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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

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TDCSDB-315/03357-65

DISTR: 18 OCTOBER 1965

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

DATE OF INFO: 13 OCTOBER 1965

22524

SUBJECT

RECENT AIR TRIP OF ROBERTO ALEJOS ARZU TO PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA, INVOLVING GERALD PATRICK HEMMING AS PILOT

PLACE & DATE ACQ: UNITED STATES, MIAMI (14 OCTOBER 1965)

REF IN 74057

FIELD REPORT NO. UFG 7619

SOURCE

APPRAISAL: A CUBAN EMIGRE, FORMER MEMBER OF A CUBAN COMMANDO GROUP, WHO IS NO LONGER ASSOCIATED WITH ACTIVISTS. SOURCE IS REGARDED AS RELIABLE, AND PREVIOUS REPORTING FROM HIM HAS PROVED TO BE ACCURATE.

Also see Guatemala 143140

- (FIELD COMMENT: ROBERTO ALEJOS ARZU, GUATEMALAN MILLIONAIRE RESIDING IN MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, PLANNED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA IN THE SPRING OF 65, USING A GROUP OF CUBAN EMIGRES WHOM HE HAD RECRUITED FOR THE OPERATION. ON 4 MAY ALEJOS AND LUIS SIERRA LOPEZ, MILITARY LEADER OF THE GROUP, WERE APPREHENDED AND THEIR ARMS CACHES SEIZED BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS ON ALEJOS' RECENT INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT.)
- ON 13 OCT 65 ARMANDO MEDINA MONTES DE OCA, A MEMBER OF ROBERTO

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ALEJOS ARZU'S ABORTIVE PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT IN THE SPRING OF 65, SAID THAT THE PILOT WHO FLEW ALEJOS TO GUATEMALA "A SHORT TIME AGO" WAS GERALD PATRICK HEMMING. THE AIRCRAFT LANDED AT PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA, WHERE IT REMAINED FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HEMMING IS NOW IN MIAMI. (FIELD COMMENT: HEMMING, AN AMERICAN SOLDIER OF FORTUNE AND FORMER UNITED STATES MARINE, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS. HEMMING, LEADER OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PENETRATION FORCE (INTERPEN), A GUERRILLA GROUP, WAS MOST RECENTLY INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITMENT OF CUBAN EMIGRES WITH GUERRILLA WARFARE EXPERIENCE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF GENERAL ANTONIO IMBERT SARRERA. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS PLAN NEVER MATERIALIZED.)

3. MEDINA INTENDS TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION TO THE NEW GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL IN MIAMI, HOPING THAT THIS WILL SHARPEN HIS INTEREST IN ALEJOS. (FIELD COMMENT: ~~TDCSDB-315/03350-65~~ ~~RECORDED IN MEDINA~~ ACCEPTED AN OFFER OF \$30,000 TO DELIVER ALEJOS SAFELY TO THE GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES.) MEDINA SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO GENERAL JOSE D. JUAREZ ARAGON, WHO IS NOW THE GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA; AND JUAREZ INFORMED HIM THAT THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL SHOULD ARRIVE IN MIAMI BY 15 OCT AND WOULD CONTACT MEDINA. (FIELD COMMENT: COLONEL CARLOS IGNACIO GONZALEZ PALACIOS, NEWLY APPOINTED CONSUL GENERAL TO MIAMI, ARRIVED IN MIAMI ON 13 OCT.)

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4. FIELD DISSEM: CINCSO, CINCLANT, COMKWESTFOR, MIAMI REPS
 OF STATE, FBI, I&NS, CUSTOMS, BORDER PATROL, FAA, AND USCG.
 (16-2, 16-22, 16-15)
 (SONS ~~CITY~~, [GUATEMALA CITY, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE] AND
 MEXICO CITY.)

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END OF MESSAGE