

(Rev. 5-8-59)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: INS, District Office, WDC; US Customs, WDC; INS, Miami; US Customs, Miami; OSI, MACDILL, AFB; G-2, Fort McPherson, Georgia; ONI, Sixth Naval District, DIO, Charleston, S. C.
Report on: HERBERT J. MORGAN, JR. Office: Washington, D. C.
Date: DEC 21 1959

Field Office File #: 97-1159

Bureau File #: 105-75663

Title: RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA @ Consul VASQUEZ
w/ly info MIRO GUARDIA

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - PANAMA; REGISTRATION ACT - PANAMA; NEUTRALITY MATTERS

Synopsis

Subject met I. IRVING DAVIDSON at DAVIDSON's office 12/8/59. Desired assistance of DAVIDSON for invasion of Panama in January, 1960. Again met at same place with DAVIDSON and LEOPOLDO ARAGON, 12/9/59 and 12/11/59. Discussed above invasion plans. MIRO told DAVIDSON he had support of US Government for invasion. DAVIDSON told MIRO 12/11/59, he had checked with US Government agency and could not verify any backing for MIRO. DAVIDSON told MIRO he would give no assistance. MIRO told DAVIDSON that RALPH WCLAIN, CIA representative, Panama, could verify support of US for MIRO. Subject interviewed 12/17/59. At first denied above and later stated he did not desire to discuss the matter.

Invasion in 1960

- P -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On November 2, 1959, Mr. O. A. VOPE, Assistant Records Chief, District Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, furnished the file pertaining to the subject to SA GENE P. COLE, at which time the following information was obtained:

On October 1, 1959, MIRO, 2901 Park Drive, S.E., appeared before Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Special Inquiry Officer A. GOLD, at Washington, D. C. He had no immigration visa in violation of Immigration and Naturalization Act 212 (a) (20). On application the same date, MIRO was issued a B-2 visa valid until October 31, 1959.

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On November 17, 1959, Mr. VOPE advised SA COLE that MIRO had made application to extend his stay in the United States. The application revealed that MIRO was born October 29, 1911, was an attorney by occupation and was in the United States for the purpose of "visiting and pleasure." His address was shown as in care of his sister Mrs. PAUL WADE, 2901 Park Drive, S. E., Washington, D. C. Subject's wife was residing at 8-30 Third Street, Panama, and was identified as MAGDALENA HERRERA.

On the application, MIRO indicated he would depart the United States on January 31, 1960. While in the United States, he is supporting himself from a yearly income of \$4,000, which is obtained from ownership of personal property. MIRO indicated his yearly expenditures as \$3,000.

Mr. VOPE advised SA COLE that subject's visa had been extended on October 22, 1959, to be valid until April 30, 1960.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date 12/11/59

I. IRVING DAVIDSON, Suite 306, 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., advised on or about December 7, 1959, he received a telephone call from a friend whom he declined to identify who is connected with a labor union in Washington, D. C., which he declined to identify, indicating that an individual by the name of RUBEN MIRO had contacted the unidentified individual and union for assistance regarding an invasion of Panama. This person told DAVIDSON that the union did not desire to become involved in any matter similar to this and in order to "get MIRO off their backs" this person desired to send MIRO to see DAVIDSON. DAVIDSON felt that the reason MIRO was sent to see him was due to the fact that DAVIDSON in the past has sold arms and this fact has been publicized in various newspapers.

On December 8, 1959, DAVIDSON received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as RUBEN MIRO. MIRO expressed a desire to see DAVIDSON and did visit DAVIDSON at his office on December 8, 1959. DAVIDSON exhibited a register maintained in his office which contained the signature RUBEN MIRO, 2901 Park Drive, S.E., and dated December 8, 1959.

