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Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002400130004-1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Cuba

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DATE DISTR. 3 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Cuban Participation in Revolutionary Activities  
25X1A6a in Caribbean and Central America

NO. OF PAGES 6

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

## SOURCE

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Order of 16 October 1975 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008~~

The following summary of Cuban participation in recent revolutionary activity in the Caribbean and Central America is drawn entirely from reports received from Cuba. Although much of it has been previously reported, it is presented again here in order to give as complete account as possible of this activity from the Cuban point of view. No attempt is made to evaluate either source or content.

1. On 18 October 1947, a meeting of Cuban and Venezuelan revolutionaries was held in Miami for the purpose of renewing an attempt against the Dominican Republic. It was said that about \$1,000,000 would be necessary to renew the attempt. It was thought that Manolo Castro, who was active in the attempt against the Dominican Republic in the summer of 1947 but who since has been assassinated, would be the head of the entire organization, with Roland Masferrer of the Movimiento Socialista Revolucionario (MSR) in charge of the troops. Meetings were held in Miami, but they were informal in nature. The persons participating were Dominicans, Venezuelans, Cubans and Americans. It was decided at this time to postpone the actual attempt until after the Cuban elections of June 1948. In the meantime, aid was to be given to support the presidential candidacy of Carlos Prio Socarras of Cuba.
2. It soon became apparent that an attempt against the Dominican Republic would prove unwise because of many factors. The principle reason was the military preparations that President Trujillo has been sponsoring since the fall of 1947. A factor in changing the field of operations from the Dominican Republic to the Central American dictatorships was the necessity for the revolutionists to find a new place to store the arms that had been confiscated from the Dominican revolutionists of 1947. General Genevevo Perez Damera, Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army, did not want them in Cuba.
3. On 30 October 1947, it was ascertained that Eufemio Fernandez had severed his friendship with Rolando Masferrer and his connection with the MSR. These two individuals had dominated the group at Cayo Confites, Oriente Province in Cuba, and gained military control from Juan Rodriguez and other Dominicans as well as the other nationalities represented. The dispute was over commission on arms purchased for the revolutionists. Juan

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Rodriguez reportedly lost the confidence of the revolutionary elements residing in Cuba but was still persona grata with the revolutionary leaders. Eufemio Fernandez and Juan Bosch therefore emerged as leaders of any new revolutionary activity which might be undertaken.

4. On 17 October 1947 it was ascertained that the arms confiscated by General Genevevo Perez Damera would be returned to the revolutionists under an interpretation of the Cuban law. The title to most of the armament was in the name of Juan Rodriguez. Information was first received on 2 October 1947 that the revolutionists were attempting to obtain a safe haven for the armament then in Cuba. For this purpose, Manolo Castro had gone to Venezuela, but apparently had been unsuccessful in his efforts to find a storage place for the arms.
5. On 4 November 1947 information was received that Eufemio Fernandez, following his differences with Masferrer, had separately reached an understanding with General Perez Damera concerning the arms. They would be turned over by the Cuban Army Chief of Staff to Fernandez if he could find a place for them outside Cuba.
6. Fernandez asked President Romulo Betancourt of Venezuela to store the arms. Betancourt would not provide asylum, as he said there was a division of interests in the ranks of the revolutionists in Cuba. Fernandez and Bosch therefore decided that they would assist the anti-Calderon cause in Costa Rica. Costa Rica was selected because it was a weak country without an army and only a small national police force. Most of the other people associated with the former Dominican revolutionary attempt were not in sympathy with this undertaking because the government of Costa Rica was regarded as democratic and liberal.
7. On 2 January 1948, Juan Jose Tavio, then a principal henchman of the Calderon Guardia, spoke with Rolando Masferrer. Tavio said that he had heard of the plans of Bosch and Fernandez and wanted more information about it from Masferrer. Fernandez and Bosch apparently proceeded with their plan until late in January 1948 when Rolando Masferrer reported that Fernandez and Bosch were no longer interested in causing a revolution in Costa Rica for arms storage. This was because they had found a safe haven for the arms in Guatemala. Masferrer also reported that simultaneously, General Genevevo Perez Damera, Chief of Staff, had given Fernandez and Bosch an unknown amount of small arms and hand grenades. At the same time, Eufemio Fernandez and Juan Bosch purchased a small sailing vessel equipped with an auxiliary motor. This boat was allegedly loaded with arms and was in the harbor of Habana on 21 January 1948 ready for a trip to an unknown port in Central America.
8. Nothing further was heard of the shipment of arms in question until May 1948, when Enrique C. Henriquez, brother-in-law of President Prío, said that General Perez Damera had secretly sent the arms to Jose Figueres in Costa Rica. Later still, during August 1948, a report was received that Alberto Inocente Alvarez, a close personal friend of President Prío and Juan Bosch, and now Cuban Minister to the United Nations Security Council, had been involved in the transportation of the arms to Costa Rica.
9. There is little doubt that the arms transported to Costa Rica were, at least in part, identical with the arms confiscated in September 1947 in Cuba. Rolando Masferrer, who has been consistently informed about these matters, states categorically that they are identical.

