

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION SECRET	PROCESSING ACTION X
TO	Chief of Station, Guatemala City; COB, JMWAVE; Chief of Station, Mexico City		MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO	COB, Tegucigalpa; COB, San Salvador <i>INFO: MPE, HMA, HHT, HSS</i>		NO INDEXING REQUIRED ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
FROM	Chief, VI Division		MICROFILM 70
SUBJECT	ZNNWICK - Communications Training of Guatemalans in Cuba - 1962		
ACTION REQUIRED - ADVISORY			
ACTION REQUIRED: See Paragraphs 10-13, below			
REFERENCES : A. DIRECTOR 10800, 5 October 1966 B. GUATEMALA CITY 6552, 8 October 1966 C. HGGG-8174, April 1966			
Background &			
<p>1. Reference C transmitted to Headquarters copies of FCT documents captured by the Guatemalan Judicial Police. Included was a lengthy report dated 10 November 1962 prepared by "Osalio HIRANDEZ" detailing his guerrilla and communications training in Cuba from February to October 1962. In the opening portion of his report, "HIRANDEZ" names his three travelling companions from Mexico City to Cuba on 2 February 1962. A check of travel manifests has shown that the only other Guatemalan (other than the three named in the report) who travelled to Cuba on that date was Ricardo HIRANDA Aldana (201-787305). The only two Guatemalans to travel from Havana to Mexico City on 22 October 1966 -- the date "HIRANDEZ" claims he returned -- were Carlos LOPEZ Garcia and Ricardo HIRANDA Aldana. Furthermore, at the time of his arrest in Guatemala in September 1965, it was reported that HIRANDA used the pseudonym of "Osalio." Therefore it seems to be a fairly safe assumption at this point that the writer of this report was Ricardo HIRANDA.</p> <p>2. As a result of the obvious ZNNWICK implications in this case, a summary translation of the report was made at Headquarters and is attached herewith. It should be noted that in this translation all commentary in parenthesis is that of "HIRANDEZ" while all bracketed notations are those of the Headquarters Desk. Where possible, Headquarters has added true name identifications of persons otherwise referred to only by nicknames or pseudonym. The basis for these identifications has been mostly travel information and is explained for each individual later in this dispatch.</p>			
(CONTINUED)			
CS COPY 35-120-14			
DISPATCH REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE	
B, JCI: 787306	HGGG-4035	2 Dec 66	
CLASSIFICATION		HQS FILE NUMBER	
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REC'D NOV -
p. 4, following

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201-133139

Communications Trainees: Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana and Mario LEMUS

3. MIRANDA is a well known member of the Guatemalan Communist Party (PCT), a member of the Central Committee and the Political Commission. He refers in this report to having been in Cuba on a previous trip when Anastas MIKOYAN was there (February 1960).

A. Headquarters files show that MIRANDA (who was wounded) was one of 19 Guatemalans in a Nicaraguan revolutionary group which was captured by the Honduran Army at Chaparral, Honduras on 23 June 1959. This anti-Somoza group was supported by the Cuban Government which sent arms, funds and men. (While ricking a plunge into romanticism, it is noted that one of the Cubans killed at the Battle of El Chaparral was Onelio HERNANDEZ -- the pseudonym used by MIRANDA in the attached report.) By 9 July approximately 30-40 survivors were released by Honduran authorities and departed for Cuba. About 25 of these were still recovering from their wounds when they were evacuated in a special plane arranged for by the Cuban Embassy in Tegucigalpa. MIRANDA seems to have been among those who went to Cuba, for in March 1960 he arrived in Mexico City from Cuba where he had been living. (This would have placed him in Cuba during MIKOYAN's visit as claimed above.) It was reported that he planned to return to Guatemala and in July 1960 Ricardo MIRANDA was arrested by Honduran authorities along with Guatemalan revolutionary, Lt. Guillermo LAVAGNINO, and three Cubans. Subsequently it was learned that MIRANDA, LAVAGNINO and Eudaldo NATAS Trigo (Cuban) had crossed the Guatemalan/Honduran border at Ocotepeque from where they flow to Tegucigalpa. While in custody in Honduras they sought and apparently received permission to reside in Honduras as political exiles. In a letter dated 19 September 1960 and sent to Tegucigalpa, the Movimiento Revolucionario 26 de Julio in Havana exhorted MIRANDA to maintain his revolutionary fervor and advised that they were sending him some propaganda material via a separate package.

