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From: Havana, Cuba Report No: HKII-1754 Local File No: 10-2

No. of Pages: 5 No. of Enclosures: SFNE Document (5 pages)

Report Made By: Andrew P. Marton / rza / mfm Approved By: Woodrow C. Allan

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Source Cryptonym: References:

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

SUBJECT: Segundo Frente Nacional del Escambray

SOURCES: Subject of HAVA 037, 8 October 1957 *Mayhemist*

Station Comments:

1. Source offered to arrange a week's tour of the Escambray for any observer we choose so that we could "see for ourselves." He loaned the Station what was purported to be an official SFNE document entitled: ¿Que Es El II Frente Nacional Del Escambray? (What is the Second National Front of the Escambray?) from which the information in paragraph 11 was taken. Verifax copies of the document are attached for Headquarters, Base Santiago de Cuba and Station files.
2. RI, please card all names appearing in this report.
3. Source has been assigned a "C" rating on the basis of Station contact with him for over a year.

*is the telephone conversation with [redacted] 24 April 1958
accept content of source document as true at
face value as reported by [redacted] word*

Classification **SECRET**
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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE A Completely reliable B Usually reliable C Fairly reliable D Not usually reliable E Not reliable (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources 2. Probably true 3. Possibly true 4. Doubtful 5. Probably false 6. Cannot be judged. Documentary. Based on original document.

S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY Cuba REPORT NO. HKH-1754
SUBJECT Segundo Frente Nacional del Escambray DATE OF REPORT 30 October 1958
NO. OF PAGES 5
REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. 27 October 1958

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Cuba, Habana 29 October 1958

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: SFNE leader in Habana who has just returned from a 30-day tour of the Sierra Escambray (C). Appraisal of Content: Paragraphs 1-10 : 3; Paragraph 11 : Documentary.

1. Rebel forces in the Sierra Escambray, Province of Las Villas, now consist of one major force of about 1,400 men and two minor forces of about 100 and 164 men each. The major force, which calls itself the Segundo Frente Nacional del Escambray (SFNE, Second National Front of the Escambray), consists of former students, members of the Organizacion Autentica (OA, Authentic Organization, followers of Carlos PRIO, former president of Cuba), and members of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo), including followers of Emilio OCHOA.¹ Organisational details of the SFNE are given in paragraph 11 below. The two minor groups are the Directorio Revolucionario (DR, Revolutionary Directorate, a student revolutionary organization) with about 100 men under Rolando CUBELA Secades;² and the 26 of July Revolutionary Movement with 164 men under Ernesto "Che" GUEVARA.³
2. The SFNE members see themselves as the answer to the threat posed by the 26 of July movement. While they desire to see BATISTA and his clique driven out, they are not extremists and would co-operate with the Cuban Army toward the accomplishment of this end. Although there are many anti-BATISTA persons within the Cuban Army, the SFNE is not in direct touch with any active conspirators therein at the present time. If a military junta were to be formed to oust BATISTA, however, the SFNE would co-operate with that junta. With regard to SFNE-DR relations, the SFNE cannot become identified with the DR because of CUBELA's involvement in the assassination of Colonel Antonio BLANCO Rico in 1956² and the consequent effect this might have on SFNE-Cuban Army relations.
3. The SFNE occupies a territorial zone of great potential strategic importance. Given sufficient arms, they believe that they could cause a government crisis in Habana by seizing and holding Las Villas Province, thereby cutting off Habana from its main sources of supply in Las Villas, Canagüey, and Oriente Provinces.

