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FACT SHEET

OCSSI/Collection Div
Lt Col Daugherty/77853
26 March 1963

SUBJECT: Army Contacts with Cuban Activist Groups (C)

TO: The Secretary of Defense

PURPOSE

(C) To inform the Secretary of Defense on the current contacts maintained by Army with Cuban exile groups who have been engaging in raids against Cuba.

FACTS

1. (S) Following is a synopsis of Army contacts with Alpha-66 and related splinter groups:

a. ALPHA-66: Contact was initially established on 20 October 1962 with meetings with Antonio VECIANA, the overt leader of the group. The purpose of these and subsequent meetings was to exploit the organizational potential to obtain intelligence information from Cuba. Contacts have subsequently continued with members of the Alpha-66 group.

b. COMANDO L-66: This splinter group of Alpha-66 was created in June 1962 when members of Alpha-66 refused to follow Vacione because he proposed an amalgamation of Alpha-66 with the Second Front of the Escambray, another anti-Castro group. They initially called themselves "Platoon 36", but are now called "Comando L-66". The commander of the group is purportedly Leonardo A. CEBALLOS-Piernas, who approached the Army on 19 March 1963, and offered to cooperate in furnishing information. A request from the field unit for guidance was received on 27 March 1963, but no response has been made.

c. Second Front of the Escambray: This unit was consolidated with Alpha-66 about June 1962, and all Army contacts have been made with members allegedly belonging to Alpha-66.

2. (S) Personnel contacted and their purported positions are as follows:

a. Eloy GUTIERREZ-Manyo, a registered Army source, the war leader of the Alpha-66 Second Front of the Escambray.

b. Antonio VECIANA, a registered Army source, the overt leader and public spokesman for Alpha-66.

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c. Rafael MICHET, a registered Army source, the second in command of Alpha 66.

d. Angel SANCOS Pantoja, registration requested, a member of Alpha 66.

e. Andres HAZARIC, registration requested, radio man of Alpha-66.

f. Leonardo A. GEBALLOS-Fairman, the leader of Comando L-66.

3. (S) During all Army contacts, Army has received no advance information concerning raids, except in the broadest possible terms on one occasion last October. Army has given no sanction, approval, or support to the Alpha-66 group in the conduct of these raids.

4. (S) It is possible that additional information on the dissident exile groups may be obtained by emphasizing exploitation of the persons listed above.

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