

SUBJECT: Rolando CUBELA Secades (ANLASH-1)

Born 19 Jan 1933, Cuba. 201-252234

BACKGROUND: Former medical student; (OUT CABLE SEPT 61.)
 with 26th July forces in Escambray;
 Handpicked by Raul CASTRO to head Havana University
 Student Union;
 Led government intervention, control of Havana University,
 destruction of university autonomy;
 Patrolled university in radio equipped jeep armed with
 sub-machine gun;
 Organized Communist hard core goon squads to beat up
 opposition.
 Opportunist with Communist sympathies;
 Travelled to Red China 1959;
 Contacted pro-Communist students on Montevideo trip June 60;
 Actively anti-U.S.;
 Rumored homosexual.

15 Aug 61 - Maj Cubela, Pres. of FEU, left Cuba for USSR
 and other Soviet bloc countries; also, India, Japan, Italy,
 Spain and France.

Nov. 61 - attended meeting of CRU, Costa Rica as
 observer.

8 Jan 62 FBI report. Cubela probably changed mind about defect-
 ing and coming to U.S. because he afraid he would be
 incarcerated in an immigration detention camp.

10 June 62 - Cubela travelled to Helsinki via Prague to
 attend World Youth Festival. Cubela got word to U.S. via
 refugee (mother of Lucia ECHEVARRIA Bianchi) that he
 wanted to defect and enter U.S. that on way back from trip
 he planned call friend TEPEDINO in N.Y. and request assist-
 ance for entry to U.S. Agency planned have AMCONCERT-i
 contact TEPEDINO and offer financial assistance for Cubela
 entry to U.S.

19 June 65 cable - states CUBELA known to have rejected
 proposal to defect in March 1961.

20 July 1962 CS report - in Spring 62 Fidel sent Cubela
 to interior to criticize local militia for their activities
 in order to win public favor. Cubela stayed at home of
 Eusebio HERNANDEZ, an employee of the Dept. of Sanitation
 in Camajuani. His son had been classmate of Cubela and
 was counterrevolutionary. Father told Cubela this, but
 Cubela didn't seem concerned.

2 Aug 61 UFGA 2049 - Cubela was arrested attempting flee
 Cuba. States attempted departure of Cubela was an alleged
 trap with Cubela witting, which resulted in arrest of
 several anti-Castro individuals.

POA granted 2 August 1962 - for recruitment in place as
 possible defector.

1 & 2 Aug 1962 in Helsinki - Cubela told Mainwright and
 TEPEDINO action must come from within. Had scheme for
 demolition sabotage and assassination key figures, including
 Fidel. Had people (military) to do job; wouldn't reveal
 names. Concerned Soviets exploiting Cuba for own ends in
 Latin America; and growing consolidation Castro position
 thru "education" of youth and massive prop effort on people.
 Felt U.S. support needed for success, but also felt if there
 aggressive anti-regime action threatening Cuba position,
 U.S. would yield to extreme Soviet pressure to maintain
 Cuba status quo.

(continued)

No discussions yet any financial aid or other commitments.

Following Helsinki festival, planned return Cuba and enroll in officer refresher course to renew army contacts and would attempt re-establish some military and govt circle contacts.

Earl Williamson was to handle and assess Cubela, in Paris mid-August 1962. Rumors had been rife since June that he to defect this trip. Repeated that previous soft sell attempt to defect him by Mexico City C/O failed Mar 61.

Jim McTighe believed widespread rumor (in view Cubela background) may have been planted for provocation purposes. Wanted Williamson to poly him. Cubela planned to spend 7 days in France and 5 days in Prague prior to return to Havana, 28 Aug 62.

17 Aug 62 Paris: Cubela appeared sincere and honest in expressed desire return to Cuba and remain in place and cooperate. Neither asked for nor was offered any financial or other considerations.

Agreed to intell collection assignment. Was to be given SW training and Spain drop address.

Talked at length about elimination of Cuban regime leaders; said he could and would carry out mission. AGAIN repeated he would need basic instruction in plastic explosives about which he knew nothing.

Williamson raised question of poly and Cubela reaction such that to have pursued matter further would have destroyed rapport and ended op association.

C/O said he had no intention give Cubela physical elimination mission, and that he not be given plastics to take back to Cuba. Clear that his value was as FI source and "not as torch man". Emphasized he not to embark on sab missions without direct CIA approval.

N.B. Cubela was levied reqmt. purpose of recent influx Soviet Bloc techs in Cuba; now many; where assigned; task; how many more expected?

Cubela was given explosive instruction with field demonstration on 20 Aug 62.

Stephens