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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba
SUBJECT Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara

REPORT NO. CSCI-316/00697-64
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REFERENCES

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DATE OF INFO. 1964
PLACE Washington, D. C.
DATE ACQ. 1964

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A former Cuban IS officer who served with the Cuban Intelligence Service until April 1964.

Headquarters Comments:

The following report is one of a series containing personality information provided by the source and includes supplemental information from the records of this Agency.

It is requested that the addressees take no action on any of the individuals mentioned in the personality reports without first checking with this Agency.

Source identified a photograph of Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, aka "Nico," as a Cuban Intelligence Officer of the Direccion General de Inteligencia (General Directorate of Intelligence - DGI) in Mexico. He is the Commercial Attache at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Headquarters Comments:

1. A report dated 17 January 1962, from three untested sources, stated that Antonio Garcia was one of several Cuban G-2 agents now (January 1962) in Mexico and planning to go to the United States.
2. A fairly reliable source, in a report dated 22 May 1962, stated that Jose Antonio "Nico" GARCIA Lara is assigned to the commercial office of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, however, he does little work for this section. He is a member of the Cuban G-2 and an opportunist with a very bad reputation.

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3. In a report dated 9 June 1962, from a usually reliable source, it was stated that Antonio "Nico" GARCIA Lara is the Cuban Commercial Attache in Mexico. GARCIA is colored, married to a white girl, and is extremely race conscious. During the revolution he was in exile in Mexico. GARCIA told source that he was not a Communist. He said that CASANO was enticed by Communists and cannot love and that Cuba is in bad shape. GARCIA has a sister who is a nun in the United States. In a 20 June 1962 report this same source positively identified GARCIA as a Cuban G-2 agent in Mexico and added that GARCIA is a close friend of Osmani CIENFUEGOS and Manuel PINERO, Deputy Chief of G-2.

4. On 4 July 1962, a usually reliable source gave the following biographic information on Antonio GARCIA Lara:

GARCIA, a G-2 agent working in Mexico, arrived in Mexico in early May 1962 as the Commercial Attache of the Cuban Embassy. He is a close friend of Osmani CIENFUEGOS, Manuel PINERO, and Simon CUENCA. GARCIA is a Negro, about six feet tall, 170 pounds, and is married to a white girl named Kelly. He belongs to the Juventud Autentica and is known by the pseudonym Nico GARCIA. He arrived in Mexico with specific instructions from CIENFUEGOS to recruit Mexican technicians and to provide them with necessary funds. It seems probable that this is only a guise and that the men are being taken to Cuba solely to be trained as agitators. GARCIA spends little time in his office, but is busy most of the day making contacts on the street. Since he lived in Mexico for a year and a half previously, he knows a good deal about the country. He also is in contact with members of the Spanish and Mexican Communist Parties and with students of leftist affiliations.

5. A usually reliable source with good contacts in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City gave the following information on Antonio GARCIA Lara; the report was dated 13 July 1962:

Antonio GARCIA Lara, Commercial Attache of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, arrived in Mexico on 23 April 1962. Before coming to Mexico, GARCIA held important positions with the Cuban government in Habana. He worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Works (MINOP). GARCIA is a member of the Cuban G-2 but did not attend the Cuban G-2 school. He did attend the diplomatic

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school, but was assigned to Mexico before he was graduated. One of GARCIA's duties in Mexico was to assist the Cuban Embassy in hiring technical experts to go to Cuba. He was also to handle commercial matters and investigate the manipulation of \$200,000 (U.S.) in connection with the purchase of automobile parts, cameras, etc.

- 6. An unknown source, in a report dated 25 July 1962, said that Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, aka "Nico" GARCIA, is the Cuban Commercial Attache in Mexico. GARCIA was born about 1929. His mother, who is seventy-six years old, resides in Habana, his father is deceased. He has three sisters, one (Ina) GARCIA is a Nun living in the United States, the other two live in Habana. GARCIA was married in Habana in 1960 to Maria Elena LARIA Baluja (white); they have one child, Tatiana, and are expecting another. His brother-in-law, Hector Ramon LARIA Baluja, resides at 305 West 93rd Street, Apartment number 605A, New York City. GARCIA was previously employed by the Army G-2 (with which he is no longer affiliated, according to him); Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Obras Publicas. He has a secondary school education and attended the "Escuela de Diplomacia," but did not finish as he was transferred to Mexico. GARCIA entered Mexico in 1957 in exile and returned to Cuba in 1959. He arrived in Mexico in his present capacity on 23 April 1962. His address is San Borja 1357, Col Del Valle, Mexico, D. F.
- 7. In a 6 August 1962 report, from a usually reliable source, it was stated that Antonio GARCIA Lara returned to Mexico from Habana on 5 August 1962. GARCIA told source that he returned to Mexico with orders to take over the commercial activities from Ramon CIENCA Montoto.
- 8. A usually reliable source, in a report dated 20 November 1962, stated that Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, his wife and their two children were leaving Mexico for Habana on 20 November 1962 via Cubana Airlines. GARCIA planned to stay in Habana approximately three weeks. A reported dated 27 November 1962 stated that GARCIA actually left Mexico on 23 November 1962.
- 9. Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, according to a usually reliable source in a report dated 24 January 1963, arrived in Mexico from Habana on 21 January 1963.
- 10. In a report dated 16 April 1963, from a usually reliable source, it was stated that Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, passport number 62-213, and his wife left Mexico on 15 April 1963 for Habana. GARCIA

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to the airport. He had received information from a Cuban source stating that both of his children were sick and that his wife and his wife were to go to Havana.

11. A usually reliable source, in a report dated 10 September 1963, stated that there had been a visit to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. It also stated that Antonio GARCIA, aka "Nico," a young man, remained at the Embassy. GARCIA is a former member of the Jose M. G. Autentico, an opportunist, and it is said that he is a member of the Cuban Intelligence Service in Mexico.
12. An airstrip, dated 12 October 1963, revealed that Jose A. GARCIA Lara, diplomatic passport number 52/213, arrived in Mexico City from Havana.
13. A usually reliable source reported that on 8 March 1964, Antonio GARCIA Lara left Mexico City for Habana. He returned to Mexico City on 29 March 1964.
14. Jose Antonio GARCIA Lara, according to a usually reliable source, arrived in Madrid on the night of 25 May 1964.
15. A usually reliable source reported on 24 June 1964, that GARCIA Lara is under transfer orders to Habana. On 3 July 1964, it was reported that GARCIA and his family left Mexico City for Habana on 2 July 1964, and had left before they had finished packing, which was being completed by their maid. GARCIA had an intelligence escort up to the time of his departure.
16. A usually reliable source, in a report dated 9 July 1964, stated that persons inquiring for GARCIA Lara on 3 July 1964, were told by Camilo LOHENACH, of the Cuban Embassy, that GARCIA had to leave because of illness, that a period of rest had been recommended, that he would have to remain in bed, and that he took his whole family with him since he would be away for some time. Federico ALVAREZ, also of the Cuban Embassy, told source that GARCIA left on a permanent transfer.

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