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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Review Staff

11 AUG 1975

ATTENTION:

Mr.

VIA:

SA/DDO (John Waller)

SUBJECT:

Documentation of Castro Assassination Plots

REFERENCE:

Review Staff 75/1696

1. Per referent request, we have conducted a review of our files on incidents and individuals mentioned in the report given by Fidel Castro to Senator McGovern. This memorandum contains the results of our traces on the alleged assassination plots and the Cuban individuals mentioned in the report. It must be borne in mind that our files are keyed primarily to names of individuals and not by incidents or plots, thereby making the retrieval process difficult. No project file bearing specifically on the subject of assassination has been located. Nonetheless, what follows is keyed to the chronological order of the plots as described in Castro's report.

A. Mid 1960. Nothing has been located in records which ties CIA to this incident.

(1) Armando CUBRIA Ramos. According to CIA traces, CUBRIA was a long-time sabotage expert and member of Castro's 26th of July Movement until 1960, when he apparently turned on Castro. He was arrested in 1960 for organizing underground activity against the Castro regime and was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for conspiracy. There is no record of CIA contact with CUBRIA.

(2) Mario TAULER Sague. He was arrested on 12 July 1960 in Havana where he was caught unloading arms clandestinely introduced into Cuba. There is no record of CIA contact with him.

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B. March 1961. A number of the Cubans mentioned in the incident were indeed employed by this Agency in the fields of intelligence collection and paramilitary activities against Cuba. There is nothing in the files reviewed to substantiate that their mission was to assassinate Castro. Some of those mentioned were in fact involved in clandestine infiltration into Cuba for the purposes of gathering intelligence and carrying out paramilitary activities in a March 1961 mission.

(1) Humberto SORI Marin. There is a 201 file on the individual. In November 1960 SORI, a disaffected Cuban government employee, contacted a Cuban working on our behalf and advised him of his desire to work against the Castro government. On 1 December 1960 SORI was placed under house arrest by the Cuban Government but escaped with the assistance of unidentified friends on 21 December 1960. He was exfiltrated to the Miami area, without CIA involvement, on 19 February 1961. He was met by a CIA case officer on 2 March 1961 and debriefed on his activities in Cuba. A Provisional Operational Approval (POA) was requested for his use as an intelligence source and subsequently granted in March 1961. He was met again by a CIA case officer on 5 March 1961. He returned to Cuba clandestinely on or about 11 March 1961 without CIA assistance. Shortly after his return to Cuba he was arrested and taken to La Cabana Prison on 11 April 1961. On 20 April 1961 he was executed by the Cuban militia.

(2) Rogelio GONZALEZ Corcho. There is a 201 file on the individual. Our files indicate that he was Secretary General of the Revolutionary Recuperation Movement (MRR) in May 1960. He was granted a POA for contact and assessment on 1 July 1960. In August 1960 he was met by a CIA case officer in the Washington area to be debriefed. He was subsequently trained by CIA in radio communications and paramilitary operations. He was infiltrated into Cuba on 6 September 1960 as part of a CIA paramilitary operation. He was provided with funds, arms, and explosives. In March 1961 he was instructed to step up paramilitary operations in Northern Cuba. He was captured on or about 19 March 1961 and was executed 20 April 1961 by Cuban militiamen at La Cabana Prison.

(3) Manuel Lorenzo PUIG Miyar. There is a 201 file on the individual. He was granted a POA for use in paramilitary operations on 29 November 1960. On or about 20 March 1961 he was captured and executed on 18 April 1961.

SECRET

(4) Nemesis RODRIGUEZ Navarette. Our only record of subject indicates that he was involved in paramilitary activities for CIA.

(5) Gaspar Dominguez TRUEBA Varona. There is a 201 file on the individual. He was granted a POA 15 March 1961 for use as a legal traveler to Cuba and support agent in intelligence collection and paramilitary operations. He was trained in intelligence gathering and communications techniques. He was arrested 3 April 1961 by the Cuban G-2, together with 600 other prisoners. He was executed 19 April 1961 at La Cabana Prison.

