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TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED INTERVIEW OF PABLO HERNANDEZ MOYAS.

Subject arrived to Key West, Florida, on 9 January 1962, and was interviewed by Cesar DIOSDADO, Customs Agent.

~~DOCUMENT CONTAINS SENSITIVE INFORMATION~~ -----

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What is your full name, please?

Pablo HERNANDEZ Moyas.

When and where were you born?

I was born on 6 June 1939 in Manicaragua, Las Villas province, Cuba.

What is your occupation?

Commerce. I worked in a shoe store in Santa Clara, Las Villas.

Do you belong to any underground group?

I was up in the hills fighting, in the Escambray, under Major Joaquin MEMBIBERES.

How long were you an insurgent in the hills?

I was 14 months up in the hills, from 26 August 1960 until approximately two months ago.

What other Majors or Chiefs were operating in that area also?

I was with CONGO PACHECO. The chief of the Escambray is Osvaldo RAMIREZ.

During your stay in the hills, how many men were there, how many men did you have?

The Escambray is divided into guerrilla groups. The Hqs counts on 300 men in arms, in addition to the rest of the guerrilla groups which are also under this headquarters.

What is the total number of men fighting in that area?

I estimate that there are approximately 2,000 armed men in the Escambray.

And are they well equipped, are you receiving arms in the Escambray?

Well, lately we have been receiving, during the past few months while

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Interview of Pablo HERNANDEZ Moyas (cont.)

Then you have been receiving supplies?

Yes, a little delayed but we are receiving some. Now it is a little more advanced.

How is the morale of the insurgents in that area?

Everyone who is in arms in that area has a high morale.

And have they brought Militia troops to the Escambray?

That is tremendous. When they start one of their offensives they send 50,000 or 60,000 Militia troops. We have to fight every day. But sometimes we have a good situation because there is control within the Militias themselves, that is, militiamen from cooperative farms and granges are sent there by our own organizations, and they are good men. At least we have a good situation with them. The problem is when they unleash one of their offensives. But when things are quiet we have a good situation.

How are you receiving the arms with which you are being supplied?

We are receiving them through contacts.

Do you have contact with outside Cuba, or how were you getting these arms?

I think that lately we have had contact with other countries, but I do not know who they are because we only receive them and we don't know how they are obtained.

And who is the main contact which you have for Osvaldo RAMIREZ?

Well, I belong to another group. To CONGO PACHECO and Joaquin MEMBIBERES.

And do you have contact with people outside the Escambray area? That is, did you have contacts in the town so they would support you?

Of course, people were collaborating with us throughout Las Villas province.

Can you divulge the name or names of these contacts or people who were

Interview of Pablo HERNANDEZ Moyas (cont.)

Yes, one of our main contacts was a man named Rafaelito LUGONES. This interview will not be published will it? (question by HERNANDEZ Moyas)  
No, this is strictly secret and confidential. (interviewer)

Well, also another man from Santa Clara called Andres (LNU) who used to come to the U.S.

You mean he comes to the U.S.?

No, he used to come. He is now under arrest.

Do you remember any other names?

No, I really don't. You see, there are so many and I have trouble remembering the names.

And then you say that there are approximately 2,000 men in the Escambray?

Yes, 2,000 armed men. What we need is ammunition.

The time when you were there, what was the most needed type of ammunition?

The most necessary ammunition was .30 Caliber, we had three .30 Calibers and we <sup>were</sup> short of ammo. We also needed grenades. Hand grenades are extremely necessary, it is the most effective weapon. It is very effective because one is always surrounded there, they encircle us and then we can break through with grenades and the enemy is afraid to come near us if they know we have them.

And how do the militiamen behave in combat?

Well, some militiamen fight well and others run like the devil.

And in your opinion, do you think that the majority of them run or what?

Well, at this stage of the game those who fight are Communists. Today those who are not Communists will not fight. When we first rose in rebellion, everyone would fight. Those who were deceived and who believed in the Revolution and all that. But now that they have realized what Communism is, the militiaman who is not a Communist will not fight. The Communists are the ones who fight. And now the Militia troops do not go up the hills with the same original enthusiasm, they have to be forced

Interview of Pablo HERNANDEZ Moyas (cont.)

to comb the area, and when they get up there they find that things are quite different. Now the militiamen are not fighting with the same enthusiasm which they had previously for the fight. There is much discouragement among them, and many of them are also good men.

Are they collaborating with you?

Yes, they are.

In what form are they collaborating?

Well, with food and things like that. When we are encircled it becomes very hard to obtain food because they seize all roads and paths. And it is not as if we were operating on open country. We operate in guerrilla groups moving about and when we are attacked it is very hard to find food.

And what do those officers do, do they leave you food or what?

Well, no, let allow our contacts to operate by looking the other way. Of course, in those posts there is always some militiaman that is a Communist or something, but our men operate freely.

And those who are collaborating or supporting the Regime, don't you think that they may die in combat and thus they will be eliminated as time passes?

Well, those men are already on a black list. When the time comes they will be eliminated. Also when Militia forces were sent from Havana to comb the woods, as they call it, as these troops are not very experienced in the mountains, the ones with experience are the Militia troops that have been in the mountains for some time, then some of them who are good people would send us word that the troops were coming so that we could change our position. Then the troops would begin to comb the area but we were already out of that area and they would not find anything. Then the militiamen themselves warned you of this?

Yes, they themselves warned us.

