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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90136-10092
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 105-70973-NR

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : USAF
FROM : AFOSI
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 07/31/1959
PAGES : 3

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 55510 Date:
12-13-2017

SUBJECTS :

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MORGAN

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : Consulted
CURRENT STATUS : Withhold
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/26/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : APPROVAL OF AFOSI

COMMENTS : BRIEF; REFERRED TO AFOSI

~~SECRET~~

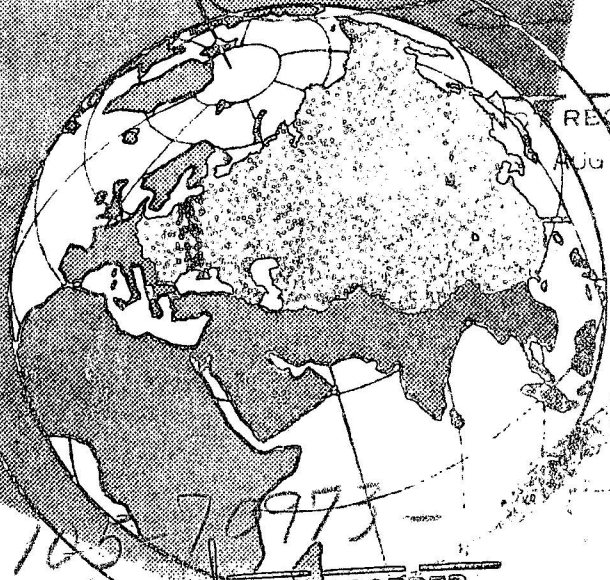
SIRAB

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DATE 11/7/94 BY SP8MAC/GAT
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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,
INTELLIGENCE, USAF

58 AUG 12 1959

NOT RECORDED
128 AUG 11 1959

~~SECRET~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 64-700-222 (Carroll to Shortt orig. at time of review)

~~SECRET~~

SIRAB No. 150

3 August 1959

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

7. Opposition to Fidel Castro Regime Growing

CAF IN 70482

31 July 1959

AFCIN-2A5

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

Information received from various independent sources in Cuba during the past several days indicates the existence of an active conspiracy which hopes to overthrow the Cuban regime in the near future. The conspiracy is said to include the assassination of Prime Minister Fidel Castro and his brother Raul, the revolt of a portion of the Cuban Armed Forces, and a coordinated invasion of armed forces from the Dominican Republic.

According to the report, the key factor in the current conspiracy is Major William Alexander Morgan, an American soldier of fortune who fought against the Batista regime during the recent revolution. Morgan has reportedly agreed to defect, taking with him 4,000 members of the Armed Forces, who are mainly former members of the second national front of Esacambray. Furthermore, Morgan reportedly claimed that a number of officers of the Cuban Army, including a few of major rank, are with him in the conspiracy.

ACS/I Comment: While it is possible that an attempt to overthrow the Castro government by armed force will be tried soon, it seems almost certain that it would fail. If Fidel Castro and his brother were assassinated, however, an opposition group might successfully take power in the resultant chaos. At the same time, an opportunity would be created for the Communists to enhance their position.

Although Trujillo is known to be supporting Cuban irregulars in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere, it is highly unlikely that he would support a military adventure against Cuba prior to the convening of the American Foreign Ministers in Chile on 12 August.

Meanwhile, the Castro government continues to have the ardent support of a considerable majority of the Cuban people. Discontent has increased, but there is no evidence that it extends to actual participation or approval of conspiracies against the regime.

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