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10. Information was received in Cuba that certain arms were stored ~~in~~<sup>OK</sup> New Orleans, Louisiana, and abandoned about 1 or 2 November 1947. They consist of two two-motor airplanes both of which contain material which was purchased for the Dominican revolutionists of 1947. One plane is located near New Orleans, and the whereabouts of the other plane is unknown. This material is not believed to be under the control of Juan Rodriguez and his group. The money for it had apparently originally been provided by Jose Manuel Aleman illegally from Cuban government funds. Ownership therefore probably is in the hands of Aleman.
11. Rolando Masferrer interested himself in these arms, and on 24 December 1947 advised that an attempt was being made to purchase them. The prospective purchaser was Lopez Contreras, who was opposed to the government in Venezuela. Masferrer had gone to the United States on 9 December with Menolo Castro for the purpose of preventing these arms from falling into the hands of Lopez Contreras.
12. Information was received that Antonio Prio Socarras, brother of Carlos Prio Socarras, and now Minister of the Cuban Treasury, went to New Orleans on 21 March 1948, in order to sell the revolutionists arms. Apparently no sale took place. <sup>OK</sup>
13. In April 1948 Rolando Masferrer was in Miami discussing the possibility of the sale of these arms with Senator Jose Manuel Aleman, now a resident of Miami. Masferrer was attempting to obtain these arms for a pro-Caribbean Legion Costa Rican.
14. During August 1948, information was received that an effort was still being made to sell the two airplanes in question together with arms and khaki clothes stored in them. If the airplanes were not sold, they were to be destroyed.
15. In the fall of 1948, Mortimer Kollender, an American believed still to be in Cuba, apparently convinced the Cuban interests that he would be able to have the material removed and shipped from the United States without interference from the American authorities.\*
16. Mortimer Kollender's connection with the revolutionary efforts in Central America has never been established, but he has developed a reputation in Cuba as an arms salesman. He is known to have among his other revolutionary friends a Costa Rican by the name of Angel Iraola. This latter individual is believed to have a definite connection with the Costa Rican elements in the revolutionary movements in Central America. Kollender is also known to have contacted Cruz Alonso, Juan Bosch, and Eufemio Fernandez. On another occasion, Kollender make a contract with Reinaldo Quintana, a member of the University of Habana Police and a civil aviator, to transport arms from Oriente Province to Costa Rica by air. This flight, as far as Quintana is concerned, was never made. Quintana is now an official in the Cuban Ministry of Education.
17. In August 1948, it was reported that Antonio Prio Socarras had arranged to cash three checks in Kollender's possession which amounted to about \$30,000. The cash was turned over to Kollender. This money apparently was not for services rendered. Kollender continued his activities, and during September 1948, he was known to be in Cienfuegos, Cuba and in other small port cities in the vicinity of Cienfuegos. It is also known that he had some business with a coastwise shipping concern in Cienfuegos operated by a man named Iturraldi. <sup>OK</sup>

