

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : INSCOM/CSF
RECORD NUMBER : 194-10003-10012
RECORDS SERIES : FOREIGN PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : C8005823W - PAGES 1424-1444

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : O'BRIEN, FRANCIS J.
TO :
TITLE : REPORT
DATE : 03/13/58
PAGES : 21
SUBJECTS : [RESTRICTED]

[RESTRICTED]

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY

WINGFIELD, WILLIAM B.

IRIARTE, JOSE PABLO

ORTA, JUAN Y CORDOVA

MILITARY TRAINING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THE AUTHENTIC GROUPS

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTIONS : SECTION 10(a)2
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/28/97
OPENING CRITERIA : COMPLETION OF REVIEW BY FBI.
COMMENTS : COORDINATION WITH FBI HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination
Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 64954 Date: 09-22-2022

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 3/13/58	Investigation 12/2, 6/57; 1d/2, 3, 7, 8, 21; 21; 2/5, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20/58
TITLE OF CASE CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, ET AL		Report made by FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN	Typed By:
		CHARACTER OF CASE FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA; REGISTRATION ACT; NEUTRALITY MATTERS	

Synopsis:

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE
 of [unclear]
 RELEASE IN FULL
 RELEASE IN PART
 TOTAL DENIAL

Details regarding CARLOS PRIO's bank account maintained at the Guaranty Trust Company, NYC, set forth. WILLIAM B. WINGFIELD, associate of PRIO and JOSE PABLO IRIARTE, attempted suicide in Fort Lee, New Jersey, on 11/29/57, while under arrest for carrying a concealed weapon. Assault charges against WINGFIELD, IRIARTE and three other Cubans were dismissed on 1/18/58, in Court of Special Sessions, Manhattan, NY. Newspaper accounts of PRIO's plans to launch attack on Cuba from Nicaragua set forth. Dr. MANUEL URRUTIA, FIDEL CASTRO's choice for Provisional President of Cuba, was acceptable to the Authentic Groups. Informant advised that JUAN ORTA Y CORDOVA sent Cubans to the Dominican Republic for military training and

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-16-96 BY 57668 SLD/KSK
(JFK)

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 12 - Bureau (109-430) (RM) 1 - ONI, 3rd ND, NYC (RM) 1 - US Customs, NYC (RM) 1 - INS, NYC (RM) 1 - Houston (109-7) (Info) (RM) 3 - Miami (2-165) (RM) 2 - New York (109-43)				

1424

CRF File Copy

NY 109-43

SYNOPSIS (CONT'D)

that expenses for the military camp were paid by CARLOS PRIO. Federal Grand Jury began hearing of witnesses in the Southern District of New York on 1/7/58. An indictment naming CARLOS PRIO and eight other defendants was returned in the Southern District of New York on 2/13/58, for conspiracy to violate Sections 371 and 960, Title 18, USC.

- P -

- 2 -

1425

NY 109-43

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

I. BANK ACCOUNT OF CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS
 WITH THE GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY, 128
 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

T-1 advised on February 13, 1958, that a subpoena duces tecum, dated October 24, 1957, was issued by the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida for [redacted] concerning

[redacted] for [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

JFK Law 10(a)2 T-1 advised that [redacted]

[redacted] were

to be presented to the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, Miami, Florida, on November 25, 1957.

T-1 advised that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] T-1 advised

that [redacted]

[redacted] T-1 advised

that [redacted]

JFK Law 10(a)2

T-1 advised that [redacted]

[redacted]

NY 109-43

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

T-1 advised

JFK Law 10(a)2

JFK Law 10(a)2

Information furnished by T-1 is not to be made public except in the usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

Concerning Mrs. INEZ GEORGINA KARELL, it is to be noted that VINCENT SCHIANO, Investigator, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, advised that Mrs. KARELL is the first wife of CARLOS PRIO and PRIO sends her \$1,000 a month for herself and her child born of PRIO.

