

DISPATCH		SECRET	IPM-A-10811
TO	Chief, WH Division Chiefs of Stations, Havana		P-70 50-7-18-2
FROM	Chief of Station, Mexico City		6 August 1958
SUBJECT	Operational		BY THIS OFFICE OR MAILED FOR INDEXING NO INDEXING REQUIRED INDEXING CAN BE DONE BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY
	Cuban Exile Activities (26 of July Movement)		X
REFERENCES	<p>A. MEXI-2039 B. HLJA-3229 C. MEXI-2104 D. MEXI-2106 E. MEXI-2108</p> <p>1. On 29 July 1958, the LISTAT operation set forth in reference A, paragraph 3, was established. The target is Penzo 160, residence of Gustavo ARCOS y Bergnes, leader of the 26th of July Movement in Mexico. The results of this operation to date, 5 August, have been highly successful, providing the following information.</p> <p>2. Personalities:</p> <p>A. The 26th of July Movement in Mexico has a small "operating group" under the leadership of Gustavo ARCOS y Bergnes and composed of the following Cubans:</p> <p>Rector GEBRICALAYA, left for Tegucigalpa 2 August 1958 Rafael Silvio PEÑA Perez ("El Gordo") (radio operator) Orlando VENTURA Reyes Manuel FERNANDEZ Torro Manuel CARBONELL Roberto JOCA Teresa ("Tete") CASUSO Morin "Vigirita" (radio operator)</p> <p>B. In addition to the above group, the following Cubans and non-Cubans are involved in Cuban (26 of July Movement) revolutionary activities in Mexico:</p> <p>Alonso AZUGARAY, Cuban from Honduras (staying at Hotel Arizona) Antonio del CONDE, Mexican arms dealer Julio (Inu) PICARD (Inu) Alberto BAYO Giroud, Spaniard Helia CALVO, Dominican Sergio VARONA, Cuban (staying at Hotel Anzures) Manuel CAMIN, Mexican newsmen Gustavo RAMOS, Cuban Emilio ARAOCHES</p> <p>C. Another group of persons in Miami and New York is working closely with ARCOS and the 26th of July Movement in Mexico:</p> <p>Ricardo LORIE (Luis PEREZ) (Miami) Tel: EM-1-2247 Oscar (Inu) (Miami) - Believed to be a pilot Maria GARCIA (Miami) Tel: WI-5-5284 William (Inu), (New York) "El Gallo," (New York) BEBO or BEDO (Miami)</p> <p>3. Communications:</p> <p>A. Radios:</p>		

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DISPATCH

SECRET

FM-A-10811

TO	
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SUBJECT	6 August 1958
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one operated by Rafael Silvio FENA Perez, the other by "Virginita (sic)." These two radios are heard in Miami by the rebel station there. The rebels are having trouble synchronizing their two stations in Mexico, that of "Virginita" being in a lower frequency than FENA;s. "Virginita" complained that FENA was not calling him at night. On 4 August 1958 Luis PEREZ (see para B) requested that an encoded message be sent to "Alex" via one of the radios. ("Alex" is believed to be Fidel Alejandro CASTRO Ruz.) FENA is dealing with Ing. Guillermo HERNANDEZ Mendez of Roque (sic) International, a radio supply house, in order to get an antenna for his radio. The radio installations are designated by the term "Indio," i.e., "Indio Apache," "Indio Cuate," "Indio Verdes"

Mail:

Most mail sent to the 26th of July "operating group"

ARCOS requested Luis PEREZ in Miami to send all money for the Movement to this address. This address is being covered by the LIMUD operation.

Telephone:

The telephone is used promiscuously by members of the 26th of July Movement. On occasions, open code and encoded messages are passed by phone. On 4 August an encoded (number code) message was passed by phone from Miami to Mexico for further passing by radio to "Alex" (probably Fidel Alejandro CASTRO Ruz). On 5 August 1958, ARCOS told Sergio VARONA to use "guarded language" on the phone.

b. Operations:

On 2 August 1958, Gustavo ARCOS called Ricardo LORIE, telephone FM-1-2247, in Miami. LORIE answered to name of "Luis PEREZ." ARCOS asked whether "Oscar" was there; LORIE said no. ARCOS said that he had received word from "friends far away" (probably Cuba) and that the friends would give a definite answer very soon. ARCOS wanted the "suffeur" (probably pilot) (Oscar) to come that day. In regard to equipment ARCOS said that they have the things most difficult to get: the "impermeables" for protection-0 not at hand but available and they would soon have them. They have had the "other" for some time and have bought the "shock absorbers" and are just waiting for the right time to bring them.

LORIE said that "oscar" was not in town but that he would try to find him or someone else. ARCOS said he had received word from the "president of the corporation" (probably CASTRO) that he would be able to guarantee within a few hours or 2 or 3 days

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that they (ARCOS and friends) would be able to make the trip and not suffer the misfortune that "Oscar" and "Blanca" (possibly refers to trip of Pedro HIRSH Prieto on 30 March 1958 when plane was burned after landing in Cuba) suffered when they went. If they (the president, etc.) should say yes, then the "shock absorbers" would not be necessary. "Luis" could then make the trip direct, with the guarantee that he could get out all right. Oscar must therefore come to inspect the "car" (probably plane) ARCOS said, and recondition it. It would probably take two or three days, because it was not complete.

LORIE said that he would try to locate "Oscar", but that they (in Miami) are in the same position as ARCOS and that "Oscar" is working on that now. LORIE would try to solve the problem by finding someone else. ARCOS replied that "Oscar" would be the best man to come, since he knows the "car". Ricardo also said that they (in Miami) have what ARCOS was expecting to receive. (Possibly shock absorbers).

