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INFORMATION REPORT - CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Nicaragua, Cuba/Costa Rica	REPORT NO.	CS -3/42,532
SUBJECT	1. Increasing Support for Indalecio PASTORA in Cuba <small>(Nicaraguan opposition leader)</small>	DATE DRAFTED	6 April 1960
	2. Persons in Cuba Involved in Nicaraguan Revolutionary Affairs	NO. PAGES	5
		REFERENCE	RD

DATE OF
INFO:

February 1960

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

(late February 1960)

FIELD REPORT NO. [HIS-]2780

23

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

SOURCE: A person associated with Nicaraguan revolutionary activities (?).
Appraisal of Content: 6.

- In February 1960 Indalecio PASTORA Molina, Nicaraguan opposition leader who left Costa Rica about 20 February 1960 after leading guerrilla attacks against the regime from the Costa Rican border area for several months, was winning increasing support among Cubans who favored the overthrow of Nicaraguan President Luis SANCHEZ Tobayle. If PASTORA initiated a campaign against the Nicaraguan Government he could count on immediate and substantial aid in arms and men from Cuba. The Cubans would arrange public demonstrations to seek aid for PASTORA, ostensibly spontaneous, but in reality pre-organized with governmental approval. Communists in Cuba would take advantage of the situation to penetrate the revolutionary movement, following the guidance of Ernesto GUEVARA Serpa and Fidel CASTRO Ruz, high-level officials in the government of Fidel CASTRO Ruz. Fidel CASTRO, Prime Minister, was not disposed to support foreign revolutions because he feared an invasion of Cuba and wanted to be in a position to defend his country. GUEVARA and Fidel CASTRO supported the Communist factions, seeing a possibility for infiltration and an opportunity to take advantage of the chaos that they believed would follow a successful revolution, since no political leader had the ability to govern Nicaragua after the fall of SANCHEZ.
- Francisco FRIXIONE Saravia, Nicaraguan revolutionary leader in Cuba, had hoped to attend a meeting of opposition leaders in Montevideo the last week of February 1960 but was unable to obtain a visa in time for the trip. FRIXIONE and Enrique LACATO Farfan, opposition leader in Costa Rica, were quarreling and no longer co-operated in plans and activities. Francisco IBARRA Mayorga, also involved in a quarrel with FRIXIONE, did attend the Montevideo meeting. In February 1960 FRIXIONE made a trip, traveling free of charge, to Oriente Province, Cuba, to raise funds for the revolution.
- The fifth floor of the Sevilla-Biltmore Hotel in Havana, as well as rooms in International House, operated in conjunction with the hotel, housed persons associated with Nicaraguan revolutionary activities free of charge. The following paragraphs list persons in Cuba in

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February 1960 who were participating in or supporting Nicaraguan revolutionary plans and gives known details of their activities.

