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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Panama

REPORT NO. []

SUBJECT
Current Rumors Regarding the Assassination of President Remon and the Impending Trial

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SOURCE

1. I asked [] who is an extremely well-educated Panamanian, pro-US, what he thought of the rumors in Panama to the effect that President Remon had acquired some 12 million dollars. [] made no bones about saying that he thought that some of the other administrations had secured as much as one or two million dollars, including that of Arnulfo Arias under which he served at one time, but he said that 12 million dollars was impossible, and that Remon had had to squeeze some people pretty hard to get even 160 thousand dollars to buy an apartment near the El Rancho Gardens in Panama. This was the apartment in which his girl friend was supposed to have lived and the one that was supposed to have been willed to her and the child in the will that was destroyed. [] said that the child was not a boy but was a girl and had been in Switzerland and France the last time he had heard of it. He had not heard of any will and felt sure that the rumors were all wrong concerning it. He also stated, and this was confirmed by [], a wealthy retired businessman here, that the woman was supposed to be of the Barrios family and was, at the time that she produced the child, already married to a US citizen or some foreigner. [] said that she convinced Remon that the child was fathered by him so that he had taken care of her. I understand from [] that later the husband died. [] also said that Remon very superciliously remarked at different times that he had offers of 50 gish a week and had said to his friends "of course I looked them over and I appear interested but this is just so I can pass them on to all my friends because I don't want them and I couldn't possibly use them". This possibly is a reference to the fact that Remon had dropsy, was quite a drinker, and was continually being tapped to drain the water off his belly. He would have liked to have been quite a ladies' man, and in his younger days he was, but apparently he wasn't physically too enthusiastic in his declining years before he was killed. Therefore the gist of this opinion is that most of those rumors were quite in error or lacking in substance. Actually I think that the real truth lies somewhat between the two extremes inasmuch as it is pretty sure that Remon got away with at least two or three million.

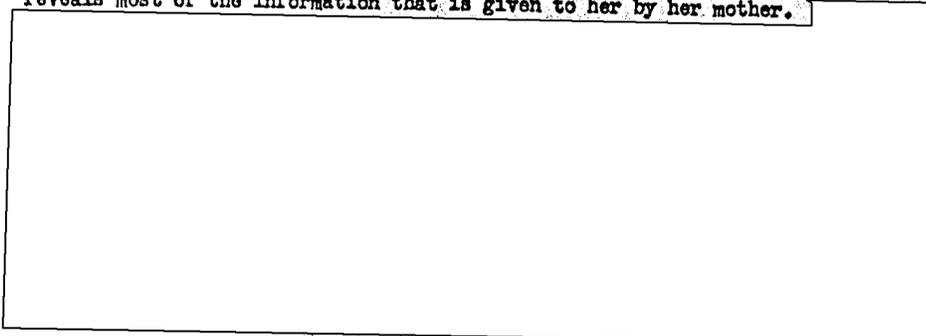
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2. I have additional information about Remón's death. This comes from a member of the Remón family who is afraid to talk or say much but her daughter reveals most of the information that is given to her by her mother.



3. She stated that the Remón women in the "kaffee Klatsches" had been rather indignant that Toto Remón, the brother of the dead president and now serving as Minister of Government and Justice, was not making any effort to apprehend the assassins of his brother. It seems that this Toto Remón rushed back from California and was put into this position presumably to track down the assassins, but it was the best job he had ever had. In fact, he had been changed from a bum and a failure merely by being able to manipulate himself into profitable financial relations with various sundry companies that desired the favor of his brother.
4. The general idea in the "kaffee Klatsches" seems to be that Toto Remón was working much too closely with the big-shots and higher brass of Panama whom these women suspected as being the ones involved in the actual murder. My suspicions are that, when this is all revealed, Major Aleman, who is Finance Minister, and "Baby" Jiménez, who is nothing but a local gangster and the head of Negro groups of roughnecks, and probably Temistocles Díaz, called Temi Diaz and now a candidate for the First Vice President in the next election, were probably involved. This is my estimate simply because I know the type of men involved.
5. Heraclio Barletta, who would be the Second Vice President, would be the type to be involved in such a thing but was a front racketeer for Remón himself and I doubt that he was involved, but he was perfectly willing to reap the benefits of the act after it had occurred and is playing hand and glove with all the rest. He also is a racketeer of the type that grabs garbage concessions or other civic plums just like Varg once did when he was dominating Philadelphia. Barletta succeeded to such plums after the Arnulfo Arias and Harmodio Arias groups were thrown out of office or their terms expired. Harmodio Arias and his brother Arnulfo feathered their nest by grabbing land and squeezing people for income while they were in power. Barletta did the same for Remón when Remón was in power and since he has died is working hand and glove with the other group.
6. The women in the last kaffee Klatsches [REDACTED] said that Miró, the lawyer who confessed to shooting Remón, had been chiding that someone was trying to poison him and that he had been taken to Gorgas Hospital because of this. I might mention that Gorgas Hospital is in the Canal Zone and this seems a bit odd that they would take him there rather than to the Panamanian Hospital. This might mean that somebody, who was really trying to find out about the murder, was taking him to Gorgas for a real checkup because he did not trust the Panamanian doctors.
7. Of course, there are constant accusations that the doctors allowed Remón to die and that his wounds would not have been fatal if they had made any efforts whatsoever to stop the bleeding. He was hit with one bullet and only in one artery. The accusation is that it was fired from a police gun from behind Remón,

possibly by some of the guards, but they refused to permit the Cuban experts or the New York Detectives to examine and to test all the guns.

8. Miró is supposedly desired out of the way by the big shots who are afraid of what he will say when he comes to trial. They know he has lied about this affair so far and most of the women are about as sure as the leaders that Guizado really knew nothing about this plot, although he may have heard various people mention the possibility of Remón being assassinated. It is generally agreed that Guizado, who became the president after Remón's death, was not involved in the actual plot but has been made the goat and Guizado's son is now in the US trying to organize a crusade to benefit Guizado. The women and their informants high in the government etc. state that the poisoning of Miró would be definite proof that someone high-ranking was involved and would look bad, so they want to have Miró shot if possible while trying to escape from jail. This will be the usual "ley de fuga" and in taking Miró from place to place for various statements, treatments and investigations, it could be arranged that some murderous guard would shoot him down while in some obscure place and would claim that Miró started to escape.
9. The official who corresponds to our District Attorney, except that he also investigates the facts of a case before it comes to trial and decides what he will permit to be presented in evidence, is constantly finding excuses to delay this trial and it looks as if the local group are afraid to let it take place. They are also so afraid that Miró has been lying before that he may lie again and get everyone else into trouble or he might tell the truth and break everything wide open.

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