(6) Eufemio Jose FERNANDEZ Ortega. There is a 201 file on the individual. There is no known CIA involvement with subject. A one-time Chief of the Cuban National Secret Police, he was arrested on trumped-up charges in April 1961. He was executed on 20 April 1961 together with Humberto SORI Marin and others.

(7) Rafael DIAZ Hanscom. There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was granted 25 January 1961 for use in intelligence collection and paramilitary operations. He received intelligence and paramilitary training. He was involved in the March 1961 CIA paramilitary operation and was captured by the Cubans. He was executed on 20 April 1961.

(8) Gabriel RIANO Zequeiro. One Gabriel RIANO appeared on a list of prisoners in Guanajay Prison as of May 1971. There is no known Agency connection with RIANO.

(9) We have no identifiable information or indication of CIA involvement with Dionisio ACOSTA Hernandez; Oreste FRIAS Roque; Eduardo LEMUS Perez; Narciso PERALTA Soto; or Pedro de CESPED Company.

C. June 1961. Nothing has been located in records which ties CIA to this incident.

(1) Juan BASIGALUPE Hornedo. We have no pertinent identifiable information on this individual.

(2) Guillermo COULA (aka CAULA) Ferrer. We have no pertinent identifiable information on this individual.

(3) Higinio MENENDEZ Beltran. His name appeared on a list of prisoners in Guanajay Prison in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. There is no indication he had any relationship with CIA.

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D. July 1961. Some of the individuals mentioned in the report were indeed employed by this Agency in paramilitary activities directed against Cuba. There is no confirmation in the records reviewed that their mission was assassination of Castro.

✓ (1) [redacted] There is a 201 file on this individual. He was granted a POA 30 January 1961 for support of paramilitary operations against Cuba. He was clandestinely infiltrated into Cuba in a CIA operation on 3 March 1961. He was arrested on or about 9 March 1961. As of November 1972 he was believed to be held prisoner in Cuba.

(2) Adolfo MENDOZA. He is probably identifiable with Adolfo GONZALEZ Mendoza. There is a 201 file on the individual. An Operational Approval (OA) was granted for his use in paramilitary operations against Cuba. He worked as a radio operator for infiltration teams. He left Cuba via the Chilean Embassy and traveled Mexico/Panama/Chile. He later left Chile for Honduras. There has been no contact with him since 1962.

(3) [redacted] There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was granted 30 January 1961 for use in supporting paramilitary operations. He was infiltrated into Cuba in a CIA operation on 3 March 1961. He was arrested on or about 9 May 1961.

AMCOP (4) [redacted] There is a 201 file on the individual. He was working for CIA at the time of his arrest on 9 August 1961. First recruited in 1960, a POA was granted on 5 January 1961 for use in paramilitary operations. There is no information contained in the files reviewed which indicate he was involved in assassination attempts.

✓ (5) [redacted] There is a 201 file on the individual. He was recruited in 1960 for use in intelligence gathering. In September 1960 he was trained by CIA in paramilitary operations and infiltrated into Cuba on 29 September 1960, when he began organizing resistance groups at CIA direction. He returned to the U.S. in February 1961 for debriefing and returned to Cuba in May 1961. In July 1961 he reported that sabotage operations were being planned for 26 July 1961. A Cuban refugee confirmed his arrest in July 1961. There is no information in the files reviewed to indicate that he was directed to attempt to assassinate Castro.

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(6) We have no identifiable information or record of contact with Jose A. ROSAÑAL Rosabal, Emilio QUINTANA Gonzalez, Rafael RIQUENES Maceo, or Jose A. GARCIA Diaz.

E. July 1961. Although CIA had operational relationships with various individuals mentioned in the report, over a long period of time and relating to a variety of operations, there is nothing in files reviewed to indicate that CIA was involved in the described incident. There is also nothing in files reviewed to indicate that any of the individuals mentioned were directed by CIA to assassinate Castro.

(1) Tony VARONA. There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was requested in August 1957 as a source of information on anti-government activities in Cuba and later amended for use in political action activities. He and organizations he represented were provided with material and financial assistance in promoting anti-Castro activities in Cuba until approximately 1962. There is no indication in his file that he attempted to assassinate Castro or sought CIA assistance for this purpose.