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4. The SFNE suffers from a serious shortage of arms and ammunition. Approximately 700 men have Italian carbines and a very few heavy weapons such as Johnson automatic rifles and Thompson submachineguns. The remainder of the men have sidearms. The carbines were furnished by Carlos PRIO from previously existing arms caches in Cuba. The SFNE has about \$100,000 cash available in the United States to buy arms but they are reluctant to chance losing the arms to U. S. authorities, who have already seized some attempted shipments. The SFNE suspects that the 26 of July Movement may have been responsible for such seizures by "tipping off" the U. S. authorities.
5. The SFNE is facing a strategic crisis. Because of the arms and ammunition shortage they must necessarily restrict the scope of their military activities. This means that as the 26 of July force under GUEVARA begins to get organized and to receive the full support of the international 26 of July organization, they will be able to maintain a much higher level of military activity than that of the SFNE. This will eventually result in a deterioration of SFNE morale and in the domination of the Escambray by GUEVARA. The SFNE estimates that this will take place before the end of January 1959. They have told PRIO of this situation and are urging him to send arms and ammunition as soon as possible. The CA members of the SFNE are sending about 30 personal letters to PRIO urging his support.
6. Before GUEVARA's arrival in the Sierra Escambray there was a contingent of about 150 sympathizers of the 26 of July operating in that area. About half of these have joined GUEVARA's force, bringing it to 164 men; the remainder have stayed with the SFNE. GUEVARA's force is well equipped with automatic weapons. The amount of his present supplies is not known. He arrived with a supply train of 70 mules. There are no air strips in his area, and the only way his supplies can be augmented is by air drop.
7. The SFNE, on the other hand, controls four air strips and can control on demand a certain section of the coast highway between Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Any of these can be used by LC-3 aircraft. No air shipments of arms or ammunition have been received by the SFNE as yet, although around early October they held the highway strip for five days awaiting such a flight. The IR has received one air drop of Thompson submachineguns, but most of these were broken under the impact of the drop.
8. It costs approximately \$2,000 a day to maintain the fighting force of the SFNE. Most of this money is raised by taxes on the Escambray coffee harvest. Some financial and material aid comes from Habana from the retaguardia (rearguard), as these SFNE supporters call themselves. The SFNE has a small medical department consisting of about two doctors, two dentists, and several nurses. They also have a shortwave transmitter valued at about \$1,000. The SFNE receives little aid from abroad, where the 26 of July movement dominates all support activities.
9. The SFNE has little political ideology. Its fighting creed is "Liberty, Justice, Democracy, The Constitution of '60, and the Lone Star." Rather than create another flag as did the 26 of July movement, the SFNE prefers to retain the Cuban banner with its single star.
10. The SFNE has completely controlled the problem of Communism in its zone. There are only two self-admitted Communists, who have been allowed to remain in the zone on the condition that they remain "quiet" (Tranquillo). Communist leaders from Habana previously made an approach to the SFNE to be allowed to participate in the fighting alongside that organization. The request was made through four self-admitted Communists who resided in the Escambray zone, two of whom have since left the zone. The Communist offer was flatly rejected.

11. The SFNS is organized into seven guerrilla forces totaling about 1,000 men and one training camp of about 400 men. Set forth below is the organizational and personnel breakdown:

a. High Command

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Major Eloy GUTIERREZ Menayo | Commander-in-Chief |
| (2) (civilian) Armando FLEITES Diaz | Delegate General |
| (3) Major William Alexander MORGAN | Chief of Organisation |
| (4) (civilian) Aurelio NAZARIO | Political Advisor |
| Sergeant b | Secretary of General Staff |
| (5) Captain Rafael GARRIGA | |

a. b. Guerrilla Commanders

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Major FENA ⁷ (fmu) | |
| (2) Major ARROYO ⁸ (fmu) | |
| (3) Major Lazaro ARTOLA | |
| (4) Major Anastasio CARDENAS ⁹ | |
| (5) Major Plinio PRIETO ¹⁰ (abroad) | |
| (6) Major Jesus CARRERAS ¹¹ | |

a. c. Detachment Commanders

- | |
|--|
| (1) Captain Manuel ZABALO |
| (2) Captain Heriberto ARCE |
| (3) Captain Abel CAMACHO Pares |
| (4) Captain Ramiro LORENZO |
| (5) Captain Cresencio GILMERANEZ |
| (6) Captain Joaquin RODRIGUEZ |
| (7) Captain Angel BAÑOS |
| (8) Captain Luis LLORO Cabrera |
| (9) Captain Filiberto GONZALEZ |
| (10) Captain Enrique PEÑA |
| (11) Captain Jose SANCHEZ |
| (12) Captain Eduardo PIEDRA |
| (13) Captain Moises HERNANDEZ Torrecilla |
| (14) Captain Leonardo BOMBINO |
| (15) Captain Rafael CADENA |
| (16) Captain Roberto SORI |
| (17) Captain Eduardo PEREZ |
| (18) Captain Domingo ORTEGA |
| (19) Captain Julio MARTINEZ |

