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 DATE: 7 MARCH 1966

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48 SECRET

TO: []

FROM: DIRECTOR

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 Day, Delitz, C/OPS, C/IC 2, F, F/INT 2.

TO: PRIORITY []

INFO

CITE DIR

85728

REF: [] 7382 (IN 69459)

1. FOLL IS PRENSA LATINA REPORT 5 MARCH CITED REF:

THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT AS A RESULT OF AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT BY THE STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY OF FORMER MAJS ROLANDO CUBELAS (AND RAMON GUIN DIAZ AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH THEM, FACTS HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED THAT INVOLVE A SERIOUS ACT OF TREASON AGAINST THE CUBAN REVOLUTION IN COLLUSION WITH THE ENEMY. THE ACT OF TREASON INCLUDED, AMONG OTHER TREACHEROUS IDEAS, THE PLANNED ASSASSINATION OF THE PREMIER, MAJ. FIDEL CASTRO. THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE FACTS, FORMS, AND DETAILS OF THE ACT OF TREASON DEVELOPED IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: IN DECEMBER 1964 FORMER MAJ. ROLANDO CUBELA TRAVELED TO EUROPE UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND A STUDENT CEREMONY. ONCE IN EUROPE, HE WENT TO PARIS ON 25 DEC 1964 AND THERE PERSONALLY CONTACTED LUIS ENRIQUE TRASANCO, WHO LIVES THERE, AND ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATIONS WITH CARLOS. (TEPEDINO), THE FORMER OWNER OF A (STORE) IN HAVANA. (TEPEDINO) NOW LIVES IN NEW YORK AND IS ENGAGED IN THE SAME

ACTIVITY THERE.
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CITE DIR 95728

IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT BOTH LUIS ENRIQUE TRASANCO AND (TEPEDINO) ARE WORKING FOR THE CIA AND THAT TRASANCO PUT CUBELA IN CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE CIA IN PARIS. CARLOS (TEPEDINO) THEN WENT FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN ROLANDO CUBELA AND MANUEL ARTIME, THE WELL KNOWN MERCENARY LEADER. THE MEETING WAS TO BE HELD IN MADRID. SEVERAL FRIENDS OF CUBELA WHO WERE ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH THE ENEMY WERE IN SPAIN AT THIS TIME. ONE OF THEM, JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ GALLARRETTA, WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN SPAIN AND HAD GONE TO SPAIN WITH THE MISSION OF HELPING ODON ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA, WHO, BECAUSE OF HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION, NEEDED SOME PERSONAL HELP. ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA HAD ASKED THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO RECEIVE IN SPAIN SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AS A RESULT OF EYE TROUBLE. GALLARRETTA WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF HELPING ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN HIS HELPER IN CUBA FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

DESPITE THE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND THE HUMANE NATURE OF THE AID WHICH, FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED REASONS, THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT GAVE ODON ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA, SCARCELY HAD A MONTH OF HIS STAY IN SPAIN PASSED WHEN BOTH HE AND GALLARRETTA ESTABLISHED

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CITE DIR *85708*

CONTACT WITH CIA AGENTS HERNAN ^{*Noel*} HENRIQUEZ AND AUGUSTIN ALVAREZ MACHADO IN MADRID. THESE TWO ARRANGED FOR AN INTERVIEW BY ODON ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA AND GALLARRETTA WITH AN IMPORTANT YANKEE CIA OFFICIAL, JAMES NOEL---JIMMY---WHO RESIDED AT LOS PINZONES STREET IN MADRID AND APPEARED AS AN OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SPAIN. ODON ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA ASKED FOR 100,000 DOLLARS, OF WHICH HE WOULD DELIVER ONE FOURTH TO GALLARRETTA, AS THE PRICE FOR THEIR COLLABORATION.

BEFORE ODON ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA RECEIVED A DEFINITE ANSWER FROM THE (CIA) MORE THAN A YEAR PASSED, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH GONZALEZ GALLARRETTA HAD ALSO ESTABLISHED CLOSE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER FRIEND OF CUBELA, JORGE ROBRENO, KNOWN AS THE "WIZARD" ROBRENO, A CUBAN RESIDENT OF MADRID.

ALVAREZ DE LA CAMPA, WITHOUT TELLING GALLARRETTA OF THE FINAL RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEY HAD BOTH UNDERTAKEN AND WITHOUT GIVING HIM A PENNY OF THE SUM WHICH WAS DEFINITELY DELIVERED TO HIM, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS DESERTION. THUS GALLARRETTA, SEPARATED ODON ALVAREZ, REMAINED TIED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "WIZARD" ROBRENO.