- a. Herminio COPEZ, a Cuban about thirty years old, had experience in sabotage. He quit his university studies before writing a thesis for a law degree to join the fight against Fulgencio BATISTA, former President of Cuba. Fidel CASTRO offered him a position in the Cuban Government, but he refused, preferring to participate in Nicaraguan efforts to overthrow SODA. For Nicaragua he favored social and political reforms similar to those instituted by Fidel CASTRO. He gave Francisco FRIXIONE Saravia, Nicaraguan revolutionary leader in Cuba, his full support. COPEZ' twin, Luis, also had offered to fight with FRIXIONE, but he did not support FRIXIONE as wholeheartedly as Herminio COPEZ.
- b. Luis Miguel GARCIA, a Cuban, performed sabotage operations in Havana against BATISTA.⁴ He was in Honduras when Pedro Joaquin CHAMORRO Cardenal invaded Nicaragua in early 1959, going afterward to Cuba. He claimed to have access to a small airport near the Honduran/Nicaraguan frontier, which would be usable after some repairs.⁵
- c. Miguel Ernesto VIGIL Leon, an engineer about twenty-two years old, appeared to be important in FRIXIONE's organization. He claimed that FRIXIONE intended to send him to Washington, D.C., and then to Nicaragua to assist in revolutionary preparations. He also was in Honduras when CHAMORRO invaded Nicaragua.
- d. Tote BANDERA, a friend of Camilo CHAVEZ, was highly esteemed by FRIXIONE and had helped much in preparing for a revolution.
- e. Aristides RUIZ, from Leon, Nicaragua, also was a member of FRIXIONE's group.
- f. Donald CASTILLO, a Nicaraguan eighteen years old, had become disillusioned with FRIXIONE and wanted to join PASTORA. He and two other young Nicaraguans, Ronald MALKOVICH and Ivan VACA, were among a group of Nicaraguans at the air base at San Julian, in Pinar del Rio Province, some in training and others employed by the Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR—Cuban Air Force). An officer at the base, Emilio VALDES, had captured nineteen arms, but the purpose of these arms had not been established.
- g. Octavio GUTIERREZ, called "Marciano," was a civil employee of FAR. He entered Cuba from Honduras as an exile in August 1959 under the name Godofredo SIMONI Uriarte.
- h. One Pedro GONZALEZ had trained saboteurs in Nicaragua after entering Nicaragua illegally from the Costa Rican frontier. While in Nicaragua he talked with Armando CRUCE Reyes, who had arranged to send dynamite into Nicaragua. CALLEJA (fma), head of the Leon branch of the National Bank of Nicaragua, who was one of the leading Nicaraguan saboteurs and had dynamite and other tools of sabotage in his possession and Jose Luis ARROYO.

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1. Carlos MUÑOZ, called "Pelle," was a former officer in the Ricanagan Air Force. Since behind La Cabaña he has a PAF pilot at his Julian. He was a retired policeman.
2. Pedro SANTOS, a corporal in the PAF at the Puerto Claro base, had talked with TALIBAN about obtaining old firearms. Ramon Diaz Pastenes, a member of the militia, owing to the fourth regiment, or the rural revolutionary police, PAF apparently had organized it to him, armed as is TALIBAN and Thompson machine-guns, who were willing to fight in Ricanaga under his command. Apparently TALIBAN group was identical with a group of Cubans who wanted to go by boat to Ricanaga, before being persuaded that they should wait for a better opportunity.
3. Lauvarie (ram), a Cuban medical student, had purchased chemicals to Ricanagan revolutionary. Explosives, as well as arms, had been sent to Ricanagan by plane.
4. MEL RIO (ram), a captain in charge of the base at San Julian, was prepared to offer help to TALIBAN if revolutionary group in any way possible.
5. Pepe de ANTA, second in command of Planar del Rio, said that Ricanagan revolutionaries had arms and gave any assistance he could, however, Parac. E. Julian failed to hinder ANTA's assistance.
6. Martin GONZALEZ, chief of the Cuban municipal police, was willing to furnish rifles as requested.
7. Roberto DIAZ, a sergeant at the military airport in Robam, who furnished arms to TALIBAN.
8. Porfirio CLAUDIO, a first Lieutenant with the secret service,⁶ claimed that he had one hundred men in Company ready to fight in Ricanagan. CLAUDIO personally wanted to fight with TALIBAN.
9. Alberto RAMON OTERO, already commander of the Ricanagan revolutionary forces, and Angel ALMADA, a Cuban, apparently had two hundred fully-trained men to add to TALIBAN's forces. ALMADA had great influence with Planar CLAUDIO, whom he trained in Marxist, and had offered assistance or assistance to any revolutionary movement when it obtained the approval of Planar CASTRO.
10. Luis PIMENTA, chief of the judicial police, promised to supply arms when needed.
11. Esteban LORENZO, financial secretary of the Confederation of Ricanagan Cabanas (CIC-Cuban labor organization), does.
12. Others associated with revolutionary authorities were Chester Slepian, a Ricanagan, Julio GARCIA, a Puerto Rican, Mario ALVAREZ, and GARCIA (ram).