At the outset MIRO advised DAVIDSON that he was aware that DAVIDSON was registered as an agent of the Nicaraguan Government. He explained that he, MIRO, had previously been jailed for three years in Panama as the alleged assassin of a former Panamanian President. MIRO further stated that he had joined a CASTRO group in Cuba in order to invade Panama. MIRO claimed that he had notified United States officials of this invasion and had received assurance from the unnamed United States officials that no action would be taken by the American Government to discourage his plans. At that time, MIRO had explained to the United States Government officials that he would cleanse the Panamanian Government of anti-American factions and because of this, he had received their blessings. MIRO told DAVIDSON that in

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on 12/10/59 at Washington, D. C. Date dictated 12/11/59
by Special Agents DONALD HOETING and HERBERT J. MORGAN, JR. :ahw

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order to formulate plans for this invasion, he had traveled to Cuba and conferred with Cuban Premier FIDEL CASTRO, his brother, RAUL CASTRO, Head of the Armed Forces, and Commandante ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA. MIRO explained that he was "sucked in" by communist ideology and became disillusioned because the Cubans desired to conduct the invasion of Panama in their own way. As a result, he was summoned to the office of RAUL CASTRO and made to stay in that vicinity until the invaders had departed Cuba. DAVIDSON recalled that this had taken place in April of 1959.

Upon being released, MIRO stated that he had fled to Miami, Florida, whereupon he had immediately called Panama and notified unidentified persons of the imminent invasion. MIRO claimed that he had instructed that the invaders be captured but not killed since they had been deceived by the Cubans.

MIRO told DAVIDSON that he planned to invade Panama in January, 1960. He desired that DAVIDSON assist him in obtaining \$50,000 and enough equipment and armament to outfit 250 men for the invasion. DAVIDSON advised that he had a list of this equipment but could not locate it at that particular moment, but when it was located, would furnish the list to the FBI. DAVIDSON recalled that the list did include four PBV's, 250 .30 caliber machine guns, 300 Garand rifles, 3,000 "K" rations, which MIRO indicated would be enough for ten days, 250 knapsacks, 250 canteens, 250 bayonets, an unrecalled quantity of 60 millimeter mortars, an unrecalled number of 100 pound Napalm bombs, and one LST.

DAVIDSON recalled that even though MIRO desired enough rations for ten days, he had stated that the invasion would end in a successful revolution in Panama within 72 hours.

MIRO desired that DAVIDSON attempt to acquire the above material and equipment through the Nicaraguan Government. He subsequently told DAVIDSON that he, MIRO, had the complete backing of the United States Government

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concerning the invasion. He would not identify any individuals by name, but indicated that his "green light" had been obtained through United States officials in the Panama Canal Zone. At this point DAVIDSON told MIRO he was going to check on his story to ascertain if, in fact, he did have any backing from United States Government officials. He subsequently told MIRO that he would contact the FBI, the State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). There were no specific objections raised by MIRO and he told DAVIDSON that he would have to contact high officials to verify his story.

MIRO told DAVIDSON that if his assistance would be given, DAVIDSON would be granted cutting rights on 100,000 acres of timber land in Panama subsequent to the success of the revolution.

DAVIDSON stated that on December 9, 1959, MIRO reappeared at his office and reiterated the above information.

Shortly thereafter, he was joined by LEOPOLDO ~~ARAGON~~, who was introduced by MIRO as a friend. ARAGON explained his presence by merely saying that he was there to insure that MIRO was contacting persons of substance in his efforts to effect an invasion of Panama. ARAGON affirmed to DAVIDSON that MIRO had the backing of the United States Government regarding his plans. From conversation with ARAGON, it was ascertained by DAVIDSON that ARAGON had previously been associated with labor organizations in Panama and DAVIDSON felt that ARAGON had possibly been instrumental in introducing MIRO to the previously mentioned labor group in Washington, D. C.

While in DAVIDSON's presence, ARAGON and MIRO became engaged in an argument and it was obvious to DAVIDSON that there seemed to be friction between the two. ARAGON gave the impression on December 9, 1959, through conversation with MIRO in DAVIDSON's presence, that he felt that MIRO was too hasty and erratic in his actions.

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DAVIDSON advised that another meeting was scheduled for the above three persons in his office for 4:30 PM, December 11, 1959. At this time, DAVIDSON is to advise MIRO and ARAGON whether he will be of any assistance. DAVIDSON indicated that he is not at all interested in becoming involved in the above endeavors.

