

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination
Records Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note)
NW 53295 6/15/17

~~SECRET~~

TO : Chief, Security Support Division Date: 22 December 1959
ATTN : Philip TOOMEY, WH
FROM : Interrogation Research Division
SUBJECT: S.F.# 210838 IRD#: 38636

IDENTIFYING DATA

Subject of this report is a single twenty-nine-year-old Cuban defector from Fidel CASTRO's revolutionary organization. Subject's true name is First Lieutenant _____ . Subject was born 29 January 1932 in Moron, Camaguey, Cuba. In November 1959 Subject became disaffected with CASTRO's government and went into hiding in Cuba. Eventually through a clandestine U.S. controlled operator in Cuba he was put in contact with CIA station in Havana. Subject had planned to publish a letter attacking CASTRO publicly but the station persuaded Subject to postpone publishing this letter until he was exfiltrated to the United States. The plan was to send Subject to Mexico where his letter would be published so that the United States could not be held responsible for the action. It was planned to use Subject in this one FP effort without any other employment of Subject.

PROCEDURE

03
1. [Philip TOOMEY] WH, contacted the examiner through IRD liaison. A conference was arranged on 17 December between the examiner, TOOMEY, Chief/IRD, Chief, Covert Operations/IRD, and a representative of SCD/OS. During this conference it was established that the polygraph interview of Subject must be accomplished by 18 December since Subject was to leave for Mexico by the 18th or at the latest 19th of December. Subject had just come out of hiding on the 16th of December and speed was necessary to prevent connecting the United States with Subject's case. The Office of Security had no information in its files on Subject and WH had only sparse information contained mostly in cables. Subject reportedly spoke only Spanish and an interpreter was obtained. As it developed, however, Subject's English was good enough for the interview with an occasional reference to the interpreter.

2. The examiner and the interpreter arranged passage to Miami where Subject was located and arrived there the evening of 17 December. No contact with Subject was possible until the afternoon of 18 December. Subject was interrogated and polygraphed on 18 December from 1330 to 1430 at which time an intermission was necessary for Subject to inquire about his Mexican visa. Interviewing was resumed at 1530 and ended at 1800 for dinner. The interview was recommenced at 2030 and was completed at 2230.

3. It was necessary to debrief Subject since there was little or no information available.

~~SECRET~~

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

~~SECRET~~

IRDA# 33636
22 December 1959

h. During the conference the day before it had been agreed to restrict the polygraph issues to the following:

- a. To establish Subject's bona fides.
- b. To establish that Subject actually was present at a meeting in which proof of CASTRO's Communist intentions were obtained.
- c. That the letter to be published by Subject was genuine and an accurate picture of the meeting and the purpose of which was not a provocation to embarrass the United States.
- d. That Subject was not an agent of CASTRO's whose mission was to uncover clandestine assets of the United States.

THE RESULTS OF TESTING

The following questions and their modifications were asked Subject.

101. Is your baptismal name _____?
- 101a. Have you ever used any other name besides ⁰⁷ [Ignacio] in clandestine work? Answer: No.
102. Were you born on ⁰⁹ [January 1932]? Answer: Yes.
103. Were you born in ¹⁰ [Moron, Camaguey], Cuba? Answer: Yes.
104. Were you a member of Agrupacion Catolica Universitaria? Answer: Yes.
105. Were you a member of the revolution since October 1958? Answer: Yes. ⁰⁸
106. Were you the ⁰⁸ [second chief of some 22] on paper? Answer: Yes.
- 106a. Did everyone consider you to be ⁰⁸ [first chief of some 22]? Answer: Yes.
107. Were you a close acquaintance of CASTRO's? Answer: No.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~IED# 38636
22 December 1959

108. Are you hiding anything from us of peril to the United States? Answer: No.
201. Did anyone besides ⁰⁶ [Father Ascaraga] (ER/IED) help you write the letter? Answer: No.
202. Did INRA have a meeting in the middle of October? Answer: Yes.
204. Were you present at the meeting? Answer: ⁰⁸ [Yes.]
- 204a. Were you present at the second meeting of INRA? Answer: ⁰⁸ [Yes.]
205. Does the letter generally report what occurred at the meeting? Answer: Yes.
- 205a. Is everything contained in the letter the truth? Answer: Yes.
301. Did CASTRO know when you left Cuba? Answer: No.
302. Did CASTRO give you any help to leave Cuba? Answer: No.
303. Are you to contact anyone in the United States or Mexico for CASTRO? Answer: No.
304. Are you on a secret mission for CASTRO? Answer: No.
305. Is the letter designed to embarrass the United States? Answer: No.
306. Have you left CASTRO for some other reason besides continuing your fight against Communism? Answer: No.
307. Did you leave Cuba because of any kind of trouble? Answer: No.

