While in Nicaragua he talked with Armando ORUE Reyes, who had arranged to send dynamite into Nicaragua, CALDESA (FAR), head of the Leon branch of the National Bank of Nicaragua, who was one of the leading Nicaraguan saboteurs and had dynamite and other tools of sabotage in his possession; and Jose Luis ANGELLIO.

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- i. Carlos HILDA, called "Billo," was a former officer in the Nicaraguan Air Force. Since being in Cuba he was a FAE pilot at San Julian. He was a FRIEDERICH partisan.
- j. Pedro SANTIAGO, a sergeant in the FAE at the Santa Clara base, had talked with FRIEDERICH about obtaining aid from Manuel BIAS Forstmann, a member of the service company of the fourth regiment of the rural revolutionary police. BIAS apparently had seventy-five men, armed with rifles and Thompson submachine-guns, who were willing to fight in Nicaragua under his command. Apparently BIAS' group was identical with a group of Johnson who wanted to go by boat to Nicaragua, before being persuaded that they should wait for a better opportunity.
- k. Leonardo (fma), a Cuban medical student, had furnished chemicals to Nicaraguan revolutionists. Explosives, as well as arms, had been sent to Nicaragua by plane.
- l. ENL RIO (fma), a captain in charge of the base at San Julian, was generous in offering to help FRIEDERICH's revolutionary group in any way possible.
- m. Fermín ASUTRAY, second in command of Pinar del Rio, furnished Nicaraguan revolutionists with arms and gave any assistance he could; however, Mario ESCALONA tried to hinder ASUTRAY's activities.
- n. Marino GOMEZ, chief of the Habana municipal police, was willing to furnish rifles as requested.
- o. Benigno IGARSA, a sergeant at the military airport in Habana, was furnishing arms to FRIEDERICH.
- p. Porfirio CLARO, a first lieutenant with the secret service, claimed that he had one hundred men in Camagney ready to fight in Nicaragua. CLARO personally wanted to fight with PASSEIRA.
- q. Alberto SAID Giroud, already connected with Nicaraguan revolutionary affairs, and Angel GARCIA, a Cuban, apparently had two hundred fully-trained men to add to FRIEDERICH's forces. SAID had great influence with Fidel CASTRO, whom he trained in Mexico, and had offered assurances of assistance to any revolutionary movement whom it obtained the approval of Fidel CASTRO.
- r. Luis FINECA, chief of the judicial police, promised to supply arms when needed.
- s. Estela LOPEZ, financial secretary of the Confederacion de Trabajadores Cubanos (CFC - Cuban labor organization), contributed money to FRIEDERICH.
- t. Others associated with revolutionary activities were Chester Simpson, a Nicaraguan; Julio GARCIA, a Puerto Rican; Mario ALBARRILLO; and SANTAMARIA (fma).

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6. Jeremy Hitchins, United States citizen, about forty years old, claimed that he was going to head Cuba's secret service.
7. It is also possible that in November 1959 Honduran delegates to a convention of the Asociacion de Transportes Aereos carried arms back with them to Honduras.

Headquarters Comment: Miguel Angel de la A. NUJOL Betancourt, Cuban national, was reported in January 1960 to be going to Miami on an unidentified mission for the Cuban Government.

8. Source Comment. Concerning travel, Haming said he would like to go to Costa Rica to co-ordinate activities between Cuban and Costa Rican groups. He also hoped to go to the United States, traveling on a false name and Cuban passport. He had spoken to William Morgan and believed that Morgan could obtain the passport for him. In the United States Haming wanted to sell liberty bonds in California and obtain arms and planes from a ranch in Texas. He claimed he could do this by using connections he used to obtain similar material when he was aiding Fidel CASTRO. He also claimed that he had gone to Habana to talk with FRILIONE about the trip and supplying arms to PASTORA. He had a wild scheme to steal two small planes from an Air Force base in Texas, possibly Brownville, and said he had friends in the Marine Corps who would obtain arms from corps arsenals. Another scheme was to hold up a truck carrying clothing and arms from Virginia to Indianapolis on a regular bimonthly trip.

Haming cited an example of arms procurement: Captain SECUELA (fmu) Chilean, was sent by the Chilean Government to Miami to obtain six B-26 aircraft which were sent to the Dominican Government. He claimed he could use the same system by using two friends well connected in the Guatemalan Government.

According to Haming, when Fidel CASTRO and Anastas Mikoyan visited San Julian they discussed Soviet aid to Cuba, including secret aid in men and arms.

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- v. Miguel MEROE Rotonscourt, employed in the Cuban Ministry of Education, contributed to the arms supply of Nicaraguan revolutionaries, and assisted in sending arms to Honduras addressed to the Ministry of Education as books.
- v. Sam Galsberg, a United States citizen thirty-three years old, associated with the Nicaraguans. His ideas were absurd, and he appeared to be completely Communist, dangerous, and unscrupulous.
- v. Gerald F. Haming, a twenty-three-year-old United States citizen born in Los Angeles, California, was employed by F&B at San Julian as a parachutist. Haming was engaged in training Nicaraguans, and said that there were only twenty-five parachutists in Cuba, located in Bartooes, Caye Largo, Oriente, and San Antonio. All were willing to fight in Nicaragua, and would go well armed. Haming, also a flyer, was a Marine in Korea and at the Coast Guard Avul Base, and had been warned when he was fighting with CASTRO that he could lose his citizenship, but it is not important to him. He said that the base at San Julian could be used as a location from which to fly food and arms to rebels fighting within Nicaragua. He knew of a number of 7.62-caliber Belgian automatic rifles that could be made available to Nicaraguan rebels. According to Haming, a Mexican Island one hundred and fifty miles from Cuba might be used as a base of operations for sending a plane or boat to Nicaragua, since it was poorly patrolled. He said he would furnish a C-47 or C-46 aircraft when it was needed. Those associated with the revolutionary activities practiced discretion to avoid having rumors reach Fidel CASTRO, who did not favor the entire opposition movement, having become discouraged with the disagreements and lost faith among Nicaraguan rebel leaders. The Cuban Minister of Government was aware of these activities and was sympathetic to the cause.

Field Comments

1. PASTORA left Costa Rica with twenty-five men, going to San Salvador.
2. FRIEDRICH brought several arms to Costa Rica in late December 1959 but PASTORA and LACAYO disagreed on their use, and FRIEDRICH took them back to Costa Rica with the intention of sending them to Honduras. (CS-3/429, 028)
3. IRARRA, traveling on special passport No. 8/CV/56, issued in Habana, entered Costa Rica from Panama on 9 March 1960, according to official Immigration lists.
4. One Luis JARCIA Ascencio, a Cuban, was reported to be in Costa Rica in late December 1959 to participate in revolutionary activities.

Source Comments

1. One Enrique AROVIMANES, a Honduran, had a small field on a farm near the Honduran/Nicaraguan border, which could be used by Nicaraguan rebels, with whom he sympathized.

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