

PEDRO DIAZ LANZ

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## - News articles -

Argosy April 1976NY Daily News - 21 April 1975 by Paul Meskin.CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO  
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR  
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION  
IN THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED

## - Dispatch to Chief from Chief

DELETED - GET FULL  
COPY

Progress Rept 1-31 Aug 63.

W/ help of Fiorini - able to keep informed of  
activities of Diaz Lanz bros. in attempts to mount  
air raid over Cuba. InformationThen passed to local security agencies in time  
for them to thwart plans.

## - Daily Summary - 1 Aug 63

Flight of 28 July over Havana aborted - bombs  
left raid planned.

Plans:

Postponed to 31 July or 1 Aug. Fiorini to head  
for Marathon Keys - as decoy for FBI surveillance.Lanz bros to leave cars at home to appear as  
though they are home, but will attempt to  
reach Wier Williams Ranch where plane to  
be used for raid is located. Fiorini said  
plane will carry several bombs made from  
100 lb practice bombs cut down to smaller  
size and filled w/ nuts and bolts for shrapnel.Ramon Garcia - former Cuban airlines pilot  
to have participated in raid. ~~SECRET~~- 8 May 63 - Fiorini told source he had been  
approached by Marcos to patch up differences

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money from Cuban in Wash who had helped before. Only told that ~~into~~ operator would be air strike. - Pedro would be pilot. Rent plane thru indirect channels. Lanz bros. assisting in sale of yacht.

"Fiorini had been working w/ the bros. until a falling out. Union is now evidently being repaired."

- Memo - re: Robt Swanner, Robt Thompson - Pros allegedly shot down over Cuba in Dec. 1961.
- 20 Mar 63 - Memo to S.J. Grogan, asst to Director.
- investigation by US. Auth. hampered by stories - but - appears. Wm Johnson, Swanner, Fiorini made 21 Oct 61 overflight - Camaguey for leaflet drop. Rorke claims he went as observer.
- 8 Dec. Swanner intercepted in Nassau. Met in Nassau by Johnson, Rorke, Fiorini. Tried to get permit to fly to Great Exuma Island, but permit denied, plane impounded.
- 10 Dec. leaflets found on Norman Cay.
- 14 Dec. Thompson flew to Ft Lauderdale to pick up Johnson. At some point Johnson left group, and Fiorini, Swanner & Thompson flew to Andros Island.
- 17 Dec. Thompson and plane (owned by J. Davis Finger) ~~found~~ <sup>reported</sup> missing.
- 18 Dec. Rorke, Fiorini, Johnson charter plane in Miami for trip to Bimini and Cay Sal.
- Rorke id'd self as CBS photographer looking for photos of pink flamingos. Plane flew criss-cross pattern over Cay Sal and returned to Miami.
- NO info re whereabouts of Thompson, Swanner and plane until Mar 63 - story plane shot down over Cuba.

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Johnson, Fiorini, Rorke claim CIA Sponsorship - In fact, have had none. Sponsor appears to be Sergio Rojas Santamarina, - possibly over-zealous - some of his activities had been CIA sponsored.

March 62 Raymond J. Dwyer rep.ing Finger poss. litigation af. insurer of aircraft. Approached CIA re. poss. govt involvement - which was denied. No indication from Castro's speeches as to what happened.

No agency info on other "elements of incident as repts in references, including:

- Mrs. Swanner's story of having driven Swanner, Founser, Fiorini to Ft Lauderdale to load boat w/ leaflets.
- \$500.00 check reptydly given to Mrs. Swanner & Mrs. Thompson by Fiorini.
- Mrs. Swanner's repts trip to Andros Island w/ her son and friend of her husband.
- Mysterious phone calls to Mrs. Swanner, Mrs. Thompson & others.
- Role of Gene Asbury and Norman Gratsky (Gratsky?)

Ref. to Martino - prob. John Vincent Martino. Sentenced to 13 yrs prison in 59; released Oct. 62 - not Dec as repts. Was not, is not emp'd by CIA.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz

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\* - 24 Oct 59 Routing & Record Sheet to Hunt revid 30/10 forwarded 2 Nov. of Diaz Lanz file.

- CIA watch office 24 Oct 59.  
into that plane <sup>involving</sup> ~~participated~~ by Pedro Diaz Lanz to drop leaflets and prob bombs over Havana 24 Oct 59.

may fly 26 Oct 59 piloted by Lanz to disrupt Castro rally.

- Dispatch 23 Oct 59.

re leaflet.

attached sample of leaflets dropped from Diaz Lanz's plane 21 Oct 59

- Dispatch 18 Sept 59. to Chief WHD from Havana CDR  
re: operational ~~group~~ PDL group

Crypts: ~~group~~ PDL

Subj. said he had gone to Miami and talked w/ PDL ~~person~~; who told him that he needed a man for his Miami organization, the person he had in mind was a Captain in the Cuban Air Force who was willing to join him. He instructed the subject to see his Habana contact and arrange for officer's exfiltration. Subj. asked ~~whether~~ <sup>PDL</sup> whether his Habana contact [Gebaidei or Rayrock] had this capability, and [FOLBIAS] answered that they did.