B. On 28 January 1961, Ricardo MIRANDA burned an American flag in the presence of other young communists in front of the Lux Theater in Guatemala City. A source described as a Guatemalan with good communist contacts (P) reported that in March 1961 MIRANDA said that Pablo (Inu), a Cuban army expert in guerrilla warfare, had arrived in Guatemala about 28 February to train MIRANDA and about 15 other IGT members in electrical communications, sabotage and the use of explosives. Allegedly, this training was taking place in the Department of Retalhulou.

C. In early April 1961 it was reported that MIRANDA was to be a member of the Guatemalan delegation scheduled to leave Guatemala later in the month to attend an unidentified youth congress to be held in June 1961. On 18 April, PGT Central Committee member Carlos Rene VALLE y Valle said that MIRANDA was then in Cuba. (VALLE also revealed that Pablo del RIO Herrera, Cuban army expert in guerrilla warfare, had left Guatemala for Mexico.) (B-2)

D. At a meeting of Guatemalan revolutionaries in August 1961 in Guatemala City, Ricardo MIRANDA was appointed to train recruits in preparation for an attempt against the Guatemalan Government about 15 September. And in December 1961 it was reported that in the event of an emergency, Party members should contact MIRANDA who had arms in his possession. Again in early January 1962 it was reported that MIRANDA was in charge of arms which the PGT was collecting. On 23 January MIRANDA travelled to Mexico City and left for Habana on 2 February (to initiate the training described in the attached report). According to LINLUCK, MIRANDA brought an urgent message from Guatemala to GUTIERREZ who promptly attempted to get in touch with the Soviet Embassy "regarding an urgent message from Guatemala." (See Para 6 below) This report closed with the comment that the Soviets were interested and very optimistic about the situation existing in Guatemala, especially in view of the latest message from Guatemala.

E. From 2 February until 22 October 1962, MIRANDA was in Cuba for medical treatment and training in guerrilla warfare and communications. According to the attached report, MIRANDA left Mexico City for Guatemala City 24 October via air.

F. In May 1963 it was reported that guerrilla units and party leaders appeared to have selected Ricardo MIRANDA to open a guerrilla front in northern Guatemala.

G. A Field Comment to a report from Guatemala City on the Organization of the JPT (PGT youth organization) stated: "Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana was reported early in November 1963 to be the JPT contact with law students. According to Ricardo MARTINEZ, MIRANDA drives a jeep in which he carries three machine guns. He has been an active member of the JPT." Subsequent to this, Headquarters has no information on MIRANDA's activities or whereabouts until March 1965 when he was reported to belong to a five-man terrorist group led by Rafael TISCHLER Guzman, chief of the PGT's Action Commission.

H. Also in March 1965 another usually reliable source reported that MIRANDA had in his possession sketches of the homes of various officials of the Judicial Police who were on the PGT/FAR assassination list. A Field Comment to this report described MIRANDA as a member of the PGT Political Commission.

I. In late September 1965 Guatemalan military officials in Puerto Barrios apprehended MIRANDA. When he was turned over to the Judicial Police a few days later, he was charged with the assassination of two Guatemalan businessmen killed on 16 August. The report of the Guatemalan intelligence service indicated that MIRANDA drove a 1965 blue Opel panel truck owned by Ana Petrona Castillo. To MIRANDA, resident of 4th Street No. 12-C, Zone 1, Guatemala City, which was also MIRANDA's residence. A comment to this report indicated that one Roberto ALDANA, alias "Onelio," who had been arrested in Puerto Barrios about 26 September and later transferred to the Judicial Police in Guatemala City, was believed to be identical with Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana.

J. Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana was born 18 August 1935 in Zacapa, Guatemala, the son of Ricardo MIRANDA (deceased) and Luz Aldana. He was described in 1960 as being 5'7", weighing 155 lbs. black curly hair, dark brown eyes, Negroid features, unmarried and a student.

