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 M.F. TAYLOR
 WH/A/EM
 EXT 8923
 DATE 24 MARCH 1961

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
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1. GUERRILLA GROUPS ORIENTE BELIEVED CONSIST FOLLOWING:
 - A. BETWEEN GINO AND BAYATE (2020N-7521W). 100 UNDER LEADERS LT. EMILIO VERA AND CAPT. ARGIMIDO FONSECA. GROUPS MAY BE SEPARATE. ON 24 FEB ENGAGED GOC FORCES NEAR BAYATE. SEVERAL OF VERA GROUP CAPTURED, HE ESCAPED. NO RECENT INFO RE FONSECA.
 - B. BETWEEN IMIAS AND BARACOA. 100 LED BY LT. ROBERTO HERRERA Y TITO AKA "TICO" IN SIERRA DE PURIAL. AIR DROP TO GROUP PARTLY SUCCESSFUL. IN SAME GENERAL AREA ARE GROUPS LED BY ALFONSO GUEVARA FOLENIER (AMDIP-3 CLAIMED 250 MEN FOR GUEVARA, 30 MORE LIKELY) AND PANCRO CALVINO.
 - C. EL COBRE AREA. SMALL GROUP LED BY CAPT. OCTAVO LUJO PADRON AT LA TRINCHERA. GOC AWARE AND SEARCHING.
 - D. OTHER GROUPS REPORTED IN SIERRA DE CRISTAL AND ON NORTH COAST VICINITY PUERTO PADRE AND DELICIAS. MILITIA CHIEF KILLED PUERTO PADRE.
2. UNCONFIRMED NUMERS 17 MARCH LANDINGS BARACOA AREA. VICTOR PANEQUE MAY BE INVOLVED. MILITIA MOVING BARACOA BY TRUCK. GOC USING TWO B-26'S AND HELICOPTERS IN SEARCH.
3. ANTI-CASTRO FEELING STRONG HOLGUIN AND BANES. RESISTANCE GROUPS SANTIAGO AND MANZANILLO FRAGMENTED BY ARRESTS, LACK LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL COORDINATING OFFICERS

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IN-FIGHTING. NINO DIAZ REMAINS MAGIC NAME THROUGHOUT PROVINCE AND NO. 1
ON GOC LIST. ??

4. ESTIMATED 87,000 MILITIA ORIENTE. LARGE ARMY-MILITIA ELEMENTS PALMA
SORIANO, MIDEAS DEL FRIO, HOLGUIN, BANES, BARACOA, MAYARI, SANTIAGO, GUANTANAMO
AREA. CHIEF AIR BASE SANTIAGO. ARMOR UNIT PALMA SORIANO. ^{ROUTINE} ~~ROUTINE~~ AIR-SEA
PATROLS BOTH COASTS. MOSILE RADIO UNITS IN AREA.

5. AREA UNDER DIRECT COMMAND RAUL CASTRO. BAYATE ACTION AND SUCCESSFUL
ROUND-UP EARLIER LANDING GROUPS INDICATE SHOULD NOT UNDERRATE GOC EFFECTIVENESS.
OTHER GOC MILITARY LEADERS: MAJOR S CALIXTO GARCIA, DEMETRIO MONSIEY VILLA,
FRU PILON.

(END OF MESSAGE)

R.D. Esterline
for D. ESTERLINE, C/WH/4
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03
J. B. Hawkins
J. HAWKINS, C/WH/4/PM
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