(2) Manuel RAY Rivero. There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was granted for use as a political action agent on 25 October 1960. CIA provided support to a variety of autonomous anti-Castro groups, including the one represented by RAY. In July 1966, subject reportedly developed a plan to assassinate Castro. This plot was not at CIA direction and no assistance was provided for it. CIA's relationship with subject ended in 1967.

(3) Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango. There is a 201 file on the individual. Subject was first contacted in September 1948 and used sporadically as a casual informant on Cuban internal politics. A POA was granted on 12 August 1959 for use in political action activities. He was debriefed occasionally by CIA but after 1960 he was not used operationally.

(4) Francisco CHANES Armas. One Francisco CHANES is listed as an official of the Cuban Secret Revolutionary Service (SSR) in May 1960. The name of one Francisco CHANES appears on a list of prisoners held in Guanajay Prison as of May 1971. There is no record of any CIA contact or operational relationship with subject.

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(5) Alfredo Ruperto FERNANDEZ Gamez. Subject traveled to Mexico, Brazil, and the U.S. in approximately 1960 as a Cuban agent with the mission of penetrating anti-Castro organizations. There is no record of any CIA contact with or operational relationship with subject.

(6) Florentino FERNANDEZ Rodriguez. His name appears on a list of prisoners held in Guanajay Prison as of May 1971.

(7) Segundo GONZALEZ Gonzalez. He is listed as an agent of the Cuban Revolutionary Secret Service and special agent to investigate anti-Castro activities in Marianao, Cuba in 1959-1960. There is no record of any CIA contact with or operational relationship with subject.

(8) We have no identifiable information or any indication of CIA contact with Roberto COSCUYUELA Valcarcel, Orlando ULACIA Valdes, Francisco GIL Cruz, Jose ACENA Quintana, Pedro ASCARATE Carbonell, Angel del TORO Perez, Aurelio HERNANDEZ Marmol, Jorge VAZQUEZ Fernandez, or Mario CHANES de Armas.

F. 13 September 1961. There is nothing in the files reviewed to link CIA with this incident. One of those mentioned in the report was once considered for use in paramilitary operations but was not actually used in any operation.

(1) Antonio J. FERNANDEZ Rodriguez. There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was requested for subject's use in paramilitary operations on 21 September 1960. The request later cancelled and subject was not ultimately used in any capacity.

(2) There is no information available on Juan Jose MARTORE Silva, Manuel BARRERA Lopez, or Acelio LLERENA Morales.

G. October 1961. There is nothing in the records reviewed to indicate that CIA was involved in this incident.

(1) Bernardo PARADELA Ybarreche. Our files indicate that subject's name appeared on a list of Cuban political prisoners in early 1967 who were to be released through efforts of the Mexican Red Cross.

(2) Raul FERNANDEZ Trevejo. Subject's name appears on a list of prisoners held in Cuba at Guanajay Prison in May 1971.

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(3) Bernardo IGLESIA Winter. According to a report dated 10 July 1962, a fnu IGLESIA, possibly identifiable with subject, was active in anti-Castro organizations.

(4) Ruberto GONZALEZ Gonzalez. One Rupert GONZALEZ, possibly identifiable with subject, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for anti-Castro activities in Cuba. He was arrested December 1963.

H. Early 1962. Although CIA had an operational relationship with one of the principals mentioned in the report, there is nothing in the files reviewed to indicate that he was directed by CIA to assassinate Castro.

(1) Julio HERNANDEZ Rojo. There is a 201 file on the individual. Subject worked in the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE) against the Castro government inside Cuba. We had our first contact with him in September 1961 in the U.S. and provided him with some material assistance for paramilitary operations. His POA for use in paramilitary activities was granted 3 January 1962 and cancelled 8 November 1962. The date of his return to Cuba has not been established. He was arrested in Cuba in approximately October 1962 and subsequently sentenced to 30 years imprisonment.

(2) Raul CAY Hernandez and Raul CAY Gispert. Our only trace is on one Raul CAY, indicating that in December 1963 he was suspected of being an agent of the Cuban internal security service.

