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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

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DATE
1 Nov 1963

(SF 380-320-10)

PREPARING OFFICE

Region I, 112th Intelligence Corps Group, San Antonio, Texas

SUBJECT

Cuban Officer Training Program (U)

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
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OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . . . 1
PROBABLY TRUE 2
POSSIBLY TRUE 3
DOUBTFULLY TRUE 4
IMPROBABLE 5
TRUTH UNKNOWN 6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

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1. (C) During the month of June 1963, Manolo Artime, a leading political figure among the Cuban refugees in Miami, Florida, in the company of Segundo Gorges, came to Fort Benning, Georgia, for the purpose of recruiting people to go to a revolutionary camp in Nicaragua. Juan M. Quintana-de la Torre, 2d Lt, C2 312 403, Detachment 21, 2d Student Battalion (SB), the Student Brigade, US Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, presently on Temporary Duty (TDY) with 3628th School Squadron (SS), Lackland Air Force Base (LAFB), Texas; Mario Eloy Jimenez-Rojo, 2d Lt, C2 312 439, Detachment 21, 2d SB, presently on TDY with 3628th SS, LAFB; Armando Caballero-Parodi, 2d Lt, C2 312 432, Detachment 21, 2d SB, presently on TDY with 3628th SS, LAFB; "Llavo (fnu) Varona" and Source went to visit Artime in his motel in Columbus, Georgia. Artime informed this group that the US Government was not going to do anything for Cuba and that he (Artime) had obtained aid and instructors from Europe. Source opposed Artime's statements and did not believe it, since they were in conflict with the aspirations and plans of the US Government. Source believes Artime succeeded in recruiting at least two members of Detachment 21, Isidro J. Montesino-Acosta, 2d Lt, C2 312 401, and Pedro Acebo-Rodriguez, 2d Lt, C2 312 350. Montesino-Acosta and Acebo-Rodriguez resigned from the Cuban Training Program upon completion of the course at Fort Benning, and their present whereabouts are unknown to Source.

b(iii)

SOURCE: The above information was furnished [redacted]

(F-3)

2. (C) The Officers of Detachment 21 commented among themselves that Manolo Artime came to Columbus, Georgia, to recruit personnel from the Cuban Officer Training Program to go to a camp in Nicaragua. Source did not know anything concerning any officers who were planning to resign upon termination of the course of instruction. (Source refused to elaborate on this subject and it is the opinion of investigators that he was withholding information)

b(iii)

SOURCE: The above information was furnished [redacted]

(F-3)

3. (C) In June 1963, one Manolo Artime, an anti-Castro leader, visited Fort Benning, but the purpose of his visit was unknown to Source as he did not go to see Artime and had no association with him. However, Source was later informed that the purpose of Artime's visit was to recruit certain individuals from Detachment 21 to go to a training camp in Nicaragua. Source did not know who was present at the meeting with Artime, but did learn later that several members of the Detachment agreed to

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resign in order to go to Nicaragua immediately following the completion of the course of instruction at Fort Benning which ended on 2 August 1963. Source believes the following individuals resigned due to the influence of Artime and have joined his camp: Pedro Acebo-Rodriguez, 2d Lt, C2 312 371; George M. Navarro-Rodriguez, 2d Lt, C2 312 378; Jorge Lincoln Mas-Canosa, 2d Lt, C2 312 444; Luis de Jesus de Lamar-Maza, 2d Lt, C2 312 390; and Hector Antonio de Lamar-Maza, 2d Lt, C2 312 389.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

(F-3)

4. (C) Source has heard of the existence of a group of officers in the Cuban Officer Training Program who are considering resigning from the Program in the near future. At LAFB, there are a number who are waiting for the termination of their English course to resign, while others plan to turn in their resignation after arriving at a new station. One of them is Rene F. Gomez-Figueroa, 2d Lt, C2 312 397. Source believes that the reason for their leaving is that they plan to transfer to Nicaragua, or another overseas base, in order to continue their fight against Communist Cuba. This group is in contact with Pedro Acebo-Rodriguez and Antonio Iglesias-Pons, both of whom resigned from the Cuban Training Program upon completion of the course at Fort Benning and who are in Nicaragua organizing anti-Castro regime activities. (This group consists mainly of men who fought in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba)

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

(F-3)

5. (S) There is a group within the Cuban Officer Training Program presently undergoing training at LAFB who are planning to submit their resignations upon completion of additional courses. One of these individuals is Ladislao George Fernandez-Martinez, 2d Lt, C2 312 392. The motive for presenting their resignations is to go to Nicaragua and organize an attempt to overthrow Castro. This group is in contact through correspondence with Pedro Acebo-Rodriguez and Antonio Eugenio Iglesias-Pons, both of whom resigned the course while at Fort Benning in August 1963. Fernandez is expecting to hear from Manolo Artime in order to submit his resignation in late November and go to Nicaragua. Artime revealed to Fernandez details about his conference with Charles de Gaulle of France and Conrad Adenauer of Germany. Artime showed documents and pictures to Fernandez corroborating his conferences with de Gaulle and Adenauer. Artime told Fernandez that de Gaulle and Adenauer have promised him help to establish a camp in Nicaragua for the purpose of taking over Cuba. Such help should start to be received by Artime after November 1963. Alberto Maleo Munia-Boris, 2d Lt, C2 312 400, another officer who resigned from the program in August 1963 and now residing in Miami, wrote a letter to Federico Garcia-Geli, 2d Lt, C2 312 393, LAFB, explaining his reasons for