4. Headquarters efforts to determine the identity of the other communications trainee, Mario LEMUS, have been only partially rewarding. In the attached report, MIRANDA described LEMUS as a cousin of Bernardo LEMUS Mendoza (201-91575). A travel manifest transmitted by the Mexico City Station shows that one Mario LEMUS Chov, (male, 21 years old, PF/12-424, Guatemalan citizen) travelled from Mexico to Cuba on 2 February 1962 on the same Cubana flight as Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana, Julio Cesar LACIAS Mayora and Jose Maria GUTIZ Vides. In September 1963 LEMUS travelled with Leonel ROLDAN Salguero to the Bloc, but it is not known when he returned or the purpose of his travel. In October 1964 it was reported that Guatemalan Government investigators had captured Mario Francisco LEMUS Chavarria, a native of Tucuru, Guatemala, as one of the assailants of a military garrison in Panzos (Alta Verapaz), Guatemala. A November 1964 report (HGG3616) reported that Mario LEMUS, who held the title of commander in the guerrilla movement, was occasionally seen in the Guatemalan Department of Coban. On 14 February 1966 Guatemalan police arrested Mario Francisco LEMUS Chavarria as a suspect in the machine-gun killing of two members of the National Police on the night of 13 February 1966.

Cuban Instructors

5. Inasmuch as no Cuban communications instructor was mentioned by name in MIRANDA's report, Headquarters is not attempting to identify in this dispatch any of the other Cuban instructors. However, there is one exception - the Lt. ACOSTA (fnu) who assisted in the training of the Guatemalans near Herradura beach. In the original report, MIRANDA speaks very highly of ACOSTA as a person and as being a "magnificent guerrilla." This Cuban is singled out for special consideration because at the time of LEEJUS's arrest in February 1960, there was also arrested one Jesus ACOSTA Hernandez, a Cuban national. Headquarters has been unable to find any follow up information on these arrests. It is noted that one Jesus Rene ACOSTA Fernandez arrived in Miami 12 February in a group of 109 Cuban refugees destined for immediate relocation in Costa Rica. The presence of Costa Rican Consular officials in Miami precluded JERAVE's screening the refugees during their Miami stopover which lasted only a few hours.

Soviet Contact

6. According to MEM 6178 (February 1962), MIRANDA brought an urgent message from Guatemala to Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ on 23 January. Shortly after MIRANDA's arrival in Mexico, GUTIERREZ attempted to get in touch with the Soviet Embassy regarding an urgent message from Guatemala but was unable to meet with the Soviets until 25 January. Meeting with them again on 29 January, GUTIERREZ reportedly tried to point out the absurdity of a Soviet plan to bring about a break in diplomatic relations between Mexico and Guatemala through violence.

7. In the opening portion of his report, MIRANDA states that while in Mexico City from 22 January to 2 February 1962, they met with Nikolay LEONOV (V), Cultural Attache of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. In a later section of his report entitled "relaciones Personales," MIRANDA adds: "We also saw Nikolay LEONOV, Cultural Attache of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City who was very nice to us, picking us up to go for a ride in his car at night (I knew him the last time in Cuba when he was the translator for Anastas MIKOYAN and he knows and is a close personal friend of Efigenio's cousin, Bernardo LEEJUS Mendoza, since 1953)."

8. Headquarters files reveal the following on LEONOV:

A. Nikolay Sergeyevich LEONOV, born 22 August 1928; married with one daughter, speaks excellent Spanish. Subject of 201-132139.

B. LEONOV first arrived in Mexico in May 1953, and was an Interpreter/Secretary to the Soviet Ambassador in Mexico City until October 1956. A reliable sensitive source advised that LEONOV received KGB training while in the USSR from 1958 to 1961. It is also known that he accompanied the MIKOYAN entourage to Cuba in February 1960 for the Soviet Exposition. In July 1961 he returned PCS to Mexico City as Third Secretary, Assistant Cultural Officer. Sometime about July 1965, LEONOV was promoted to Second Secretary of the Press and Information Section. He is a known KGB officer.

C. Prior to the anticipated 21 April 1963 departure from Mexico of LEONOV for the USSR (presumed to be for home leave), Mexico City Station mounted a surveillance on him for the eventuality he might make some last minute clandestine contacts. As a result, the team spotted an obvious half hour clandestine meeting LEONOV had on the evening of 19 April 1963 with Lorenzo CARDENAS Barajas. It will be recalled that in April/May 1962, LINDUCK dealt with CARDENAS in procuring arms for the PGT and, in fact, did purchase some rifles from CARDENAS which were to be turned over to Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ for shipment to Guatemala. During these negotiations CARDENAS told LINDUCK that he had a great friend in the Soviet Embassy who was aware of CARDENAS's role in arms procurement for the Guatemalans. *GOTOV*

According to LILJECK's report of his conversation with CARDENAS, this Soviet friend told CARDENAS that the Soviets have a serious agreement with Cuba and for this reason they were very much interested in the Guatemalan situation since it was a direct and simple way of helping Cuba. The Soviet wanted to know the origin of the money used to purchase the arms. He also asked CARDENAS for a report of the present and future situation in Guatemala which CARDENAS, in turn, asked LILJECK to prepare for him. LILJECK explained that the PGT undoubtedly had a direct channel through which the Soviets had been passed this information but that he would ask permission to supply the report requested by CARDENAS.