LORIE says that "Oscar has already been going, but to the 'other place', the place of the 'little brother.'" (probably area where Raul CASTRO is located). LORIE said that they were waiting for them on the "other side" and on "this side" too. LORIE repeated that he would try to solve the problem.

In a call from ARCOS to Srta. Maria GARCIA, in Miami (ME 5-5264) he tells her things are ready except the shock absorbers. He says that he has been in touch with "Alejandro" (probably Fidel Alejandro CASTRO Ruz) and he would notify sometime after the next 48 hours if he could make the same trip as "Fouchet", made without the same difficulties concerning the vehicle. (Probably plane). He is waiting for the guarantee that the vehicle could get in and out safely. ARCOS explained that "Oscar" was the best man, but he (ARCOS) wanted to use her influence and put pressure to get either "Oscar" and the other person could come, so much the better, because they would have work to do preparing the vehicle. Gus mentioned the good news in the paper that a heavy-armed vehicle had fallen into the hands of their people, and that their control of some "lower zones" would make it possible for them to make the trip. Gus said that all the "president" needs is personnel to operate the material. (Rest of conversation unintelligible).

5. Finance:

On 30 July 1958, about ready to leave for the bank, [redacted] asked ARCOS if he needed any money. On 4 August, ARCOS told Luis PEREZ in Miami that he should send any money for the 26th of July Movement to [redacted] It is believed that [redacted] account is used to fund the 26th of July movement in Mexico. On 4 August ARCOS told PEREZ that the financial situation was poor and requested PEREZ to send some money if possible.

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5. Travel:

A. On 30 July an unknown Cuban told Orlando VENTURA Reyes ("El Chaparro") that he was leaving for Cuba sometime before 3 August 1958 and needed some money. The unknown person was told to pick up \$50 for the trip at ARCOS's apartment on 31 July 1958.

B. On 30 July 1958, Melba de MIRET, wife of Pedro MIRET Prieto, told ARCOS that she received a letter from ? who had arrived "there." This person wants ARCOS' address so he can write to him. Melba tells ARCOS that he can write to this unknown person at 86-09 Northern Building, Jackson Heights, Long Island. This is now the address of Raquel Perez de MIRET, which was formerly 4011 80th Street, Jackson Heights, Long Island. Pedro MIRET Prieto gave the latter address as his forwarding address on his trip to the States last April. There is possibility that Pedro MIRET Prieto has left Cuba and is now in New York.

C. On 2 August, Manuel (Fernandez Torro) said he was leaving for the United States on 3 August. On 4 August Silvio FENA Perez said FERNANDEZ was expected to return on 5 or 6 August. The actual destination of FERNANDEZ is not known.

C. On 2 August 1958 Hector GEIRICELAYA (see para 1) left Mexico for Tegucigalpa, Honduras, by TACA. (Airlifts/LIFEAT). He planned to leave for San Pedro Sula on 3 August 1958. GEIRICELAYA Planned to call the wife of Silvio FENA upon arrival in Tegucigalpa.

E. On 3 August Helia CALVO, Dominican (see para 2) left Mexico for Costa Rica, where she expected to aid the family of Julio Cesar MARTINEZ, Dominican, who was recently exiled to Panama from Costa Rica. CALVAO's expenses were paid by ARCOS, i. e., 26 of July Movement.

6. Material:

Arms and Ammunition

On 31 July 1958 one Julio (lmu) told ARCOS that he had a fair amount of 60's and 80's that he needs. ARCOS insisted on knowing the price because if there were more than one hundred he should be able to get them at a discount. (Julio may be have been referring to mortars--6-in. and 80-mm.)

Recorders:

On 1 August 1958 Ing. Guillermo HERNANDEZ Mendoza of Roque International (radio supplies) told Silvio FENA that a recorder would be shipped from Oklahoma to Miami on the 6th and would arrive in Honduras about 15 August.

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NO INDEXING REQUIRED

INDEXING CAN BE DONE BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY

7. Relations with the Mexican Government

On 1 August 1958 in regard to the case of Sergio VAJNERA, who was arrested by Gobernacion, ARCOG made the following comments to Teresa CASUJO. ARCOG said he had thought of PAVON (fnu) (Possibly Manuel PAVON Bahaino, who is one of four members of the Migration Commission of the Chamber of Senators. (see also HHS-A-7177, 19 June 1957)) as the person who can defend Cubans who have entered Mexico as tourists but who are de facto exiles; PAVON could seek exile status for them. Tete said that asylum had been requested for VENTURA and others and that it had been denied.

Only those who come out of the Mexican Embassy in Cuba are granted asylum, she said; any requests must be of a political nature and must be dealt with by "El Coronel." The Coronel could make a general ("political-type") request for Cubans who cannot afford 1,000 pesos to remain in Mexico as "visitantes" for Hacienda to subsidize Cubans who stay as "visitantes," but this would mean a gigantic subsidy. Gustavo said that fortunately many whose papers are not in order are leaving.

8. Propaganda

In addition to the operational aspect of the rebel radios in Mexico City, they also used to receive news reports from the Sierra Maestra. These reports from the scene, are then passed to Teresa "Tete" CASUJO who brings them to Manuel CAMIN, Mexican newspaperman, who has them published in Exelsior and its evening edition, Ultimas Noticias.

9. Meeting Place

The most popular meeting and eating place of the 26 of July "operating group" is "El Malecon," located on Venustiano Carranza #9, Mexico, D. F.

Willard C. CURTIS
Willard C. CURTIS

CKS/cps

5 August 1958

Distribution:

3 - Hqs

1 - Havana

1 - [redacted]

3 - Files