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INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Panama

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT
Rumors Concerning Assassination of
President Remón

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SOURCE

1. The late President Remón's widow, Cecilia Remón, is believed by many Panamanians to be a Communist. Since the President's death she has been very busy in many activities. She is said to be planning a future for herself in Panama along the same lines of labor, social, and charitable work that were so successful in Argentina for Evita Perón.
2. Her secretary Ida Galabert is said also to be a Communist. She appears to do no work at all for Mrs Remón although she is supposed to be a secretary.
3. Remón was rumored to be ready to divorce his wife prior to his assassination. He was supposed to have been having an affair with another woman, who bore him a son. Mrs Remón was also having an affair with another man. Remón wanted the divorce in order to marry the other woman, but Mrs Remón was fighting his plan.
4. When Mrs Remón returned to the capital after the death of her husband, she went first to her home then almost immediately to the President's office at the capital. That seemed strange behavior for a grieving widow, but she is said to have been determined to obtain Remón's will and destroy it because Remón was believed to have rewritten it in favor of the other woman. There is much suspicion that the Communists, including Mrs Remón, were linked in the assassination with others who wanted Remón removed.
5. There are also strange circumstances surrounding the subsequent behavior of the confessed assassin, Rubén Miró, who languishes in jail without a trial. He has told many visitors and others that he knows he is marked for death in order to silence him. He claims his cell door is often unlocked. If he were foolish enough to step out, he feels he would be shot in the belief that he was breaking jail. He also tells everyone he can that he will not touch the prison food because of the danger that it may be poisoned. Apparently his intention is to make it public that he is in danger. Therefore if he dies suddenly, the prison authorities will be suspected of precipitating his death.

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6. There is considerable argument about Miró's truthfulness in his confession. There is evidence to indicate that Miró obtained the assassination gun in Guatemala and smuggled it into Panama. Miró then found himself in need of money, therefore he sold the gun to another youth. To regain use of the weapon for the assassination, Miró revealed the plot to the new owner of the gun and threatened to involve him in the conspiracy unless he lent Miró the weapon. The youth was intimidated and complied. After the assassination the youth's girl friend, in whom he had confided, went to the police and told the story in order to collect the reward.
7. There are still mysterious circumstances about the event. According to rumors I heard [redacted] there were three assassination attempts. One was on 6 Dec 54, another later, and the successful one in January. Miró confessed the successful attempt but did not mention the previous two efforts. Miró admitted his guilt as the murderer, but his description does not fit the description of the assassin that was given by witnesses. For instance, the assassin was said to be tall and left-handed. Miró is neither.
8. The long delay in Miró's trial, the conduct of Mrs Remón and her Communist affiliations, and the evident reluctance of the authorities to question any important people about the assassination seem very strange. As a result many Panamanians have become convinced that Remón was the victim of an extensive plot that involved many more people than simply Miró and José Ramón Guizado, the Vice President who was tried and convicted of having planned the assassination.
- [redacted]