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- exfiltration info from [QDCHAR] Subj. also said that [QDBIAS] has [QDXOKE] contacts in Miami. US GOVIT

[QDACID] STATE

- DOC. cross ref for 201-259120 (Lanz 201 file)  
re: Ricardo Luis LORIA y Valle - ca. 1928, age 31, passport 09552 & Diaz Lanz age 32, passport 10693 left Costa Rica for Miami Fla on 24 Dec 58 and reentered Costa Rica from Mexico on 31 Dec 58

- Memo for record 7 Aug 59.  
Re: Conversation approx. one-wk prior, betw. Eugene R. Gonzalez and Mr. Alfonso Moscoso, former amb. from Ecuador to US & ex brother-in-law of former President Galo Plaza of Ecuador.

Moscoso told me in strict confidence that his good friend Ecuador. Amb to OAS (Escudero) claimed to have info and docum. proving Diaz Lanz rec'd approx \$100,000 from Pro-Batista groups to defe & testify before U.S. Cong.

- Dispatch 7 Aug 59. To Chief WH DIV from [Karnley] [QDCOVE] Re: Meeting w/ [QDBIAS, QDCHAR]

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Outlined plans in meeting - Subjs. will recruit groups which bear Batista taint. Suggest propaganda program. Discussion of pass. aid; possible procedures - i.e. transmitter on boat broadcasting from various positions in the Caribbean Sea.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz PDD

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re. turn over of Diaz to [Karnly] complications the  
set in - different versions of what passed betw.  
Gen Cabell and Gen. Swing; appearance of Eastland  
Committee rep.

- Article - Drew Pearson - Wash Post - 7-24-59 - "Defecting  
Cuban Chief Exploited."

- Memo for Record 15 July 1959

Re: Testimony of Diaz Lanz. (testified 14 July)

Prominent communists -

Fidel, Raul, Vilma Castro, Ernesto Guevara, Anton  
Nunez, Armando Hart, Manuel Pineiro, Amman  
Ramiro Valdez, Juan Pina, Juan Escalona,  
Juan Llanusa, Edelio Gomez Ochoa,  
David Salvador, Carlos Franqui, Gen. Alberto  
Bayo, Frank Torre.

- Sp. lang. article 17 Jul 59. "Verdadera Estructura Cívica  
Pedro ~~Diaz~~ Diaz Lanz

- CIA Memo of Conversation 10 July 59.

Re: Tel. conversation w/ Herbert Moe, Dir of Intellig  
Bureau of Immigration. w/ [T.J. Flores]

- Draft Memo for Record FLK (initialed)

8 July 59 Re: Diaz Lanz case.

Info recd from friends of Diaz in Miami - name  
Byers to wit: Sergio Diaz & Carlos Echigozen (former  
civilian in Cuban AF Intell.) who had obtained boat in  
Miami which was used to bring Diaz from Cuba, had  
gone to see Byers immed. after their release by  
IATS. They were accompanied by Frank Piroini, to

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[DDCOVE] described as leader of group, most intelligent. Group was cautioned about need for security. "However, there is a close and apparently unshakeable relationship with people like Frank Priorini & other people w/ whom they were close during the revolution. I have repeatedly cautioned them about Priorini specifically & they have always responded by recognizing that Priorini is a threat in that he talks too much. But as and if (sic) we proceed with this group, it has to be done with the expectation that Priorini and others are going to be frequently around this group and we will have only the word of these people that he and others are not being informed of their activities."

- In March [DDCOVE] went to Belg [08] to negotiate deal re: arms. Deal cost \$8 mil which [DDCOVE] personally paid thru letters of credit.

- Dispatch 4 Aug 59. To Chief WH Div from Miami [Karnle] Report on Miami base involvement in arrival of Pedro Diaz Lanz in U.S.

Lanz party - Diaz Lanz, his wife Tania, Sergio Diaz Brnell; Carlos Echegoyen. Echegoyen & Brnell had chartered boat to pick up Diaz Lanz. Wanted to hold party several days. Diaz concerned about his brother Marcos.

[01, 01] assisted hiding Diaz. Major Otto of Army visited, wanted to talk to Diaz despite CIA's attempts to let him rest.

Tentative plan was Diaz would be taken from INS, put in a secure place, moved to another area in country, put thru intensive interrogations then removed to foreign area where he would be

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re. turn over of Diaz to [redacted] complications then set in - different versions of what passed betw. Gen Cabell and Gen. Swing; appearance of Eastland Committee rep.

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- Sp. lang. article 17 Jul 59. "Verdadera Estructura Critica de Pedro ~~Diaz~~ Diaz Lanz

- CIA Memo of Conversation 10 July 59.  
Re: Tel. conversation w/ Herbert Moe. Dir of Intelligence Bureau of Immigration. w/ [03]

- Draft Memo for Record. FLK (initialed).

