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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10284-10404
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 2-1566-16TH NR 1

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : DIRECTOR, FBI
TO : DOS
TITLE :
DATE : 10/26/1959
PAGES : 9
SUBJECTS :
PDL, CUBAN GOVERNMENT, REQ, EXTRADITION, ACA,
POLIT, AGENTS, EXAMINE, AIRCRAFT, WEAPONS A/O
EXPLOSIVES
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1A; 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 05/26/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF CIA
COMMENTS : INC LHM

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- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Nasca

109-584

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-8-94 BY SP8 MAC/EX (JFK)

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD
OFFICES
DATE 11/1/77 LMB~~

Date: October 26, 1959
To: Office of Security
Department of State
From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Subject: ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference is made to my communication dated October 23, 1959, with enclosure, which transmitted information concerning Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, former chief of the Cuban Air Force, and his participation in a leaflet-dropping raid over Havana on October 21, 1959. (JFK)

Enclosed for each recipient is a copy of a memorandum containing additional information.

Any additional pertinent data will be furnished the recipients.

Enclosure

- 1 - Director Central Intelligence Agency (Enclosure)
Attention: Deputy Director, Plans
- 1 - Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (Enclosure)
Department of the Army
Attention: Chief, Security Division
- 1 - Office of Special Investigations (Enclosure)
Air Force

1 - Director of Naval Intelligence (Enclosure)

1 - Havana (Enclosure)

1 - FLU

① - ~~105-72630~~ (Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz) (SEE NOTE PAGE 2)

VHN:jlw
(16) TELETYPE UNIT

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DATE 2/10
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
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~~SP3 TEK/PH/CA 2/12/94~~

October 26, 1959

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT, EXCEPT FOR
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10/26/59

On October 23, 1959, our representative in Havana advised the United States Air Attache reported that the aircraft dropping leaflets on October 21, 1959, were identified by a sergeant of his office as a B-25 and C-47. No B-25 is known to be in Cuba and only one is known to be in Florida. This is the property of Frank Anthony Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini. His plane was last based at North Perry Airport, Miami. The C-47 reportedly had yellow stripes painted on its tail. No aircraft so marked was known to be based in Cuba. The planes flew over the Hilton Hotel, headquarters of the American Society of Travel Agents Convention, dropping leaflets. Their purpose allegedly was to show that the present Cuban Government is incompetent to maintain law and order. No bombs were dropped. There was no strafing from the air, but some Cuban planes were damaged by misdirected Cuban Army and police ground fire.

An informant with whom insufficient contact has been had to determine his reliability, on October 23, 1959, learned that the Cuban Air Force had instructions to have two fighters ready to intercept any returning invaders.

With reference to the B-25 mentioned above, our Miami Office advised on October 23, 1959, that the B-25 flown by Diaz Lanz, according to Diaz Lanz, was owned by Sturgis. Miami sources had no information concerning the C-47. United States Border Patrol representatives in Miami advised that there were very few C-47's in the Miami area and none were known to have gone to Havana on October 21, 1959. The Border Patrol suspects that the C-47 mentioned above is based in Mexico but has no evidence to substantiate this belief.

On October 24, 1959, a source who is in a position to furnish reliable information advised that at about 3:15 p.m., October 24, 1959, Jose Ramos, Vice Consul acting in charge of the Cuban Consulate, Miami, stated that the Cuban Government wanted to file extradition proceedings immediately against a Cuban exile in Miami. The informant surmised that the subject of the extradition proceedings would be Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz. These data were orally furnished to Mr. Charles Hammond, Department of State; Major Cobb, Department of the Army;

72630 (Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz)

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5-17-98
CLASSIFIED BY 5068 SW/KSK
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR (JFK)

CLASSIFIED BY 2040
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
11-8-97
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2-1566

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ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

Commander R. Lyon, Department of the Navy; Captain D. K. Harrelson, Department of the Air Force; and Mr. [redacted] of the Central Intelligence Agency by Mr. J. J. O'Connor of this Bureau on October 24, 1959.

