

KAPOK 1-8

Progress Report on Defection and Recruitment Activities of Station Mexico

Summary

Since around January 1960, Station Mexico has been involved in 11 defections and "recruitments" of Cuban officials, mostly from the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. The most important of these was Jose PARDO Llada, who was not an official and not from the Embassy, but was next to Castro himself, the most popular voice among the Cuban masses. An unsuccessful "approach" was made to Rolando CUBELA Secades, a Cuban student leader. The Station currently has one penetration of the Embassy and has a veteran Station agent in close and friendly contact with another Embassy official. In addition, the Station is now following up the possibility of defection of a well-known official of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba Revolucionaria (CTCR). (Codon ALVAREZ de la Commission)

Background

Besides Jose PARDO Llada, the above-mentioned defections - all successful JMWOLF actions - included:

- A. Manuel VILLAFANA Martinez, Cuban Air Attache; *who has been never properly debriefed*
- B. Jaime VARELA Canosa, Cuban Naval Attache;
- C. Julian ARIAS Prado, Cuban vice-consul from Los Angeles;
- D. Antonio R. MONTANES Loredo, Cuban foreign service official;
- E. Gilda PORTELA Margolles de MONTANES, Cuban Consul
- F. Roberto ROCA Rosillo
- G. Pedro Lucas ROIG Ortega, Cuban commercial representative.

In addition, the Station made an unsuccessful "approach" to Rolando CUBELA Secades, titular head of the students in Cuba at that time. The "approach" consisted of a "friendly" talk between a Station Case Officer, a mutual friend of CUBELA and CUBELA when the last-mentioned was visiting in Mexico. While CUBELA did not pick up the opportunity at that time, he apparently did not report the incident to his superiors and the groundwork may have been laid for similar action in the future.

Three of the "recruitments" were of importance. LITATUS-3 planted the original LIERODE microphones. LITATUS-1 headed the G-2 section for a time, and LITATUS-2 was for a not inconsiderable period of time actually de facto chief of the Embassy. LITATUS-6 furnished little of value. The term "recruitment" has been placed in quotes to indicate that none of these agents was ideal from the standpoint of control, except LITATUS-3, who, although low level, proved out in the full sense of a recruitment. Most of the recruitments were effected by proven Station assets, LITATUS-1, LITATUS-2, and LITATUS-2. LITATUS-3 is still active, although he no longer works within the Embassy. LITATUS-3 developed an Embassy "trick" operation now handled by LITATUS-2 and LITATUS-3 has been instrumental in recruiting

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[LITAMIL-7] the [] current "penetration." [] returned to Cuba in 1961, and although arrangements had been made for him to report by SW, the channel has never been activated at his end, in spite of the fact that [AMSEVER-3] was sent in to Cuba as a legal traveler to ascertain why not. Apparently LIOOZE-1 prefers not to run any risks inside of Cuba itself.

Current Situation

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With regard to the Station's present defection and recruitment activities, the Station has one [penetration, LITAMIL-7] a rather timid personality whose major value is that he is [inside the Cuban Embassy] with the operational advantages basically implied. He has little access to confidential information but is able to bring out propaganda, official Cuban letterheads and the like. There is probably little hope that [LITAMIL-7] will turn out to be another LITADUS 3. The Station's best chance of getting worthwhile information from [the Embassy] in the near future seems to be AMSTET-1, who works in the same [section] as AMSTOKE-1 did formerly. While assessments of AMSTET-1 have not yet indicated that a proper pitch can be made to him, he is for all practical purposes already furnishing much information of value to LIMASK-1, a veteran KUBARK agent who is in intimate contact with him.

Current Station defection targets include the Cuban Ambassador himself, who has many times been reported to be susceptible, and Odon ALVAREZ de la Campa, an important official of the CTCR in Cuba, who reportedly has sent out messages that he wishes to defect. The Station is now trying to get more information in the latter case.

N.B.

"DEFECTED IN MARCH
IN 1965. HAS BEEN
INVOLVED IN QUESTIONABLE
ACTIVITIES IN U.S.
Since defection, FBI
HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING
ALLEGATIONS.

Feb. 1977

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(Handwritten initials)