8 July 59 Re: Diaz Lanz case.

Dup. recd from friend of Diaz in Miami - name of Byers & w/ Sergio Diaz & Carlos Echigozen (formerly civilian in Cuban AF Intell.), who had obtained boat in Miami which was used to bring Diaz from Cuba, had gone to see Byers immed. after their release by

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Pedro Diaz Lanz DDO

citizen w/ reputation as shady businessman who lives in Miami.

They said Schroeder (INS) told Diaz he is to appear before Senate Sub Committee; would receive 100% US govt support in overthrowing Castro.

- Prior to Diaz' departure the Cuban Air Force purchased one C-46 and one B-25 aircraft in Miami area. Aircraft in Byers' custody but in Fiorini's name. Fiorini (until 7 July)

trying to get Byers to sell aircraft & turn \$ over to him (Fiorini). On 8 July Fiorini asked Byers to hold C-46 for revolutionary plans & sell B-25. (Fiorini accompanied by Sergio Diaz on 8 July)

- Discussion Paper - 7 July 59 Re Diaz - publicity on Diaz Lanz' arrival.

- Cable from Dir to <sup>airmail</sup> foreign L.A. Stations 2 July 59  
- Requests max. press and radio exploitation of defection 20 June of Diaz Lanz, w/ recommendations on particulars of story.

- Dispatch 2 July 1959 to Chief WHD from COS Hasana re Diaz Lanz - Misc - Enclosures - 2 copies of letter from Diaz Lanz to Cuban President.

- Cable 22 June 59. TO Dir from Havana  
Re: departure of Diaz Lanz for U.S. Requesting  
INS **[ODURGE]** not divulge entry **[PBPRIME]** of Pedro  
Diaz Lanz US

- Cable 21 June 59 to Dir from Havana.  
Re: Diaz Lanz' departure - w/ help of Jim Byers, American, Pres. Aerodex Corp using Byers yacht.  
Requests no publicity.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz DDO.

- Information Report 15 Jun 59  
Re: Chief of Air Force's confidential statements about need for counterrevolution against Castro.

Source: US businessman, operator of private consulting company. Also rep. for major US aircraft manufacturer. Spoke at length w/ source regarding symptoms of Castro's communist tendencies.

- Cable 7 Jan 59 to Dir from Santiago de Cuba.  
Re: 1. Fall Batista stunned Bayamo rebels.  
2. Cuban Air force demobilized. Will be built up from scratch. Former officers to be investigated for atrocities. Many <sup>to be</sup> responsible ~~to be~~ court-martialed. "Source Fiorini (F) from Diaz Lanz Chief Rebel Air Force".
- Cable 25 Nov. 58. to Dir from ~~Thru City~~ Toluca Michoacan, Rept 3 tons Cuban rebel arms confiscated. 11 Cubans, 1 American captured - of Cubans - Pedro Ruiz Lanz (probably Diaz Lanz) and Amer = Frank Fiorini. Fiorini named co-pilot and owner plane C-46. Fiorini known as "Francisco" among Cubans.  
Of interest absence name Ricardo de la Lorie
- Cable 22 Nov. 58  
Rept Cuban rebels and Amer. w/ C-46 captured at Apatzingan Airport Michoacan. Captured (partial list) Diaz Lanz, Frank Fiorini.
- Cable 14 Nov 58  
Rept Richarda de la Lorie - brought air plane fleeing Ariz., scheduled for departure 12 or 13 Nov for Veracruz Mex. enroute Venezuela. Diaz Lanz will prob. accompany de la Lorie.

Cable 11 Nov 58  $\frac{1}{2}$  Diaz Lanz  
Ricardo de la Lorie in San Francisco. Fiorini left Rep

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for PRISCO by car car night 4 Nov. meet pilots.  
De la Lorie and Diaz going Ariz. but expect return  
Governor Hotel - Poss. Kingman, Ariz re: planes

- Cable 2 Nov 58 to Dir from [Redacted]  
man trav. w/ subjs identified as Frank Porini  
men prob. Pedro Luiz Diaz Lanz and Ricardo de  
la Lorie, poss. going Venezuela.

- Cable 30 Oct 58 to Dir from [Redacted]  
Ric. de la Lorie and Diaz Lanz arr. Mex Cit by car  
27 Oct 58. Believed had visa trouble at border.  
Unidentified man accompanied them

- Cable 19 Aug 58 to Dir from [Redacted]  
Jamaica police questioned Figuero 14 Aug seeking identic  
addresses. 5 Aug. Figuero contacted by Diaz Lanz,  
pilot of Beechcraft plane N-48-Q, who visits Kingston  
often and believed by Jamaica police to be Fidel  
Castro courier or pilot. Figuero said Diaz only brought  
personal greetings -

- 201 file request  
To RI/Analysis section 5 Jul 1959.  
non sensitive

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<u>3rd Agency</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>FILE #</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Air Force Hqs	7/6/59	none	Interview
USAIRA Havana	<del>6/1</del> 7/1/59	none	several cables re Diaz
Army ACSI-SC	7/17/59	none	memo for Rec - Diaz
Air Force	7/18/59	none	Cable.