It is noted that the press on October 25, 1959, reported that Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa publicly stated that the Cuban Government was asking the United States for the provisional arrest of Diaz Lanz and would request his extradition. In this connection the above source, on October 25, 1959, advised that Ramos had consulted an attorney in Miami and had brought data alleging two charges against Diaz Lanz. The first charged Diaz Lanz with murder and the second charged him with attempted murder and were based on two cases allegedly pending in Havana. The first case allegedly is pending in the Fourth District, Court of Instructions, Case Number 4482. The second case is allegedly pending in the Sixth District, Court of Instructions, Case Number 3007. Reportedly, the Court of Instructions is similar to a magistrate's court where original complaints are filed. No dates or details were furnished by Ramos covering the circumstances surrounding the alleged offenses. The attorney reportedly drew up the necessary extradition papers including a warrant for the arrest of Diaz Lanz. However, the attorney is uncertain as to whether he should continue with this matter since it is obviously a device seeking to return Diaz Lanz to Cuba for political reasons.

On October 24, 1959, the informant mentioned on page two of the enclosure to the referenced communication and who has furnished reliable information in the past reported that a leaflet in the Spanish language was being distributed in the Cuban colony in Miami. The recipients of the leaflet were invited to attend a meeting at 8 p.m., October 25, 1959, at the Circulo Cubano (Cuban Circle), Miami, Florida, a social club, to protest and condemn the activities which occurred over Havana on October 21, 1959. It was indicated in the leaflets that the meeting was being sponsored by the July 26 Movement (Castro's movement), Miami. The informant learned that individuals representing various anti-Castro groups in Miami were planning to attend the meeting, some of whom indicated they would carry guns, thus giving rise to bloodshed between the pro- and anti-Castro factions. The Miami Police Department and the Dade County Department of Public Safety have been notified and these agencies plan to take whatever steps are necessary to insure that no violence will be carried out.

The informant mentioned in the foregoing paragraph learned that, because of the furor raised in Cuba during the past few days, the air sabotage which had been scheduled to

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continue through October 30, 1959, had temporarily ceased. These data, as well as the data in the preceding paragraph, were orally furnished to Mr. Herbert Lampe, Department of State, and Mr. [redacted] Central Intelligence Agency, by Mr. G. W. Hall of this Bureau. It was also furnished to Major Cyrus Timmons, Department of the Air Force; Major Gains Hawkins, Department of the Army; and Lieutenant Commander Francis T. Reardon, Department of the Navy, by Mr. C. B. Peck of this Bureau and to Mr. Chester A. Emerick, Bureau of Customs, by Mr. J. F. Wacks of this Bureau. All the disseminations were made on October 24, 1959.

On October 23, 1959, Deputy Al Tarabochia, Public Safety Department, Dade County, Miami, advised our Miami Office that Jose Ramos, Vice Consul, acting in charge, Cuban Consulate, Miami, claimed to have received information from a source whose reliability is unknown that a two-engine gray airplane was scheduled to drop leaflets and probably bombs over Havana on October 24, 1959, and that possibly Diaz Lanz or his plane would be involved. Reportedly the same plane was to fly over Havana on October 26, 1959, and drop leaflets and generally try to disrupt a large Castro rally planned for October 26, 1959. Diaz Lanz, according to Ramos, may fly the leaflet-dropping mission on October 26, 1959. The United States Border Patrol and United States Customs in Miami were advised. These data were orally furnished to Mr. Charles Hammond, Department of State; Major Cobb, Department of the Army; Commander R. Lyon, Department of the Navy; Captain D. K. Harrelson, Department of the Air Force; and Mr. [redacted] of the Central Intelligence Agency by Mr. J. J. O'Connor of this Bureau on October 24, 1959.

