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CUBAN CIVIC FRONT

MARISTANY, CARLOS

ANTI-BATISTA ACTIVITIES

COMBAT TRAINING

TRIPLE A

NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

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FD-72  
(3-9-54)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>FEB 2 1955</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/3; 10/5, 15, 18, 19, 21-30; 11/1-5,</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>GEORGE E. DAVIS, JR.</b>
TITLE <b>CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, ET AL</b>		<b>11, 12, 18, 19; 12/3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 30/54; 1/4, 6, 10, 11, 18, 20, 24/55</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS CUBA REGISTRATION ACT</b>

### SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

In the Fall of 1954 many reports and rumors were circulating to effect that an attempt to overthrow BATISTA would be launched on or before Cuban elections 11/1/54 by persons associated with CARLOS PRIO, exiled former President of Cuba, who lives in Miami, Fla. Several members of a small organization, Cuban Civic Front, engaged in commando tactics in yard of its President, CARLOS MARISTANY, in 11/54 in Miami, but MARISTANY claimed they did not plan to participate in any revolution against BATISTA, and denied any connection with PRIO. Reliable informants reported that during period immediately preceding and following 11/1/54, MARIO MARTINEZ, licensed "ham" radio operator in Miami, operated clandestine radio transmitting and receiving station in close conjunction with EMILO OCHOA, an Orthodox Party leader, and made contact with persons in Cuba and Mexico. Informants state that OCHOA, who had been in frequent contact with PRIO, departed Miami and entered Cuba clandestinely from Jamaica shortly prior to 11/1/54, and later claimed that PRIO left him "holding the bag". Informants report PRIO advanced JOSE CARAMES, Cuban in Miami, \$25,000 to purchase two vessels, "Le Francais" and "Mollie-0", on condition that these boats would be made available to PRIO if and when needed. "Le Francais" cleared Port of Miami 1/20/55 for Costa Rica without cargo. Other

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reports have been received indicating armed action or attempt to assassinate BATISTA may take place prior to 2/24/55 when BATISTA is scheduled to take office as result of his election 11/1/54. During recent past CARLOS PRIO and other Cubans in Miami area have been successfully prosecuted by U. S. Customs on charges of conspiring to illegally export arms from the U. S. Reports indicate arms activity involving Cubans still continues to some degree. Organization known as "Resistance Commandos" now reportedly active with several members PRIO group participating in Miami area. Alleged purpose of this organization is for instituting reign of violence against BATISTA regime. Dr. RAPHAEL GARCIA BARCENAS, leader of National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), which purports to be an anti-BATISTA organization of a revolutionary character, according to published remarks of BARCENAS, is now residing in Miami but claims no connection with PRIO.

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DETAILS: AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

I. REPORTS OF ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY ACTION  
PLANNED AGAINST BATISTA GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

A. UPRISING ALLEGEDLY SCHEDULED  
ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 1, 1954

On October 5, 1954 Miami Informant T-1, a Federal Agency which conducts investigations, reported that PASCASIO LINERA, Cuban textile leader living in Miami, had disclosed that the time of the revolution in Cuba was near and that it would take place before November 1, 1954; that JOSE DUARTE and CANDIDO DE LA TORRE had entered Cuba clandestinely and possessed information concerning the location of arms hidden in the Havana area. This informant stated that CARLOS PRIO planned to be in Havana several days before the revolutionary effort occurred. (S)

According to the same informant, the revolutionaries had issued orders that their followers were not to commit any acts which would arouse the authorities, and that plans were centered on a frontal plan to end the present regime in Cuba and not merely on minor acts to disrupt the elections (scheduled for November 1, 1954). (S)

PASCASIO LINERA LOPEZ, age 33, 836 S. W. Third Avenue, Miami, pleaded guilty to charges based upon investigation by United States Customs, Miami, for conspiring to transport arms and ammunition from the United States without a license.

JOSE DUARTE and CANDIDO DE LA TORRE were the victims in a \$240,000 robbery at Fort Worth, Texas in about December, 1952. This money had allegedly been taken from New York City to Fort Worth for the purpose of buying arms and ammunition on behalf of CARLOS PRIO.

Miami Informant T-2, of known reliability, being the representative of a Federal Agency which conducts investigations, advised on October 18, 1954 that he had received information from several sources that the CARLOS PRIO group was attempting to charter, or otherwise acquire,

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a yacht for the purpose of transporting arms and men to Cuba in the immediate future in an attempt to overthrow the BATISTA Government.

