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PAGE 2 RUEPCR 56 C O N F I D E N T I A L

IN JULY 1962 AS A POLITICAL REFUGEE.

SOURCE IS A GRADUATE AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM CUBA, HE WORKED IN THE PLANT DISEASE SECTION IF INRA.

(SOURCE IS NORMALLY AVAILABLE FOR REINTERROGATION SHOULD THIS REPORT GENERATE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.)

1. DURING MY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOC, I TRAVELED ALL OVER THE ISLAND, AND AM THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH CROP CONDITIONS IN THE VARIOUS PROVINCES. BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE, I BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE DAMAGE DONE TO CUBAN AGRICULTURE BY HURRICANE FLORA.

2. RICE: ALL OF THE SUMMER CROP WHICH HAD BEEN PLANTED FOR HARVESTING IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH IN CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THESE TWO PROVINCES REPRESENT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL RICE PRODUCTION IN CUBA. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE LOST ALL LEVIES AND DIKES, AND WILL HAVE TO REPAIR A CROP ALL OVER AGAIN. IT WOULD TAKE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WORKING ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO SALVAGE ANYTHING OF THE PRESENT CROP. IT SHOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZED THAT SEVERE DAMAGE MUST HAVE BEEN INCURRED BY MILLS AND STORAGE BUILDINGS, WHICH WERE NOT IN GOOD CONDITION TO BEGIN WITH.

3. BANANAS: THE ENTIRE CROP HAS BEEN LOST, AND THERE WILL BE NO PRODUCTION IN THE EFFECTED PROVINCES FOR SIX TO TEN MONTHS UNTIL NEW PLANTS ARE READY FOR HARVEST. ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WILL BE THE NECESSITY OF CUTTING FALLEN TREES TO SAVE THE FIELDS. CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES REPRESENT OVER 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION OF BANANAS.

4. KENAF: ALL KENAF PRODUCED IN CUBA COMES FROM CAMAGUEY AND WAS ALREADY IN HARVEST. THEY PROBABLY HAVE LOST ALL PLANTED UNLESS THEY ARE WILLING TO ASSIGN SEVERAL THOUSAND LABORERS ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO TRY AND SAVE SOME OF THE CROP.

5. TOBACCO: THERE WILL BE SEVERE LOSS IN SANCTI SPIRITUS AND CABAIGUAN AREAS DUE TO HIGH WINDS. HOWEVER, THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO REPLANT. THERE IS NOT TOBACCO PRODUCTION OF ANY IMPORTANCE IN CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES.

6. COTTON: CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES REPRESENT ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION. NORMAL PLANTING ENDS AROUND 1 SEPTEMBER, AND THERE WILL BE NO CHANCE TO PLANT AGAIN. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE LOST 75 PER CENT OF THE COTTON CROP AT LEAST, WHICH WILL REPRESENT ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF ALL COTTON GROWN IN CUBA. COTTON IS LOST AFTER IT SPENDS AS MUCH AS TWO DAYS UNDER

PAGE 4 RUEPCR 56 C O N F I D E N T I A L

WATER. ADDITIONAL COTTON IN STORAGE WILL PROBABLY HAVE SUSTAINED DAMAGE AS IT IS VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO HUMIDITY. MUCH OF COTTON STORAGE FACILITIES ARE OF POOR CONSTRUCTION AND LEAKAGE WOULD BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. IF ANY REPLANTING IS ATTEMPTED, THERE WILL BE AN EXTREMELY LOW YIELD, AS WAS PROVED IN 1962 WHEN THEY TRIED REPLANTING IN OCTOBER.

7. BEANS/CORN: THESE ARE MAJOR CROPS IN CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES, AND ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF ALL PRODUCTION IN CUBA. ALL OF THE CROPS ALREADY PLANTED, WHICH WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR HARVESTING IN DECEMBER, WILL HAVE BEEN LOST.

8. COFFEE: THE COFFEE HARVEST WAS JUST GETTING STARTED AND THE ENTIRE NON-HARVESTED CROP WILL HAVE BEEN LOST, PLUS A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF WHAT THEY MAY HAVE IN STORAGE AS COFFEE NEEDS TO BE DRIED FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS. THE LOSS WILL COST AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OF THE CROP FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS AS COFFEE PLANTS NEED AT LEAST TWO YEARS TO RECOVER. HOWEVER, SOME COFFEE IS GROWN IN LAS VILLAS AND PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCES, AND THIS PROBABLY HAS NOT BEEN GREATLY AFFECTED.

9. CACAO: ALL CACAO GROWN IN CUBA IS PRODUCED IN ORIENTE PROVINCE, AND THE ENTIRE CROP WILL HAVE BEEN LOST.

PAGE 5 RUEPCR 56 C O N F I D E N T I A L

10. FRUIT: THERE WILL HAVE BEEN A VERY HEAVY LOSS IN CITRUS FRUITS, NOT ONLY FOR THIS YEAR BUT NEXT. THE SAME SITUATION APPLIES TO OTHER NATIVE FRUITS SUCH AS MANGOES. THE ENTIRE PINEAPPLE CROP IN CAMAGUEY WILL HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY DAMAGE.

11. CATTLE: THERE WILL HAVE BEEN A CATASTROPHIC LOSS OF CATTLE IN CAMAGUEY AND ORIENTE PROVINCES.

12. IN ADDITION TO THE DAMAGE TO CROPS, IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WILL BE VERY HEAVY DAMAGE TO STORAGE BUILDINGS FOR FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES, AND INSECTICIDES, AS THE STORAGE FACILITIES FOR SUCH PRODUCTS WERE VERY BAD. END OF REPORT. GP-1

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