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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Panama	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Assassination of President Jose Antonio REMON	DATE DISTR.	May 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE:

1. On 18 March 1955 Francisco ALVARADO, the District Attorney investigating the assassination of former President Jose Antonio REMON, received a statement from Eduardo GRAU regarding his knowledge of the case. GRAU stated that on 8 December 1954 Ruben MIRO, a friend of his, asked him if he was interested in participating in a plot which would significantly affect the politics of the nation. MIRO said that REMON's government would be overthrown by any means deemed necessary, and he invited GRAU to participate in the plot. GRAU said that this was impossible because the police were loyal to the President, but MIRO said that GRAU was mistaken and that MIRO could count on Lt. Col. Saturnino FLORES, Major Timoteo MELENDEZ, and other high-ranking officials of the Guardia Nacional (GN). GRAU told MIRO that he would give him an answer later, and GRAU then went to Colonel Bolivar VALLARINO, Commandant of the GN, and told him of his discussion with MIRO.
2. In view of the fact that some time elapsed and no action was taken against MIRO, GRAU assumed that the plot which MIRO had mentioned had no foundation. However, when President REMON was assassinated on 2 January and MIRO was arrested on 6 January GRAU realized that what MIRO had told him was true and that MIRO was closely connected with the crime. GRAU waited to be called to make a statement in view of his information concerning the matter, but he was not called. GRAU went to the Investigating Commission with his information, but the Commission ignored it because the statement could have grave repercussions within the GN, and the Commission told him that it was not necessary to submit a statement. District Attorney ALVARADO learned of this and asked GRAU to make a declaration regarding the case.
3. Alejandro REMON, Minister of Government and Justice, was notified of this and told ALVARADO that it would be dangerous if this information were known. ALVARADO told REMON that it would be worse if the defense lawyers of Jose Ramon GUIZADO learned of it and published GRAU's statement.

Comment.

said that the GUIZADO family is certain that Lt. Col. FLORES and Major MELENDEZ were responsible for the assassination.

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