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Subject: Arms Traffic
Place Acquired:
Evaluation:
Source: Central American Source

Report No: 1101
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Date of Report: 18 September 1950

On the basis of information communicated to his Government by the Colombian Ambassador in Costa Rica, the National Chief of Detectives, Carlos TORRES Tellez was sent to Costa Rica to investigate reported clandestine movements of armaments in Costa Rican territory which, according to his reports, might be shipped to Colombia. Reportedly involved in this activity was one Arturo BOTERO of Colombian nationality, in combination with various Communist elements. A copy of this investigator's report, dated 11 September 1950, is submitted herewith. The following are excerpts of possible interest.

The detective service in Costa Rica has knowledge of the visits to the Golfito region of the United States citizen Richard BROWN, who at present is in Puerto Limon engaged in arms traffic. We were able to confirm that this man makes frequent trips, probably connected with this business. There is another American citizen named Charles LUFBOURN (LuFBOROW), who had a lumber business in this port and later engaged in fishing. He is being watched because he is also engaged in arms traffic. At present he is in Panama.

In the Customs house of the port we were able to inspect the records which are kept there on the movements of foreigners but found that they are very rudimentary and we obtained no exact data of interest.

The Costa Rican authorities have sent some of their best intelligence agents to Golfito to investigate the movements of Arturo BOTERO, alias "El Lecho." An agent informed me that he had been unable to discover the presence of a person by that name among the banana loading workers. This agent stated he was investigating the activities of the American Charles Marion LUERDAN, owner of the fishing launch "Yolanda Bontin" of United States or Honduran registry, reportedly engaged in arms traffic. It was also reported that in Golfito a Colombian by the name of Carlos TALLES (alias Arturo GONZALEZ Molina), is working.

The region between Palmar and Piedras Blancas is completely infected with Communism. It is reported that at kilometer 44 between Palmar and Golfito a deposit of armament is hidden.

At some of the fincas around the estate of Sierpe it is reported that there are various deposits of armaments. In this region Communists are active.

Classification: SECRET

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