(3) Humberto GOMEZ Pena. As of September 1962 subject was reportedly organizing Cuban resistance groups among Masons inside Cuba.

(4) Jose Luis CUERVO Calvo. In 1962 subject was reported to be grand master of the Masonic Lodge in Cuba and leader of anti-Castro Masons. He was arrested by the Cubans on 21 September 1962.

I. 13 March 1963. There is no indication in files reviewed to indicate that CIA was involved in this incident. We had sporadic contact with only one of the subjects mentioned in the report. Although we had several contacts with him, he was not under our direction and our last contact occurred two years prior to the alleged incident.

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(1) Higinio DIAZ Ane. There is a 201 file on the individual. The CIA was in sporadic contact with subject from approximately March 1960 until mid 1961. He participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion. The Agency had no contact with him after mid 1961.

(2) We found no identifiable information on Samuel CARABALLO Moreno, Ricardo OLMEDO Moreno, Luis David RODRIGUEZ Gonzalez, Jose Antonio LOPEZ Rodriguez, or Juan Lucio MORALES Sosa.

J. 7 April 1963. There is nothing in records reviewed to indicate that CIA was involved in this incident.

(1) We have no identifiable information on or any indication that we ever had contact with Enrique RODRIGUEZ Valdez, Ricardo LOPEZ Cabrera, Jorge Carlos ESPINOSA Escarles, or Onorio TORRES Perdomo.

K. 26 July 1963. A review of files indicates no CIA involvement in this incident or record of any CIA contact with the principals mentioned in the report.

(1) Rene SIGLER-SANCHEZ Bvias. The name of one Rene SIGLER appears on a list of prisoners held in Guanajay Prison, Cuba as of May 1971.

(2) Jesus MONTES de Oca Cruz. He is listed in 1953 as a Communist Party member in Cuba and his name appears on a list of prisoners held in Guanajay Prison as of May 1971.

(3) We have no identifiable information on Eliecer RODRIGUEZ Suarez, Ibrahim MACHIN Hernandez or Oscar SIBILIA Soria.

L. 28 September 1963. Nothing has been located in records which ties CIA directly to this incident.

(1) We have no identifiable information on record of operational interest in Orlando Martiniano de la CRUZ Sanchez, Juan Israel CAZANAS Leon, Jesus Placido RODRIGUEZ Mosquera, Luis Beltran Federico HERNANDEZ Gonzalez.

(2) Pierre Juan DIEZ de Ure. There is a 201 file on the individual. DIEZ is identified in our files as a French-born naturalized Cuban citizen. His file indicates that he was arrested by the Cuban G-2 on 17 October 1963. There is no record of any operational interest in him.

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(3) Francisco BLANCO de los Cuetos. Our only trace indicates that Francisco BLANCO was arrested by the Cuban G-2 after having been denounced by Pierre Juan DIEZ de Ure after his arrest, noted above.

M. March 1964. CIA had an operational relationship with both of the persons mentioned in the report at the time of the incident. In 1963 and 1964 both persons made proposals to CIA to assassinate Castro but in each instance they were told that CIA and the USG did not condone such attempts and no commitments were made.

(1) Mario SALABARRIA Aguiar. There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was requested on subject for use as an operational support asset in an intelligence gathering net inside Cuba. We did not deal with him directly but communicated through third parties. In early March 1964 subject proposed an operation to his contact to assassinate Castro and asked for pistols, a submachine gun equipped with a silencer, several .30 caliber machine guns, and some dynamite. On 9 March 1964 CIA advised his contact to tell subject that CIA would not help him in this effort. According to CIA records, subject and his accomplice were arrested in June or July 1965 and sentenced to 30 years confinement.

(2) [REDACTED] There is a 201 file on the individual. He was recruited in December 1963 to be a source of intelligence within Cuba. At the time of his recruitment he told CIA of his plans to assassinate Castro and other Cuban government officials. He said that he was one of the principal conspirators involved in the plot, together with Mario SALABARRIA Aguiar. Subject requested CIA assistance for the attempt. CIA immediately informed him that the USG did not condone such attempts and no commitments were made to assist him.

