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July 9, 1965

Memo

ARA / CCA - MR. STEVENSON

ARA - George Lister

Visit of Cuban Exile Victor ESPINOSA

At request of friend, Valmore Acevedo, Venezuelan Christian ~~front~~ Democratic front, LISTER agreed to meet Espinosa.

Espinosa statements & summary

- ① Opposed BATISTA, opposes Castro
Not a member of "March 13th Movement",
but close to many of its leaders, including Cabelas.
- ② Trained by CIA in Soursains and Guatemala
sent to Cuba prior to Bay of Pigs
Plans to become US cit. in ~~May~~ Aug 65 -
- ③ Only in 1965 - Espinosa received request
from one of his reliable Cuban contacts in Europe
asking that he come quickly. Espinosa went
to ~~Europe~~ Miami, obtained false Cuban
papers, and went to Paris. In the presence
of the Cuban Amb to France, met one of Castro's
"top security" men, who had come to Paris
for that purpose.

initially
from
Alberto
Blancher

p. 2 During ^{various} meetings in France, & Spain
(where Espinosa entered illegally) Espinosa was
informed that there is a plan to
overthrow the Castro regime and kill Castro &
some of his main leaders.

The plot is led by Cubela and some of the March 13 movement plus (writer believes some military officers.)

"They must move more quickly because more and more people learning of the plot and thus growing risk of exposure.

They are anxious to have some coordination or at least consultation with responsible Americans. They ~~are~~ are not confident that they could win an all out fight against Castro forces, thinking more in terms of taking control for a few hours, killing Castro & his most effective men. They must what of anything the Americans might do to help when the coup is attempted. They also wished to alert the US Gov't as to what was being planned.

The Cubans might have turned to [redacted], but believe him to be unreliable as Cuban girl sent Madrid some time ago by Castro & fooled [redacted]. He arranged for her to work with International Rescue Committee. She returned to Madrid w/ plans of plot.

Plotters asked Espinosa to be go between with reliable American officials. "Top security" man returned to Havana while one repres. of plotters waited in Spain for answer.

Espinosa returned to N.Y. called O'Brien of FBI and asked to be put in touch with serious and reliable man from CIA.

Espinosa told Storm to "H.A." of CIA. Espinosa believes H.A. or someone else went to Spain to check story.