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INFORMATION REPORT

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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Costa Rica/Panama

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

Cooperation by Figueres with Latin American Communists/Assassination of President Remon of Panama Instigated by Figueres, "Toto" Remon and the Communists.

DATE DISTRIBUTED

17 NOV 1955

NO. OF PAGES

2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

(b) (1)

(b) (3)

RESPONSIVE TO

(C)

PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which events or conditions described in report existed)

Oct 55 and previous

SOURCE

I. Cooperation of Figueres with Latin American Communists.

1. In 1948 when Picado, Sr was president of Costa Rica, the US supported the invasion of Costa Rica by the now October 1955 President Figueres. This US support was engineered by Figueres and his left-wing supporters in the following manner and it is believed that this is not known to the US State Department.

2.

3. Figueres and Mora arranged for Communist Party and front organization support openly and internally of Picado, Sr. This was a convenient device for both the Communists and to Figueres in taking advantage of the situation in that he was able to sell the US on the idea that his invasion of Costa Rica and overthrow of Picado was anti-Communist in nature, whereas it actually was done in coordination with the higher echelons of Communist Party leadership and is presently one of the major reasons that Figueres has the support of the Communist Party and Communist front organizations in Costa Rica. He in turn supports them throughout Latin America.

II. Assassination of President Remon of Panama Instigated by Figueres, "Toto" Remon and the Communists.

4. The assassination of President Remon of Panama is closely related to both the personal ambitions of "Toto" Remon, the younger brother of the ex-President, and the closely allied interests of Figueres and his left-wing supporters. That is to say, in the revolutionary planning of "Paco" Calderon December 1954-January 1955 arrangements had been made with President Remon for Panama to be an important rebel base. At that time, Panama figured prominently in what might have turned out to be a base for air operations as well as a supply depot.

Figueres and professional members of left-wing organizations, with the knowledge and approval of Batista of Cuba, actually arranged for the

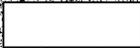
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assassination of President Remón. [redacted] that "Toto" Remón was brought into the assassination planning because of his ambitions for the presidency and due to his total lack of compunction in the murder of his brother. However, "Toto" Remón's ambitions to be President of Panama were secondary in the over-all considerations which led to the assassination of the President. That is, the major reason for the assassination was the belief on the part of Figueres that the revolutionary forces led by "Faco" Calderón must be denied an air base in Panama.

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