DAVIDSON stated that in his opinion ARAGON is a very intelligent individual, however, he considers MIRO highly emotional and possibly somewhat unstable. By explanation, he related that when on December 9, 1959, the subject of United States backing for MIRO was again broached, MIRO became incensed and indicated a desire to immediately call his contact in the United States Government, Panama Canal Zone, and have DAVIDSON talk with this person. He further stated that MIRO, when discussing high United States officials, stated that he has an entree with ALLEN DULLES, Director, CIA, through DULLES's maid, whose name was furnished by MIRO as NATALIE. MIRO went on to say that his nursemaid as a child is a close friend of NATALIE, both of whom are in Washington, D. C. He indicated to DAVIDSON that any time he desired to see Mr. DULLES, he could make arrangements through NATALIE. MIRO has further indicated to DAVIDSON that he still desired to call the aforementioned United States Government official in the Panama Canal Zone when he visits DAVIDSON on December 11, 1959. DAVIDSON stated that MIRO repeatedly intimated that he felt that DAVIDSON could obtain the necessary equipment from Nicaraguan President LOUIS SOMOZA. DAVIDSON stated that there was no indication that MIRO had tried to obtain this equipment from Nicaragua by direct contact.

The only other person mentioned by MIRO as being implicated in the above invasion plans was described by MIRO as a top police official in Panama whose name was furnished to DAVIDSON only as JUARINA (phonetic).

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MIRO told DAVIDSON that he planned to depart for the invasion from Mexico and that "D Day" had to be in January, 1960, so that MIRO would have enough time to stabilize the Government and still keep the National elections scheduled for May, 1960. He felt by doing this, he would show the people of Panama that his revolution was for the good of all. The invasion force would consist of 30 Panamanians who would leave Cuba and join MIRO in Mexico. These persons would be joined by other Panamanians, number unknown, at which time they would board the LST and depart.

In conclusion, DAVIDSON stated that at approximately 2:00 PM, December 10, 1959, he received a telephone call from ARAGON, who stated that he, ARAGON, would have nothing further to do with MIRO and his plans, since he does not like MIRO's actions and attitude. ARAGON told DAVIDSON, however, that he would appear at DAVIDSON's on December 11, 1959, since he does not desire that MIRO become immediately aware that he, ARAGON, is not planning to further develop invasion plans concerning Panama.

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WFT-1 advised

that he had obtained the following information concerning the recent activity of RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA and LEOPOLDO ARAGON ESCALONA, both of whom are Panamanian nationals residing in Washington, D. C.

MIRO has recently been in contact with a person in Washington, D. C., whose identity is not known to the informant and who is interested in getting into the lumber business in Panama. This person has advised MIRO that he is attempting to obtain financial backing for this venture from persons in New York City, and about two and one-half weeks ago advised MIRO that WILLIAM HOFFA, brother of Teamsters Union President "JIMMY" HOFFA, as well as a Mr. GIBBONS (first name unknown) who is located at the headquarters of the Teamsters Union in Washington, D. C., might be interested in backing him in this venture.

Possibly as a result of this mention of the Teamsters Union, MIRO, about two weeks ago, asked ARAGON to call GIBBONS at the Teamsters Union and make an appointment for them to see GIBBONS. ARAGON did make this appointment and on Thursday, November 26, 1959, ARAGON and MIRO went to the Teamsters Union headquarters in Washington, D. C., to fulfill this appointment. On their arrival there they were told that GIBBONS was not available but a Mr. STEINBERG (first name unknown), who was identified to them as "JIMMY" HOFFA's personal assistant or secretary, was expecting them.

At this meeting MIRO furnished STEINBERG with information concerning MIRO's background as regards Panamanian revolutionary activities and his recent difficulties in attempting to arrange for an invasion of Panama from Cuba. According to the informant, MIRO, after laying this groundwork, told STEINBERG that if the Teamsters Union would back him in an invasion of Nicaragua, that Union could have a free hand in organizing labor both in Panama and in the Panama Canal Zone. MIRO also mentioned to STEINBERG that gambling activity in Panama will undoubtedly increase in the future but he made no commitments concerning the granting

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of gambling concessions to the Teamsters Union if they backed his venture. MIRO indicated to STEINBERG he would desire that the Union put up \$50 000 and in addition, either furnish the arms and equipment which MIRO would require or put up another \$400,000.

According to the informant, STEINBERG gave no indication that he had previous knowledge of what it was MIRO desired to discuss with him and did not act particularly surprised at the above proposition. STEINBERG made no comments but only stated that he would have to talk to "HOFFA" about the matter and MIRO would be contacted. MIRO gave STEINBERG the address and telephone number where he could be contacted. The informant said that to the best of his knowledge there was no mention made at this conference concerning a lumber venture in Panama.