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- a. Miguel MENCHO Batamori, employed in the Cuban Ministry of Education, contributed to the arms supply of Nicaraguan revolutionaries, and assisted in sending arms to Honduras addressed to the Ministry of Education as books.
- b. Sam Guldberg, a United States citizen thirty-three years old, associated with the Communists. His ideas were absurd, and he appeared to be completely Communistic, dangerous, and unscrupulous.
- c. Gerald P. Hanning, a twenty-three year-old United States citizen born in Los Angeles, California, was employed by FBI at San Julian as a parapsychologist. Hanning was engaged in training Nicaraguans, and said that there were only twenty-five persons revolutionists in Cuba, located in Bartolomé, Cays Large, Oriente, and San Antonio. All were willing to fight in Nicaragua, and would go well armed. Hanning, also a flyer, was a Marine in Korea and at the Guantanamo Naval Base, and had been warned when he was fighting with CASTRO that he could lose his citizenship, but this was not important to him. He said that the base at San Julian could be used as a location from which to fly food and arms to rebels fighting within Nicaragua. He knew of a number of 7.62-caliber Belgian automatic rifles that could be made available to Nicaraguan rebels. According to Hanning, a Mexican island one hundred and fifty miles from Cuba might be used as a base of operations for sending a plane or boat to Nicaragua, since it was poorly policed. He said he would furnish a C-47 or C-46 aircraft when it was needed. These associated with the revolutionary activities practiced discretion to avoid having rumors reach Fidel CASTRO, who did not favor the entire opposition movement, having become disengaged with the disagreements and lost faith among Nicaraguan rebel leaders. The Cuban Minister of Government was aware of these activities and was sympathetic to the cause.)

Field Comments

1. PASTORA left Costa Rica with twenty-five men, going to San Salvador.
2. FRIGIONE brought several arms to Costa Rica in late December 1959 but PASTORA and LACATO disagreed on their use, and FRIGIONE took them back to Costa Rica with the intention of sending them to Honduras. (C-3)/LJ3,039
3. IRARRA, traveling on special passport No. 8/59/31, issued in Havana, entered Costa Rica from Panama on 9 March 1960, according to official immigration lists.
4. One Luis GARCIA Asencio, a Cuban, was reported to be in Costa Rica in late December 1959 to participate in revolutionary activities.

Source Comments

5. One Enrique AREOMAJES, a Honduran, had a small field on a farm near the Honduras/Nicaraguan border, which could be used by Nicaraguan rebels, with whom he sympathized.

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6. Johnny Kitcham, United States citizen, about forty years old, claimed that he was going to head Cuba's secret service.

7. It is also possible that in November 1959 Honduras delegates to a convention of the Asociacion de Transportes Aereos carried arms back with them to Honduras.

Headquarters Comment. Miguel Angel de la A. MUÑOZ Betancourt, Cuban national, was reported in January 1960 to be going to Miami on an unidentified mission for the Cuban Government.

8. Source Comment. Concerning travel, Hanning said he would like to go to Costa Rica to co-ordinate activities between Cuban and Costa Rican groups. He also hoped to go to the United States, traveling on a false name and Cuban passport. He had spoken to William Morgan and believed that Morgan could obtain the passport for him. In the United States Hanning wanted to sell liberty bonds in California and obtain arms and planes from a ranch in Texas. He claimed he could do this by using connections he used to obtain similar material when he was aiding Fidel CASTRO. He also claimed that he had gone to Havana to talk with FRIKIOME about the trip and supplying arms to PASTORA. He had a wild scheme to steal two small planes from an Air Force base in Texas, possibly Brownsville, and said he had friends in the Marine Corps who would obtain arms from corps arsenals. Another scheme was to hold up a truck carrying clothing and arms from Virginia to Indianapolis on a regular bimonthly trip.

Hanning cited an example of arms procurements. Captain SECULIA (fmu) Chilean, was sent by the Chilean Government to Miami to obtain six B-26 aircraft which were sent to the Dominican Government. He claimed he could use the same system by using two friends well connected in the Guatemalan Government.

According to Hanning, when Fidel CASTRO and Anastas Mikoyan visited San Julian they discussed Soviet aid to Cuba, including secret aid in men and arms.

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