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18. Kollender, during his stay in Cuba, has associated with revolutionary and gangster figures. He still continues to make frequent trips between Habana and Cienfuegos.
19. Information was received in November 1948 that arms were being shipped into Central American ports from the finca "La Chiva" located at Punta La Chiva on Nipe Bay in Oriente Province. The arms at the finca "La Chiva" were allegedly in the charge of General Rivas, variously reported as a Dominican or Guatemalan. The amount of stored arms was unknown.
20. Other information was received during the month of November 1948 which reported unusual travel of certain vessels to Punta La Chiva. It was at this finca that arms were stored for the Dominican revolutionists during 1947 before they were put to use. The owner of the farm is known not to be sympathetic with the present Dominican government.
21. The public and private attitude of President Carlos Prío Socarras towards the Caribbean and Central American revolutionists has not varied from June 1948 to the present date. It was reported on 21 June 1948, when Prío was President-elect, that he was not encouraging the Central American revolutionary activities of Eufemio Fernandez or of Juan Bosch. Eufemio Fernandez had acted as Prío's personal bodyguard throughout the latter's campaign for President. About 6 January 1949, an alleged plot against Prío's life, instigated by President Trujillo, was the subject of much comment in the local press. Eufemio Fernandez was alleged to be originator of a denunciation against Trujillo and the alleged assassin. Fernandez' purpose was to induce Prío to grant permission for another group to organize against the Dominican Republic in Cuba. This move was allegedly undertaken because of Prío's lack of interest in Central American and Caribbean revolutionary matters. This information ties in with the following appraisal of Prío's intentions in the event of a Dominican revolt.
  - a. Cuba will offer asylum to revolutionary exiles.
  - b. Cuba will not be used as a base for the formation of a revolutionary force against any other country.
  - c. The President sympathizes with the movement to eliminate tropical dictatorships.
  - d. He may provide funds to the revolutionists; however, the money will not be in amounts anywhere equal to those dispersed by Senator Jose Manuel Aleman when the latter was Minister of Education in Cuba.
  - e. No aid will be advanced by Prío as long as the leaders of the Caribbean Legion continue to quarrel among themselves.
22. On 20 October 1947 it was learned that Jose Manuel Aleman, then Minister Without Portfolio in the Cuban government, would be connected with the revolutionary movement then being reorganized. However, this participation would be slight. On 7 April 1948, it was reported that Jose Manuel Aleman had already provided or would provide a certain sum of money to General Juan Rodriguez. Subsequent information from Central America did report that Aleman made a sizeable gift of money to Rodriguez. Other than this incident, Aleman has had no known connections with the activities of the Central American or Caribbean revolutionists.
23. Aleman has resided in Miami, Florida, since the spring of 1948. During this time, the national elections of Cuba took place, and he was elected as Senator from Habana Province. President Prío took office, and the new Senators were sworn in, but Aleman was not present at either of these functions. Aleman has been reported from time to time as being a very sick man. He has also been reported as fearful of returning to Cuba because of possible attacks on his life. Furthermore, Prío, although in part elected by funds made available by Aleman, immediately after his inauguration began a campaign against Aleman and Aleman's influence in the government. At present therefore, it does not appear that Aleman is an influential leader in either the Central American revolutionary movement or local Cuban politics.

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24. Frequent references have been made to the activities of Eufemio Fernandez and Juan Bosch in Cuba. The important influence of Eufemio Fernandez lies in the fact that it was he who gained control of the arms confiscated after the revolutionary attempt of 1947. In some manner, by making these arms available to the Central American revolutionists, he became an important Cuban figure in the movement.
25. Juan Bosch has long been associated with the Dominican Revolutionary Party. It was natural, after the failure of the attempt against the Dominican Republic in 1947 that Bosch would continue to be interested. This was particularly true because of his known influence with Carlos Prío Socarras and with Romulo Betancourt of Venezuela. Bosch has had the reputation of being an intellectual, an author, and a liberal. However, it has been frequently reported that both Eufemio Fernandez and Juan Bosch have only one interest in Central American revolutionary activities. This interest is purely monetary. Bosch is regarded, in revolutionary circles in Cuba, as a professional pure and simple. Fernandez also has never had high motives and has no direct interest in the ideological affairs of the Central American and Caribbean revolutionists.
26. Since the origin of the new movement in revolutionary activities on 19 October 1947, the interest of Eufemio Fernandez and Juan Bosch has varied. Early in the game, when Venezuela appeared to be of importance to the movement, Bosch was regarded as a discredited figure in that country. However, both Bosch and Eufemio Fernandez from time to time undertook travel which was obviously connected with the revolutionary movement in Central and South America. Fernandez and Bosch, in Habana, met with Cruz Alonso, active throughout the revolutionary movement, on 3 February 1948 upon their return from Venezuela. On 5 June 1948 Cruz Alonso, Juan Bosch, Pompeyo Alfau, and Eufemio Fernandez traveled to Guatemala. During this period there was more concrete evidence that the Central American revolutionary Junta was solidifying.
27. It was also reported that Eufemio Fernandez apparently undertook to engage in limited recruiting for the revolutionists of Central America, although he does not appear to have been successful. Eufemio Fernandez also traveled to Central American countries, as well as Mexico, for the purpose of making contacts with Costa Rican and Guatemalan revolutionists.
28. In the spring of 1948, Eufemio Fernandez began to develop ideas that he wished to be a politician, or not succeeding in this, that he would like to obtain an important position with the administration taking office in October 1948. Wisely, he hitched his wagon to the star of Carlos Prío Socarras and during the spring, summer, and early fall of 1948, Eufemio Fernandez was only intermittently active in the affairs of the revolutionists. When the time came for positions to be handed out, he was not offered the post of Chief of the National Police of Cuba, which is the position he has always desired.
29. Following the overthrow of President Romulo Gallegos of Venezuela, Fernandez realized that this meant the end of a successful revolutionary movement in Central America. He thereafter accepted the ~~post~~ of Chief of the Secret Police. Since his appointment as Chief of the Secret Police, he allegedly has been engaged in intrigues which will result, he hopes, in the elimination of the present Chief of the National Police, Jose Manuel Carames.
30. Three factors stand out however in the important part that Eufemio Fernandez can play in Cuba. First of all, he has an organization in Cuba consisting of Dominicans, Costa Ricans, and Venezuelans, as well as some Cubans, who operate in Cuba on behalf of the revolutionary movements of the Caribbean and Central America. Second, it was he who appears to have been selected by