N. Mid 1964. Some of those mentioned in the report were indeed working for CIA at the time of their arrest. Two of the subjects reportedly tried to poison Castro but there is no indication in the files reviewed that the assigned mission of the group was to assassinate Castro or that the poison was provided by CIA.

(1) Osvaldo Valentin FIGUEROA Galvez. Our only trace on subject is that his name appeared on a list of prisoners being held in Cuba at the Guanajay Prison as of May 1971. There is no record of any CIA contact or operational relationship with him.

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(2) Ramon GRAU Alsina. There is a 201 file on the individual. He was employed by CIA as head of an intelligence gathering net at the time of his arrest on 21 January 1965 and was convicted of espionage on behalf of CIA. There is no indication in his file that he was directed to assassinate Castro.

(3) Leopoldina GRAU Alsina (sister of Ramon GRAU Alsina). There is a 201 file on the individual. A POA was granted for her use as a source of intelligence in her brother's net on 17 March 1961. However she was terminated on 18 November 1963 due to insufficient intelligence production and lack of operational security. On or about 7 September 1964 it was reported that Leopoldina GRAU Alsina was under suspicion in connection with an aborted assassination attempt on Castro. However Leopoldina GRAU Alsina was not arrested until 21 January 1965 along with her brother. At that time she was accused of counterrevolutionary activities and attempted assassination of Castro. A separate report indicates that the Cuban internal security organs had allegedly found poisonous substances in her residence. There is nothing in the files reviewed to indicate that Leopoldina was directed by CIA to assassinate Castro or any record to indicate that the poisons were provided by CIA.

(4) Alberto GRAU Sierra. He is a distant cousin of Leopoldina GRAU Alsina. He was arrested on 7 September 1964 for an aborted assassination attempt against Castro. We can find no record of any operational interest in him by CIA.

(5) Alberto CRUZ Caso. At the time of July 1966 alleged attempt to poison Castro, subject was working for another U.S. intelligence organization. He was suspected of being a double agent of the Cuban internal security service.

(6) Jesus Manuel CAMPANIONI Sousa. There is a 201 file on the individual. At the time of his arrest in January 1965 he was employed by CIA as a member of an intelligence net gathering information. There is no indication in his file that he was directed to assassinate Castro.

(7) We have no identifiable information or any record of CIA contact with Ramon GRAU Sierra, Reinaldo FIGUEROA Galvez, Felipe ALONSO Serrera, Jose Manuel RODRIGUEZ Cruz or Santo de la C. PEREZ Nunez.

0. September 1964. Nothing has been located in our records which indicates CIA involvement in this incident.

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(1) We have no identifiable information on or record of operational interest in Nemisio CUBILLAS Perez, Angle Miguel ARENCIBIA Viran, or Rolando GALDOS Ranzola.

(2) Gregorio Reynaldo DIEGO Solano. The only information on subject lists him as a prisoner in Guanajay Prison as of May 1971.

P. Early 1965. Nothing has been located in our records which ties CIA to this incident.

(1) Julio Omar CRUZ Cecilia; Fermin GONZALEZ Carballo; and Giraldo Reynaldo DIEGO Solano. We have no identifiable information on and no record of operational interest in them.

(2) Rolando GALDOS Rensoli. One reference identifies subject as Cuban Army Lieutenant in approximately May 1960.

Q. July 1965. There is nothing in the records reviewed to link CIA to this incident in any way.

(1) Enrique ABREU Vilahu. We have no identifiable information on subject or any indication that we had any contact with him.

(2) Carlos Vicente SANCHEZ Hernandez. We have no record of any CIA contact with him. One Carlos SANCHEZ was declared Persona non Grata from Miami in 1962 because of affiliation with Cuban intelligence.

(3) Julio RUIZ Pitaluga. We have no record of any CIA contact with him. He was reported by a Cuban refugee to have been a major in the Cuban Revolutionary Army until 1960 when he became a member of an anti-Castro organization. He was arrested by the Cubans in July 1965 and as of September 1966 was believed to be held at La Cabana Prison.

