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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Panama	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Difficulties of Defense in Trial of Former President Jose Ramon GUIZADO	DATE DISTR.	14 April 1955
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SOURCE:



1. Luis E. GUIZADO, Deputy in the Panama National Assembly from the Province of Panama and brother of former President Jose Ramon GUIZADO who is currently under indictment for alleged complicity in the assassination of former President Jose Antonio REMON, has said that he was confident that his brother would not be found guilty of the charge by the National Assembly. He said that the trial would be held on 21 March 1955, at which time he was reasonably certain that 18 or 19 Deputies would support his brother, thus prohibiting the two-thirds majority necessary for a conviction. With regard to the recent National Assembly vote of forty-eight to one, which resulted in the indictment of his brother, GUIZADO said that he was convinced that the Deputies went along with the initial vote simply because they did not feel that the preliminary indictment warranted rising to any particular point of order.
2. Dr. Felipe Juan ESCOBAR and Dr. Guillermo MARQUEZ, defense counsel for former President Jose Ramon GUIZADO, have said that they were gravely concerned over the possibility that the National Assembly would vote to suspend all judicial processes provided in the Panama Judicial Code, particularly those relating to evidence, thus barring from the defense the right to raise objections relating to the presentation of evidence. They expressed specific concern over obtaining expert testimony regarding ballistic tests taken by the Panama National Guard (GN) and the possibility of getting the police detectives from New York City and other experts who assisted in the investigation subpoenaed to appear before the National Assembly. Dr. ESCOBAR said that these experts were brought from the United States, Cuba, and Venezuela to assist in the investigation of the assassination but they were not permitted to participate actively in the investigation. ESCOBAR remarked that the crime was not reconstructed at the Juan Franco race track until after the experts had left Panama.
3. The defense lawyers attributed particular significance to the photograph of the machine-gun and clips which recently appeared in El Dia. The gun and clips were photographed lying on what appeared to be several newspapers apparently used to wrap them before they were cached. Dr. ESCOBAR said that if he can get the photograph enlarged sufficiently to read the dates of the newspapers and if he finds any date after 6 January 1955 such evidence will establish that Ruben MIRO did not personally wrap and cache the weapon, since he was placed in custody before

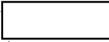
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that date. Dr. ESCOBAR said that the photograph in question was taken by the photographer of the Panama Secret Police (PSP) and that an effort would be made to obtain a copy of the original for purposes of enlargement. He said that he has been receiving no assistance from the Panamanian Government in the preparation of GUIZADO's defense and that Alejandro (Toto) REMON, Minister of Government and Justice, had refused permission for Guillermo MARQUEZ to talk with Rodolfo SAN MALO, GUIZADO's former partner, who is also being held in connection with the crime. REMON is reported to have said, "Why should I let anyone visit SAN MALO, who participated in the assassination of my brother?"

4. Dr. ESCOBAR also said that he was concerned with the possibility that the National Assembly would continually exercise dilatory tactics to prolong and delay the trial. He is endeavoring to organize the defense in advance but, lacking the co-operation of the government, he fears that he may not be able to subpoena expert witnesses on ballistics until after the trial has started. If the National Assembly does authorize the taking of expert testimony there will obviously be a delay in obtaining witnesses. In the meantime, ESCOBAR fears that the National Assembly will accuse the defense counsel of endeavoring to delay the trial, thus resulting in adverse publicity for his client. He said that if this does take place there may be considerable unrest among the people and almost anything could take place.



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