Miami Informant T-3, of known reliability, who is well informed concerning the activities of Cuban exiles in the Miami area, and Miami Informant T-4, of known reliability, who also possesses the same type of information, reported on October 21, 1954 that a boat called the "SACHEM II" and several other vessels in the Miami area would allegedly participate in an attempted revolution against BATISTA, and that approximately 150 Cubans from the Miami area would participate. These informants said that the wives of Cubans belonging to the PRIO group in Miami had been weeping in anticipation of the approaching revolution against BATISTA, which T-3 and T-4 said would take place on or about November 1, 1954, the date of Cuban elections. They expressed the opinion that DIEGO VICENTE TEJERA, a very close associate of PRIO, would lead this expedition.

TEJERA pleaded nolle contendere in Federal Court, New York City, in October, 1954 on a charge, based upon United States Customs investigation of conspiring to illegally ship arms to Cuba without a license.

T-3 and T-4 said that Doctor RICARDO LINARES, a personal friend of Cuban Presidential candidate GRAU SAN MARTIN, had been in Miami for several days for conferences with PRIO in an attempt to persuade PRIO to postpone any revolutionary attempt until after November 1, 1954, as GRAU felt there was a possibility he might defeat BATISTA in the Cuban elections, thereby avoiding the necessity of a revolution. (It is to be noted that GRAU SAN MARTIN withdrew from the elections several days prior to November 1, 1954).

T-3 and T-4 said LINARES had expressed satisfaction with his mission to Miami and he felt he had successfully persuaded PRIO to postpone action.

T-3 and T-4 said that NOEL DEL PINO, another of PRIO's close associates, had recently succeeded in entering Cuba clandestinely, but had sought sanctuary at the Uruguayan Embassy in Havana because of the "heat" which had

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been placed on him by the Cuban authorities, it having been reported that DEL PINO came to Cuba in order to attempt to assassinate BATISTA. They said that DEL PINO had shipped eight panel trucks into Cuba and had purchased two high-powered rifles with telescopic sights in the United States which were believed to be used for the purpose of attempting BATISTA's assassination.

T-3 and T-4 expressed the opinion that it was fantastic to believe that any revolutionary invasion or attempt launched by Cubans in the United States and Mexico could succeed, unless high Army Officers and Police in Cuba had sold out to PRIO. They also felt that it was entirely possible that an attempted assassination might be made against BATISTA.

Miami Informant T-5, of known reliability, reported on October 21, 1954 that MARIO MARTINEZ, a partner in Continental Communications of Florida, had been clandestinely operating a short wave radio transmitter and receiver on behalf of EMILO OCHOA, leader of one faction of the Orthodox Party of Cuba. It is to be noted that OCHOA and PRIO, according to numerous reports, have been closely associated with each other and representatives of the Authentic and Orthodox Parties, respectively, in order to unseat the BATISTA Government. (This clandestine radio operation will be dealt with in greater detail elsewhere in this report.)

T-5, said that MARTINEZ was in short wave radio contact with PRIO and OCHOA followers in Cuba and Mexico. He said that MARTINEZ had indicated that a revolutionary attempt against BATISTA would take place shortly before Cuban elections, scheduled for November 1, 1954, and that the revolution would be preceded by a student uprising, followed by armed landings from boats, including one boat which was then at Campeche, Mexico. This boat was allegedly destined for Bata Bono, a port in the extreme southwestern side of Cuba.

T-5 said that MARTINEZ also disclosed that 80 men would board an unidentified vessel in Miami, being picked up from small boats as this vessel proceeded down the Miami River and out of Biscayne Bay. MARTINEZ disclosed to T-5

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that he had been invited by OCHOA to personally accompany OCHOA on this revolutionary maneuver. He claimed that if the revolution succeeded he, MARTINEZ, expected to be named Chief of Communications in Cuba and that he would also get a "cut" on electrical imports into Cuba.

MARIO MARTINEZ is an American born citizen residing in Miami. T-5 also said MARTINEZ was in very frequent contact with OCHOA and visited in the homes of both OCHOA and PRIO.

Miami Informant T-1 reported in October, 1954 that CARLOS PRIO had made a statement in confidence to one of his close supporters to the effect that plans for a revolution which had originally been scheduled for October 9, 1954, were disrupted by the breakdown of support allegedly expected from certain key Army groups, and that preparations were then going ahead for plans for a reorganization so that PRIO expected to be in Cuba before November 1, 1954. (S)

Miami Informant T-5 reported on October 29, 1954 that MARIO MARTINEZ had learned through either a Cuban radio operator or members of the PRIO group in Miami that a general uprising in Cuba was scheduled for the night of October 29, 1954 or the following day, in Camaguey, Cuba. At about the same time, however, MARTINEZ advised Miami Informant T-6, of known reliability, that a revolution was scheduled for election day, November 1, 1954, in Cuba, although about ten bombs had been set off in the eastern part of Cuba on October 29, 1954.

On October 28, 1954 Miami Informant T-7, of known reliability, ascertained through SEGUNDO CURTI, one of PRIO's closest associates, that a revolution would not take place until after the November 1, 1954 elections. CURTI told this informant that a seizure of guns which had taken place by the Cuban Police in Havana several days previously would not alter PRIO's plans. CURTI did not indicate to this informant any specific date for a revolution.

