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Cuba Said to Jail Academic, Upsetting the French

By JOHN VINOCUR

PARIS, Sept. 29 — Cuba has arrested the former vice rector of the University of Havana after promising France that he would be allowed to leave the country, French officials say.

The arrest last Saturday of Ricardo Bofill has caused considerable irritation and some embarrassment to the Socialist Government, which has sought to maintain good relations with the Castro regime. Three of President François Mitterrand's Cabinet ministers have traveled to Cuba in the past year, and the possibility of a visit to France by Fidel Castro has been a recurring theme in the French press.

The case involves an attempt by Mr. Bofill to seek refuge in the French Embassy in Havana on April 29. While pursuing an unusually successful academic carreer, Mr. Bofill became disillusioned with the Castro Government and was accused of belonging to an anti-Castro faction within the Communist Party. Since 1967 he has received two prison sentences and served more than seven years in jail.

According to his wife, who lives in Miami, Mr. Bofill went to the French Embassy because he had been threatened by telephone and his mail had been intercepted. Once he was there, she said in a telephone conversation today, the embassy was surrounded by security policemen.

Eventually, Mrs. Bofill said, the Ambassador, Pierre Decamps, spoke directly to a Cuban Vice President, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who gave the Ambassador his "personal word of honor" that Mr. Bofill would be left alone and be allowed to leave the country quickly.

She said she knew nothing of his activities in the intervening period, but learned of his disappearance on Saturday and was told on Monday that he had been arrested.

No Cuban Response

On Tuesday François Gutmann, the second-ranking official at the Foreign Ministry here, summoned the Cuban Ambassador, Alberto Boza, to "request information in relation to the present rumors concerning Mr. Ricardo Bofill." The use of the word "rumors" was a diplomatic euphemism because French officials privately confirmed Mr. Bofill's arrest.

A spokesman for the ministry said today there had been no Cuban response to the request as yet.

French anger about the situation appeared linked to the fact that the Cubans had broken their word and apparently waited to arrest Mr. Bofill until Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson completed a planned visit to Havana in August. In addition to Mr. Cheysson, Transport Minister Charles Fiterman, a Communist, and Jack Lang, Minister Delegate for Cultural Affairs, have visited Cuba in the last 14 months.

The opposition press here has seized on the affair, and today Le Quotidien de Paris asked in a headline, "Did the French Embassy 'turn over' an anti-Castro opposition figure to the Cubans?" An earlier statement by the Ministry of External Relations here said Mr. Bofill left the French Embassy of his own accord.

Last year the Socialist Government played an important role in obtaining the release from prison in Cuba of the anti-Castro poet Armando Valladares. This time, said Fernando Arrabal, the Spanish writer, who lives in Paris and has corresponded with Mrs. Bofill, the Government behaved with unusual naïvté.

New York Times
30 Sep 1983

Support Eroding .S. Foreign Policy

The New York Ti

Reagan's Foreign Policy: Erosion in P

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SECRET

Executive Registry
83-4828/1

12 October 1983

NOTE FOR THE DCI

SUBJECT: Possible Topic at Meeting with Judge Clark

I want to alert you to a topic that may come up during your meeting with Judge Clark. My Office of Research and Development is providing key countermeasures support [redacted] to the new Moscow Embassy security program. State Department was to be responsible for the costs of this program in FY-84 and beyond. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The State project manager has taken this funding problem to DeGraffenreid at the NSC. DeGraffenreid has suggested this problem as a possible topic for your meeting with Judge Clark. State -- given the NSC interest -- should now find the funds to continue this effort. If that happens, the issue should not arise at the meeting. However, should this issue arise, you should support their funding requirement, but insist that the funding responsibility remain properly States'. The funding level is certainly small enough not to create a real burden on State. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Evan Hineman

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Executive Registry
83-4828

5 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : DCI and DDCI Meeting with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on Wednesday, 12 October 1983

1. The Director and Deputy Director are scheduled for a meeting with Judge Clark on Wednesday, 12 October at 1700 hours. It is requested that any suggestions you may have for possible topics to be raised be identified by phone to [redacted] by 1200 hours, 7 October, in order to forward these topics to the Director for his consideration. A negative response is requested. 25X1

2. For those topics selected by the Director, please prepare succinct talking points to cover key issues and forward any backup material you deem appropriate. These materials should be forwarded to [redacted] (SA/DCI/IA) by 1200 hours, 11 October. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Executive Secretary

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