NY 109-43

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING WILLIAM B.
WINGFIELD AND JOSE PABLO IRIARTE,
ASSOCIATES OF CARLOS PRIO IN NEW
YORK CITY

WILLIAM BRETON WINGFIELD, 95 Main Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey, was arrested by the Fort Lee, New Jersey Police Department at 2:10 a.m., on November 29, 1957, in a parked car with a loaded .38 caliber snubnose S & W Chief Special with one cartridge shot. WINGFIELD was interviewed by agents of the Newark Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 29, 1957, at the Fort Lee Police Department. WINGFIELD stated that he had been drinking a great deal and was fearful for his life from two separate Cuban factions. WINGFIELD said during interview that he had been arrested by the New York City Police Department on June 24, 1957, for felonious assault, which charge was later reduced to simple assault, and that he was free on \$500.00 bail. WINGFIELD stated that he was arrested with four Cubans as he tried to break up a fight between a group of Cubans. WINGFIELD stated that an individual named RENALDO VALDES and his son, RENALDO VALDES, JR., attempted to kidnap FILIBERTO MACHADO, who is a member of the PRIO organization in New York City. WINGFIELD stated that a brother of RENALDO VALDES was a member of the Cuban Investigations Division, Havana, Cuba.

- 5 -

1428

NY 109-43

WINGFIELD also admitted that he had been arrested on July 7, 1957, by the New York City Police Department for the Hoboken, New Jersey Police Department on a charge of forging American Express travellers checks. WINGFIELD stated that he was out on \$500.00 bail on this charge, and that the bail in this matter had been posted by JOSE PABLO IRIARTE. WINGFIELD stated that he went to Cuba in 1954, in order to look for a job, and there he met JOSE IRIARTE in Havana, Cuba. IRIARTE took WINGFIELD around Havana in an effort to get a job for WINGFIELD, but was unsuccessful. WINGFIELD stated that he returned to Cuba in 1955, for a visit and again saw IRIARTE and that some time shortly after his second visit to Havana, IRIARTE left Cuba and moved to New York City. WINGFIELD advised that it was through his friend, JOSE IRIARTE, that he became interested in the PRIO faction.

The December 2, 1957, issue of the "Bergen Evening Record," Hackensack, New Jersey, carried an article on page one entitled, "Case Expanded by Suicide Try." This article stated that WILLIAM WINGFIELD, age 34, unsuccessfully attempted suicide on November 29, 1957, in his jail cell in police headquarters, Fort Lee, New Jersey, where he was being held on the charge of carrying a concealed weapon, a .38 caliber revolver. This article stated that WINGFIELD, some time between 8:45 p.m., and 9:25 p.m. on November 29, 1957, took a double-edged razor blade from a hiding place between layers of the sole of his shoe and slit open an artery in his left arm just below the elbow.

- 6 -

1429

NY 109-43

According to this article, WINGFIELD told Chief of Police THEODORE E. GRIECO, Fort Lee, New Jersey Police Department, that he did not want to be free. WINGFIELD was discovered lying in a pool of blood in his cell block at 9:25 p.m., by Sergeant ARTHUR DALTON and Patrolman JOSEPH ZEVITS.

WINGFIELD was then rushed in an ambulance for emergency treatment to a nearby hospital, the Bergen Pines County Hospital.

This news article quoted Police Chief GRIECO as stating that when WINGFIELD was interviewed by the Fort Lee Police Department on the afternoon of November 29, 1957, WINGFIELD periodically told the police, "You are looking at a corpse." His remarks, according to the news article, were attributed to fear of attack by others because of his refusal to post bail and because of another remark made by WINGFIELD wherein he said "I'm no good on the outside."

This news article stated that WINGFIELD, if his condition permitted, would appear in Municipal Court on December 5, 1957, to face the charges of the Fort Lee, New Jersey Police Department. An additional charge of attempted suicide had been added to the original charge against WINGFIELD. This article also stated that WINGFIELD was also awaiting hearings on the Hoboken, New Jersey forgery charges and also on felonious assault charges brought against him in New York City, on June 28, 1957.

- 7 -

1430

NY 109-43

This news article further stated that WINGFIELD was under subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury in Miami, Florida, to testify concerning opposition to the present Cuban regime by persons of his acquaintance.