The informant stated that on December 7, 1959, ARAGON telephonically contacted STEINBERG and was advised that MIRO would be contacted in the near future by his friend. According to the informant, MIRO, later that day, advised ARAGON that he had been contacted by STEINBERG's friend who had not identified himself but who had listened to MIRO's story and then stated he would have to check on MIRO and would contact him at a later date. The informant said MIRO had advised STEINBERG's friend, in addition to what he had told STEINBERG, that the United States Government would "look the other way" concerning MIRO's proposed invasion of Panama. On December 9, 1959, ARAGON went to the Teamsters Union headquarters in Washington, D. C., and left a note for STEINBERG indicating that it was urgent that he, ARAGON, meet with the man who had contacted MIRO. Later that day, according to the informant, ARAGON was contacted by a man who said his name was DAVIDSON, who indicated he was calling with reference to the above note, and requested that ARAGON meet him at his, DAVIDSON's, office at 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. According to the informant, ARAGON then telephonically contacted MIRO, advised him that he had an appointment to see DAVIDSON, and requested that MIRO come to his apartment to babysit. The informant said MIRO did go to ARAGON's apartment for this purpose and ARAGON met with DAVIDSON in DAVIDSON's office at approximately 3:30 p.m. on December 9, 1959. At the time of this meeting DAVIDSON told ARAGON that MIRO had been to his office earlier that day and told him to have nothing to do with ARAGON since this entire matter was being handled by MIRO. The informant stated it is his understanding that ARAGON questioned this and called MIRO from DAVIDSON's office at which time MIRO advised ARAGON that DAVIDSON was not

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telling the truth. When ARAGON so informed DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON got on an extension of the same telephone being utilized by ARAGON and when he confronted MIRO with the facts, MIRO said ARAGON was acting on his own.

Very shortly after the above telephone conversation, MIRO arrived at DAVIDSON's office and in the presence of DAVIDSON and ARAGON acted, according to the informant, in a highly emotional, excited and irrational manner. He shouted that he could take DAVIDSON to people at the Department of State who would tell him the Department of State would look favorably on a proposed invasion and MIRO several times picked up the telephone in DAVIDSON's office stating he was going to call Panama or FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba and they would give DAVIDSON the true facts. The informant said this meeting was concluded when DAVIDSON stated that he would check on MIRO in his own way. They agreed to meet again on December 11, 1959, at DAVIDSON's office at which time DAVIDSON would give them his answer concerning assistance for MIRO in his proposed invasion.

The informant noted that at the time of this meeting DAVIDSON had in his possession the note which had been left at the Teamsters Union by ARAGON. The informant also noted that DAVIDSON had stated that he believed MIRO to be "crazy".

According to the informant, MIRO and ARAGON intended to meet with DAVIDSON at DAVIDSON's office at 4:30 p.m., December 11, 1959.

The informant also stated that ARAGON has expressed a fear of "crossing" MIRO in this matter as he too feels MIRO is a "mental case" and might very well do bodily harm to ARAGON.

The informant advised that on December 4, 1959, MIRO, utilizing a typewriter owned by ARAGON, typed a memorandum concerning the equipment which would be required for his proposed invasion along with the conditions surrounding the obtaining of that material and the privileges that would be given to the person furnishing that material. The informant made available a copy of that memorandum which is as follows:

"Memorandum

"Conditions:

"1.-Mr. X name will not be mentioned under any circumstances;

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- "2.-Mr X may clearly indicate privileges and grants he desires for his group and affiliate groups;
- "3.-Mr X will receive a grant of 100,000 acres of timber land, for a period of 30 years, at the point chosen by his representatives;
- "4.-Action to take place during the month of January. To all indications will be successfully accomplished in less than 72 hours. No excesses intended.
- "5.-Immediately after end of operation equipment shall be returned;
- "6.-Offers to Mr X to be fulfilled within 30 days after taking control of office.