D. As an added note, LEONOV fulfilled a very important role during his April/May 1962 stay in the USSR. He acted as personal interpreter to Fidel CASTRO Ruz during the latter's trip to the Soviet Union and in nearly all photos taken of the Cuban leader during his stay, LEONOV is the person closest to him.

Identification of Significant Persons

9. Headquarters has been able to identify with reasonable certainty the following persons who are mentioned in HIRANDA's report. Dates of travel from Mexico to Cuba were available on all identified persons. However, it has not yet been possible to uncover dates of departure from Cuba for two individuals -- Mario LENCUS and Rodolfo PAYERAS Solares. In the case of Ricardo HIRANDA and Guillermo PAZ, the dates of arrivals in Cuba indicate this pair possibly took a side trip. Further checks are being made at Headquarters to fill in these gaps.

A. Jose Manuel FORTUNE Arana (201-80176): aka "Raymundo." Guatemalan Communist Party leader who has been living in exile in Cuba for several years.

D. Ricardo HIRANDA Aldana (201-787303): aka Esteban ROJAS Estrada, aka UEBLHO, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Travelled Mexico-Cuba, 2 February 1962; Cuba-Mexico 22 October 1962. Guatemalan Passport #50220.

C. Mario LENCUS: aka "Eligenio." Identified in one place in the report as Mario LENCUS Chov. Flight manifest shows Mario LENCUS Chov, male, 21 years old, Guatemalan PP#121424 traveled Mexico-Cuba on 2 February 1962. Guatemala City Station reporting (see Para 4 above) has shown one Mario Francisco LENCUS Chavarria to be involved in guerrilla activities in Guatemala.

D. Julio Cesar MACIAS Mayern (201-303518): aka Guido GANDARA. Flight manifests show he travelled Mexico-Cuba 2 February 1962, Cuba-Mexico 2 November 1962, Guatemalan PP#120295.

E. Jose Maria ORTIZ Vidos (201-802058): aka Chema ORTIZ, aka Jacinto GONZALEZ. Flight manifests show he travelled Mexico-Cuba 2 February 62, Cuba-Mexico 2 November 62, Guatemalan PP#102223.

F. Jose Antonio GARCIA Monterroso: aka "Fernando" Flight Manifests show Jose Antonio GARCIA (Guatemalan PP#121542, male 25 years old) traveled Mexico-Havana on 6 February 1962; on 20 October 1962 Jose Antonio GARCIA Monterroso (Guatemalan PP#121542) travelled from Cuba to Mexico.

G. Carlos Enrique LOPEZ Garcia: aka Jose RENDEZ. Flight manifests show Carlos Enrique LOPEZ (Guatemalan PP#120816 21-year-old male) travelled Mexico-Cuba on 6 February 62; on 22 October 62 Carlos E. LOPEZ Garcia (Guatemalan PP#120826) travelled Cuba-Mexico.

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DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

SECRET EGGZ-4035

H. Julio Edgar IBARRA Nazario: aka Mario PAZ, aka Edgar IBARRA. Travelled Mexico-Cuba 2 April 1962, returning Mexico 20 October 1962. Guatemalan FF7115944. Also recorded as having travelled Cuba-Mexico 2 November 62.

I. Jose Ricardo IBARRA Escobar: aka Ricardo IBARRA, aka Alejandro PAZ. Multiple travel entries on this person have caused some confusion but the following represents what Headquarters has been able to uncover so far:

Jose Ricardo IBARRA Escobar, FF7121303, Mexico-Cuba, February 1962
FF7119753, Mexico-Cuba, February 1962
FF7121303, Mexico-Cuba, 28 October 1962
FF7121303, Cuba-Mexico, 2 November 1962

According to MIRANDA's report, IBARRA was already in Cuba on a university scholarship and was one of those who requested guerrilla training in mid-1962 when MIRANDA met him.

