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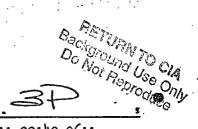
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MICROFILMED Jun 2 4 1963 22 DCC. MICHO SES SECRE! Chief, MiD DATE 13 Decarbar 195 Chief of Bose, Santiago de Cuba C COS, Esbana COS, Espacas Info: TROM GENERAL Operational SUBTECT SPECIFIC Flight to Caracas

- 1. On I December 1957, Rolando MARTERED, a Cuben senator who is noted for gangster-type activities, and Laureano the control of the reasons for the trip become so rampant that during the next week, it was impossible to server truth from fiction. The most prevalent runor of all was thet INSTERRED and TRARRA had then a million pesos of custom deposits and had gone to Caracas to imposse heavy arms, such as looms, but this, the base believes, has no basis in fact.
- 2. The true reason for their trip seems to be more along the following lines During the recent trouble in Santiago de Cuba, IBARRA, who is sometimes said to be the true government toss in town, became frightened of rebel reprisals, and he sand-begged his house and stationed an armed mard in front. This, however, did not quite satisfy him, and is sought protection from LARGERAMA, who, it is claimed, maintains bands of armed thugs. The latter gave IBARRA a squad of men, and they lived in IBARRA's garage. After a few days of this arrangement, MARGERAMA that he did not have enough money to pay these men and that it would be necessary for IBARRA to foot the bill. IBARRA, however, claimed that he was short of money, so in order to obtain an operating fund, a plan was but into effect whereby MASTERRER's man staged a series of robberies in Santiago de Cuba. The man on the street maintains that there were 33 roctories in one week, but a more conservative estimate would be between 12-15. In addition to this, MASTERRER and IBARRA extorted verious sums



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of money from local money lenders, saying unat the money was for "higher authorities", i.e., General alterto DEL RTO Chaviano, the militer; commander for Oriente Province. hen word of this dual action - the robberies and the extortion - reached DLL RIO, he become very angry and called in hasself and the action - reached like all the chewing them cut, forced them to return the money to the money lenders. On leaving the military barraces, hasself and it said to have complained to IBARN that it was impossible to conduct business with DEL HID in charge of the area, and that serious thought should be given to "eliminating" him. Unfortunately for LASTERIER, it is said that this statement got back to DIL and, and consequently, there wasn't ary commercial aviation leaving Lantia, o de Cuta fast enough. so they requisitioned the private plane and flow to Caracas.

As stated previously, it is quite difficult to separate fact from fiction on this matter, but this is probably the best account of the trip that the base has been able to find. It probably retee of the trip that the base has been able to find. It probably rat an overall evaluation of U-3. Under ordinary circumstances here, MASFERREE and IBARE probably could have gotton away with their operation, but their timing was wrong. Unknown to them, they staged the robberies and extortion at a time when DEL RTO was up for promotice - Colonel to Brigadier General - and when he heard what they were doing he thought this would reflect against his command, and therefore he put an end to their operation.

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