During the polygraph testing strong polygraph evidence was obtained to support Subject's contentions of fact namely:

1. Subject's bona fides
2. That INRA had a meeting around the middle of October.
3. That Subject was present at the meeting.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

IRD# 38636

22 December 1959

4. That Subject wrote the content of the letter himself and that it is generally accurate in reportin the DERA meeting.
5. That Subject is not an agent of CASTRO's but, rather, he is a bona fide defector.

The examiner believes that Subject was truthful in the above matters.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

1. The following information was obtained from Subject both during pre-polygraph and post-polygraph discussions. It represents the debriefing of Subject which was necessary in order to conduct intelligent polygraph testing. Subject gave his place and date of birth the same as contained in his record. In discussing his early life, Subject related that his father had emigrated to Cuba from Spain when he was 15 years of age. Subject's father came from the northern part of Spain from a place called Manzanaera. Subject stated that his mother and father are now residing in Canaquey. He mentioned that his father had favored the Spanish Republic when the revolutionary difficulties occurred in Spain. As a result Subject stated that his father joined the Communist Party for a period of six or seven years. The Party attracted his father because he wanted to help the Spanish Republic and was active in that part of the Party which aided the Spanish Republicans. Around 1939 the Party wanted to send Subject's father to Russia for training and also wanted him to inform on his friends. Subject stated that his father refused to act as an informant and was then publicly thrown out of the Party. Subject related that this was publicly recorded in the Communist newspaper Hry. Subject related how his father then became violently anti-Communist and raised Subject with this prejudice.

2. Subject mentioned that his father has twenty caballeros of land which he believes will now be confiscated because of his defection. Subject was an only child and educated in the local public school in Canaquey and went to Baldo High School where he was under the influence of Father Marine Perez PURAN (IR/IRD), S.J., and in 1949 entered the University of Havana to study medicine. Subject was president of the Catholic Action Group; and when CASTRO began his revolutionary activities, Subject belonged to another revolutionary group plotting against BATTISTA. Though CASTRO's group continued its activities while other groups were slow to act, Subject still did not join CASTRO's group since there were apparently so many Communists in it. However, a close friend of Subject's, Padre Arnando LEBENS (IR/IRD), S.J., went to visit Fidel CASTRO who was hiding in the

SECRET

~~SECRET~~IRD# 38636
22 December 1959

Sierra Maestra Mountains. When LORNET returned, he advised Subject to join CASTRO saying that it was obvious CASTRO's group was infiltrated with Communists but it did not seem that CASTRO himself was Communist. Therefore it would be wise for anti-Communists like Subject and his group to join CASTRO to counteract the influence of the Communists. Accordingly Subject went into the mountains in October 1958 where he was accepted by CASTRO. Subject served as a judge advocate general's aide and engaged in three battles. After the fighting was over and the revolution was successful, many of the Communists stayed in the mountains to organize the farmers. Noting this Subject requested to stay in the mountains as an organizer of the farmers in order to combat the Communist influence on the farmers. Subject here organized the Comandos Rurales, a Catholic Action Group. Manzanilla was the center of the Comandos Rurales work. The groups were quite successful and stirred up considerable opposition from the Communists. For example on May Day last May the Mayor of Manzanilla asked Subject to bring farmers to the May Day Parade. Subject brought five to six thousand Comandos Rurales with banners of anti-Communist slogans resulting in a cable to Raoul CASTRO accusing Subject of revisionism. Consequently the chief of the Communist Party of neighboring Mafo came to Manzanilla to work with the farmers and to oppose Subject's groups. Subject stated that there are 140 Catholic Action Groups ranging from 60 to 200 persons per group all of whom Subject claims are loyal to him and anti-Communists. Subject claims to be a chief of the Catholic Action Revolutionary Group with many clandestine activities and personnel involved. Subject became a member of the group in 1949.

3. After the fighting of the revolution was over, Subject began to work in INRA. Subject stated that the Agrarian Reform Act was to be signed publicly in the plaza in Manzanilla in the mountains. Subject's chief, General Jorge MARIN (MR/IRD), was disenchanted with the Communists in CASTRO's army and was thus retired. At the public signing of the Agrarian Reform Act, therefore, Subject was present with his Comandos Rurales instead of MARIN. CASTRO inspected the Comandos Rurales and asked to speak with Subject as their commander. Subject recalled this happened in June or July of this year. After a short talk, CASTRO invited Subject to Havana to speak more about the Comandos Rurales which he did eight days later. At this meeting CASTRO asked Subject if he would like a position in INRA. Subject agreed. It must be recalled that at this time Subject thought Fidel CASTRO needed the help of non-Communist rebels to fight against the Communists. Subject stated that he found out his error later. Because Subject wanted to preserve the freedom of the farmers and to keep down the Communists influence, he accepted CASTRO's offer and explained to CASTRO what his plans were for establishing a cooperative in which the farmer would own his own land. Subject stated that CASTRO asked him how much money he needed to begin and when Subject said \$60,000, CASTRO