J. Guillermo Antonio PAZ Carreno (201-787200): aka Juan Andres MACIAS. Travel manifests show following:

Mexico-Cuba, March 1962
Mexico-Cuba, 23 October 1962
Cuba-Mexico, 2 November 1962
(FF7123573)

As MDA noted in his report that PAZ arrived in Cuba in July for special training. Obviously some travel is missing in above listing.

K. Rodolfo BARRALES Solares: aka Pascual ORZUECO. Travelled from Mexico to Cuba in February 1962, Guatemalan FF7111125.

L. Jose Francisco MACIAS Mayora (201-833223), Guatemalan, FF7115304 and, Oscar VARGAS Foronda

Travelling together, this pair arrived in Mexico City from Guatemala on 8 September 1961. They flew to Montreal on 17 September enroute to Moscow where they planned to study.

In his report MIRANDA says that on 19 September, 4 more comrades arrived -- MACIAS and VARGAS who had come from Moscow and the two that had attended the Helsinki Youth Festival. Jose Francisco MACIAS and Oscar VARGAS may very well be the MACIAS and VARGAS from Moscow, returning after one year's study in Moscow. In November 1962 MACIAS travelled Cuba-Montreal-Prague.

M. Julio VERAS Papadopolio (201-733700): Headquarters files indicate that the Julio VERAS with whom MIRANDA was staying upon his return from Cuba, is probably Julio VERAS Papadopolio whose FGT activities date back to the 1950's and who, in 1958, was living at 21 Avenida #6-39, Zone 6, Guatemala City.

N. Pura Judith IZOPA Izoppo: Referred to in this report as Judith de IBARRA and as Judith IZOPA de Ibarra. Travel manifest shows that Pura Judith IZOPA Izoppo (Guatemalan FF7121768) travelled from Mexico City to Havana in February 1962.

Action Requested

10. For JMWAVE: It is requested that JMWAVE check all names and pseudonyms for information to pinpoint more closely the specific activities of those individuals. Special attention is requested to Edgar IBARRA and Guillermo PAZ who arrived in July (according to the report) for special training.

SECRET

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CONTINUATION OF
DISPATCH

SECRET

ECGN-4035

11. For Mexico City: Any information the Station may have or be able to develop concerning LECNOV's contacts, either with Guatemalans in Mexico or with Mexicans working with Guatemalans (such as CARDENAS), would be greatly appreciated.

12. For Guatemala City: Of primary importance is the need to locate Ricardo MIRANDA Aldana and Mario LEMUS. Although it is acknowledged that there are probably other Guatemalans who have been trained by the Cubans in radio communications, MIRANDA nor LEMUS are the only two to know of by name. An important point in pursuing the ZREBNICK angle is to bear in mind that neither MIRANDA nor LEMUS was trained to transmit messages -- only to receive them. The ZREBNICK traffic has indicated that one link is probably being based to Guatemala City or some place very close to the City. When ECGARDEN/22 was being held captive by the FAR in San Ramon, he claims he heard what sounded like Morse from an adjacent room each afternoon. Furthermore, he identified the sound as probably the reception rather than the transmission of Morse. Accepting for the moment that this was Morse (reception) that he heard, Headquarters wishes the Station to query ECGARDEN/22 further on this point: namely, how frequently did he hear this; were there many persons present at the time; did he ever see any of his captors unmasked; does he recognize a photo of Ricardo MIRANDA? Furthermore, the Station is requested to examine whatever captured PGT documents it still possesses for additional ZREBNICK clues.

In one section of his report MIRANDA states that since they did not have time to be instructed in the transmission of messages, it was decided that from the next group of trainees to go to Cuba would be selected persons who would be trained in the transmission as well as the reception of messages. Headquarters does not have readily available a list of Guatemalans who travelled to Cuba in November, December 1962 and January 1963 for guerrilla training. Travel lists are being scanned in an attempt to pinpoint these trainees on the basis of length of stay in Cuba. In the meantime the Station is requested to check its files for a possible list of trainees who travelled during this period.

13. Headquarters has searched its information on Eernardo LEMUS Mondoza for some indication of his contact with LECNOV in Mexico City but to no avail. The Station is requested to do the same and also provide information concerning the current whereabouts and activities of this LEMUS.

Elaine S. LATTIMER

Attachment: HEREWITH
As stated above

Distribution:
2-Guatemala City w/att.
2-JLFAVE w/att.
2-Mexico City w/att.
2-Tegucigalpa w/att.
2-San Salvador w/att.