

**INFORMATION REPORT      INFORMATION REPORT**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

COUNTRY	Panama	REPORT NO.	[redacted]
SUBJECT	Remonista Attempt to Assassinate Ruben O. MIRO Guardia	DATE DISTR.	2 September 1958
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DATE OF INFO. 5 August 1958

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [redacted]

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: [redacted]

1. A group of Remonistas were behind the unsuccessful attempt on 4 August 1958 to assassinate Ruben O. MIRO Guardia, the Panamanian lawyer who was acquitted of the assassination of President Jose Antonio REMON Cantera.
2. The following Remonistas, supporters of Alejandro REMON Cantera, brother of deceased President REMON, were behind the attempt on MIRO's life: Efrain Barnett, a pro-Alejandro REMON deputy in the National Assembly; Henrique de OBARRIO, Alejandro REMON's brother-in-law and present general manager of the Banco Nacional; Diogenes Alberto PINO, president of the National Assembly; Generoso Simons, a prominent member of the Partido Coalicion Patriotica Nacional (PCPN), as well as a trusted confidant of deceased President REMON; and Victor D'ANELLO, a member of the PCPN.
3. Honoro VELASQUEZ received the money from the Remonista group and arranged for Thelma King, a close personal friend of Alejandro REMON, to make final arrangements with and pay the actual gunmen. The persons King hired were William PUIG and Carlos Rowe.
4. MIRO had been warned about a month ago by a personal friend who had learned of certain activities of Alejandro CUELLAR Arosemena and Alberto CUELLAR Arosemena; MIRO's friend told him to avoid frequenting certain places at certain times because his life was in danger.
5. While MIRO feared an attempt on his life would be made at some time, he did not feel that it would occur soon. It was MIRO's belief that there would probably be trouble in Panama if President Ernesto DE LA GUARDIA Jr. were to attend a "summit conference" at the United Nations, and that any attempt on his life would probably be made at that time.
6. MIRO had applied for permission to leave the country, but had been requested to rephrase his petition and to show his brother's acknowledgement as a sponsor. MIRO had prepared the petition and had gone to his brother's home for his signature. He had just left his brother Ricardo's home.

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[Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X". Field distribution by "S".]

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S E C R E T [redacted] [redacted]

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and had entered his car and was seated behind the wheel when the shooting began. MIRO saw neither the other car nor the gunmen, but recalls having heard the voices of two men as the other car drove away. As soon as the other car had driven away, MIRO sat up and drove away, not realizing where or how seriously he had been wounded. He did not try to follow the other car but thought only of getting to a hospital.

7. MIRO has made no statements for the Guardia Nacional (GN) or for the Policia Secreta Nacional (PSN). He did, however, give the names of PUIG and Rowe to Hermogenes DE LA ROSA, Attorney General of Panama.
8. MIRO [redacted] feels his request to leave the country will be granted, and he plans to leave as soon as possible, although he has as yet not decided where to go. He believes that another attempt on his life will be made if he is in Panama when there is any kind of trouble.

[redacted] Comments

1. All of these men have traceable close relationships with each other and with Alejandro REMON, who is a sworn mortal enemy of MIRO. MIRO originally confessed to the assassination of President REMON but later retracted his confession and was ultimately acquitted of the crime.
2. Homero VELASQUEZ has a record of involvement in anti-government plotting, illicit arms deals, and acts of violence. Rowe was once (December 1949 to August 1950) head of the Colon division of the Policia Secreta Nacional (PSN), during which time one William PUIG was listed as a PSN Colon division investigator. [redacted] that Rowe and his management of the PSN's Colon division were greatly influenced by Thelma King, a political opportunist of long standing. The Panama City press has reported the arrest, interrogation, and detention of Rowe and PUIG.
3. The Panama City press has reported the arrest and detention of Alberto CUELLAR Arosmena, one of the men who shared in the government's \$50,000 reward for the assassin of President REMON. CUELLAR supplied information which led to the arrest of MIRO and he later testified against MIRO at the latter's trial.

S E C R E T [redacted]