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Agency Information

AGENCY : HSCA  
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10143-10441

RECORD SERIES : CIA SEGREGATED COLLECTION

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 29-26-02

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : HSCA  
FROM : CIA  
TO :

TITLE :

Released under the John F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records Collection Act of  
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW  
66000 Date: 11-04-2021

DATE : 00/00/0000  
PAGES : 11

SUBJECTS :

ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES  
CIA, FILES  
LANZ, PEDRO DIAZ  
JMWAVE  
JMASH

DOCUMENT TYPE : NOTES  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 1A; 1B  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/01/2003

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Box 21

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PEDRO DIAZ LANZ

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- News articles -

Argosty April 1976

NY Daily News - 21 April 1975 by Paul Meskil.

- Dispatch to Chief from Chief

DELETED - GET FULL COPY

Progress Rept 1-31 Aug 63.

W/ help of Fiorini - able to keep informed of activities of Diaz Lanz bros. in attempts to mount air raid over Cuba. Information then passed to local security agencies in time for them to thwart plans.

- Daily Summary - 1 Aug 63

Flight of 28 July over Havana aborted - bombs & defect raid planned.

Plans:  
Postponed to 31 July or 1 Aug. Fiorini to head for Marathon Keys - as decoy for FBI surveillance.

Lanz bros to leave cars at home to appear as though they are home, but will attempt to reach their Williams Ranch where plane to be used for raid is located. Fiorini said plane will carry several bombs made from 100 lb practice bombs cut down to smaller size and filled w/ nuts and bolts for shrapnel.

Ramon Garcia - former Cuban airlines pilot to have participated in raid. **SECRET**

- 8 May 63 - Fiorini told source he had been approached by Marcos to patch up differences and cooperate in "anti-Castro activity". Said

money from Cuban in Wash. who had helped before. Only told that ~~into~~ operation would be air strike - Pedro would be pilot. Rent plane thru indirect channels. Lanz bros. assisting in sale of yacht.

"Florini had been working w/ the bros. until a falling out. Union is now evidently being repaired."

- Memo. re: Robt Swanner, Robt Thompson - Plane allegedly shot down over Cuba in Dec. 1961.
- 20 Mar '63 - Memo to S.J. Grogan, asst to Director.
- investigation by U.S. Auth. hampered by stories - but - appears. Wm Johnson, Swanner, Florini made 21 Oct 61 overflight - Campaign for leaflet drop. Rorke claims he went as observer.
- 8 Dec. Swanner intercepted in Nassau. Met in Nassau by Johnson, Rorke, Florini. Tried to get permit to fly to Great Exuma Island, but permit denied, plane impounded.
- 10 Dec. leaflets found on Norman Cay.
- 14 Dec. Thompson flew to Ft Lauderdale to pick up Johnson. At some point Johnson left group, and Florini, Swanner & Thompson flew to Andros Island.
- 17 Dec. Thompson and plane (owned by J. David Finger) ~~found~~ <sup>reported</sup> missing.
- 18 Dec. Rorke, Florini, Johnson charter plane in Miami for trip to Bimini and Cay Sal. Rorke id'd self as CBS photographer looking for photos of pink flamingos. Plane flew criss-cross pattern over Cay Sal and returned to Miami. No info re whereabouts of Thompson, Swanner and plane until Mar 62 story plane shot down over Cuba.

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Johnson, Fiorini, Rorke claim CIA sponsorship - In fact have had none. Sponsor appears to be Sergio Rojas Santamarina - possibly overzealous - some of his activities had been CIA sponsored.

March 62 Raymond J. Dwyer rep.ing Finger poss. litigation of insurer of aircraft approached CIA re: poss. govt involvement - which was denied. No indication from Castro's speeches as to what happened.

NO agency info on other "elements of incident as repta in references, including:

- Mrs. Swanner's story of having driven Swanner, Founser, Fiorini to Ft Lauderdale to load boat w/ leaflets.
- \$500.00 check reptdly given to Swanner & Mrs. Thompson by Fiorini.
- Mrs. Swanner's reptd trip to Andros Island w/ her son and friend of her husband.
- Mysterious phone calls to Mrs. Swanner, Mrs. Thompson & others.
- Role of Gene Asbury and Norman Gratsky (Gradsky?)

Ref. to Martino - prob. John Vincent Martino. Sentenced to 13 yrs prison in 59; released Oct. 62 - not Dec as reptd. Was not, is not emp'd by CIA.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz

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\* - 24 Oct 59 Routing & Record Sheet to Hunt revd 30/10  
forwarded 2 Nov. of Diaz Lanz file.

- CIA watch office 24 Oct 59.  
into that plane ~~planned~~ <sup>involving</sup> by Pedro Diaz Lanz to  
drop leaflets and mob bombs over Havana 24 Oct 59.

May fly 26 Oct 59 piloted by Lanz to disrupt  
Castro rally.