The October 29, 1954 issue of the Miami Herald carried an article entitled "100 Arrested as Cuba Bags 'Subversives'". This article disclosed that 100 persons

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were jailed in Cuba after raids by Police which were aimed at "subversive commandos" intent on disrupting the November 1, 1954 elections. Those arrested were said to be adherents of CARLOS PRIO. Along with this article was a photograph showing a cache of arms seized in a private home in the country club section of Havana by Police. These arms were said to have a value of more than \$300,000 and included 82 machine guns.

T-3 reported on December 13, 1954 that EMILO OCHOA, who entered Cuba clandestinely several days prior to the November 1, 1954 elections there, was expected to issue within the next few days a declaration to Cuban newspapers that he is coming over to the side of the Cuban Government. T-3 said that OCHOA was also expected to issue an expose of CARLOS PRIO which would include a statement to the effect that OCHOA went to Cuba under an agreement with PRIO to participate in a revolutionary move against BATISTA which had been scheduled for November 1, 1954, but that PRIO had backed out, fearing to return to Cuba, thereby leaving OCHOA in Cuba "holding the bag".

(1) CLANDESTINE RADIO OPERATION

As previously indicated, Miami Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised on October 21, 1954 that MARIO MARTINEZ, a partner in Continental Communications of Florida, a concern which specializes in repairing and installing two-way radios, had been operating a clandestine transmitter and receiver for EMILO OCHOA, a leader of one faction of the Orthodox Party of Cuba. T-5 said that MARTINEZ was in almost daily contact with OCHOA and also with CARLOS PRIO, or some of PRIO's associates in Miami.

It is to be noted that CARLOS PRIO is a leader of the Authentic Party and EMILO OCHOA, representing his faction of the Orthodox Party, attended a joint conference of the two Parties at Montreal, Canada in June, 1953, at which time it was agreed, according to reports, that the two Parties would join forces in order to overthrow BATISTA.

T-5 said that MARTINEZ is a licensed "ham" radio operator whose call letters are W4JAV. This informant said

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that MARTINEZ had been operating clandestinely for several weeks and had been in radio communication with PRIO and OCHOA followers in Cuba and Campeche, Mexico. T-5 said that MARTINEZ usually received messages in telegraphic code and usually answered in plain text in Spanish. Informant ascertained that incoming coded messages are usually decoded by OCHOA, who maintained in his possession a code book.

This informant also reported on the same date that OCHOA was considering installing two-way radio units on several automobiles which he planned to ship to Cuba. One such unit had already been installed in OCHOA's car, which he then kept in Miami.

On October 28, 1954 Miami Informant T-2 advised that MARTINEZ had employed a code in communicating with one PEDRO UGALDE of Campeche, Mexico.

T-5 reported during the latter part of October, 1954 that MARTINEZ' contacts with OCHOA remained frequent and daily until October 27, 1954, or shortly prior thereto, when OCHOA, accompanied by EUGENIO GARCIA of Miami, went by plane to Jamaica. GARCIA returned directly to Miami from Jamaica. However, according to T-3 who reported in the early part of November, 1954, OCHOA made a clandestine entry into Cuba at Oriente Province in Cuba.

T-5 reported that after MARTINEZ was apparently unsuccessful in contacting OCHOA, that MARTINEZ' attempts to maintain contact with individuals in Mexico and Cuba reportedly decreased in frequency and that MARTINEZ apparently abandoned such efforts in December, 1954.

Miami Informant T-9, of known reliability, being a representative of a Federal Agency which conducts investigations, T-2 and T-8 ascertained independently of each other in November and December, 1954 that MARTINEZ was extremely cautious in the operation of this radio station and took many precautions in avoiding detection and in concealing the identity of persons contacted. Some of his messages were in code and others were in plain text in Spanish.

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On November 19, 1954 Miami Informant T-5 ascertained that according to MARTINEZ, a radio contact on the Isle of Pines off the coast of Cuba had been arrested by the Cuban Government. T-5 reported that one of MARTINEZ' contacts in Cuba had been RENE BENTANCOURT, who uses call letters CO2CY, however T-5 also learned that MARTINEZ suspected BENTANCOURT of being a "plant" of the Cuban Intelligence Service, did not trust him, and consequently was very circumspect in his messages with BENTANCOURT. T-5 said BENTANCOURT is a "ham" radio operator in Cuba and had spent some time in November, 1954 in Miami in the company of MARTINEZ and associates of PRIO and OCHOA. T-5 possessed no knowledge of the operation of this clandestine radio station in January, 1955.

