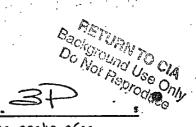
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VIA AIR
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TO Chief, MID

Chief of Bose, Santiago de Cuba Info: CO3, Esbana CO5, Espaces

SUBJECT GENERAL Cperutional Specific Flight to Caracas

l. On 1 December 1957, Rolando MARTERED, a Cuben senator who is noted for gangster-type activities, and Laureano the country of a celent firm and flew to caracas. This, immediately, threw the town in an uproar, and remors regarding the reasons for the trip became so rampant that during the next week, it was impossible to sererate truth from fiction. The most prevalent runor of all was then instance and laurean had token a million peace of custom deposits and had gone to Caracas to immediate heavy arms, such as hombs, but this, the base believes, has no basis in fact.

2. The true reason for their trip seems to be more along the following lines - During the recent trouble in Santiago de Cuba, IBARRA, who is sometimes said to be the true government toss in town, became frightened of rebel reprisals, and he sand-begged his house and stationed an armed gnard in front. This, however, did not quite satisfy him, and is sought protection from LARDFERER, who, it is claimed, maintains bands of armed thugs. The latter gave IBARRA a squad of men, and they lived in IBARRA's garage. After a few days of this arrangement, MARMER ER told IBARRA that he did not have enough money to pay these men and that it would be necessary for IBARRA to foot the bill. IBARRA, however, claimed that he was short of money, so in order to obtain at operating fund, a plan was put into effect whereby MASTERRER's men staged a series of robberies in Santiago de Cuba. The man on the street maintains that there were 33 robberies in one week, but a more conservative estimate would be between 12-15. In addition to this, MASTERRER and IBARRA extorted verious sums

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of money from local money lenders, saying that the money was for "higher authorities", i.e., General alterto DEL RIO Chaviano, the militer; commander for Oriente Province. Then word of this dual action - the robberies and the extortion - reached DEL RIO, he became very angry and called in Madriana and Trada and after chewing them out, forced them to return the money to the money lenders. On leaving the military berracks, Madriana is said to have complained to PRARM that it was impossible to conduct business with DEL RIO in charge of the area, and that serious thought should be given to "eliminating" him. Unfortunately for LASTARIA, it is said that this statement got back to DEL REO, and consequently, there wasn't any commercial aviation leaving mantia; o de Cuba fast enough, so they requisitioned the private plane and flow to Caracas.

3. As stated previously, it is quite difficult to separate fact from fiction on this matter, but this is probably the best account of the trip that the base has been able to find. It probably rates an overall evaluation of U-3. Under ordinary circumstances here, MASFERFER and IRAREL probably could have gotton away with their operation, but their timing was wrong. Unknown to them, they staged the robberies and extortion at a time when DEL RTO was up for promotich - Colonel to Brigadier General - and when he heard what they were doing he thought this would reflect against his command, and therefore he put an end to their operation.

Nilson & Raynock Nelson I. Raynock

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