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16 December 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Thomas J. Flores and Jack Gilcrease

DATE: 12, 15, and 16 December 1959

SUBJECT: Cuban Political Matters

1. GILCREASE phoned me on 12 December from Atlanta. He said that he had been told by Francisco CALIFAS that the tentative date selected for the invasion of Cuba is between 26 December and 3 January. There are eight to ten thousand men available in the Dominican Republic who already have Cuban uniforms. They are volunteers and most are Dominicans. The initial target will be the Ibo of Pines.

2. CALIFAS was to leave for Puerto Rico on 12 December and from there he was to go to the Dominican Republic on the same day. He planned to return to Puerto Rico the night of 12 December and will be back in Miami on 13 December. CALIFAS was to be accompanied on the trip to the Dominican Republic by (from) VILLALBA.

3. CALIFAS said he feels that TRUJILLO will collapse if the situation in Cuba continues as it is for the next six months.

4. GILCREASE said he had reported the above information to Charles HALLING, the FBI agent in Atlanta with whom he is in touch.

5. On 15 December GILCREASE phoned me again to report that CALIFAS and Tony FERNANDEZ had just returned to Atlanta. CALIFAS told GILCREASE that William PALEY was back in Washington. TRUJILLO told CALIFAS that PALEY had promised that he would have information on the United States official position on the Cuban matter within three days. An important paragraph from the Dominican Republic was to come to the United States on

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15 December to meet with PAULIN on 15 or 16 December. TRUJILLO said that he is holding the PRIMAR force until the United States' position is known.

6. CAJIGAS told GILLESPIE that he fears and dislikes PAULIN because of some earlier transactions in Cuba in which both were involved. CAJIGAS expressed a dislike for having PAULIN support TRUJILLO since this might involve some future commitments.

7. CAJIGAS told GILLESPIE he knows where to get some arms in the United States, but wants assurances that the United States Government will not interfere with such action.

8. On 16 December GILLESPIE phoned to report that CAJIGAS had been phoned on the night of 15 December by Emilio NUÑEZ Portuondo. NUÑEZ said he had seen PAULIN on the night of 15 December after the latter had dined with Vice President NIXON. According to NUÑEZ, PAULIN claimed that he was to meet with the DCI at 0900 on 16 December. NUÑEZ mentioned several names, including Julio SANCHEZ and Juan QUESADA (phonetic), who were to be members of a junta. NUÑEZ said that PAULIN wanted to drop him as head of the revolutionary movement. According to NUÑEZ, TRUJILLO would not allow the revolutionary army to leave the Dominican Republic without the United States Government's approval.

9. CAJIGAS said that PAULIN is having General PRIBAZ sign notes in excess of a million dollars. CAJIGAS said that he does not like the way the situation is developing and he will step out of the picture rather than work with the generals and TRUJILLO, although he would be willing to work with a group of businessmen.

10. CAJIGAS said that GUERRA, who was hung from his balcony on the night of 15 December, was the first man on the list given to PAULIN by TRUJILLO.

11. GILLESPIE expressed personal distrust of PAULIN, and said that he had discussed PAULIN with S. Graham MORISON, former Assistant Attorney General now a prominent Washington attorney. MORISON spoke adversely of PAULIN, whom he characterized as a great opportunist.

12. GILLESPIE urged that someone contact CAJIGAS, whom he considers to be a "great gentleman." CAJIGAS is presently staying at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta, room 603. According to GILLESPIE someone tried to locate CAJIGAS a couple of days ago. GILLESPIE asked if we had tried to to so and I replied that we had not insofar as I knew. I told GILLESPIE that it might be the FBI.

Thomas J. Flores

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