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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY

DATE OF INFO.

TDCS

DATE

SUBJECT

[Redacted subject box]

PLACE & DATE ACQ

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

REF

FIELD REPORT NO.

ON 18457

1. JOSE ALBERTO NARANJO, MAYOR OF HAVANA AND PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN JUNTA OF CONTROL, EXECUTION AND INSPECTION (JUCCI), IS ONE OF THE CUBAN GUESTS AT THE 1 NOVEMBER ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION. ON ROUTE TO ALGIERS HE REMARKED THAT THERE "IS NOTHING OF ANYTHING" IN CUBA AS FAR AS CONSUMER GOODS ARE CONCERNED. IN MAKING HIS POINT HE NOTED THAT IF A WELL-STOCKED DEPARTMENT STORE LIKE PARIS' GALERIES LAFAYETTE COULD BE PARACHUTED INTO HAVANA'S CENTRAL PARK, NO AMERICAN-BACKED INVASION WOULD BE NECESSARY AS CUBANS WOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH COMPETING FOR AVAILABLE GOODS THAN DEFENDING THE COUNTRY.

2. ARMS IN ABUNDANCE ARE HOWEVER AVAILABLE NOW IN CUBA AND OTHER

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OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN MEET MILITARY INVASION WITH OVERWHELMING FORCE.

3. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ IS A "NUF" WHO MAKES DECISIONS ONE DAY AND REVERSES THEM THE NEXT. THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE COUNTRY IS PRESIDENT OSVALDO BORTICOS TORRES WHO IS GREATLY RESPECTED BY CASTRO.

4. DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS INDULGED TO RAUL CASTRO RUZ FOR HIS POSITION, MARRANO SAID THAT IN SPITE OF HIS COMPLAINTS OF THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE REGIME, HE CANNOT BETRAY FAUL. (FIELD COMMENT: MARRANO GAINED RAUL CASTRO'S FAVOR DURING THE REVOLUTION BY HAVING ASMO AIRDROPPED TO RAUL'S FORCES IN THE CUBAN MOUNTAINS TO THE DESPAIR OF THE DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO, THE GROUP TO WHICH MARRANO BELONGED.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: NONE.

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END OF MESSAGE