AT THIS SAME TIME THERE WAS LIVING IN SPAIN THE CUBAN,

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CITE DIR *85738*

ALBERTO BLANCO (RAMIREZ), KNOWN AS ALBERTO "EL LOCO." IN THE PAST WE HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH CARLOS AND ANTONIO PRIO SOCARRAS AND OTHER LIKE ELEMENTS WHO LATER PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BATISTA. THIS ALBERTO "EL LOCO" MORE THAN (TWO) YEARS BEFORE HAD EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES VIA SPAIN, BUT ALLEGED THAT IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THAT TO PROVE HE WAS READY TO COOPERATE IN (OBTAINING) ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED OF INTEREST TO THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. FAR FROM DOING WHAT HE HAD SAID HE WOULD, ALBERTO "EL LOCO" IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED HIMSELF IN SPAIN WITH THE "WIZARD" ROBRENO, WITH WHOM HE HAD OLD AND CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP. HE ALSO WAS FRIENDLY WITH ROLANDO CUBELA, HAVING PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE TRANSACTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CULMINATED IN THE CUBELA-ARTIME PACT.

ROBRENO, GALLARRETTA, AND BLANCO--EACH OF WHOM WAS BEING PAID 250 DOLLARS MONTHLY BY THE CIA AND WHO LED DISSOLUTE LIVES IN MADRID--LEARNED ABOUT CARLOS (TEPEDINO'S) CONTACT WITH CUBELA AND ABOUT THE LATTER'S READINESS TO OFFER THE CIA A VERY IMPORTANT SERVICE AS PART OF THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE REVOLUTION. THE SERVICE THAT ROLANDO CUBELA OFFERED TO GIVE--BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS

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CITE DIR 85728

ANTECEDENTS AND THE CONFIDENCE, RELATIONS, AND CONSIDERATIONS HE ENJOYED AMONG MANY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE REVOLUTION--WAS TO PREPARE THE ASSASSINATION OF COMRADE FIDEL CASTRO.

WHILE HE WAS IN EUROPE, CUBELA MADE THREE TRIPS TO SPAIN, ON 26 DEC 64, ON 6 FEB 65, AND ON 20 FEB 65. AT THE BEGINNING OF FEB, MANUEL ARTIME WENT TO MADRID WITH THE AIM OF MEETING WITH ROLANDO CUBELA. CARLOS (TEPEDINO) AND "WIZARD" ROBRENO TELEPHONED ROLANDO CUBELA IN PARIS FROM MADRID TO INFORM HIM OF ARTIME'S ARRIVAL. IN ORDER TO ASSURE A SAFE AND DISCREET PLACE FOR THE MEETING, CUCO LEON, ONE OF ARTIME'S HELPERS, RENTED AN APARTMENT IN THE TORRE BUILDING OF MADRID FOR A WEEK AND GAVE THE APARTMENT KEYS TO ALBERTO "EL LOCO." ROLANDO CUBELA WAS TO LODGE IN THE PLAZE HOTEL, LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE APARTMENT BUILDING. MANUEL ARTIME, HELPED BY CUCO LEON AND ONE SANZ, KNOWN AS "EL GALLEGO", WAS LODGED IN THE EMPERADOR HOTEL OF MADRID.

ON 9 FEB AT 1630 HOURS, WHEN ROLANDO CUBELA WAS ALREADY IN MADRID, HAVING ARRIVED 6 FEB, ALBERTO "EL LOCO" WENT TO THE LA TORRE BUILDING. THEY ARRIVED AT AROUND 1700 HOURS. ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING "WIZARD" ROBRENO AND "THE SPANIARD" SANZ WERE WAITING. ROLANDO CUBELA AND CARLOS (TEPEDINO) WERE ALREADY IN

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THE APARTMENT. AT APPROXIMATELY 1715 HOURS ALL LEFT THE APARTMENT EXCEPT ROLANDO CUBELA AND MANUEL ARTIME, WHO TALKED TOGETHER FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS. DURING THIS MEETING BETWEEN CUBELA AND ARTIME, THEY DISCUSSED CONCRETE DETAILS OF THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE PREMIER AND THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN THEREAFTER. THE TWO DISCUSSED THE ROLE WHICH THEY WOULD LATER PLAY IN CUBA.

ROLANDO CUBELA SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANT OF THE PHYSICAL ELIMINATION OF FIDEL AND SAID THAT THEREFORE, HE, CUBELA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE PRINCIPAL LEADER OF THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES.

MANUEL ARTIME OFFERED THE TECHNICAL MEANS AND POINTED TO THE ENORMOUS SUPPORT HE HAD FROM THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND HIS RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE OAS IN GENERAL. HE PROMISED THAT 48 HOURS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF COMRADE FIDEL WAS PERPETRATED, HE WOULD LAND IN CUBA SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE OAS.

