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CUBELA, ROLANDO

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VICTOR DOMINDADOR ESPINOSA HERNANDEZ, NEUTRALITY MATTERS., IS - CUBA.

R 2/23/98

ESPINOSA APPEARED AT THE NEW YORK OFFICE ON JUNE TWO, SIXTYFIVE IN THE COMPANY OF INS INVESTIGATOR EDWARD KAVAZANJIAN AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION...

ESPINOSA RETURNED TO NEW YORK ON FIVE TWENTYNINE LAST AFTER SPENDING TWENTYSIX DAYS IN PARIS, WHERE HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN PLOT TO ASSASSINATE FIDEL CASTRO AND LEADING CUBAN GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES. ESPINOSA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE TO MEET IN FRANCE WITH ROLANDO CUBELA, WHO IS A LIFE LONG FRIEND OF ESPINOSA AND IS ALLEGED TO BE THE MAIN FIGURE IN THE PLOT. CUBELA IS IDENTICAL WITH FORMER MAJOR ROLANDO L. CUBELA Y SGADES, WHO IS AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF FIDEL CASTRO. ESPINOSA FURTHER STATED THAT HE CONFERRED IN PARIS FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS WITH ALBERTO BLANCO, WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WAS ON AN INSPECTION TOUR OF THE CUBAN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ABROAD. ESPINOSA SAID THAT HE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PLOT AND WENT

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

URGING OF CUBELA, WHO HAS BEEN A LIFE-LONG FRIEND OF HIS. HE ALSO STATED THAT INVOLVED IN THE PLOT WAS MAJOR JUAN ALMEIDA BOSQUE.

SPINOSA SAID THAT CUBELA HAD RESIGNED FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF CUBA AND IS NOW PRACTICING MEDICINE AT THE CALIXTO GARCIA HOSPITAL IN HAVANA AND HAS A HOME ADJACENT TO FIDEL CASTRO-S AT VARADERO BEACH. ESPINOSA ALSO ADVISED THAT HE WAS IN SPAIN FOR ONLY ABOUT TWENTY HOURS, WHERE HE CONTACTED OTHER CUBAN EXILES AND LEARNED THAT

(CIA OFFICER E) WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE CIA OFFICE [REDACTED] WAS COGNIZANT TO A (S)

CERTAIN DEGREE OF THIS PLOT, BUT THAT THE CUBANS DID NOT TRUST

(CIA OFFICER E) BECAUSE THEY CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN COMPROMISED BY A CUBAN GIRL, WHOS NICKNAME WAS "TOTA", WHO HAD BEEN SENT FROM HAVANA FOR THE SPECIFIC

PURPOSE OF GETTING IN CONTACT WITH [CIA OFFICER E], THIS INDIVIDUAL IS (S) (u)

POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH [CIA OFFICER E], [CIA REPRESENTATIVE LAST

KNOWN TO ME [REDACTED] (S)

ESPINOSA ADVISED THAT THE PLOT CALLS FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF FIDEL CASTRO, RAUL CASTRO, ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA AND RAMIRO VALDES. THE ASSASSINATION OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS TO TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC SO THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT THE LEADERS HAVE BEEN KILLED. THE PLOTTERS HOPE TO SEIZE THE RADIO STATION AND CALL FOR AMERICAN HELP. ESPINOSA SAID THAT CUBELA AND OTHERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLOT DESIRE TO KNOW

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PAGE THREE

WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES WOULD HELP IF THIS PLOT WAS SUCCESSFUL AND IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE READY AT A MOMENT-S NOTICE TO GIVE THIS ASSISTANCE AS THE PLOTTERS MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT FOR A DAY OR TWO. ESPINOSA SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO BE PUT IN CONTACT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF CIA, WHO WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE CUBAN SITUATION AND COGNIZANT OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE PLOT. ESPINOSA STATED THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND THAT THIS PLOT WILL COME OFF IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND INDICATED THAT A STRONG POSSIBILITY WOULD BE JULY TWENTY SIXTH, WHEN ALL THE LEADERS WOULD BE TOGETHER AT THE ANNUAL JULY TWENTY SIXTH CELEBRATION IN HAVANA.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO CIA AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT CIA DESIRES TO TALK TO ESPINOSA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AND AT A PLACE SUITABLE TO THEM. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN A DEFINITE ANSWER FROM CIA AND FURNISH CIA-ANSWER TO THE NEW YORK OFFICE BY NOON, JUNE THREE SIXTY FIVE SO THAT ESPINOSA CAN BE ADVISED OF CIA-S DECISION.

SND PAGE THREE

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PAGE FOUR

ESPINOSA IS RESIDING AT FOUR ONE FIVE EAST FIFTY SECOND STREET,
NEW YORK CITY, AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS HA ONE DASH
SEVEN EIGHT SEVEN FIVE OR TE TWO DASH NINE SIX FOUR TWO.

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