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*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
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 (2) Pat O'Hara  
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**Barbara Brown**  
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TDCS-314/10194-66

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DIST 24 AUGUST 1966

COUNTRY CUBA/MEXICO

DOI 18 AUGUST 1966

SUBJECT EVIDENCE OF CONFLICT IN THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CONCERNING THE CASE OF VICTOR RICO GALAN

ACQ MEXICO, MEXICO CITY (20 AUGUST 1966) FIELD NO.

SOURCE A MEXICAN INTELLECTUAL WHO IS A NEW, UNFITTING REPORTING ASSET. SOURCE HAS CULTURAL AND FAMILY TIES IN CUBA. HE OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION DURING CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO.

1. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, VICTOR RICO GALAN, A SPANISH-BORN JOURNALIST RESIDING IN MEXICO CITY, WAS ARRESTED BY THE MEXICAN POLICE ON 12 AUGUST WITH 27 MEN AND 5 WOMEN AND CHARGED WITH "CONSPIRACY ON A NATIONAL SCALE". THE GROUP WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE HELD MEETINGS TO PLAN SUBVERSIVE TACTICS AND ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE NATION'S INTERNAL SECURITY. POLICE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE MEMBERS HAD BEEN IN RADIO CONTACT WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN CUBA. THE 17 AUGUST EDITION OF EL UNIVERSAL GRAFICO NOTED THAT THE POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY

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OF "FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT" IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT RICO GALAN WAS READY TO BOARD A CUBANA FLIGHT WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED. FURTHER REPORTS CLAIMED THAT 48 PERSONS WERE DETAINED AS A RESULT OF THE ROUNDUP. FOR EARLIER REPORTING ON THIS CASE, SEE TDCS-314/10486-66, 20 AUGUST 1966, TDCS-314/10419-66, 18 AUGUST 1966, AND TDCS-314/10347-66, 15 AUGUST 1966.

2. ON 18 AUGUST ABELARDO CURBELO PADRON, CUBAN CONSUL IN MEXICO CITY, SAID THAT THE SENDING OF AN OLD DC-4 AIRCRAFT TO MEXICO FROM CUBA ON 16 AUGUST WAS OSTENSIBLY A SPECIAL SERVICE PROVIDED FOR JOSEPHINE BAKER TO TRANSPORT HER AND HER 16 CHILDREN !! TO MEXICO. ACCORDING TO CURBELO, HOWEVER, THIS PLANE ALSO GAVE THE CUBANS AN EXCUSE FOR NOT EVACUATING THE MEXICANS IMPLICATED IN THE RICO GALAN CASE WHO WERE PRESSING THE CUBAN EMBASSY FOR SANCTUARY IN CUBA TO AVOID ARREST. CURBELO INDICATED THAT THE CUBANS WERE VERY FEARFUL FOR CUBAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS IN VIEW OF THE RICO GALAN CASE AND DID NOT WANT TO BE ACCUSED BY THE MEXICANS OF GRANTING ASYLUM TO GUILTY PARTIES.

3. ON 15 AUGUST JULIAN LOPEZ DIAZ, CUBAN PRESS AND CULTURAL ATTACHE, HAD ADVISED A FRIEND NOT TO TAKE THE 16 AUGUST PLANE TO CUBA BECAUSE THERE WERE GOING TO BE SEVERAL MEXICANS ABOARD TO ESCAPE ARREST IN THE RICO GALAN CASE. AS IT TURNED OUT, HOWEVER,

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ONLY FIVE PERSONS FLEW TO CUBA IN THE DC-4 AND NO MEXICANS WERE AMONG THEM. (SOURCE COMMENT: IT IS VERY UNUSUAL FOR CUBANA TO CARRY ONLY FIVE PASSENGERS ON ITS MEXICO-TO-HAVANA RUN.) WHEN ASKED WHY HE DID NOT DO MORE IN CULTURAL PRESS WORK FOR CUBA, LOPEZ REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT, BUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS ASSISTING THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN MEXICO. (SOURCE COMMENT: LOPEZ IS PROBABLY A SECURITY OR INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY, SINCE HE IS VERY CLOSE TO RICO GALAN AND APPEARED TO FEEL THAT THE MEXICANS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE WHO HAD NOT YET BEEN ARRESTED SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN PASSAGE TO CUBA.)

4. ON 12 AUGUST FERNANDO RICO GALAN, VICTOR'S BROTHER, WAS OBSERVED IN THE CUBANA OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR A FLIGHT TO HAVANA. THE FLIGHT DID NOT COME TO MEXICO CITY THAT DAY AND FERNANDO WAS LATER ARRESTED IN THE ROUNDUP. ALSO ON 12 AUGUST ONE NOEL BARRA ZENIL WAS OBSERVED ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE PASSAGE TO CUBA. (SOURCE COMMENT: BARRA IS A RABID COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARY WHO IS CLOSE TO RICO GALAN AND UNTIL RECENTLY WAS A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF HAVANA.) (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT IN MAY 1956 ALVAR NOEL BARRA ZENIL WAS LISTED AMONG PERSONS CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE PARTIDO OBRERO-CAMPESINO MEXICANO (POCM, MEXICAN WORKER-PEASANT PARTY), A SMALL MARXIST SPLINTER GROUP. SEE CS-102909, 18 SEPTEMBER 1956.)

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