"Equipment required:

- "1 LST boat;
- "4 Catalina flying boats equipped with 20 mm. cannons and 30 cal. machine guns, rocket launchers and bomb racks.
- "100 light bombs.
- "200 Rockets.
- "500,000 30 cal. shots.
- "60,000 gallons of airplane gasoline.
- "1 Tv set.
- "1 radio set.
- "1 radio transmitter and receptor.
- "3,000 X rations.
- "Food and medical supplies.
- "100 Garand Rifles.
- "100 Browning automatic rifles.
- "250 M1 carbines. (30-30).
- "250 knives.
- " 50 thompsons.
- " 6 mortars (60 mm. cal.)
- "30 Machine guns (30 cal., air cooling).
- "20 Field glasses.
- "10 compasses.
- "20 walkie-talkies.
- "500 Cartines.
- "500 Belts.
- "250 pistol holders.
- "500 pairs of boots, assorted sizes (mainly 7, 8 and 9).
- "1,000 pairs hose.
- "300 mortar shells cal. 60 mm.
- "150,000 45 cal. shots.
- "500,000 Garand and Browning shots.
- "100,000 30-30 cal. shots.
- "150 thompsons magazines.
- "300 Browning Magazines.
- "500 M1 magazines (large ones.)
- "400 pounds dynamite and accessories."

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The informant advised that it is his understanding that the "Mr. X" mentioned in the above memorandum is no specific individual but is anyone who will finance MIRO's invasion plans or furnish the above equipment for that purpose.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date 12/15/59

On December 11, 1959, I. IRVING DAVIDSON telephonically advised that RUBEN MIRO and LEOPOLDO ARAGON were present at his, DAVIDSON's, office when he arrived at 4:45 p.m. Upon his arrival DAVIDSON stated that ARAGON advised that he, ARAGON, and MIRO did not see "eye to eye on things." ARAGON said that although he is sympathetic with MIRO's cause, that is, the planned invasion to overthrow the Panamanian Government, he does not believe that the United States Government is going to do whatever MIRO wishes.

DAVIDSON said he told MIRO and ARAGON that he checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United States Department of State and both the FBI and the State Department are unaware as to the "green light" for the Panama invasion. DAVIDSON stated at this point that he told MIRO he was quite angry because MIRO was only talking about the "green light" backing by the United States. DAVIDSON advised that MIRO then wanted a long distance telephone call to be placed to one RALPH MC LAIN, telephone number 3-7001, Panama City, Panama. MIRO said that MC LAIN is an Agent for the Central Intelligence Agency and that MIRO's code name is CARLOS VASQUEZ when dealing with MC LAIN.

alias of Ruben MiRO

Although the telephone call was placed it was without success. The call was then postponed until Monday, December 14, 1959, and DAVIDSON stated it would be placed from his office at 10 a.m.

MIRO also stated that MC LAIN came from Panama to Miami in April, 1959, and determined that MIRO was then in New York City. MIRO said that MC LAIN then came to New York to find MIRO and encourage an invasion plan by MIRO.

DAVIDSON stated that MIRO acted very discouraged at this December 11, 1959, meeting and requested that DAVIDSON try to arrange for a job in Nicaragua so he,

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MIRO, could support his family. DAVIDSON advised MIRO that all he could do is suggest this request to MORALES at the Nicaraguan Embassy.

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INTERVIEW REPORT

December 14, 1959

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that RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA and LEOPOLDO ARAGON ESCALONA had met with I. IRVING DAVIDSON that afternoon in DAVIDSON's office, 1612 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., as planned. He said DAVIDSON advised he had talked with his "contact" at the United States Department of State who had indicated that the Department of State is somewhat sympathetic with MIRO's plan to overthrow the Panamanian Government but did not want to become involved in the matter. DAVIDSON stated he was advised that although ARAGON is all right, he, DAVIDSON, should stay away from MIRO as MIRO is "hot". DAVIDSON also indicated to MIRO and ARAGON he had been advised by his "contact" that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had MIRO's sister's telephone "bugged" even before MIRO got into the United States. DAVIDSON advised therefore that he wanted absolutely nothing to do with MIRO's plan as he did not want to get in trouble with the United States Government.

According to the informant, when MIRO learned this he voiced the opinion that the United States desired to keep him here so it could keep an eye on him and he asked DAVIDSON if DAVIDSON could arrange for him to go to Nicaragua where he could remain for a few months and "see how things work out". The informant stated DAVIDSON made no promises concerning this but told MIRO he would have MORALES at the Nicaraguan Embassy send a message to Nicaragua and see if this could be arranged. The informant said DAVIDSON did not further identify MORALES but informant believed MORALES is a military attache at the Nicaraguan Embassy.