a. d. Junior Officers

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| (1) Lt. Oscar PEREZ Pares |
| (2) Lt. Angel RODRIGUEZ |
| (3) Lt. Berardo SALAS |
| (4) Lt. Jose Gerardo BANGUELAS |
| (5) Lt. Adan LOPEZ |
| (6) Lt. Andres GONTAN Ocaña |
| (7) Lt. Jose PACIN |
| (8) Lt. Wilfredo PEREZ |
| (9) Lt. Luis VARGAS |
| (10) Lt. Marcelo DIAZ Gonzalez |
| (11) Lt. Julio A. NUÑEZ Cabada |
| (12) Lt. Jose A. GARCIA Aguilar |
| (13) Lt. Carlos GOMEZ Milian |

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- (14) Lt. Sergio MONTES DE OCA
- (15) Lt. Eloy HERRERA
- (16) Lt. Carlos REYES
- (17) Lt. Ismael PEREZ
- (18) Lt. Fermin AMADOR Rodriguez
- (19) Lt. Miguel ALBA
- (20) Lt. Evelio MARTINEZ
- (21) Lt. Aldo SANCHEZ.

adjo. officer

e. Civilian Delegation General

- (1) (Dr.) Armando M. FLEITAS Diaz Delegete General
- (2) Aurelio NAZARIO Sargent Political Advisor
- (3) Roger RODRIGUEZ National Coordinator

f. Provincial, Departmental and Foreign Delegations.

g. Internal Committee for Non-Military Matters.

h. Disciplinary Court.

i. Sanitary Department.

- (1) Captain Jose MIZRAHI Commanding Officer
- (2) Lt. Carlos QUESADA Executive Officer.

j. Bureau of Press and Propaganda.

- (1) Captain Rafael GARRIGA Commanding Officer.

k. Corps of Investigation and Information

- (1) Captain Manuel OTERO Commanding Officer.

l. Department of Supply

- (1) Captain Jose CORDERO Commanding Officer.

m. Quartermaster General

- (1) Captain Honorio MACHIN Commanding Officer.

n. Department of Ordnance

- (1) Captain Regino CAMACHO Commanding Officer.

o. Corps of Messengers

- (1) Captain Carlos Manuel CORDERO Commanding Officer.

p. Department of Engineers

- (1) Captain Publio M. RUIZ Commanding Officer.

q. General Training Camp

- (1) Captain Henry FUERTES (aka "El Argelino") Commanding Officer
- (2) Lt. MARTINEZ (fou) Executive Officer.

r. Personnel Headquarters

- (1) Captain Efran MUR Commanding Officer.