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

DDF 3035
22 December 1959

gave him a check for that amount. Subject stated that he spent the money for seed and farm animals. Cuba was divided into six provinces and 26 zones were carved out of these provinces. VALLEJO (full name given by Subject but forgotten by the examiner) at first was made chief of zone 22 and Subject served as his aide. Two months later VALLEJO (MR/1 D) became chief of Oriente province and Subject became actual chief of zone 22 and was so considered by everyone. However in the record Subject was still the aide to VALLEJO who nominally held two titles, chief of Oriente province and chief of zone 22. Subject believed the reason for this was that Fidel did not want Subject to be listed as actual chief of zone 22 because Subject had a history of anti-Communism and in zone 22 where Communists were strong this might cause unrest. Subject recalled that he was made aide to VALLEJO in September. In November VALLEJO told Subject that he had had a meeting. VALLEJO had attended the first meeting and had reported to Subject some of the talk. VALLEJO had said things regarding hate campaigns against the United States and Communist infiltration. Subject, on one of these occasions, asked VALLEJO when the crops would be divided among the farmers since they were asking about this and VALLEJO told Subject to delay the request of the farmers in this regard. VALLEJO told Subject he had asked CASERO to promote Subject to captain and although CASERO seemed favorably disposed nothing happened as a result.

4. In the middle of October when the second meeting of IARA was held VALLEJO took Subject along. Subject recalled that the meeting was two days in length, on a Saturday and Sunday to the best of his recollection. Subject is not sure of the dates but believes it was somewhere in the middle of the month. Subject enumerated all of the people who were present, and the persons he listed were the same as those he had written down earlier for the station. Subject recalled that at the meeting there were three Chilean Communists whose names he does not know. Subject recalled speaking to one of them casually but could not even recall a first name.

5. Subject recalled also that a newspaper photographer from a magazine published in Cuba ("Agriculture" he believes is the name) took a photograph of Subject, VALLEJO, and several other zone chiefs of Oriente province. Subject stated that the photographer took the names of the persons photographed and indicated that the photograph would be published in this magazine. Subject stated that newspapers fully covered the meeting and the names of all the persons present including his own were listed and are part of the public record. Subject estimated that about one hundred persons were present at the meeting. Subject also stated that no newspaper men were allowed into the meeting except during a recess on the second afternoon when a press release was given to a reporter from the Revolution. After the recess the Revolution reporter was dismissed and the business resumed.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

EDF 38636
22 December 1959

6. Subject stated that at the time of the meeting he was the only second chief in all the 26 zones of INRA. However, one Captain VIELLA (MR/IRD) is now a second chief of one of the zones.

7. Subject stated that during the two day meeting he spoke two or three times during which he asked CASTRO how much land each farmer could own, during which he told CASTRO caterpillar tractors were best, and made a comment about the establishment of people's stores in the countryside. Subject stated that VALLEJO answered CASTRO's questions about the zone although VALLEJO occasionally consulted with Subject about an answer. Subject stated that he spoke at the end of the second day with CASTRO very briefly in the company of five or six others.

8. Subject stated that he is not a friend of CASTRO's nor even a more than the most casual of acquaintances.

9. Subject stated that after the meeting he returned to zone 22 and continued his work. Subject stated that around this time he began to strengthen his Comandos Rurales and plan a revolutionary act against CASTRO. Upon the arrest of Robert MARTOS (MR/IRD), the Communist Party in Manzanilla began to say that Subject would be arrested next. VALLEJO at this time stationed two Communists to work in his office and on 1 November 1959 VALLEJO ordered Subject to dissolve his Comandos Rurales. Subject gave \$20 apiece of his own money to the Comandos Rurales and told them to go to Havana and await orders. Subject told VALLEJO his mother was sick and wanted to see her in Camagüey. She begged him to leave Cuba since she felt he would be arrested shortly like MARTOS.

10. Subject stated that while he was not in any conspiracy with MARTOS he was a close friend and had asked him three times to join his revolutionary group without assent by MARTOS.