On October 25, 1959, our Miami Office advised that on October 24, 1959, Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz; his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, former Inspector General and Pedro's assistant in the Cuban Air Force; Ricardo Lorie Valls, former July 26 Movement underground leader in Miami; Frank Anthony Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, a United States citizen and former underground member of the July 26 Movement in Miami; and Carlos Echogoyen, former member of the Cuban Air Force, were interviewed.

Pedro Diaz Lanz confirmed the data he furnished on October 22, 1959. He stated in addition that the leaflet-dropping flight of October 21, 1959, was a joint enterprise of the above-named persons under his leadership in behalf of the July 26 Anti-Communist Movement, but without the specific knowledge of the movement. Diaz Lanz stated he planned the incident. The receipt of the data concerning the arrest of Hubert Matos, Castro military leader in Camaguey, caused Diaz Lanz to move up the date and change the target from Camaguey to Havana. The purpose of the

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ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

been in and out of the plane on numerous occasions and had never noticed any arms or explosives. (u)

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past has provided the following data: In September, 1959, the informant learned that Fernando Coba, a Cuban police sergeant in Havana, had been given \$1,000 by his chief, Efigenio Almejeiras, for his part in enticing Rafael del Pino to Cuba from the United States. It is noted that Del Pino, a publicly admitted anti-Castro leader in Miami, was seized by Cuban authorities on July 25, 1959, after his plane had landed near Havana where he was apparently planning to smuggle someone out of Cuba. (X)(u)

The above-mentioned informant has also learned that Almejeiras was attempting to find someone who would lead an armed 100-man expedition to Cuba from Miami and then turn the members of the expedition over to Cuban authorities in much the same fashion as William Alexander Morgan, American soldier of fortune and Castro official, had done in August, 1959, when he acted as a double agent for Castro in exposing a plot against Castro from bases in the Dominican Republic. According to the informant, Raul Castro, newly named minister of the Cuban armed forces, approved of this venture and was greatly interested in seeing it carried out. Reportedly Raul Castro and Almejeiras expressed an interest in the possibility of the assassination or kidnapping of Esteban Ventura Novo, former member of the Cuban National Police, in exile in Miami. The informant also learned of the interest of Cuban authorities in having Evelio Alpizar Perez, a former Cuban Air Force pilot in exile in Miami, delivered to Cuba. (X)(u)

In October, 1959, the informant learned that Almejeiras and Coba were interested in enticing members of the anti-Castro faction in Miami to send a bomb-laden plane to Cuba for the purpose of bombing Havana. (X)(u)

According to the informant, he conferred with Almejeiras and Coba on October 23, 1959. Almejeiras proposed that source approach Rolando Masferrer, prominent anti-Castro leader in Miami, or some other leading anti-Castro leader in the United States and volunteer to undertake a bombing attack against Havana from the United States. (X)(u)

According to the plan outlined by Almejeiras, the informant would procure bombs with United States Government markings and would deliver them to Almejeiras after landing in a (X)(u)

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prearranged landing strip outside Havana. It was indicated that Cuban authorities would then issue a press release claiming that a Miami-based plane had dropped bombs on Cuba, offering as proof one or more of the bombs with United States markings which supposedly had failed to explode as well as fragments from other bombs which the Cubans would explode. Almejeiras told informant this hoax would enable the Castro regime to propagandize against the United States State Department in order to force United States action against anti-Castro elements in this country. Almejeiras said he wanted this ruse to take place on October 26, 1959, and described the operation as "highly important" to the Cuban Government. The informant will endeavor to develop additional information concerning this proposed plot. (S)(u)

The informant also learned that Almejeiras reportedly stated that several hand grenades were dropped from the plane that dropped leaflets over Havana on October 21, 1959. Reportedly Almejeiras stated that another plane flew over Havana on October 21, 1959, but that the Cuban Government did not have any descriptive data concerning this plane. (S)(u)

It is requested that no further dissemination be made of the information furnished by this informant because to do so might place his life in jeopardy. (u)

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