The January 19, 1958, issue of "El Diario de Nueva York," a Spanish language newspaper published daily in New York City, carried an article on page five entitled, "Absolve Accused of Attacking a Brother of Cuban Police Lieutenant." This article stated that two Cuban exiles and a North American who had been accused of beating a Cuban police lieutenant, were found not guilty on January 18, 1958, and assault charges against them were dismissed in the Court of Special Sessions, Manhattan, New York City. This article identified those who had been freed of assault charges as PABLO QUINTANA, age 34, 505 West 183rd Street, and ADEL ECHEVARRIA, age 28, 505 West 183rd Street, New York City. This article identified the North American, who spoke perfect Spanish and who was a friend of the Cubans as WILLIAM B. WINGFIELD, age 33, 166 Grand Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey. The assault charges were made by FERNADES VALDES, and his son who reside at 367 Wadsworth Avenue, New York City. The attorney for WINGFIELD and the Cubans was identified as IRWIN GRAY, 391 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York.

This news article stated that Dr. JOSE PABLO IRIARTE, age 39, 368 Audubon Avenue, New York City, and FILIBERTO ORFILA, who resides in New York City, had previously been found not guilty on similar charges.

- 8 -

1431

NY 109-43

This article stated that Attorney GRAY presented a suit for \$50,000 against RENEALDO VALDES alleging false arrest and imprisonment for being unjustly accused by VALDES. This suit was presented in the name of FELICIANO ORFILA. It was also noted that it was possible that the other Cubans who were found not guilty would also sue VALDES.

This news article identified RENEALDO VALDES as being the brother of Lieutenant CARLOS VALDES of the Bureau of Investigations of the Havana Police.

III. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CONCERNING
CARLOS PRIO AND THE PARTIDO
AUTENTICO

The December 6, 1957, issue of the "New York Times," on page fourteen, carried an article entitled, "Somoza Reports Prio Cuban Plot." This article, datelined Managua, Nicaragua, December 5, 1957, indicated that President LUIS ANA SOMOZA DEBAYLE, had stated that he had "definite information" of a plan for an invasion of Cuba from Nicaraguan territory with the assistance of arms bought in the United States. President SOMOZA of Nicaragua stated that this plan had been thwarted.

This news article said that President SOMOZA charged that the plan of invasion of Cuba was formulated by the exiled former Cuban President, Dr. CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, who is now living in the United States. The purported plan called for launching the attack from Puerto Cabezas, a northern Nicaraguan port on the Caribbean.

- 9 -

1432

NY 109-43

In an interview held by President SOMOZA on the evening of December 4, 1957, it was reported that President SOMOZA stated that Dr. PRIO, the President of Cuba from 1948 to 1952, had "for many years been looking for a place in Central America from which to begin an attack on Cuba." President SOMOZA was quoted as saying that Dr. PRIO had recruited exiled Nicaraguans, Cubans, Guatemalans, and Dominicans in order to execute his plans.

This article quoted President SOMOZA as saying, "We have definite information they had designs on some port of Nicaragua for launching their attack, and Puerto Cabezas was the last place considered. The United States will have to pay more attention to Prio. He has been able to buy arms in the United States and distribute them all over the place, some of them to Central Americans."

This news article quoted CARLOS PRIO as saying that President SOMOZA's statement about an invasion was "fantastic and grotesque." PRIO said that it was part of a plan of President FULGENCIO BATISTA of Cuba to have Dr. PRIO expelled from the United States.

This news article stated that Dr. PRIO was interviewed by telephone at his home in Miami Beach, Florida, and that PRIO ridiculed the statement made by President SOMOZA of Nicaragua. PRIO was quoted as saying that it was preposterous to think that anyone could invade Cuba from a country hostile to Dr. PRIO and friendly to President PATISTA.

- 10 -

1433

NY 109-43

The January 8, 1958, issue of "El Diario de Nueva York," on page four, carried an article entitled, "Authentic Accept Urrutia for the Presidency." This article stated that the Authentic Groups in Miami, Florida, on January 7, 1958, announced that they had accepted the provisional presidential candidate of the rebel chief, FIDEL CASTRO. This article stated that Dr. MANUEL URRUTIA had been selected by FIDEL CASTRO as his candidate for provisional president. This article stated further that URRUTIA was acceptable to the Authentic Groups, which are headed in Miami, Florida, by the ex-President of Cuba, CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS.

Dr. MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA, President of the Authentic Party, and Dr. ENRIQUE C. HENRIQUEZ, Head of the Authentic Organization, were quoted as saying in a joint statement that Dr. URRUTIA, FIDEL CASTRO's choice for provisional president, was acceptable to them if CASTRO would withdraw or change his demands, namely that the July 26 Movement not only designate the provisional president but that the July 26 be permitted to keep its arms, reorganize and control the Armed Forces of Cuba and that it be in charge of maintaining public order.

