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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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ROUTING

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DATE: 25 AUG 60

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: HAVANA

ACTION: C/WH 7 (MR [] WH DIV NOTIFIED 0250 26 AUG 60)

INFO: DDP, COP, ADDP/A, S/C 2

AUG 26 0647Z 60

PRIORITY

IN 43521

TO DIR INFO (PRIORITY) MASH CITE HAVA 5842 (SIRETT ACTING)

RYBAT JMNET
DESENSITIZED

ON 24 AUG 60 AMPINA 1 INTRODUCED KNAPMAN TO FRANCISCO CHAVES FIGUEROA, CUBAN; BORN HAVA 1916; ASSOCIATED LAW FIRM CHAVES, HERNANDEZ H. REVILLA; OFFICE PHONE 35792, HOME 34052; OFFICER CUBAN MINISTRY TRANSPORTATION UNTIL 30 JUNE 60 AT WHICH TIME RETIRED; NO ADDITIONAL INFO AT THIS TIME.

2. CHAVES IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF ARMANDO LORA HERNANDEZ WHO WAS SUB-SECRETARY IN OFFICE JOSE MIRO CARDONA WHILE HE WAS PRIME MINISTER AND IS MIRO MAN. PLAYED PART CASTRO GOVT UNTIL MID 59, ACCORDING TO CHAVES NOW DISAFFECTED BY NO OPEN BREAK. LORA WAS 26TH JULY COORDINATOR IN CIENFUEGOS IN BATISTA TIME. FLED CUBA WHEN THINGS GOT TOO HOT FOR HIM AND OSVALDO DORTICOS TORRADO TOOK OVER HIS JOB IN CIENFUEGOS. CHAVES DESCRIBES LORA AS 38-40; TALL; INTELLIGENT SCION RICH FAMILY. SAY HE WAS CLOSE RAUL CHIBAS AND MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ.

3. LORA TOLD CHAVES HE HAS ORGANIZED GROUP OF ABOUT 200 MEN INCLUDING REBEL ARMY MEN AND EX-BATISTA ARMY PEOPLE LORA CLAIMS CAN COUNT ON TWO HIGH RANKING REBEL ARMY OFFICERS WHOM CHAVES COULD NOT NAME. LORA TOLD CHAVES CUBAN GOVT FORCES IN ORIENTE, INCLUDING MILITIA, NUMBER AT LEAST 30,000 AND MANY OF THEM IN SIERRA MAESTRA. SAYS LARGE BEEF SHIPMENTS BEING SENT MOUNTAINS FOR THESE TROOPS. AMPINA SAID HE HAD HEARD ABOUT MEAT SHIPMENTS TO SIERRA

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CITE

MAESTRA FROM CATTLEMAN SOURCE. LORA ALSO CLAIMS CAN COUNT ON SIX PLANES AND PILOT. CHAVES COULD NOT NAME PILOTS NOR TYPE AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING CHAVES, LORA BELIEVES LARGE SEGMENT CUBAN REBEL ARMY WILL DEFECT ONCE INSURRECTION START. LORA FEELS MUST START SOON BEFORE MILITIA FULLY TRAINED AND THAT CASTRO DOES NOT TRUST ARMY. LIKE OTHER GROUPS LORA WANT ARMS AND SUPPLIES. FEELS MIRO COULD BE POLITICAL LEADER CAPABLE UNITING ANTI CASTRO MOVEMENT.

4. WHILE PROVOCATION CANNOT BE ENTIRELY DISCOUNTED, KNAPMAN PLANS MEET LORA UNLESS HQS HAS VIEWS TO CONTRARY AFTER REVIEWING TRACES ON HIM. ADVISE PRIORITY. FILED 251715Z.

END OF MESSAGE

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