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RE: MILLITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS - CUEA

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MORALE AND LOYALITY OF CUBAN ARMED FORCES

Several reports have been received indicating low morale and a growing distruct of FIDEL CASTRO in the Armed Forces, and distrust of the Armed Forces in FIDEL CASTRO's leadership.

MM T-1, who is widely acquainted with pro and CASTRO elements, and who maintains contact with a great many Cuban news media, on March 2, 1966, described the forces which are stationed at Camarioca, Varadero, Cardenas, and Matanzas. He noted that the militia wears a khaki uniform and is under the orders of both G-2 and Army officers. They guard factories, industries, public offices and houses seized by the Cuban Government from their legitimate owners. They also furnish some men, upon demand or order, to the Coastal and Fort Control Departments. The militia carry rifles only when they are on duty, and they are not regarded as one hundred percent loyal to the regime, and they know it.

The Rebel Army has been made up of men more trusted by the regime, especially since they have finally filtered out all ex-BATISTA officers and men. The Army is better trusted, has more authority, is better paid and in general, has the privilege of living in homes stolen or seized from their previous owners. Many homes are equipped with swimming pools and other comforts to which the present Cuban soldier was never accustomed in

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ENCLOSURE



RE: MILITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS

. of the Cuban Communist Farty, editorialized on the stripping of rank and position of Major EFIGENIO AMEIJEIRAS. AMEIJEIRAS was a long-time friend of FIDEL CASTRO and the Cuban revolution and was the first Chief of the Cuban National Revolutionary Police. He was removed in about 1961 and given various assignments, including a trip to Europe, which was intended to bring about his better understanding of Communism and indoctrination with the His nickname in Spanish is "La Yerbita" ("The Little Herb"), which is a nickname stemming from his notoriety as a marijuana smoker. MM T-1 called attention to the fact that all of AMEIJEIRAS! vices have been known to the police long before CASTRO's advent to power, but it is only now that his vices, corruptness, and misconduct form sufficient reason for his removal from all positions of authority.

The editorial in "Granma" stated that this action was due to his irresponsible conduct and the great harm he was doing to his own prestige and that of the revolution by maintaining friendly relations with "anti-social elements, vagabonds, and corrupt individuals". It was then noted that AMEIJEIRAS had had a close friendship and association with former Major ROLANDO CUBELAS, mentioned above as under trial for plotting to kill FIDEL CASTRO and overthrow the government. The article stated that the conduct of AMEIJEIRAS was incompatible with the rank of Major in the Rebel Army, Vice Minister of the Armed Forces, "and above all, with that of being a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party to which he was elected in recognition of his outstanding war record, his terrible suffering in which he lost three brothers in the struggle. and with the hope that he would make a maximum effort to overcome his defects".

MM T-2 La source with many years experience as both a police (4) and private investigator, and who maintains contact with (4)





RE: MILITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS .

some sources in Cuba, informed on March 10, 1966, that FIDEL CASTRO is accompanied, when he travels, by his physician, Major RENE VALLEJO, who is a Communist married to a Hungarian refugee, by ARMANDO HART, a member of the Central Rommittee of the Cuban Communist Party, and JOSE LLANUSA GOBERT, also a member of the Cuban Communist Party.

<u>cuba</u>

MM T-2 stated that some of the high officials of the Rebel Army who formerly took turns in accompanying FIDEL CASTRO on his trips throughout the country and in the capitol itself, look unfavorably upon the preference which the head of the Cuban Government now appears to place in these three persons, especially HART and LLANUSA, whom they consider to be riding on the victor's "band wagon" without being true Communists insofar as their political ideals are concerned. This jealousy has not reached such a stage as to be regarded as a threat to CASTRO's secure control and domination of the Armed Forces, but it is a dissident factor and is definitely making some headway.

MM T-2 stated that during part of the time when FIDEL CASTRO was attempting to overthrow the government of FUIGENCIO BATISTA, ROIANDO CUREIAS and FAURE CHOMON resided together in Miami. They were intimate friends and both are widely reported by Cubans, including Cuban physicians, to be effeminate and sexual perverts. FAURE CHOMON was an early Ambassador of Cuba to the Soviet Union. He was then a Minister of Communications, and now a Minister of Transportation and also a member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. MM T-2 stated that it could well be that his association and close friendship with ROLANDO CUBELAS may now be used by the Cuban Government in order to purge CHOMON from a position of title and authority.

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