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DISPATCH NO. HKH-A-3681

CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD
FROM : Chief of Station, Habana *SM*
SUBJECT: GENERAL - Liaison

DATE: 13 June 1957

SPECIFIC - Memoranda Furnished to the Embassy

Reference: HKH-A-3662, 6 June 1957

Attached in duplicate are the following memoranda which were furnished to the Embassy:

- Memo No. 119, 6 June 1957 - Cubans in Costa Rica
- Memo No. 150, 7 June 1957 - Conversation with Guillermo BELT
- Memo No. 151, 12 June 1957 - Cuban Government Purchase of Vehicles

Melissa F. Foreney
Melissa F. Foreney

Attachments
3 - Memos in duplicate

Distributions:
3 - Washington w/atts
2 - Files w/o atts

mfm
13 June 1957

why is info Doc in 201?

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CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-28A
MAR. 1949

19-2-4

SECRET

Memo No. 119
6 June 1957

Mr. Chapin

Attaché

Cubans in Costa Rica

The following information has been received from a Controlled American Source in San José, Costa Rica:

Within the past two weeks approximately 45 Cubans have clandestinely entered Costa Rica via LATA, traveling from the Dominican Republic to Miami to Costa Rica. This is the result of an agreement between President ATISTA and Trujillo to remove Cuban exiles from the Dominican Republic. These individuals are planning to move soon to Mexico in order to be ready to move on Cuba if and when ATISTA begins to topple.

Evaluation: F-3

cc. Legal, Army, Naval, Air attachés

Distributions:

1 - Chapin, Embassy
1 - Legal and Service Attachés 2 - Washington 2 - Files

Sources: 2615

JPK/nfn

6 June 1957

SECRET

19-2-4 13/6/57

Report
why in this 201?

CONFIDENTIAL

memo No. 150
 7 June 1957

Mr. Chapin

Attaché

*Why not also do
 in Dec 2017*

Conversation with Guillermo BULT

1. On 5 June 1957 Guillermo BULT, lawyer and former Ambassador to the United States, called at the Embassy in connection with another matter and furnished the following information:

a. His Association with the BATISTA Family:

His son was in the same hospital almost a year with the daughter of BATISTA. It was costing him approximately \$30 a day and Mrs. BATISTA, who had always been friendly with his wife, stated that she would like to take care of the hospital expenses of the boy, but the BULTS refused to accept her offer.

Sometime later, Mrs. BATISTA called his wife from New York stating that she and the President would like to have him act as Ambassador-at-Large. He felt compelled to accept this post although the salary amounts to very little more than his pension, which he cannot receive while actively employed. The principal advantage of this position is a diplomatic passport which allows him to travel freely in connection with his law business. He would like to resign, but a letter at this time, pleading ill health or pressure of business, would not be convincing. He has actually tried to withdraw from his association with BATISTA, having refused Minister of State CUELLAR's request to call on the President following the March 13th attack on the Palace; and has refused invitations to the HIDEK's dinner and the 20th of May dinner both in honor of the President. He considers BATISTA his friend since he has been very kind to him, but he disagrees with him politically and wants to disassociate himself from BATISTA.

b. General Political:

BULT has not been engaged in politics for sometime, but he still maintains his close association with GRAU. He feels that Cuba will have chaos if BATISTA falls or if he stays in until the elections. In his opinion, there are indications that a decision is imminent within the military as to whether they will stick with BATISTA or insist that he step down. The resentment in the Cuban military against the entire TADENILLA family is tremendous and this attitude by key military men undoubtedly weakens BATISTA's military support. BATISTA himself has no high regard for General TADENILLA and often teases him and scares him to death about things he has or has not done; but TADENILLA has been, and will continue to be, completely loyal.

BULT claims that it was he who introduced Andres DOMINGO del Morales to BATISTA and recommended him initially for a post in the Presidency. They remain close friends, although he has not seen DOMINGO since the latter asked him incredibly if he really believed that Herbert L. MATHEWS had been in the Sierra Maestra mountains.

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19-2-4-13/6

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WFO No. 100, Page 2
7 June 1957

BILT is also a close friend of former Prime Minister ~~Jorge~~ GARCIA Montes and has expressed to him his concern about the present dangerous trend of the PATIJA Government. He has argued with himself whether he should go to the President himself to express his concern, although he is inclined to believe that it would do no good.

BILT feels that within a short time he will be compelled, as his patriotic duty, to reenter the political scene.

c. Fidel CASTRO

BILT was a delegate to the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Bogota in April 1949 and was responsible for having gotten a safe conduct for Fidel CASTRO and several other Cubans to leave Colombia.

Fidel CASTRO, even though he may have been acquitted, is well known to have been responsible for the death of ~~Manolo~~ CAJINI. Fidel CASTRO was in Bogota in connection with a students' congress.

In his opinion, there is no evidence to indicate CASTRO is a Communist, and he knows that CASTRO did not actively participate in the death of CAJINI. Following the latter's assassination, Fidel CASTRO did join in the revolutionary movement, and he learned, after having obtained the safe conduct for CASTRO, that CASTRO had killed several people during the Bogotazo, including some priests. He does not know whether he killed two or six priests, but he would not have gotten a safe conduct for him had he known what he subsequently found out.

Fidel CASTRO represents the ideals of the youth of Cuba (30 years and under), and it would be a catastrophe for him to emerge as a leader. It would be better for all concerned if he is killed, even though in such event he would go down in history as another martyr like MARI.

d. Assault on the Presidential Palace, 11 March 1957

From his office, BILT witnessed the entire affair. The principal action was over in 15 minutes, but police and military outside the Palace prolonged the action for more than an hour by shooting at Bellas Artes and other buildings for the glory of having participated in the defense of the Palace.

Distributions:
1 - Embassy
2 - Washington
2 - Files

Of local interest. No objection to dissemination.

SFR/gm

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19-2-4 13/6/57

SECRET

Memo No. 151
12 June 1957

Mr. Chapin

Attaché

Cuban Government Purchase of Vehicles

The following information has been received from a Controlled American Source in Managua, Nicaragua:

On 7 June 1957 Irving ~~W. I. [unclear]~~, purchasing agent for Nicaragua in Washington, told the American Ambassador to Nicaragua that the Nicaraguan Government has made a purchase from the Israeli Government for delivery during the week of 10 June to Nicaragua on the Atlantic line. Included in the purchase are 69 stepground armored four-wheeled vehicles mounting three machine guns and one anti-aircraft cannon and holding five men. The Cuban Government has in turn bought from the Nicaraguan Government 26 of these vehicles and is to send a boat to Corinto to take delivery.

cc: Legal, Army, Naval, Air Attachés

John P. Boardman

Distributions:
2 - Washington
1 - Addressee
1 - Legal and Service Attachés
2 - Files

SOURCE: 2341

JPK/mfm

12 June 1957

(reported)

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14-2-4-13/6/59