TO CARRY OUT THE CRIME AND PRESERVE HIS LIFE CUBELA WOULD RECEIVE FROM MANUEL ARTIME A HIGH-POWERED--4X40--TELESCOPIC SIGHT AND A SILENCER, BOTH ADAPTABLE TO A FAL 7.62 RIFLE WHICH ROLANDO CUBELA OWNED. IT COULD BE FIRED FROM A DISTANCE OF 800 YARD YARDS, AT THE PLACE AND TIME CONSIDERED MOST APPROPRIATE.

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CITE DIR

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THE FOLLOWING WOULD PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF CASTRO: ROLANDO CUBELA; "THE WIZARD" ROBRENO, WHO WOULD BE INFILTRATED INTO CUBA BY WAY OF MIAMI AND HELPED BY ARTIME; AND ALBERTO "EL LOCO," WHO WOULD BE TAKEN BY ARTIME TO A CAMP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, UNDERGO RIGID TRAINING THERE, AND THEN INFILTRATE INTO CUBA. GALLARRETTA WOULD SERVE AS LIAISON WITH ARTIME. THE VISIT ENDED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT BOTH CUBELA AND ARTIME WOULD SHARE THE COMMAND OF THE COUNTERREVOLUTION AND THAT NO OTHER LEADER WOULD PARTICIPATE IN IT.

IN ADDITION TO (TEPEDINO), "WIZARD" ROBRENO, EX ALBERTO "EL LOCO," CUCCO LEON, AND SANZ "THE SPANIARD," WHO HAD A DIRECT HAND IN ARRANGING THE MEETING, THE CUBELA-ARTIME MEETING WAS ALSO KNOWN TO GONZALEZ GALLARRETTA, ARTIME'S CLOSE FRIEND JORGE QUINTERO, AND BICHE BERNAL, ALSO A KNOWN AGENT OF THE CIA.

CUBELA RETURNED TO PARIS, WHILE ARTIME SENT SANZ TO THE UNITED STATES TO LOOK FOR A TELESCOPIC SIGHT AND A SILENCER. BOTH INSTRUMENTS, WHICH ARRIVED IN SPAIN A WEEK LATER, WERE PERSONALLY GIVEN TO ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ /PORTION MISSION/ GALLARRETTA ALSO RECEIVED FROM CUCCO LEON A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HIGHLY-EXPLOSIVE DYNAMITE SENT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO SABOTAGE THE SHIPS THAT WERE BEING BUILT

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CITE DIR 85722

FOR CUBA IN THE SPANISH SHIPYARDS, AMONG THEM THE SHIP, EL JIGUE. GALLARRETTA TURNED THE DYNAMITE OVER TO "WIZARD" ROBRENO AND GAVE CUBELA, ON HIS LAST TRIP TO SPAIN, THE SILENCER AND THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND THE RELATIONS AND CONFIDENCE HE ENJOYED, CUBELA BROUGHT THE TWO INSTRUMENTS TO CUBA, WHEN HE RETURNED THERE ON 28 FEB 1964.

ON HIS WAY THROUGH SPAIN ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO CUBA, CUBELA REQUESTED FROM BICHE BERNAL 10,000 PESOS FOR THE WORK HE WAS TO DO IN CUBA IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLOT. BICHE BERNAL GAVE HIM, INSTEAD OF CUBAN CURRENCY, 1,000 DOLLARS, WITH WHICH, BY ILLEGAL EXCHANGE ON THE BLACK MARKET, CUBELA COULD BE OBTAIN THE SUM OF MONEY REQUIRED.

UNFORESEEN EVENTS OCCURRED FOR THE PLOTTERS. WHEN THE REBELLION BROKE OUT IN SANTO DOMINGO, ALBERTO "EL LOCO" COULD NOT GO THERE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, HE REQUESTED AND OBTAINED PERMISSION TO RETURN TO CUBA.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY KEPT THE PREMIER INFORMED OF ROLANDO CUBELA'S HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS MOVES, OF HIS MYSTERIOUS TRIPS TO SPAIN, AND ITS PREOCCUPATION OVER A SERIES OF SIGNS THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARING SOME CRIMINAL PLAN AGAINST MAJOR CASTRO'S LIFE. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GATHER ALL THE