This joint statement of VARONA and HENRIQUEZ states that CASTRO relegates the other organizations opposed to BATISTA to await the convocation of elections and to take part only as political parties when the president selected by CASTRO decides to hold these elections. The Authentic Groups observed that such a demand by CASTRO contained the threat of a permanent control of the country by force, which would be opposed to the tradition of Cuba, and to the re-establishment of democratic institutions.

- 11 -

1434

NY 109-43

The Authentic Groups contended that the Armed Forces of Cuba should be re-organized and purged of criminal elements but that the military element should be respected in accordance with the Constitution that all Cubans have sworn to re-establish.

In another section of this joint statement, the Authentic Groups protested the fact that FIDEL CASTRO said the individuals representing the July 26 Movement, ^{who} had signed the agreement to establish the Council for Liberation, had lacked the authority to do so.

The Authentics stated that it was improper and unjust to accuse such outstanding and respected citizens as Doctors FELIPE PAZOS and RAUL CHIBAS, PELAYO CUERVO, JR., LESTER RODRIGUEZ, LUCAS MORAN, MARIO LLEFENA and RAUL CEPEDA of having assumed a fraudulent representation of the July 26 Movement in the unity pact, which had been signed during October, 1957.

This article also noted that the Authentics denied the statement attributed to CASTRO that he, CASTRO, had not received any help from the liberation front, and the Authentics stated that without the aid of other groups and organizations opposed to President BATISTA, FIDEL CASTRO would not have been able to come to Cuba on December 2, 1956.

Concerning FIDEL CASTRO, it is to be noted that he is the Cuban rebel leader who led an unsuccessful attack on the Moncada Barracks on July 26, 1953, from whence his organization has taken its name. FIDEL CASTRO, together with eighty-two

- 12 -

1435

NY 109-43

followers left Mexico aboard the Yacht, "Gramma" and landed in Oriente Province, Cuba, on or about December 2, 1956. CASTRO and his followers made their headquarters in the Sierra Maestra from whence they have waged guerrilla warfare against the Government of President BATISTA of Cuba.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. LARA MATOS, Superintendent, 318 West 52nd Street, New York City, advised SA MAURICE H. LAUZIÈRE on January 8, 1958, that MANUEL MEJIAS ANDRINO, who formerly resided at this address, was now living in Miami, Florida. Mr. MATOS stated that he had ascertained this information from friends of his who were acquainted with MEJIAS. Mr. MATOS stated that he would attempt to obtain the present address of MEJIAS in the Miami area.

Mrs. WANDA MORAN, 581 West 160th Street, New York City, advised SA MAURICE H. LAUZIÈRE, on February 12, 1958, that JOSE ROLANDO CURRO MONTES had left for Miami, Florida, approximately three months ago. Mrs. MORAN advised that she did not know his present whereabouts and knew nothing concerning his background or activities as CURRO was only a boarder in her apartment.

Mrs. MORAN advised that a Miss CARMEN BELLO, 601 West 164th Street, New York City, might know CURRO's present whereabouts as Miss BELLO has received letters from CURRO.

- 13 -

1436

NY 109-43

SA MAURICE H. LAUZIÈRE attempted to contact CARMEN BELLO at 601 West 164th Street, New York City, on February 12, 1958, with negative results.

Mrs. RAFAELA GUIDI, mother of ARTURO MUNOZ GUIDI, 39-22 58th Street, Woodside, Long Island, advised SA LAUZIÈRE on February 12, 1958, that ARTURO MUNOZ had left home some time during November, 1957, for California, and as of the present time, she has not had any word from her son. Mrs. GUIDI advised that she would attempt to get some information about the present whereabouts of her son, and would notify this office of her son's present location.

BRANDON ALVEY and MARVIN SECAL, Special Assistants to the Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., advised on January 24, 1958, that they had interviewed T-2 on several occasions during January, 1958, and that during one of these interviews, T-2 stated that guns which had been purchased for Cuban revolutionaries in the New York area, were being transported to Miami, Florida by Cubans who were driving automobiles from a car forwarding company owned by one BERASTEGIN, 317 West 55th Street, New York City.