Informant said MIRO attempted to call from DAVIDSON's office the man in Panama who can supposedly vouch for him and for the fact that the United States will turn its back on MIRO's planned invasion. He was unable to complete the call but is supposed to try again from DAVIDSON's office at 10.00 a.m. on December 14, 1959.

The informant said that MIRO, using the name, CARLOS VASQUEZ, tried to place this call person-to-person

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on 12-11-59 at Washington, D. C. Date Dictated: 12-14-59
by Special Agent RICHARD B. KELLOGG/ AJC

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to RALPH McLEAN (phonetic) at Panama City, Panama, 3-7001. He said MIRO claimed that McLEAN is affiliated with the Central Intelligence Agency; that McLEAN had contacted MIRO in the United States after MIRO was expelled from Cuba and told him the United States was sympathetic with MIRO's cause and would look the other way if his invasion takes place. The informant said MIRO also stated he had defended McLEAN in a trial in Panama several years ago when McLEAN was accused, along with two other Americans, in a robbery or burglary.

The informant advised that from MIRO's reaction he believes MIRO was no immediate plans for obtaining backing for his revolutionary movement. The informant also indicated it is his belief that ARAGON will have nothing more to do with MIRO in this regard.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date December 16, 1959

On December 14, 1959, Miss PATRICIA BOLAND, Secretary to I. IRVING DAVIDSON, Suite 306, 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., telephonically advised that RUBEN MIRO visited DAVIDSON's office at 10:30 a.m. on December 14, 1959, to place a telephone call to RALPH McLAIN, telephone number 37001, Panama City, Panama.

Miss BOLAND stated that after one and one half hours MIRO was still unsuccessful in getting his call through to McLAIN and MIRO decided to have his call transferred to his, MIRO's, wife in Panama.

After the termination of the call to MIRO's wife, MIRO stated to Miss BOLAND he would telephone DAVIDSON later that day. Miss BOLAND stated MIRO never called back as he said he would. Miss BOLAND said MIRO's conversation with his wife was in Spanish, a language she does not understand.

Interview with Miss PATRICIA BOLAND File # WFO 97-1159
on 12-14-59 at Washington, D. C. Date dictated 12-15-59
by Special Agent DONALD HOETING:pep

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate December 16, 1959

On December 15, 1959, I. IRVING DAVIDSON, 1612 K Street, N.W., telephonically advised that he returned to Washington, D. C., from Miami during the evening of December 14, 1959, and, therefore, was not present when MIRO arrived at his, DAVIDSON's, office at 10:30 a.m., December 14, 1959. DAVIDSON stated that MIRO was to make a telephone call at that time to RALPH MC LAIN at telephone number 37001, Panama City, Panama.

DAVIDSON stated that according to his secretary, Miss PATRICIA BOLAND, MIRO placed the call to MC LAIN but after one and one half hours without success, MIRO had the call transferred to his, MIRO's, wife who resides in Panama.

DAVIDSON said that he does not plan to engage in any activities with MIRO and is not going to request MORALES of the Nicaraguan Embassy to find a job in Nicaragua for MIRO.

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by Special Agent DONALD HOETING:pep/vjh

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

December 17, 1959

I. IRVING DAVIDSON, Suite 306, 1612 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., furnished the following information relative to the sequence of events surrounding his meetings with RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA and LEOPOLDO ARAGON ESCALONA. DAVIDSON said his recollection was not too clear regarding the exact sequence of these events, but the following is to the best of his recollection.

When he was informed by his friend at the labor union about December 7, 1959, about MIRO and ARAGON, he was given the names of both of these persons along with MIRO's telephone number. He said he tried unsuccessfully to call MIRO and left his number with a request that MIRO call him back. He stated MIRO did call, an appointment was made, and MIRO came to his office and told him about his proposition. DAVIDSON said later that day he was told by his friend from the labor union that ARAGON had attempted to call him and when unsuccessful left a note for him. DAVIDSON said this man asked him to see if he could contact ARAGON and "get him off of the union's back." DAVIDSON said he called ARAGON and asked him why he continued to contact the union when he DAVIDSON had already seen MIRO, and ARAGON answered that he wanted to see who it was that MIRO was dealing with so DAVIDSON invited ARAGON to his office. He said ARAGON did come to his office later that morning and DAVIDSON told him he saw no reason to talk with him when MIRO was not present as they were apparently together in this matter and while ARAGON was still there they called MIRO and arranged for both MIRO and ARAGON to meet with DAVIDSON in his office that afternoon. He said that meeting did take place as did another meeting two days later and on each occasion, as best DAVIDSON could recall, ARAGON and MIRO were waiting for him at his office when he got there so he did not know if they came together.

