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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Nicaragua, Cuba, Costa Rica REPORT NO. CS -3/W2,532

SUBJECT 1. Increasing Support for Indalecio PASTORA in Cuba (Nicaraguan opposition leader) DATE DISTR 4 April 1960
 2. Persons in Cuba Involved in Nicaraguan Revolutionary Affairs NO. PAGES 5
 REFERENCES RD

DATE OF INFO February 1960
 PLACE & DATE ACQ Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica, Late February 1960
 FIELD REPORT NO. [23] NPS-2780

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

SOURCE: A person associated with Nicaraguan revolutionary activities (P). Appraisal of Content: 6.

- In February 1960 Indalecio PASTORA Mallin, Nicaraguan opposition leader who left Costa Rica about 20 February 1960 after leading guerrilla attacks against Nicaragua from the Costa Rican border area for several months, was winning increasing support among Cubans who favored the overthrow of Nicaraguan President Luis SOMOZA Debayle. 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 Raul CASTRO Ruz, high-level officials in the government of Fidel CASTRO Ruz. Fidel CASTRO, Prime Minister, was not disposed to support foreign revolutions because he feared an invasion of Cuba and wanted to be in a position to defend his country. GUEVARA and Raul 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 SOMOZA.
- Francisco FRIXIONE Saravia, 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 LACAYO Farfan, 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, travelling free of charge, to Oriente Province, Cuba, to raise funds for the revolution.
- 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. **Hernando 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 SOMOZA. 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 Hernando GOMEZ.
- b. **Luis Miguel GARCIA**, a Cuban, performed sabotage operations in Habana against BATISTA. He was in Honduras when Pedro Joaquin CHAMORRO Cardinal 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 VICKI** Loera, 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. **Tete BANDERA**, a friend of Camilo CIENTECOS, was highly esteemed by FRIXIONE and had helped much in preparing for a revolution.
- e. **Aristides RUIZ**, 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. **Ostavis GUTIERREZ**, called "Martiano," was a civil employee of FAR. He entered Cuba from Honduras as an exile in August 1959 under the name Godofredo SANCHEZ Uriarte.
- h. One **Pedro CONZALEKI** had trained saboteurs in Nicaragua after entering Nicaragua illegally from the Costa Rican frontier. While in Nicaragua he talked with Armando CRUZ Reyes, who had arranged to send dynamite into Nicaragua. CALIERA (fma), head of the Leon branch of the National Bank of Nicaragua, was one of the leading Nicaraguan saboteurs and had dynamite and other tools of sabotage in his possession and Jose Luis ANCELLO.

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- l. Carlos MULLO, called "Palle," was a former officer in the Nicaraguan Air Force. Since being in Cuba he was a FAR pilot at San Julian. He was a FRIEDER's partisan.
- j. Pedro SANTIAGO, a sergeant in the FAR at the Santa Clara base, had talked with FRIEDER about obtaining aid from Manuel DIAS Pastora, a member of the service company of the fourth regiment of the rural revolutionary police. DIAS apparently had seventy-five men, armed with rifles and Thompson submachine-guns, who were willing to fight in Nicaragua under his command. Apparently DIAS' group was identical with a group of Cubans who wanted to go by boat to Nicaragua, before being persuaded that they should wait for a better opportunity.
- k. Laureano (fsm), a Cuban medical student, had furnished chemicals to Nicaraguan revolutionists. Explosives, as well as arms, had been sent to Nicaragua by plane.
- l. DEL RIO (fsm), a captain in charge of the base at San Julian, was generous in offering to help FRIEDER's revolutionary group in any way possible.
- m. Pepito ARJIVAY, second in command of Finar del Rio, furnished Nicaraguan revolutionists with arms and gave any assistance he could; however, Mario ESCOBAR tried to hinder ARJIVAY's activities.
- n. Maximo GONZALEZ, chief of the Habana municipal police, was willing to furnish rifles as requested.
- o. Romelio MARRA, a sergeant at the military airport in Habana, was furnishing arms to FRIEDER.
- p. Fortino CLARO, a first lieutenant with the secret service,⁶ claimed that he had one hundred men in Camaguey ready to fight in Nicaragua. CLARO personally wanted to fight with PASTORA.
- q. Alberto BAID Giroud, already connected with Nicaraguan revolutionary affairs, and Angel GARCIA, a Cuban, apparently had two hundred fully-trained men to add to FRIEDER's forces. BAID had great influence with Fidel CASTRO, whom he trained in Mexico, and had offered assurance of assistance to any revolutionary movement when it obtained the approval of Fidel CASTRO.
- r. Luis PINEDA, chief of the judicial police, promised to supply arms when needed.
- s. Estela LOPEZ, financial secretary of the Confederacion de Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC - Cuban labor organization), assigned money to FRIEDER.
- t. Others associated with revolutionary activities were Chester Simpson, a Nicaraguan; Julio GARCIA, a Puerto Rican; Marie ALBAKILLO; and SANTAMARIA (Cm).

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- u. Miguel MENDE Botanourt, 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 Calberg, 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.
- w. Gerald P. Haming, a twenty-three-year-old United States citizen born in Los Angeles, California, was employed by FAL 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 Barboosa, Cayo 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 Guantanamo Naval Base, and had been warned when he was fighting with CASTRO that he could lose his citizenship, but this was 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 policed. 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. FRIIONE brought several arms to Costa Rica in late December 1959 but PASTORA and LACAYO disagreed on their use, and FRIIONE took them back to Costa Rica with the intention of sending them to Honduras. (CS-3/433,029)
3. IRANZA, traveling on special passport No. 8/59/31, issued in Habana, entered Costa Rica from Panama on 9 March 1960, according to official immigration lists.
4. One Luis GARCIA Asencio, a Cuban, was reported to be in Costa Rica in late December 1959 to participate in revolutionary activities.

Source Comments

5. One Enrique AZCONARIES, 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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6. Johnny Mitcham, 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. MUNOZ 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, Hasing 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 Hasing 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 FRIKHNE 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 Brownsville, 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.

Having cited an example of arms procurement: Captain SECUELA (Cms) 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 Hasing, 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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