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Field Comments

1. Top Ortodoxo leader, well known for his opposition activities against BATISTA.
2. Former student who participated in the assassination in 1956 of Colonel Antonio BLANCO RICO, former Chief of the Servicio de Inteligencia (SIM, Cuban Military Intelligence Service).
3. Argentine medical doctor and 26 of July troop commander who was reported by a fairly reliable source on 8 October 1958 to have reached Las Villas Province in a successful drive from the Sierra Maestra in Oriente Province.
4. GUTIERREZ and MORGAN have several times been reported as leaders of rebel groups in the Sierra Escambray. MORGAN is a U. S. citizen and reportedly a Korean war veteran.
5. Armando M. FLEITES Diaz, former medical student in the University of Habana. FLEITES has a long record of revolutionary activities and left Habana for exile in Mexico on 25 August 1958.
6. Member of the National Executive Committee of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano (Ortodoxo) (Cuban People's Party-Orthodox).
7. Possible reference to Alfredo FENA, mentioned as a guerrilla chief in the Sierra Escambray in the June 1958 issue of 13 de Marzo, official organ of the DR.
8. Probable reference to Lazaro Joaquin ARTOLA, former student of commerce who was arrested in 1956 on charges of planning an assault against Cuban Army installations in Camaguey.
9. Probable reference to Anastasio CARDENAS Avila, reported in the Habana press on 4 March 1958 to be commanding a rebel group in Las Villas Province.
10. Probable reference to Plinio PRIETO Ruiz, reliably reported in May 1958 as an OA member who signed a declaration to the Cuban people announcing the opening of a second front.
11. Probable reference to Jesus CARRENAS, reported in the June 1958 issue of 13 de Marzo to be in the Sierra Escambray.
12. Possible reference to Roger RODRIGUEZ Sanchez, reported in the Habana press on 24 June 1954 as a University of Habana student who was acquitted with eight other students of charges of public disorder in the University. One Roger RODRIGUEZ signed a protest in 1955 against the Cuban and Guatemalan dictatorships.

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región montañosa del Sur de las Villas, penetraron de inmediato en la fase de la organización y la más estricta disciplina. A tal efecto procedieron a dictar un reglamento e al mismo tiempo se establecieron las responsabilidades de los soldados de la revolución en el Territorio Libre del Escambray para la adecuada aplicación de esta importante legislación, se constituyó un Tribunal Disciplinario, encargado de juzgar y resolver sobre todos los casos de infracciones y delitos. Lo que ofrece una tónica de la preocupación de los hombres del Escambray por el mantenimiento de la moral, la disciplina y el orden.

Uno de los organismos que más fructífera labor realiza en la cordillera, es, sin lugar a dudas, el Departamento Sanitario. A cargo del mismo está el reputado galeno, Capitán José Mirrahi, teniendo a sus órdenes un numeroso y valiosísimo personal; ocupando el puesto de segundo, el Teniente Carlos Guesada. El Team Médico no solamente presta sus servicios a los rebeldes, sino que también lo hace a los habitantes de las regiones en que ellos operan.

Con la instalación de distintas enfermerías y el incesante trabajo de los hombres que componen el Departamento Sanitario, se ha logrado la disminución considerable de las epidemias y enfermedades crónicas que asotaban a un porcentaje considerable de vecinos del Territorio Libre del Escambray.

Los rebeldes cuentan con un Buró de Prensa y Propaganda, organismo que redacta los partes oficiales e informaciones del II Frente. La dirección del mismo está a cargo del Capitán Rafael Garriga, quien a la vez tiene la responsabilidad de la Secretaría del Estado Mayor.

La jefatura de la Organización General del II Frente Nacional del Escambray -una especie de Supervisor Militar- está en manos del norteamericano, Comandante William A. Morgan, hombre espas, de grandes iniciativas y un trabajador incansable por la superación de todo el aparato que opera bajo la jurisdicción del Estado Mayor rebelde.

Para evitar la infiltración de confidentes, agentes gubernamentales, chivatos e delincuentes en territorio beligerante, se ha creado el Cuerpo de Investigación e Información, al mando del Capitán Manuel Utero. Este organismo se encarga también de interrogar a aquellos hombres que son enviados por los ejércitos rebeldes en la retaguardia para ingresar en sus filas, además de realizar un permanente chequeo sobre el comportamiento de todas las fuerzas con la población campesina.

Una de las grandes dificultades del ejército rebelde del Escambray, fue, en principio, la entrada de mercancías, medicinas, ropas, zapatos y en fin, todo lo necesario para avituallar debidamente sus milicianos. Ahora, estas dificultades han quedado superadas con la creación y perfecto funcionamiento del Departamento de Abastecimientos, que está a cargo del Capitán José Cárdenas.

En coordinación con el anterior, trabaja el Cuartel Maestro General, que distribuye los alimentos y otros artículos necesarios a los innumerables campamentos rebeldes. El Capitán Honorio Machin, es la persona con que cuenta el Estado Mayor rebelde para que sus fuerzas disfruten de la debida atención. Además, es significativo señalar que junto a Abastecimientos y al Cuartel Maestro General, está funcionando la fábrica de botas, cananas, uniformas y sartucheras para revólveres y pistolas.

