

SECRET

June 1977

SUBJECT: Mario SALABARRIA Aguiar (AMTÚRVY-13) 201-738504

1. Brother of Julio SALABARRIA

AMTURVY OPERATION

FILE 19-6-88

Feb + 66-189/15

67-5/2

11 files

1. The AMTURVY Operation was designed for the purpose of conducting sabotage operations against Cuba. It consisted of a net of 13 AMTURVY assets whose primary function, apart from sabotage, was the preparation of target studies and analysis of sabotage operations. The files contain only one reference to assassination, that in 1963 and the continuation of the same plan through to 1965. Based on a review of the files, it is apparent that the following assassination plan could have been known to the Cubans, including the overall purpose of the AMTURVY Operation.

2. ASSASSINATION PLAN - AMTURVY-13.

AMTURVY-13 (Mario SALABARRIA) was closely acquainted with Fidel Castro as far back as 1947 and there is some indication that they both may have been involved in the 1947 plan to topple the Trujillo Government in the Dominican Republic. However, in 1948, SALABARRIA was responsible for the arrest of Fidel Castro, this due to the latter's agitation on behalf of one Emilio TRO. Salabarría was later sentenced to 30 years in prison for having murdered TRO/. He remained in prison until 1961 when he appealed for parole to one Lionel SOTO Prieto (201-055332). As Salabarría had once saved Soto's life, the latter appealed the case to Raul Castro. Salabarría was subsequently released from prison in February, 1961. The terms of his release from jail are unknown.

3. By the summer of 1963 Salabarría was seeking weapons and funds for a proposed assassination attempt against

(ENRIQUE DIAZ FERNANDEZ)

Fidel Castro. Through his confidant, AMTURVY-4, Salabarría sought contact with AMTURVY-1. ^(CARTURO MARIA JESUS VERONA ALONSO) Salabarría had known AMTURVY-1's brother, AMCONCERT-1 for twenty years and assumed that AMTURVY-1 was in touch with the AGENCY (how ~~he~~ assumed this is unknown). At his first meeting with AMTURVY-1, in the summer of 1963, Salabarría said he was a member of a group plotting Castro's death, and needed money and weapons in order to carry out the plan (AMCROAK-1 was also a member of this group). In return for this assistance, Salabarría offered to carry out minor sabotage operations for AMTURVY-1's "American contacts" (how he knew of these "contacts" is unknown, unless AMTURVY-1 told him).

4. In October 1963, when the Agency was satisfied with Salabarría's bona fides "we" (the Agency) managed to get a few pistols, revolvers, and sabotage materials into Salabarría's hands, through AMTURVY-4. At this time AMTURVY-4 was receiving materials from the Agency through the pouch of the [redacted] Embassy in Havana. AMTURVY-4 was being assisted in this matter by (QUANTUM-51). Whether or not the materials for Salabarría's assassination plan came through the [redacted] pouch is unknown.

5. The following is an excerpt from UFGA 19214, of 28 December 1964, the debriefing of AMTURVY-1 who was successfully exfiltrated from Cuba in October 1964: (see UFGA 19214) 28 DEC 1964

~~* Page 25, Evaluation of ABRAHAM (Mario Salabarría)~~

~~"Attach copy" . . .~~

See attached copy.

6. By early 1964, however, the Agency had become dissatisfied with Salabarría and his proposed assassination plan, and had notified the AMTURVY net (in particular AMTURVY-1, AMTURVY-4, and AMCROAK-1) to cease working on the assassination idea. Salabarría's later attempt to assassinate Fidel Castro was not approved by the Agency, and he was in fact informed of the Agency's opposition of to his plan.

7. COMMENTS

If as the file shows, the Agency approved of Salabarría's plan to assassinate Fidel Castro and provided Salabarría with the weapons (this in October of 1963), Castro could have been aware of the plan, especially as Salabarría's case presents certain CI considerations. Salabarría had been released from jail following a personal appeal through Raul Castro; and this when Fidel Castro was well aware of the fact that Salabarría was responsible for the death of a close friend, Emilio TRO; not to mention the fact that Salabarría was responsible for Castro's arrest in 1948. What deal, if any, was made with Salabarría in return for his release from jail is unknown. Nonetheless, ~~xxx~~ Fidel Castro has a recorded history of not being one to forgive, especially when he has been affected personally as was the case with Mario Salabarría.

R. 7/16/64 [unclear] [unclear]

Belcher