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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

• ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY CUBA

TDCS DB-315/00929-66

DATE OF INFO. 8 MARCH 1966

DISTR. 24 MARCH 1966

SUBJECT

RUMORS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN FIDEL AND RAUL CASTRO AND ARRESTS OF ARMY OFFICERS

PLACE & DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES (23 MARCH 1966)

REF IN

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

FIELD REPORT NO.

A CUBAN ENGINEER, SPECIALIZING IN AGRONOMY, WHO IS NOW RETIRED BUT PREVIOUSLY WAS IN THE SUGAR-REFINING BUSINESS. SOURCE RELIABLY CONVEYS INFORMATION REPORTED TO HIM. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ARREST MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2, WHICH WAS WITNESSED BY A FRIEND, SOURCE DID NOT IDENTIFY HIS INFORMANTS.

1. RUMORS OF INTENSIFIED CONFLICT BETWEEN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO RUZ AND HIS BROTHER RAUL, WHO IS MINISTER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES (FAR), HAVE CIRCULATED INCREASINGLY SINCE THE ARREST OF ROLANDO CUBELA SECADES. IT IS SAID THAT SINCE THE CUBAN-CHINESE CONFLICT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO HAVE REACHED SUCH A POINT THAT DIRECT CONTROL OF THE FAR BY FIDEL IS CONSIDERED CERTAIN. RAUL IS SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR RAMIRO VALDÉS MENENDEZ TO RESIGN BUT THE LATTER REPLIED THAT ONLY FIDEL COULD REMOVE HIM.

2. IN DAYLIGHT HOURS IN THE MARIANAO SECTION OF HAVANA ON 3

MARCH 1966 AN AUTOMOBILE OF THE G-2 ORDERED TWO MOTORCYCLE POLICEMEN
This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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TO OVERTAKE ANOTHER AUTOMOBILE CARRYING FIVE PAR OFFICERS. THE LATTER WERE DISARMED BY MEMBERS OF THE G-2 AND WERE THEN CARRIED OFF UNDER ARREST IN TWO CARS.

3. BY 8 MARCH MOST OF THE PRISONERS WHO WERE IN THE G-2 PRISON AT VILLA "MARISTA" WERE TRANSFERRED TO LA CABAÑA. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: ACCORDING TO TD/00-K-323/03689-66, A CUBAN REFUGEE WHO ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES BY AIR ON 23 FEBRUARY REPORTED THAT ON 6 FEBRUARY ABOUT 300 CUBAN ARMY OFFICERS WERE ARRESTED IN SANTA CLARA AND CAMAGUEY. THEY ALLEGEDLY WERE A PART OF A PEIPING-BACKED CONSPIRACY TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE ARMY AND TO FORCE CASTRO TO RESIGN. THE REFUGEE SAID THESE PRISONERS WERE BEING HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECURITY AT LA CABAÑA AND VILLA MARITIMA IN HAVANA. FIDEL REPORTEDLY PLANNED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THE GROUP AND ALLEGEDLY WOULD SOON EXECUTE A MAJORITY OF THEM. NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND NO RUMORS WERE CIRCULATING IN HAVANA ABOUT THE MATTER.)

4. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION FROM CONTROLLED SOURCES OF ANY RECENT DISAGREEMENTS INVOLVING THE CASTRO BROTHERS AND RAMIRO VALDES. ALTHOUGH SOURCE DID NOT SUGGEST ANY REASONS FOR THE REPORTED DISAGREEMENTS, RAUL CASTRO AND CUBELA HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN REGARDED AS VIOLENT ENEMIES. IF THERE IS A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CASTRO BROTHERS IT MAY BE OVER THE HARSHNESS OF THE PUNISHMENT TO BE METED OUT TO CUBELA AND HIS GROUP. VALDES, AS FIDEL CASTRO'S MAN, MAY HAVE AROUSED RAUL'S ENMITY.

5. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO. (END OF MESSAGE)

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