El Departamento de Armería del II Frente Nacional del Escambray, dotado de todos los equipos necesarios para llenar a cabalidad su trabajo, está dirigido por el Capitán Regino Gamacho, ex-teniente del ejército republicano español, y técnico en la construcción de armamentos y municiones. Este combatiente español, que ha hecho suya la causa de la libertad de Cuba, es un verdadero maestro en su profesión. Tal cosa ha quedado demostrada con la fabricación del "M-1-GAMACHO", calibre 45, acondicionada con cargador de disco de 70 tiros y enfriamiento; y tiene ya en construcción otro tipo de M-1, éste de bala de carabina italiana expansiva.

En el terreno de la comunicación y el contacto diario, las fuerzas del II Frente no tienen dificultades de ningún género con la existencia del Cuerpo de Mensajeros, integrado por hombres conocedores de las amplias zonas dominadas por los insurgentes. Al frente de este importante núcleo está el Capitán Carlos Manuel Cárdenas.

El Estado Mayor y la Delegación Civil de este frente, en vista del elevado porcentaje de niños de edad escolar y campesinos analfabetos, ha procedido a la apertura de escuelas en varias zonas, a cargo de las cuáles se encuentran elementos con condiciones intelectuales para impartir una enseñanza que jamás gobierno alguno ofreció.

Los hombres del II Frente Nacional del Escambray demuestran con la realización diaria de hechos positivos que son algo más que guerreros. Esto se com-

prueba con el trabajo que realiza el Departamento de Ingeniería, bajo la dirección del estudiante de esta materia, Capitán Público R. Ruiz, orgánico - preocupado por el mejoramiento de los caminos y carreteras existentes en estas zonas, y asimismo se preocupa por la edificación y reparación de pasadizos del campesinado desposeído de la cordillera. Se está estudiando la posibilidad de llevar a cabo un plan de reedificación de las viviendas destruidas por la mano criminal de los soldados y las destruidas por las acciones intencionales de las bombas y la metralla de la tiranía.

Ser un soldado del Escambray no es tan fácil como muchos imaginan. Quiénes piensen que al penetrar en territorio rebelde, de inmediato pasarán a las fuerzas que operan y combaten en las distintas zonas. Pues no ocurre así. Cuando cualquier hombre entra en el Territorio Libre del Escambray, se le interroga minuciosamente en el Departamento de Investigación e Información, y más tarde se le remite al Campamento General de Instrucción, lugar donde permanecerá el tiempo prudencial que le permita obtener los conocimientos elementales para convertirse en un guerrillero apto para la pelea y el constante trabajo.

El Campamento General de Instrucción está a cargo del Capitán Henry Fuertes ("El Argalino"), nativo de Argelia, ex-combatiente de la II Guerra Mundial y un verdadero maestro en lo que a contiendas de guerrillas se refiere. La disciplina, el camaraderismo y el acendrado amor a la patria predominan en los integrantes de esta escuela de la revolución. Este campamento es un verdadero ejemplo de lo que puede el trabajo, la prédica y el esfuerzo desarrollado por el Capitán Fuertes y el Teniente Martínez.

La Jefatura de Personal del frente está bajo la responsabilidad del Capitán Efraim Már, uno de los combatientes más antiguos del Escambray.

---CONCLUSIONES---

Cientos de combatientes constituyen las fuerzas del II Frente Nacional del Escambray, donde en un mosaico patriótico conviven los hombres de todas las esferas sociales, de todas las militancias revolucionarias, políticas e los alejados de ellas, hermanados bajo un nombre: II FRENTE NACIONAL DEL ESCAMBRAY, y una bandera: LA DE LA ESTRELLA SOLITARIA.

El II Frente -le reiteramos- es un bastión de guerra, que tiene como objetivo primordial el derrocamiento de la dictadura y el restablecimiento de las instituciones democráticas; pero estas que de esta revolución deben -

