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INFORMATION REPORT - INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba REPORT NO. CSDB-312/00527-65

SUBJECT 1. Alleged Participation of Evelio Alpizar Perez in the MIRR Air Strike over Cuba on 17 January 1965
2. Alleged Plan to Assassinate Fidel Castro Ruz

DATE OF INFO. 17 January 1965

PLACE & DATE ACQ. United States, Miami (5 February 1965)

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

FIELD REPORT NO. UFG-6729

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A member of a group of Cuban émigrés trained in the techniques of information collection. The group has provided useful reports since 1961.

1. Evelio Alpizar Perez, 3625 NW 11th St., Miami, phone 635-6028, a former Cuban Air Force pilot during Fulgencio Batista's regime, claims that he piloted the plane which made the air strike over the Niagara sugar mill in northern Pinar del Rio Province on 17 January 1965.¹ The raid was sponsored by the Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperación Revolucionaria (MIRR, Insurreccional Movement for Revolutionary Recovery), a Cuban exile organization led by Orlando Bosch Avila.
2. Alpizar said that Castro spoke the truth when he said that a bomb had fallen on the house of some peasants in the area. According to Alpizar, no bomb fell on the sugar mill itself, but there was success in setting fire to some sugar-cane fields in the area.
3. Erlinda Puig Nuñez, wife of Marcelino Garcia Jimenez, chief of the MIRR directorate, has alleged that there were five young men in the aircraft during the raid, and that the pilot was a Cuban exile who had received training in the United States Army. She claimed that the other four crew members, all young men who had recently joined the MIRR, had also received training at various American encampments. One of the crew, who is only 19 years old, injured his hand while removing the cap from one of the clorox bottles containing the live phosphorus used in the raid.
4. Puig also said that a group of 11 MIRR commandos had infiltrated into Cuba in preparation for the air strike but that none of them had been captured as was reported.²

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5. According to Marcelino Garcia Jimenez, as of about mid-January the MIRR was preparing a plan to assassinate Castro. The person responsible for accomplishing this plan is a Cuban who is suffering from a heart disease and whose life expectancy has therefore been shortened.

Field Comments

1. TDCSDB-315/00379-65, dated 3 February 1965, reported that Jack Wright, an American, was the pilot of the aircraft which made the raid on the Niagara sugar mill on 17 January. Wright was subsequently killed on 2 February when he attempted to land his twin-engine Beechcraft at Freeport, Grand Bahamas Island, while on the first leg of another air strike attempt by the MIRR.
2. The 8 January 1965 edition of the Miami Herald reported that four anti-Castro commandos were captured while attempting to infiltrate into Cuba's north coast. Seven others escaped and were being pursued by government forces in the Varadero and Cardenas zones of Matanzas Province.