Mr. SECAL stated that T-2 said that Cubans would pick up these cars from the aforementioned car forwarding company, pick up the guns somewhere between 130th and 140th Streets on Riverside Drive, ^{and} deliver these arms to the Miami area.

-14-

1437

NY 109-43

T-2 advised Mr. ALVEY and Mr. SEGAL that these cars were being driven from the New York area to Enterprises Many, Inc., 1330 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, telephone number FR 4-3974. T-2 indicated that the individual at Enterprises Many, who handles these cars, which are engaged in transporting arms from the New York area, is one J. VEGA.

A neighborhood inquiry was conducted in the vicinity of 317 West 58th Street, New York City, on February 5, 1958, and it was ascertained that 317 West 55th Street, is a private dwelling and no one by the name of BERASTEGIN resides at this address. It was also noted that there were no garages or car forwarding companies located in the three hundred block of West 55th Street, New York City.

Inquiries were also conducted on February 5, 1958, at the Automotive Shippers, Inc., 250 West 57th Street, New York City, Fleet Carrier Corporation, 1775 Broadway, New York City, and the Peyton Automotive Transportation Service, 300 West 56th Street, New York City, with negative results regarding one BERASTEGIN, or of Cubans driving automobiles for the above-named companies to the Miami, Florida area.

The current Manhattan Telephone Directory and classified section failed to reflect any listing for BERASTEGIN or a car forwarding company in the vicinity of West 55th Street, New York City.

- 15 -

1438

NY 109-43

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as furnished by Miss PAULINE DE FIORE to SA PAUL F. ROWLANDS, on February 2, 1958, failed to reflect any information regarding BERASTEGIN or any forwarding company in the vicinity of 317 West 55th Street, New York City.

T-3 advised on January 21, 1958, that he had been associated with CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS during 1956 and 1957, and was engaged in revolutionary activities in behalf of PRIO in Havana, Cuba, during the above period.

T-3 stated that JUAN ORTA Y CORDOVA of Miami, Florida, had sent Cubans to Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic to receive training in the use of weapons in preparation for an invasion of Cuba and an attack on the Government of President BATISTA.

T-3 stated that it was common knowledge that all expenses incurred by individuals who travelled to the Dominican Republic, and who were trained in the Dominican Republic at a military camp, were paid for by CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS.

T-3 stated that he was acquainted with PABLO IRIARTE of New York City, who was identified as a member of the Authentic Party of CARLOS PRIO and was a representative of PRIO in the New York City area.

T-3 further advised that he was acquainted with LESTER RODRIGUEZ and described RODRIGUEZ as being a trusted agent of FIDEL CASTRO. The informant said that he was acquainted also with ARNALDO G. BARRON, who is one of the leaders of the July 26th

- 16 -

1439

NY 109-43

Movement in New York, and who is President of the Comité Ortodoxo de Nueva York. T-3 advised that there was a rumor circulating among Cuban revolutionaries in New York City, that BARRON was keeping some of the money which was being collected in the New York area for himself and hence was not trusted by other Cubans.

T-3 advised that PABLO DIAZ GONZALEZ was an emissary of FIDEL CASTRO, and was one of the original eighty-two men who had left Mexico with CASTRO and landed in Oriente Province on December 2, 1956. T-3 advised that he was familiar with the name of ROBERT CORENEVSKY and identified CORENEVSKY as a friend of ARNALDO BARRON and as an individual who had trained Cubans in the use of weapons in the State of Connecticut some time during the summer of 1957.

On January 31, 1958, JOSE MANUEL PATRICIO GARCIA VALDES advised SA MAURICE H. LAUZIÈRE that on or about December 8, 1956, he flew to Miami, Florida, and then to Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, to train in military warfare with other Cubans. GARCIA stated that he was told about this training by JOSE ANTONIO LOPEZ MACHIN, whom he met in some bar, which he could not recall, on the West Side around 71st Street, New York City. He stated that he was not recruited by anyone but was merely told of the training by MACHIN. He stated that he paid his own fare to and from the Dominican Republic. He advised that he remained in the Cuban training camp in the Dominican Republic for four months where he received training in the use of the United States colt, Brazilian rifle and Thompson submachine guns. He stated that he met other Cubans there and advised that the following Cubans were at the Cuban training in the Dominican Republic when he was there:

- 17 -

1440

NY 109-43

MANUEL MEJIAS ANDRINO
TOMAS PRIETO RATON
DANILO EUSEBIO MENDEZ FERNANDO
JOSE ANTONIO LOPEZ MACHIN
RAFAEL BOLIVAR FUENTES
MARCOS DELIO HERNANDEZ
ROGELIO ROIG ESCOBAR
LUIS ROLANDO TORRES RAMOS
SERGIO TEUTELO Y CASTILLO
RAUL VENTA Y DE MAZO.