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CITE DIR

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EVIDENCE, THE FACTS OF THE CASE, AND THE NECESSARY PROOF.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, WHEN THE EXTENT AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE STEPS TAKEN BY CUBELA WERE STILL UNKNOWN-- ALTHOUGH THERE WERE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT A CRIMINAL AND TREACHEROUS PLAN WAS BEING PREPARED ~~E~~ AGAINST HIS PERSON--COMRADE FIDEL CASTRO SUMMONED CUBELA. HE SPOKE TO HIM FOR SEVERAL HOURS, AND URGED HIM NOT TO BE CONVERTED INTO AN INSTRUMENT OF THE ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE COUNTRY. FIDEL ALSO TOLD CUBELA THAT BECAUSE OF CUBELA'S UNSTABLE CHARACTER, HIS FONDNESS FOR AN EASY LIFE, AND HIS LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS AND THE STRUGGLES OF THE PEOPLE, CUBELA ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS INCREASING ISOLATION OUTSIDE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. BUT, FIDEL TOLD HIM, IF HE REALLY WOULD CORRECT THIS AND WAS READY TO DEVOTE HIMSELF SERIOUSLY TO ANY ACTIVITY IN THE MANY FIELDS IN WHICH THE REVOLUTION PURSUES ITS WORK, WE WOULD ALL BE READY TO HELP HIM.

WHEN THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE, IT WAS NOT KNOWN THAT MONTHS AGO CUBELA HAD MADE A PACT WITH MANUEL ARTIME, ~~E~~ NO LESS, IN A MADRID APARTMENT TO ASSASSINATE THE MAN WHO WAS TALKING TO HIM IN THIS WAY. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS ALREADY TOO COMMITTED TO THE ENEMY TO TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED HIM.

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CITE DIR 85739

IN THE INTERVIEW, CONDUCTING HIMSELF IN AN ABSOLUTELY HYPOCRITICAL MANNER, HE DENIED THAT HE HAD ANY REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE REVOLUTION OR ANY PROBLEM OF ANY KIND IN CONNECTION WITH IT. THEREUPON, THE STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT ARRIVED AT THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTENSIFY THE INVESTIGATION, THE COLLECTION OF DATA AND PROOF, AND ALSO TO TAKE PERTINENT MEASURES TO PREVENT THE PLOTTERS FROM ATTEMPTING ANY ACT HARMFUL TO THE REVOLUTION, WHILE IT WAS ARRIVING AT DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS.

ONCE THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED, ROLANDO CUBELA SECADES, ALBERTO BLANCO (RAMORIZ), RAMON GUIN DIAZ, JOSE LUIS GONZALES GALLARRETTA, JUAN ALSINA NAVARRO, ANGEL HERRERO VELIZ, AND GUILLERMO CUNIL ALVAREZ WERE ARRESTED ON 26 AND 28 FEBRUARY.

THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT--4X40 TASCO BRAND, ACQUIRED IN THE UNITED STATES--WHICH WAS GIVEN TO CUBELA BY ARTIME AND WHICH HE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY WAS FOUND IN CUBELA'S RESIDENCE. THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO FOUND IN CUBELA'S RESIDENCE: A FAL RIFLE, A .30 CALIBER MACHINE GUN RIFLE, 2 GARANDS, 2 M-1 CARBINES, 2 M-3 SUBMACHINEGUNS, A .16-CALIBER DOUBLE BARREL RIFLE, A .12-CALIBER SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE WITH HIGH VELOCITY CARTRIDGES AND BUCKSHOT, 4 SIDE ARMS, 2 U.S. MADE FRAGMENTATION HAND GRENADES, 5 INCENDIARY

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CITE DIR *2573R*

GRENADERS, 526 DOLLARS, 3,000 CUBAN PESOS, AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER OBJECTS AND ARTICLES--POSSESSION OF WHICH CONSTITUTES A CRIME.

THE ACCUSED PERSONS WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY COURTS AT ONCE AND DETAILS GIVEN IN THIS REPORT WILL BE COMPLETELY PROVEN DURING THE TRIAL.

THUS ENDS THE INTERIOR MINISTRY NOTE.

2. AP PRESS RELEASE 6 MARCH SAYS "THE ~~BEVERLY~~ CUBAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A NEW STATEMENT TODAY TO CLARIFY A COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING TWO CUBAN ARMY MAJORS OF PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO.

THE NEW STATEMENT SAID ONLY ONE OF THE TWO--MAJ. ROLANDO CUBELA SECADES,--WIDELY KNOWN MEDICAL DOCTOR--WAS ACTUALLY CHARGED WITH PLOTTING THE ASSASSINATION. THE OTHER, MAJ. RAMON GUIN DIAZ, DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PLOTTING BUT KNEW OF IT, THE STATEMENT SAID. HE IS CHARGED WITH CONCEALING THE PLOT AND OF CARRYING OUT ESPIONAGE FOR THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA). THE LATTER IS GUIN'S "ESSENTIAL CRIME," THE STATEMENT IN THE COMMUNIST

NEWSPAPER GRANMA SAID."

Paul Green
C/WE/K
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END OF MESSAGE

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