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COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT Alleged Participation of Evelio Alpizar Perez in the MIRR Air Strike over Cuba on 17 January 1965
2. Alleged Plan to Assassinate Fidel Castro

DATE OF INFO 17 January 1965
PLACE & United States, Miami
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REPORT NO. CSDB-312/00527-65
FIELD REPORT NO. UFG-6729

SOURCE: A member of a group of Cuban émigrés trained in the techniques of information collection. The group has provided useful reports since 1961.

1. Evelio Alpizar Perez, 3823 NW 11th St., Miami, phone 635-6028, a former Cuban Air Force pilot during Fulgencio Batista's régime, claims that he piloted the plane which made the air strike over the Niagara sugar mill in northern Pinar del Rio Province on 17 January 1965.1 The raid was sponsored by the Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MIRR, Insurrectional Movement for Revolutionary Recovery), a Cuban exile organization led by Orlando Bosch Avila.

2. Alpizar said that Castro spoke the truth when he said that a bomb had fallen on the house of some peasants in the area. According to Alpizar, no bomb fell on the sugar mill itself, but there was success in setting fire to some sugar-cane fields in the area.

3. Erlinda Puig Huete, wife of Marcelino Garcia Amorex, chief of the MIRR directorate, has alleged that there were five young men in the aircraft during the raid, and that the pilot was a Cuban exile who had received training in the United States Army. She claimed that the other four crew members, all young men who had recently joined the MIRR, had also received training at various American encampments. One of the crew, who is only 19 years old, injured his hand while removing the cap from one of the chloroform bottles containing the live phosphorus used in the raid.

4. Puig also said that a group of 11 MIRR commandos had infiltrated into Cuba in preparation for the air strike but that none of them had been captured as was reported.

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5. According to Marcelino Garcia Jimenez, as of about mid-January
the MIRR was preparing a plan to assassinate Castro. The person
responsible for accomplishing this plan is a Cuban who is
suffering from a heart disease and whose life expectancy has
therefore been shortened.

Field Comments

1. TDCSDB-315/00379-65, dated 3 February 1965, reported that Jack
Wright, an American, was the pilot of the aircraft which made
the raid on the Niagara sugar mill on 17 January. Wright was
subsequently killed on 2 February when he attempted to land his
twin-engine Beechcraft at Freeport, Grand Bahamas Island, while
on the first leg of another air strike attempt by the MIRR.

2. The 8 January 1965 edition of the Miami Herald reported that
four anti-Castro commandos were captured while attempting to
infiltrate into Cuba's north coast. Seven others escaped and
were being pursued by government forces in the Varadero and
Cardenas zones of Matanzas Province.