VALDES stated that he did not know of anyone whose passage was paid for by either JUAN ORTA or any other Cuban. He stated that he did not know of anyone who recruited these Cubans to go to the Dominican Republic to train in military warfare. He advised that the individual in charge of the camp was POLYCARPO SOLER CRUZ and the tutor was an individual named PEREZ PEREZ. VALDES also advised that he was interviewed by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Miami, Florida, upon his return from the Dominican Republic, and was warned by INS that he could be deported for such action. VALDES stated that he did not know at the time that he had violated any law of the United States. He stated that inasmuch as he knows it is illegal at the present time he would never do it again. VALDES also stated that at the present time, he does not belong to any Cuban organization in the New York area nor does he contemplate joining any such organization in the near future.

- 18 -

1441

NY 109-43

V. FEDERAL GRAND JURY, NEW YORK CITY

MARVIN SWEENEY, Departmental Attorney, advised on January 3, 1958, that the Department of Justice was seeking to obtain an indictment against CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS and others through a Grand Jury which would begin hearing witnesses on January 7, 1958. Mr. SWEENEY stated that an indictment against PRIO would be sought for violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 960 and 371.

DANIEL E. DUNNING, United States Customs Agent, New York City, telephonically advised the New York Office on February 13, 1958, that the Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, had returned an indictment on the morning of February 13, 1958, for violation of Sections 960 and 371, Title 18, United States Code, against CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, ENRIQUE HENRIQUEZ, DANIEL VASQUEZ, GUIDO EUSTAMENTE, JUAN ORTA, LUIS SILVA, JOSE PABLO TRIARTE, JULIO PRIETO and LUIS CHAVIANO.

The February 14, 1958, issue of the "New York Times," on page one, carried an article entitled, "U. S. Indicts Prio as Cuban Plotter." This article stated that CARLOS PRIO, the exiled former President of Cuba and eight other Cubans were indicted in New York City for conspiring to set up a well-financed military expedition to attack Cuba. Dr. PRIO and the others were charged with conspiring to violate the neutrality laws of the United States. A Federal Grand Jury said that they had "conspired to begin and set on foot, and to provide and prepare the means for, and to furnish money for, and take part in, military expeditions and enterprises to be carried on from the United States against the Republic of Cuba."

NY 109-43

This article stated that at the request of the United States Attorney, PAUL W. WILLIAMS, Federal Judge EDWARD WEINFELD issued bench warrants for the arrest of all the defendants.

This article also quoted Mr. WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice, as stating that the alleged conspirators had recruited hundreds of persons in the United States for the military campaigns. Some of those recruited were to be sent to Cuba to commit sabotage and others to assassinate officials of the Cuban Government.

This article also stated that part of the conspiracy included the establishment of military training camps in the United States, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Haiti. The plot, according to this news article, called for large purchases of arms and other military equipment, some of which has already been seized.

The February 16, 1958, 7th Blue Final edition of the "New York Post" carried an editorial entitled, "Neutral in Favor of Batista." This editorial stated that the indictment of CARLOS PRIO and eight of his associates for allegedly planning a military attack on the BATISTA regime from United States territory may well have legal validity.

This editorial stated that what is legally defensible is not always morally right. This editorial said that in applying the Neutrality Act, in this case, we are in effect being neutral in favor of BATISTA. The United States State

NY 109-43

Department has more than once deplored the price of such neutralism in the fight for freedom.

This editorial goes on to state that by becoming enemies of BATISTA's enemies, we forfeit the trust of Latin American democrats. This article states dictatorships of the right will be as pleased as dictatorships of the left, and that the blow that the United States has struck against freedom will make the tyrants in Moscow as happy as the despot in Havana.

This editorial desired to know if there were a leftist government in Cuba and BATISTA was found to be plotting against it in Florida, would the Neutrality Act have been invoked by the United States with such efficiency and dispatch?

- P -

- 21 -

1444