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Prio late in 1948 to travel to Central America to inform the leaders of the revolutionary Junta that they could expect no aid from President Prio until the leaders settled their differences. Third, Eufemio Fernandez went to Central America from where he returned on 16 January 1949 on an official mission of the Junta. His travel to Costa Rica was in order to discuss plans of attack which it was hoped would result in the restoration to office of the presidents of Latin American Republics who had recently been deprived of their positions. It is possible that Fernandez may temporarily leave his post as head of the Secret Police in order to undertake these activities.

31. Juan Bosch continues to be a significant figure in revolutionary activities because of the influence that the Central American revolutionary leaders think that Bosch has with President Prio of Cuba. These leaders overlook the historical record of Prio as a double dealer who will not, under any circumstances, materially assist the revolutionists in Central America unless there is something for him to gain. Bosch may be expected to play along with Prio and will probably do whatever Prio wishes him to do.
32. On 21 June 1948, a Cuban, Armando Montero, who had been living and working in Costa Rica for some period of time, stated that there were persistent reports in Costa Rica that there would be trouble in the country soon, brought about by an attack by an armed force from Nicaragua. This force was to consist of Nicaraguan troops and Costa Ricans exiled in Nicaragua. He also said that the attack would occur on the Pacific side of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, utilizing the Pan American Highway. This report turned out to be substantially correct.
33. The first report received in Cuba that the Caribbean Legion would ultimately break up was on 2 November 1948. Eufemio Fernandez said, at that time, that the Caribbean Legion leaders were fighting among themselves and that the Legion was beginning to split up. This information confirmed reports originating almost at the same time, in Central America.
34. There have been intermittent meetings of leaders of the Central American and Caribbean revolutionists in Habana. However, the only meeting of real significance known to have occurred in Cuba was on 7 November 1948. A luncheon meeting took place at the San Luis Hotel which is owned or operated by Cruz Alonso. Present among others at this meeting were Cruz Alonso, Dominican revolutionist; Colonel Rosendo Arguello, Jr., Costa Rican; Seling Maynardy (also spelled Mainardy), Dominican exile who has made his home in Guantanamo, Cuba; General Rivas, who is variously reported as a Dominican and Guatemalan; Juan Bosch; Comandante Caro, ex-Cuban Army officer; Jimenez Gruyon (Grullon), well-known Dominican revolutionary; Marcos Del Rosario, Dominican on the Cuban government payroll; Daniel Martin, a Spaniard and former fighter in the Spanish Republican Army; Captain Tercero, a Costa Rican Army officer whose name is believed to be fictitious; Pichirilo (fnu), Dominican mulatto in the employ of Eufemio Fernandez; General Liszt, a Dominican employed in the Cuban Commerce Department; Colonel Calderon, a Dominican who arrived in Cuba 29 or 30 October and was awaiting the arrival of Horacio Rodriguez; and three Americans, one of whom was an American aviator named Nelson. The purpose of this meeting was to address Carlos Prio Socarras for aid. This aid may have later materialized after forces from Nicaragua attacked Costa Rica.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment. So far as is known, this material is still in or near New Orleans.

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