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resigning the program and requesting that the letter be circulated among the fellow officers of the class at LAFB. The letter said that he (Muina) left the course because many of the men who had applied for the various schools, such as the Intelligence and the Armored Schools, were still at Fort Benning wasting time. Also, Muina had applied for a demolition course and after he was placed on orders to go to the course, the orders were cancelled. Muina did not like this and decided to get out. Source, who knows Muina well, is certain that Muina is working for or with Artime also. Muina has indicated repeatedly to his friends and to the officers undergoing the program that Cuba will not gain its liberty with the assistance of the United States, but needs to look for help from another country. Muina believes that the United States has decided to apply the principle of co-existence towards Cuba. Muina also has stated that the United States Government lacks the ability to understand the Latin American problems, and that he is going to join Artime.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

[REDACTED] (F-3)

6. (S) Rene Faustino Gomez-Figueroa, 2d Lt, C2 312 397, and Mario Eloy Jimenez Rojo, 2d Lt, C2 312 439, who will graduate 3 December 1963, are contemplating resignation, exact reasons unknown. Of the officers who have resigned with the intention of joining a group to defeat Castro, Source remembers Antonio Iglesias-Pons who resigned recently. Miranda-Hernandez has heard that Iglesias is recruiting people in Miami to be taken to a camp in Nicaragua which is operated by Manolo Artime. Pedro Acebo-Rodriguez and Luis de Jesus Sierra-Lopez, 2d Lt, C2 312 345, resigned from the US Army and have left with Artime and are believed to have gone to Nicaragua.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

[REDACTED] lan [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TDY with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (F-3)

7. (S) Diego Emiliano Borges-Torres, 2d Lt, C2 312 451, is attempting to find out if the ultimate purpose of the Cuban Officer Training Program is identical to the program which is controlled by Manuel Artime to train people in Nicaragua. Upon obtaining this information, Borges-Torres is going to inform Source. If the plan is the same, everyone in the program will immediately go to Nicaragua because in Nicaragua the fight against Castro is more imminent. Help has been offered to Artime by Somoza of Nicaragua and by de Gaulle of France, who apparently has offered the Isle of Martinique for the operations against Castro. Manuel Artime visited Columbus, Georgia, a few months ago and spoke to many Cuban officers and tried to recruit them as instructors to go to the camp in Nicaragua. Source was not present at any of the meetings with Artime.

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SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

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8. (S) There is a group of officers within the Cuban Officers Training Program at LAFB who contemplates submitting their resignations if the United States has not done anything for the freedom of Cuba by December 1963. Many officers have indicated their desire to resign in order to join Manuel Artime who is supposedly organizing a training camp in Nicaragua. Artime has some contacts among the officers undergoing training at LAFB, and for a long time, these officers have been undermining the present training program by spreading dissension among their fellow officers. These men also have developed a recruiting campaign to supply Artime with qualified leaders for the Nicaraguan camp. Artime's recruiters at LAFB are: Diego Emiliano Borges-Torres, 2d Lt, C2 312 431; Ladislao George Fernandez-Martinez, 2d Lt, C2 312 392; [REDACTED] 23 [REDACTED]; Conrado Caballero-Acosta, 2d Lt, C2 312 352. Borges-Torres is the chief representative of Artime at LAFB. He has made several trips to Miami recently and has been spending much money. He also has an expensive apartment in San Antonio, Texas, which he shares with Fernandez-Martinez. Next in command in the above group is Fernandez-Martinez. Carrazana has stated to Source that he intends to submit his resignation in December 1963 to join Artime.

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[REDACTED] It is being rumored that a Latin American country is going to buy planes from England and make them available to Artime. It is also rumored that contacts exist with France, but Source does not know if they are with the French government or with private enterprises. The Somoza regime in Nicaragua has also [REDACTED] assistance to Artime in the forthcoming operations against Communist Cuba.

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[REDACTED] Source was told by one Heriberto Villamil, a Cuban national, Private, undergoing English instruction also at LAFB, that Luis M. Fernandez-Barrios, Ensign, 672 450, has submitted his resignation in order to go to Nicaragua. In Source's opinion, Borges-Torres persuaded Fernandez-Barrios to resign.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

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9. (C) [REDACTED] received a telephone call on or about 25 October 1963 from Antonio Iglesias-Pons, currently in Miami, Florida. The purpose of the call was apparently to persuade Blanco-Navarro to resign from the Cuban Officer Training Program and join the camp of Arttime in Nicaragua.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

(F-3)

10. (C) [REDACTED] submitted letters of resignation to the Liaison Officer, 3628th SS, LAFB, on 28 October 1963.

SOURCE: The above information was furnished by [REDACTED]

b(iii)

(B-3)

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