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REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 23 February 1968

COUNTRY Costa Rica

DOI February 1968

SUBJECT Negotiations Between Ludwig Starke and Rolando Masferrer with a View Toward Mutual Support for Projected Revolutionary Movements

ACQ Costa Rica, San Jose (15 - 23 February 1968)

FIELD NO. 22 (HRS) 4099

SOURCE A high-level member of the National Liberation Party (PLN) who has access to and the confidence of top leaders of his party. His strong identification with the PLN and the knowledge that his reporting will reach U.S. official circles probably cause him to present his reporting to the best advantage of the PLN. He has submitted reliable information during the past year, but he has been known to withhold pertinent information. He received the information from Daniel Oduber.

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1. (Field Comment: TDCS-314/01096-68 reported that Ludwig Starke Jimenez, a right-wing extremist who is the leader of the security forces of the Movimiento Costa Rica Libre (MCLRL), anti-Communist businessmen's group, had informed Daniel Oduber Quiros, of the National Liberation Party (PLN), that he was making plans and seeking support for a possible move against the Costa Rican Government in the event that it should appear to be in danger of passing into the hands of leftists. To that end Starke was negotiating with sympathetic groups outside of Costa Rica. He was in indirect contact with Rolando Masferrer, a Cuban exile involved in plotting against the Governments of Haiti and Cuba, through Fernando Melo Fontanilla, a Cuban exile in Costa Rica who was in touch with a priest associated with Masferrer.)

(201-440500)

2. In mid-February Oduber said that he had contacted Melo, whom he had known for some time, in an effort to learn more about the negotiations between Starke and Masferrer, in which Melo had been acting as an intermediary. Melo said that the objective of the negotiations was to work out a plan whereby Haitian and Cuban exiles, with Starke's

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~~had contacted Fernando~~

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informed by Ludwig Starke Jimenez (201-707459) that Starke was seeking support for possible move against Costa Rican govt.

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cooperation, would use Costa Rican soil as a staging area for an invasion of Haiti, to overthrow President Rene Duvalier. If successful, Masferrer and his Haitian cohorts would then supply funds and armament to Starke for his projected move against the Trejos government.

3. Melo later informed Oduber that he was planning to go to New York City on 21 February, ostensibly to visit members of his family. However, the true purpose of his visit is to talk with Masferrer and Father Diego Hamiel Abilio Madrigal Alvarez, the priest who has represented Masferrer in the negotiations, through Melo, with Starke. Melo has been commissioned by Starke to ascertain the quantity and source of arms that the Masferrer group will make available to Starke if the group succeeds in overthrowing Duvalier. Melo also is to find out what other assistance the Masferrer group will provide to Starke, how many Haitian and Cuban exiles Masferrer will send to Costa Rica, and when they will arrive.

N: 201

4. Melo said that a Costa Rican visa already has been obtained for Jacques Moringlane, a Haitian, who will be the first of the group of Haitian and Cuban exiles to come to Costa Rica to set up their staging area. Moringlane's visa was obtained by Starke through Rodrigo Aranz Bonilla, who until recently was the chief clerk (official mayor) of the Ministry of Public Security.

for an invasion of Haiti

5. (Field Comment: Melo has the reputation locally of being an inveterate intriguer and a braggart. Therefore, his veracity is open to question. It is possible that the information he has given to Oduber is to some extent exaggerated or distorted. It is also possible that Starke will find Melo to be a less than trustworthy intermediary.)

6. Field Dissem: State Army CINCSOUTH (also sent Managua) and (Port-au-Prince).

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