- Dispatch 23 Oct 59.  
re leaflet.  
attached sample of leaflets dropped from Diaz Lanz's  
plane 21 Oct 59

- Dispatch 18 Sept 59. to Chief WHD from Havana COS  
re: operational ~~group~~ group  
PDL

Crypts: ~~group~~ PDL  
~~group~~

Subj. said he had gone to Miami and talked w/ PDL  
~~group~~; who told him that he needed a man  
for his Miami organization, the person he had  
in mind was a Captain in the Cuban Air  
Force who was willing to join him. He instructed  
the subject to see his Habana contact and arrange  
for officer's exfiltration. Subj. asked ~~group~~ <sup>PDL</sup> whether  
his Habana contact (Gebaide or Rayrock) had this  
capability, and ~~group~~ <sup>PDL</sup> answered that they did.  
Station assumed that ~~group~~ <sup>PDL</sup> obtained his

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Lanz

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- exfiltration info from QDCHAR. Subj. also said that QDBIAS has ODXOKE contacts in Miami.

ODACID

- DOC. cross ref for 201-259120 (Lanz 201 file)  
re: Ricardo Luis LORIA y Valle - ca. 1928, age 31, passport 09552 & Diaz Lanz, age 32, passport 10693 left Costa Rica for Miami Fla on 24 Dec 58 and reentered Costa Rica from Mexico on 31 Dec 58

- Memo for record 7 Aug 59.  
Re: Conversation approx. one-wk prior, betw. Eugene R. Gonzalez and Mr. Alfonso Moscoso, former amb. from Ecuador to US & ex brother-in-law of former President Galo Plaza of Ecuador.

Moscoso told me in strict confidence that his good friend Ecuador. Amb to OAS (Escudero) claimed to have info and docum. proving Diaz Lanz rwd approx \$100,000 from pro-Batista groups to defect & testify before U.S. Cong.

- Dispatch 7 Aug 59. To Chief WH DIV from Miami (Karnley) Re: Meeting w/ QDBIAS, QDCHAR, QDCOVE

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Outlined plans in meeting. Subj. will resist groups which bear Batista taint. Suggest propaganda program. Discussion of pass. aid; possible procedures - i.e. transmitter on boat broadcasting from various positions in the Caribbean Sea.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz

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QDCOVE - described as leader of group, most intelligent  
Group was cautioned about need for security.  
"However, there is a close and apparently  
unshakeable relationship with people like  
Frank Fiorini & other people w/ whom  
they were close during the revolution. I have  
repeatedly cautioned them about Fiorini specifically  
& they have always responded by recognizing  
that Fiorini is a threat in that he  
talks too much. But as and if (sic) we  
proceed with this group, it has to be done with  
the expectation that Fiorini and others are going to  
be frequently around this group and we will  
have only the word of these people that he and  
others are not being informed of their activities."

- In March QDCOVE went to Belg. w/ rank of Amb.  
to negotiate deal re: arms. Deal cost \$8 mil which  
QDCOVE personally paid thru letters of credit.

- Dispatch 4 Aug 59. To Chief WH Div from Miami (Karnle)  
Report on Miami base involvement in arrival of  
Pedro Diaz Lanz in U.S.

Lanz party - Diaz Lanz his wife Tania, Sergio Diaz  
Bnuel; Carlos Echegoyen. Echegoyen & Bnuel had  
chartered boat to pick up Diaz Lanz. Wanted to  
hold party several days - Diaz concerned  
about his brother Marcos.

QDANUM, QDARBOR assisted hiding Diaz.  
Major OTTO of Army visited, wanted to talk to  
Diaz despite CIA's attempts to let him rest.

Tentative plan was Diaz would be taken from INS,  
put in a secure place, moved to another area  
in country, put thru intensive interrogations  
then removed to foreign area where he would be

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Pedro Diaz Lanza DDO

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re. turn over of Diaz to Karnay. Complications then set in - different versions of what passed betw. Gen Cabell and Gen. Swing; appearance of Eastland Committee rep.

- Article - Drew Pearson - Wash Post - 7-24-59 - "Defecting Cuban Chief Exploited."

- Memo for Record 15 July 1959  
re: Testimony of Diaz Lanza. (testified 14 July)  
Prominent communists -

Fidel, Raul, Vilma Castro, Ernesto Guevara, Antonio Nunez, Armando Hart, Manuel Pineiro, Armando Ramiro Valdez, Juan Pina, Frau Escalona, Frau Llanusa, Ezequiel Gomez Ochoa, David Salvador, Carlos Franqui, Gen. Alberto Bayo, Frank Torre.

- Sp. lang. article 17 Jul 59. "verdadera Estatura critica de Pedro ~~Diaz~~ Diaz Lanza

- CIA Memo of Conversation 10 July 59.

re: Tel. conversation w/ Herbert Nee, Dir of Intelligence Bureau of Immigration. w/ T.J. Flores

- Draft memo for Record FLK (initialed).  
8 July 59 re: Diaz Lanza case.

