

16-3

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 Report made by: Eleanor D. Pinoler/edp Approved by: Willard C. Curtia *W.C.*
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SUBJECT: Cuban Political Situation

COMMENT: LDASK received the information in the attached report from Luis ORTEGA Ortega, Cuban newspaperman and exile who arrived in Mexico City from Costa Rica on 23 February, and left for Miami the next day. ORTEGA told LDASK that he was going to Washington to contact GARCIA Tunon (inu) and others to learn what is to happen. ORTEGA said that Oscar DE LA TORRE, the Cuban Ambassador, who has been his friend for a long time, asked him not to call at the Embassy during the day for the reason mentioned in the report. ORTEGA went to see him before leaving for Miami.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	Cuba/Venezuela/Mexico	REPORT NO.	IRM-3379
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DATE OF INFO. 25 February 1958
 PLACE & DATE ACQ. [redacted] 12 March 1958

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Person with contacts among Caribbean revolutionaries (B); from a Cuban exile (F). Appraisal of Contents: 3.

~~It is a military junta in Cuba may strike in a few days.~~

1. According to Oscar DE LA TORRE, Cuban Ambassador in Mexico, he is being watched constantly by President BATISTA's men inside the Embassy. DE LA TORRE said that Emilio PORTUONDO, Cuban representative at the United Nations, was disgusted with BATISTA and could no longer defend him before the United States State Department. DE LA TORRE added that BATISTA had planned to buy arms from Czechoslovakia, but that he had made him change his mind. The Ambassador considers BATISTA's position untenable.
3. Manuel BENTIA, Fidel CASTRO's candidate for the Cuban Presidency, is in Caracas trying to obtain arms and ammunition for CASTRO from the Venezuelan junta.

~~Source Comment. The junta is probably waiting to see the results of BATISTA's offensive against Fidel CASTRO, hoping BATISTA will kill him.~~

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