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CITE PARIS 71890

TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR.

WNINTEL RYBAT UNPOLKA KMSTONE

REFS: A. PARIS 68428 (4 JUNE 1976) (941369)
B. DIRECTOR 867008 (10 JUNE 1976)

1. UNPOLKA MISSED MEETING WE HAD SET UP PRIOR HIS DELAYED DEPARTURE FOR CUBA, AND REF B REQUIREMENTS CONSEQUENTLY NOT PASSED. FOLLOWING RETURN FROM CUBA, JOURNALISTIC ASSIGNMENTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY PREVENTED RECONTACT UNTIL MEETING 5 OCTOBER. FOLLOWING IS PRELIMINARY REPORT ON HIS CUBAN VISIT.

2. HIS TRAVEL TO CUBA WAS TO PREPARE A VOLUME ON COUNTRY FOR PRESTIGIOUS FRENCH GUIDE BLEU TRAVEL SERIES. TRAVEL AND EXPENSES WERE PAID BY CUBAN TOURIST ORGANIZATION INIT, WHICH VERY INTERESTED IN FAVORABLE BOOK TO PROMOTE TOURIST INDUSTRY. TOLD THAT AN INTERVIEW WAS LEAD ON FOR HIM WITH AN IMPORTANT PERSONAGE 12 SEPTEMBER, HE EXPECTED TO MEET THE DIRECTOR OF INIT, BUT WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE INTERVIEW WAS WITH CASTRO.

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3. CASTRO BEGAN BY ROUGHLY UNBRAIDING UNPOLKA FOR HIS 1962 BOOK ON CUBA "LA REVOLUTION SENSUELLE", SAYING THAT HE REMEMBERED GUEVARA HAD ALSO SPOKEN HARSHLY OF UNPOLKA YEARS AGO AND MAKING HEAVYHANDED PLEASANTRY THAT THEY HAD THOUGHT OF ARRESTING UNPOLKA REMEMBERING HOW HE HAD WRITTEN OF CUBA. ATMOSPHERE GREW MORE RELAXED, HOWEVER, AS CASTRO OBSERVED THAT, AFTER ALL, THEY HAD DISCOVERED THAT SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS UNPOLKA HAD CRITICIZED HAD, IN FACT, SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED TRAITORS TO THE CAUSE. SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED:

A. FNU CUBELA. THIS MAN, CASTRO INDICATED, HAD WORKED WITH ENEMIES OF CUBA, HAD EVEN TRIED TO KILL HIM (CASTRO). HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED A TERM IN PRISON, BUT HAVING PAID HIS DEBT TO SOCIETY, WAS PERMITTED TO PICK UP HIS LIFE AGAIN AND COMPLETE MEDICAL STUDIES, AND WAS NOW A CARDIOLOGIST IN HAVANA, COMPLETELY OUT OF POLITICS. (UNPOLKA HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR SURPRISING LENIENCY TOWARD SOMEONE WHO WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE MADE AN ATTEMPT ON CASTRO'S LIFE.)

B. FNU FRANQUI. CASTRO RECOUNTED THAT THE REGIME HAD PULLED IN A POET (UNPOLKA THOUGHT THE NAME WAS SOMETHING

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LIKE "PADILLA") WHOM CASTRO DESCRIBED IN VULGAR TERMS AS A HOMOSEXUAL. FRANQUI, THEN IN EUROPE FOR MEETINGS WITH FELTRINELLI, TRIED TO DRUM UP SYMPATHY FOR PADILLA AMONG INTELLECTUALS. CASTRO, WHO REGARDED FRANQUI AS A BROTHER, PROMISED LATTER SAFE CONDUCT TO RETURN TO CUBA TO TALK THINGS OVER, BUT FRANQUI NEVER CAME BACK. (ALTHOUGH UNPOLKA WAS NOT CLEAR IN HIS RECOLLECTION OF EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID, HE GOT IMPRESSION THAT FRANQUI HAD POSSESSED SOME INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS EMBARRASING TO CASTRO OR THE REGIME. UNPOLKA NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CASTO MENTIONED THAT FELTRINELLI (FORTUNATELY" HAD SINCE DIED.)

4. CASTRO WENT ON TO ASK UNPOLKA WHETHER HE WOULD BE READY TO COME BACK TO DO ANOTHER BOOK ON CUBA, PRESUMABLY TO SHOW PROGRESS MADE BY REGIME. (UNPOLKA SENSED THAT THIS WAS PRINCIPAL THING ON CASTRO'S MIND.) UNPOLKA SIDESTEPED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN SAME FREEDOM TO TRAVEL THAT HE HAD ENJOYED FIRST TIME. THERE WAS NOT RESOLUTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

5. WE ASKED WHY UNPOLKA THOUGHT HE WAS RECIPIENT OF SUCH SPECIAL AUDIENCE, APART FROM POSSIBLE CASTRO INTEREST IN ABOVE

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BOOK PROJECT. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO LOCATE SOME SURVIVORS OF GUEVARA'S BAND, WHO HE UNDERSTOOD HAD RETURNED TO CUBA, IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW THEM. HE FEELS CASTRO MAY HAVE HEARD OF THESE INQUIRIES AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT UNPOLKA'S INTEREST WAS. CASTRO ASKED UNPOLKA WHAT LATTER HEARD ABOUT GUEVARA'S REPUTATION IN LATIN AMERICA. UNPOLKA REPLIED THAT MANY BELIEVE GUEVARA WAS BETRAYED BY THE BOLIVIAN CP. CASTRO STATED THAT SITUATION WAS MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GUEVARA HAD ERRED BY PERMITTING HIS OPPONENTS IN BOLIVIAN CP TO RETURN TO LA PAZ AFTER A DISPUTE OVER TACTICS.

6. UNPOLKS STATED THAT HIS PRINCIPAL CONTACT IN CUBA WAS A HIGH OFFICIAL OF INIT, ROBERTO S A A L A S. HE STATED SALAS IN LATE 30'S, HAD SPENT 18 YEARS IN U.S., RETURNING TO CUBA WHEN CASTRO SEIZED POWER, AND HAD ACCOMPANIED GUEVARA TO ALGIERS. SALAS TRAVELS ABROAD FREQUENTLY, WILL BE VISITING BELGIUM IN FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO UNPOLKA, ALAS SEEMED TO BE SENSIBLE, NOT DOCTRINAIRE, OPEN MINDED, PERHAPS SLIGHTLY VENAL, I.E., SOMEONE HE MIGHT FIND AMENABLE TO AN APPROACH.

7. UNPOLKA WAS LATE FOR ABOVE MEETING, AND TIME WAS

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LIMITED BY OTHER COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING FOR 12 OCTOBER, WITH FIASCONARO PRESENT, TO REVIEW AND DEVELOP ABOVE PRELIMINARY REPORT AND DEBRIEF UNPOLKA ON MARIO A V E R H O F F PURON, HIS CONTACT AT CUBAN EMBASSY HERE ON GUIDE BLUE PROJECT. APPRECIATE HQS TRACES BY PARIS OPENING OF BUSINESS 12 OCTOBER ON SALAS. ALSO APPRECIATE ANY HQS GUIDANCE, REQUIREMENTS BASED ON ABOVE. CAN HQS ¹CONFIRM THAT CASTRO-UNPOLKA MEETING TOOK PLACE, ²VERIFY GENERAL OUTLINES OF CASTRO COMMENTS, ³IDENTIFY PRESENT WHEREABOUTS "CUBELA" (WHOM WE ASSUME IS AMLASH/1) AND FRANQUI.

8. FILE DEFER. E2. IMPDET.

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