

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY: Cuba/Nicaragua REPORT NO. OO- B 3,179,740

SUBJECT: Status and Plans of Frente Revolucionaria Sandino, Nicaraguan Revolutionary Movement DATE DISTR. 27 February 1961

NO. PAGES: 3

REFERENCES:

DATE OF INFO. Dec 60-Jan 61

PLACE & DATE ACQ. ---; Dec 60-Jan 61

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period February 1959 - July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. During 1960 source actively assisted the Frente Revolucionaria Sandino, a Nicaraguan rebel movement led by Harold Martinez. When he left Cuba, source planned to return to Honduras to assist the Nicaraguan rebels. He maintains correspondence with numerous individuals sympathetic to the overthrow of the Somoza regime.

1. In mid-December 1960 I received a letter from Miss Stasia Sokolowska, 163 W. 179th Street, Bronx, New York, N.Y. I had become acquainted with her in Havana during the summer of 1960. At that time she lived in the East Colony of Havana, where she was associated with numerous leftists in the student colony in and around Havana. She became quite interested in the Nicaraguan rebels with whom I was associated, and indicated that she would help both in Cuba and later when she returned to the US.
2. Stasia's letter to me asked of my whereabouts, activities, state of health, etc. and I immediately sent a telegram to her indicating that she should call me at home. I received a call from her and in the course of the conversation she indicated that Harold Martinez, one of two Martinez brothers, leaders of the Frente Revolucionaria Sandino [FRS], had left Cuba and arrived in Mexico City eight days after my departure (30 Aug 60) from Mexico City for my home in the US. She indicated that Harold's brother, Alejandro, had been released from a government prison in Tegucigalpa, and that Alejandro had departed on a safe conduct pass to Cuba and presently [mid-December 1960] is living in Havana.
3. I asked her about the current status of the FRS in Cuba and she indicated that FRS relations with the Cuban government were very, very friendly at present [mid-December 1960], whereas during the summer of 1960 they had been rather strained. At that time Nicaraguan elements who were Communist oriented and who were associated with various Communist groups in Havana had been trying to push Harold and his brother Alejandro out of the picture. Stasia indicated that G-2 personnel in Havana now were on very friendly terms with the FRS element.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9 MAR 1961

STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	AEC				
-------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	--

4. Stasia reported that she had visited Honduras earlier in December 1960 and had stayed there for a few days. She had been out of contact with Harold Martínez and surprised him by arriving in Tegucigalpa. She stated that on returning to New York City her contacts had widened and her scope of operations had broadened, but that conditions were still not very favorable to the FRS movement and that various contacts that she had had with student elements and others had not been too productive.
5. I received a letter a few days later from Harold Martínez dated 20 Dec 60, a rough translation of which follows:

a. "Dear -

Received your letter dated 15 Dec 60. When I arrived in Mexico you had already left eight days earlier for the north. I immediately wrote to Chester [Simpson, a Nicaraguan who was raised in the US and who had been active in the FRS movement in Cuba] and Stasia [Sokolowska] asking that they inform me urgently of your whereabouts but neither one could give me this information. Now that we once again are in contact I am happy that we will be able to develop a large quantity of work that is very important. For the present do not move from the US. Try and get a passport, if possible, so that you will be able to travel without difficulty.

b. "Various points which you had noted in your letter appear to be practical; that is, we will be able to pursue them to our end. Among these points are the following principal ones:

- (1) Do not move from the US until I advise you, which will be soon.
- (2) Continue in contact with Jimmy [Gentry, 953 Penn Street, SW, Apt. 8, Miami, Florida] in relation to the subjects we talked of in Havana.
- (3) Continue developing the work you started in relation to the aircraft, which is important [source explained that this referred to his efforts to arrange for the use of an aircraft in connection with the FRS movement].
- (4) Send me more details concerning the contacts that you have made to do the work of hunting animals [in Honduras and British Honduras; source has been working on arrangements to travel to Honduras for a group of US nationals interested in procuring jungle animals for importation into the US. This would provide not only funds for the FRS movement but also would serve as a cover operation to get together many of the members of this movement and train them in the mountains of Honduras.]
- (5) In reference to the automobiles which you reported you were trying to obtain, it is a good idea but it must be very strong because of the poor highways in Honduras.
- (6) We are able to obtain all of the materials necessary to begin the construction of the business [source reported this indicates that equipment and arms, ammunition, and other supplies are readily available in Honduras]. What we do need is money. The only equipment which is required from the US is radio equipment. This will simplify the work that we have to do. Pass this on to Jimmy [Gentry].

c. "About the other information that you asked for, right now I am not able to provide it, but very soon I will have it and will pass it on to you. [Information that source requested concerned reconnaissance data on the northern coast of Honduras. He had informed Harold Martínez that he needed information concerning the beaches, terrain, etc. near La Ceiba, San Pedro and Chula in the northern coastal region of Honduras. Source had hinted to Martínez that he might arrive in that region by parachute with equipment or possibly he would be dropping equipment in the area. Thus he wanted the reconnaissance data and he also had requested one or more safe houses established in that area.]

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
NO DISSEM ABROAD

TOP SECRET

SECRET

d. "I am now writing a letter to your fiancee and I enclose a letter to you from her. Regarding 'El Barbon' he is now in El Salvador. (El Barbon is Alfonso Salomon, a person who enjoyed running around with a beard in Havana, playing rebel. He had been wounded at El Chaparral in Honduras during June 1960 in the action in which a group of individuals under Rafael San Marivan had penetrated to the vicinity of the Nicaraguan Honduras border and then been ambushed by Major (fmu) Espinosa of the Honduran Army. Chester Simson was wounded in the same engagement. The reference to El Barbon refers to a question I had addressed to Harold Martinez in a previous letter).

e. "Have confidence that we will carry out our desires, the only thing is time. We will have to go slowly but surely. Do not get impatient because we have to do these things very slowly, so that we do not fall in the same traps that we have fallen into before. I believe that the situation in my country (Nicaragua) is better than ever. That is to say that conditions are very good and that we will be able to begin our work in reality with great possibilities of success.

f. "Stasia Sokolowska was here 15 days ago (5 Dec 60) and she did some very good work. Please address letters to me as follows:

Sr. Ricardo Gonzales
Tesorceria de la Universidad (Treasurer of
the University)
c/o Irene Castro Reyes
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

[source reports that Irene Castro probably was one of the nurses who helped nurse Martinez back to health after he was wounded in a Nicaraguan uprising in 1958.]

- end -

TOP SECRET

C-O N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
NO DISSEM ABROAD

LIMITED