DAVIDSON said on the occasion of his second meeting with ARAGON and MIRO he told MIRO, in order to get rid of him, that he was too "hot" for him to associate with. He said to impress him further along this line, he told him that MIRO's activities were being watched and, in fact, MIRO should be careful what he says on the telephone as his telephone is probably "bugged." DAVIDSON said no

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on 12/16/59 at Washington, D. C. Date Dictated: 12/16/59
by Special Agents RICHARD B. KELLOGG and DONALD HUETING:kar

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WFO 97-1159
RBK:kar

one had told him this and he had no reason to believe it to be true, and he only said it in an effort to get rid of MIRO.

DAVIDSON also advised that ARAGON called him on December 15, 1959, for an appointment and came to his office at about 2:30 p.m. that same date. He said ARAGON explained he is as much interested in seeing the Government of Panama overthrown as MIRO is, but cannot agree with MIRO's solution to the problem and wants no part of violence. He said ARAGON said he believed the Government of Panama is so shaky that it would take very little to topple it and his plan was to utilize propaganda and pressure at the proper places and at the proper times to cause the downfall of that government. DAVIDSON said ARAGON asked if he would be interested in backing such a move or if he knew anyone who would be and DAVIDSON answered him in the negative in both instances.

DAVIDSON said ARAGON argued that DAVIDSON, as a representative of the Government of Nicaragua, should be very much interested in Panama as Nicaragua would undoubtedly suffer if the "Cuban communists" gained control in Panama. He said he told ARAGON if he had any such information, he should pass it on to the Nicaraguan Ambassador as he, DAVIDSON, only represents Nicaragua in commercial matters. DAVIDSON said he refused ARAGON's request that he introduce ARAGON to the Nicaraguan Ambassador.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate 12/17/59

SECRET

RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA, who resides in Washington, D. C., with his sister, Mrs. PAUL WADE, at 2901 Park Drive, S. E., was interviewed at the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was advised that he need make no statement, that any statement he made could be used against him, and that he had a right to legal counsel.

MIRO advised he did not return to Panama in early October, 1959, as he had previously stated he planned to do, because he feared that if he were in Panama, he would be blamed, unjustifiably, for the continual demonstrations against the Panamanian Government. He said he has recently been engaged in an attempt to obtain employment with some international organization, either in the United States, or somewhere outside of Panama, in Latin America. He said if he is successful in obtaining this employment, he does not plan to return to Panama for at least five years, but added he had no immediate prospects for such a job.

MIRO was specifically asked whether or not he had been attempting to obtain in the United States, financial backing for an invasion of Panama and claiming, in that regard, that he had been promised that the United States Government would "look the other way," if such an invasion took place. He at first denied that he had done either and later said that since he had been assured he would not have to say anything, he preferred to go on record as saying that he neither affirmed nor denied the allegations, but rather, refused to discuss them.

When asked about RALPH MC LAIN, MIRO said he first met MC LAIN in Panama, around 1940, or 1941, when he defended MC LAIN, who was charged as an accomplice in a murder case. He said he believes MC LAIN is associated with a United States intelligence agency because of his activities and apparent contacts, but denied that MC LAIN had told him the United States Government would "look the other way," if MIRO instituted an invasion to overthrow the Panamanian Government.

Interview with RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA File # WFO 97-1159
on 12/17/59 at Washington, D. C. Date dictated 12/17/59
by Special Agents HERBERT J. MORGAN, JR., RICHARD B. KELLOGG:ekh

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 97-1159

Washington, D. C.

DEC 21 1959

RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA
INTERNAL SECURITY - PANAMA;
REGISTRATION ACT - PANAMA;
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

WF T-1 utilized in the report of Special Agent
Herbert J. Morgan, Jr., dated and captioned as above has
not been contacted a sufficient number of times to judge
his reliability.