11. Subject then went to Havana where he spoke clandestinely with the Comandos Rurales and his university friends. The first plan was to seek political asylum together at the same time at an embassy and then to go abroad from there. However, after speaking with the Spanish ambassador Subject decided that he could not obtain safe conduct since he was a member of the army and was not eligible for the safe conduct. A Spanish ship was three weeks late and offered no quick exit from Cuba. When word reached Subject that the Communists in Manzanilla had reported him as a defector, Subject called VALLEJO and asked for a leave extension since his mother was still ill. Then Subject took refuge with four friends in a Jesuit house in St. Stanislaus Novitiate. With Subject was Roberto de VAQUERA (MR/IRD) who was Subject's chief of the Comandos Rurales. From the Jesuit Novitiate they went clandestinely to a Capuchin church where they

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

IED# 24636
22 December 1959

posed as priests. One of the Capuchin priests took Subject to a foreign priest who put Subject in contact with our station personnel. Subject was kept by station personnel in a safe house for a month after which Subject was exfiltrated on a ship controlled by our station personnel.

12. Subject stated that he has a man in the Cuban G-2 who reported that Raoul CASIRO was on Subject's trail and that Raoul had asked the police to check all embassies for the whereabouts of Subject. Subject's photograph was given to the police by G-2. Subject stated that his friend, Roberto de VARONA, on the 17th of December had telephoned three friends in Miami who had asked for Subject's whereabouts. When told by VARONA that Subject was in another country, the three friends said that Father O'FARRELL (NR/IRD) told them Subject had been in Miami and was now in Washington, D.C. Subject stated, however, that no one knows where he is except de VARONA with whom Subject is going to cut off relationship.

13. Subject stated that he has \$500 left having given \$500 to VARONA. Subject stated that when he left Cuba Jose Antonio PALMA (NR/IRD) had given him \$1500 in cash. Subject stated that he was the head of the Catholic Revolutionary Group and that PALMA was the treasurer. Subject stated that the group's money came from rich Cubans who supplied the group with money. Subject thought that the group had about \$10,000 in cash at present for just such emergencies as Subject's necessity to escape and that such money was available for the group when it begins its revolutionary activities in the future. Subject estimated that three persons in Cuba alone contributed about \$100,000 and it does not include money from persons exiled from Cuba nor the aid of a "country" which Subject did not name. Subject desires from the United States support in training instructors to train his men in combat techniques and propaganda material. Subject stated he felt he could get arms and money from other sources.

14. Subject stated that he was told to go to Mexico and get in touch with the editor of Universal Graphics (name unknown) who would help Subject publish his letter most effectively. Subject stated that the Spanish embassy gave him this direction. Subject stated also that when he gets to Mexico he will contact Ricardo LORIE (NR/IRD), a former commandant of CASIRO's. Subject also plans to go to Costa Rica for help and plans to contact former BATISTA people for help.

15. Subject also stated that he has a plan to attack CASTRO militarily and that his first attempt will be to rescue MARCOS from prison. Subject stated that he had a national organization which

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

IRD# 38636
22 December 1959

uses the Catholic Church as a front but also uses Masons and Protestants. Subject plans a union of all non-Communists and non-BATISTA groups.

16. Following testing Subject admitted withholding information regarding BATISTA people in Miami with whom he intends to have contacts. Subject desires to use these persons as a source of considerable money. Subject also stated he would be willing to identify these people at a later date. Subject also revealed that a person named GILBERTOS (NR/IRD) is Ricardo's contact in Havana.

17. Subject stated that the Rector of St. Stanislaus Novitiate, Father ASCARADE (NR/IRD), helped Subject write the letter but Subject insisted that Father ASCARADE corrected the form and the content of the letter was Subject's own. Subject stated that the letter is exaggerated so that it would appeal better to the rank and file Cuban but there is no exaggeration of fact in the letter he plans to publish.

18. Subject admitted also that he not only left Cuba because he was anti-Communist, he also left in order to hurry along his counter revolution. Subject stated that surrounded in Manzanilla by Communists he was prevented from working towards his goal.

19. Subject was a most intense person, visibly agitated by the interviewing situation. Subject maintained that he did not trust the apparatus (polygraph) although he did trust the examiner. Subject insisted on two points; that if he were found questionable on the polygraph that he not be sent back to certain death in Cuba, and that we investigate all of his claims from first hand sources in Cuba.

20. Subject also seemed concerned because of his inability to obtain a Mexican visa which was refused him by the consul in Havana because Subject's passport did not have a police stamp. Subject claimed that CASTRO has men everywhere in Miami and Mexico as well. Subject also, at every opportunity afforded him, discussed his coming revolutionary plans and begged for United States support for his movement.

21. Subject impressed the examiner as intelligent, aggressive, energetic, and intensely devoted, almost fanatically, to his desire for overthrowing CASTRO and the Communists. Subject is a very emotional, high strung, nervous individual but quite docile to suggestion and handling if done with dignity. Subject gave the impression of being a good organizer and capable of directing. Subject also appeared to be sensitive to implications of dishonesty or dishonorable acts.

OS/IRD/LD:eJg

~~SECRET~~