(2) BOATS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN  
REVOLUTIONARY SCHEMES

(a) LE FRANCAIS

Information concerning the "LE FRANCAIS" has been previously reported to the effect, briefly, that CARLOS PRIO had entered into negotiations to have a 500 watt radio transmitter installed on this boat, apparently for the purpose of transmitting to commercial receivers in Cuba, but that PRIO cancelled this plan in favor of having a marine radio transmitter and receiver installed instead.

T-5 had reported on December 3, 1954 that this boat was owned as a matter of record by the Inter-Caribbean Corporation of Miami and T-3 had reported on December 6, 1954 that this boat belonged to JOSE MANUEL CARAMES, former Chief of Police in Havana who, according to T-3, was closely associated with CARLOS PRIO and his group.

Miami Informant T-10, of known reliability, being a Federal Agency which conducts investigations, reported on November 27, 1954 that a Canadian ship "LE FRANCAIS" had been acquired by certain radical Cuban elements in Miami for the purpose of using her in subversive activities against the present Cuban Government.

Miami Informant T-11, of known reliability, reported on January 6, 1955 that he had determined through

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various Cuban sources in Miami that JOSE MANUEL CARAMES, owner of the "LE FRANCAIS", had been furnished the sum of \$25,000 by CARLOS PRIO on condition that this vessel and another one owned by CARAMES, the "MOLLIE-O", be available to the PRIO organization should PRIO ever need it. T-11 said that inquiries relative to the present operations of this boat reflects that it is not hauling enough cargo at the present time to make expenses and that if it were not for PRIO's help, CARAMES would suffer a large financial loss in the operation of the vessel.

On January 24, 1955 Miami Informant T-12, of known reliability, being a representative of a Federal Agency which conducts investigations, advised that the registry of the "LE FRANCAIS" had been changed from Canadian to Costa Rican and that the present owners of this vessel are listed as JOSE C. CARAMES, JR. and PILAR LINERA LOPEZ, as of December 17, 1954, according to the Provisional Registrar, as issued by the Costa Rican Consul General in Miami. The Master of this vessel is listed as WILLIE EBANKS, citizen of Honduras, and a resident alien of the United States living at 44 N. E. Seventh Street, Miami, Florida.

T-12 said that another member of the crew was WILLIAM MORALLES. This vessel cleared Miami January 20, 1955, according to T-12, and sailed January 21, 1955 without any cargo or contraband. T-12 said this vessel was supposed to go to Costa Rica for coffee and cedar.

T-12 said it had been noted by a representative of his agency that CARAMES possesses a card issued by the Costa Rican Government authorizing him to operate a radio station. However, T-12 had determined that the only radio equipment now on board this vessel is a marine radio receiver.

T-12 pointed out that PILAR LINERA LOPEZ, listed as one of the owners, is identical to PASCASIO LINERA, which fact he said was borne out also by the fact that a crew list filed with the Costa Rican Consul General contained the name PASCASIO LINERA LOPEZ. T-12 also felt it could be significant that LINERA and MORALLES are associated with this vessel, inasmuch as both of these men pleaded guilty on a charge of conspiring to illegally export arms and

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ammunition without a license from the United States during 1954, following investigation by United States Customs, Miami. T-12 said that MORALLES had claimed that he would be in Cuba when the shooting started. T-12 described MORALLES as being a Cuban National who had acquired American citizenship by virtue of service as a GI with the United States Armed Forces.

T-12 described the "LE FRANCAIS" as being a 138.1 foot vessel with a 12 foot draft and a tonnage of 225.88. It is motor driven.

(b) SACHEM II

On October 21, 1954 Miami Informant T-3 advised that the "SACHEM II" was to be known as the "EL ZORRO" and several other boats in the Miami area would allegedly participate in an attempted revolution against BATISTA.

Miami Informant T-13, of known reliability, reported on October 19, 1954 that TOM McCRORY, Miami yacht broker, had made inquiries concerning the "SACHEM II", an 82 foot yacht which had been purchased August, 1954 from a New York owner by the name of RAUL ALVA SANCHEZ of Mexico. This informant said at the time this boat was purchased, ALVA SANCHEZ had been accompanied to Miami by CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ ZORILLA, a Mexican who has been previously carried in this investigation as a contact or associate of the PRIO group. T-13 said that TOM McCRORY indicated that he might captain this boat when it left Miami at some time in the near future.

With regard to TOM McCRORY, it is to be recalled that he allegedly participated in a transfer of arms and ammunition to Cay Sal, a British West Indies Island off the coast of Cuba, in 1953. These arms were later seized by the Cuban Government. T-13 was unable to determine at any subsequent time that McCRORY had any further connection with the "SACHEM II".

T-13 said this boat was ostensibly to be used for luxury fishing in Mexico and had undergone extensive repairs in Miami and was then ready for departure at most any time. T-13 said that negotiations were then being made to transfer the registry of this vessel from the American to the Panamanian flag.