Info recd from friend of Diaz in Miami - name of Byers ~~to wit~~: Sergio Diaz & Carlos Echigozen (formerly civilian in Cuban AF Intell.), who had obtained boat in Miami which was used to bring Diaz from Cuba, had gone to see Byers immed. after their release by ~~IAIS~~ they were accompanied by Frank Piorini, the

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Pedro Diaz Lanz

citizen w/ reputation as shady businessman who lives in Miami.

They said Schroeder (INS) told Diaz he is to appear before Senate Sub Committee; would receive 100% US govt support in overthrowing Castro.

- Prior to Diaz' departure the Cuban Air Force purchased one C-46 and one B-25 aircraft in Miami area. Aircraft in Byers' custody but in Fiorini's name. Fiorini (until 7 July) trying to get Byers to sell aircraft & turn \$ over to him (Fiorini). On 8 July Fiorini asked Byers to hold C-46 for revolutionary plans & sell B-25. (Fiorini accompanied by Sergio Diaz on 8 July)

- Discussion Paper - 7 July 59 Re Diaz - publicity on Diaz Lanz' arrival.

- Cable from Dir to <sup>certain</sup> foreign L.A. Stations 2 July 59 - Requests max. press and radio exploitation of defection 20 June of Diaz Lanz, w/ recommendations on particulars of story.

- Dispatch 2 July 1959 to Chief WHD from COS Habana re Diaz Lanz - Misc - Enclosures - 2 copies of letter from Diaz Lanz to Cuban President.

- Cable 22 June 59. TO Dir from Havana re: departure of Diaz Lanz for U.S. Requesting ODURGE not divulge entry PBPRIME of Pedro Diaz Lanz

- Cable 21 June 59 to Dir from Havana. Re: Diaz Lanz departure - w/ help of Jim Byers, American, Pres. Aerodex Corp using Byers yacht. Requests no publicity.

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Pedro Diaz Lanz DDO.

- Information Report 15 Jun 59  
Re: Chief of Air Force's confidential statements about need for counter revolution against Castro.

Source: US businessman, operator of private consulting company. Also rep. for major US aircraft manufacturer. Spoke at length w/ source regarding symptoms of Castro's communist tendencies.

- Cable 7 Jan 59 to Dir from Santiago de Cuba.  
Re: 1. Fall Batista stunned Bayamo rebels.  
2. Cuban Air force demobilized. Will be built up from scratch. Former officers to be investigated for atrocities. Many <sup>to be</sup> ~~to be~~ <sup>responsible</sup> court-martialed. Source Fiorini (F) from Diaz Lanz Chief Rebel Air Force.
- Cable 25 Nov. 58. to Dir from Mex. City. Unpa Michoacan, La Rept 3 tons Cuban rebel arms confiscated. 11 Cubans, 1 American captured - of Cubans - Pedro Ruiz Lanz (probably Diaz Lanz) and Amer = Frank Fiorini. Fiorini named co-pilot and owner plane C-46. Fiorini known as "Francisco" among Cubans.  
Of interest absence name Ricardo de la Lorie.
- Cable 22 Nov. 58  
Rept Cuban rebels and Amer. w/ C-46 captured at Apatzingan Airport Michoacan. Captured (partial list) Diaz Lanz, Frank Fiorini.
- Cable 14 Nov 58  
Rept Richarda de la Lorie - brought air plane Phoenix Ariz., scheduled for departure 12 or 13 Nov for Veracruz, Mex. enroute Venezuela. Diaz Lanz will prob. accompany de la Lorie.

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Cable 11 Nov 58. <sup>by</sup> Diaz Lanz  
Ricardo de la Lorie in San Francisco. Fiorini left Mexi

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for PRISCO by car car night 4 Nov. meet pilots.  
De la Horie and Diaz going Ariz. but expect return  
Governor Hotel - Poss. Kingman, Ariz re: planes

- Cable 2 Nov 58 to Dir from Mex City.  
Man trav. w/ subjs identified as Frank Porini  
Man prob. Pedro Luiz Diaz Lanz and Ricardo de  
la Horie, poss. going Venezuela.
- Cable 30 Oct 58 to Dir from Mex City.  
Ric. de la Horie and Diaz Lanz arr. Mex Cit by car  
27 Oct 58. Believed had visa trouble at border.  
Unidentified man accompanied them.
- Cable 19 Aug 58 to Dir from San Juan.  
Jamaica police questioned Figuero 14 Aug seeking identities,  
addresses. 5 Aug. Figuero contacted by Diaz Lanz,  
pilot of Beecheratz plane N-48-Q, who visits Kingston  
often and believed by Jamaica police to be Fidel  
Castro courier or pilot. Figuero said Diaz only brought  
personal greetings -
- 201 file request  
To RI/Analysis section 15 Jul 1959.  
non sensitive

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C Pedro Diaz Lane

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<u>3rd Agency</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>FILE #</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Air Force Hqs	7/6/59	none	Interview
USAIRA Havana	<del>6/</del> 59	none	Several cables re Diaz
Army ACSI-SC	7/17/59	none	Memo for Rec - Diaz
Air Force	7/18/59	none	Cable.