R. 1965. Rolando CUBELA Secades et al. CUBELA's 201 file (14 volumes) is currently under intensive review by a staff member of the SSC and therefore treatment of CIA relationship to CUBELA and the others mentioned in the 1965 incident will not be included in this memorandum. Once the SSC staff member has concluded his review and selected key documents, we will screen and forward them to the Review Staff separately.

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S. Mid 1965 and May 1966. While some of the individuals were considered for use by this and other USG agencies, they were not ultimately employed by CIA and available records indicate we were not connected with them at the time the incidents occurred.

(1) Antonio CUESTA del Valle. There is a 201 file on the individual. He was considered for use by CIA in early 1961 as a crewman for a CIA vessel involved in maritime operations. The file does not reveal whether he was actually used but all interest in him was terminated in mid 1961. He was subsequently reported to be a leader of "Comandos L", a Miami-based anti-Castro exile organization. He was captured in May 1966 after being wounded when his group attempted to land a team of infiltrators near Havana. CIA had no connection with the operation and the file does not confirm that he was involved in an assassination attempt against Castro.

(2) Eugenio Enrique ZALDIVAR Cadenas. There is a 201 file on the individual, indicating an interest in him in April 1966 by another USG agency. His file was closed on 7 June 1966. He is identified as a member of "Comandos L". No further information is available.

(3) Sandelio Herminio DIAZ Garcia. There is a 201 file on the individual. The file was opened in September 1957 because of his involvement with Honduran and Costa Rican revolutionary activities. He was debriefed by a CIA case officer in September 1963 as a Cuban refugee. At that time he claimed to be in contact with anti-Castro groups in Cuba and stated that he wanted to assassinate Castro. He indicated his intention to return to Cuba immediately. We dropped contact with him at that time and never did have an operational relationship with him. In January 1966 he was reported to be involved in a plan by a Cuban emigre group to infiltrate Cuba for the purpose of assassinating Castro. On 30 May 1966 he was identified by Radio Havana as a member of a commando group killed while trying to land on the island. However, in August 1973 an individual with the same name and year of birth was reportedly involved in narcotics trafficking in Costa Rica. A Cuban exile source stated that he believed subject to be identical with the narcotics trafficker in Costa Rica. There is no further information to substantiate this.

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(4) Armando ROMERO Martinez. There is a 201 file on the individual. His file was opened on 4 December 1963 in response to an indication of interest in him by another USG agency. The relationship with him was terminated following his arrest in Miami in January 1964 for illegal use of narcotics and possession of explosives and automatic weapons.

T. 17 March 1967. A review of files does not confirm that CIA was involved in this incident.

(1) Felix ASECIO Trejo. There is a 201 file on the individual which indicates that a POA was granted on 4 March 1964 since subject was of interest to us as a possible candidate for paramilitary operations against Cuba. The POA was cancelled on 20 August 1964 with no indication that subject was ever actually used operationally.

(2) Wilfredo MARTINEZ Diaz. We have no positively identifiable information on this individual.

(3) Lazaro Gustavo ARECES Alvarez. There is a 201 file on the individual which indicates that a POA was granted 7 July 1964 for intended use as a seaman aboard a CIA vessel involved in maritime operations. The POA was cancelled 8 September 1964 with the indication that the subject was not hired.

U. 1971. There is nothing in files reviewed to indicate that we had any contact with the subject mentioned in the report or were involved in the alleged incident.

(1) Jesus DOMINGUEZ Benitez. No CIA traces on subject were found.

2. It is noted that the above totals twenty-one separate analytical sections whereas there are actually twenty-four alleged assassination attempts. This is due to the fact that the analyses of the two incidents of 26 July 1961 have been combined since they both occurred on the same day and were allegedly executed by the same group. The treatment of the alleged June 1965 poisoning attempt is part of the analysis of the mid 1964 incident because the alleged perpetrator is related to the group described therein. The incident described in Castro's report as mid 1965 has been combined with the analysis of the 1966 incident since both were allegedly carried out by the same group.

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3. In summary, of the twenty-four incidents described in Castro's report, the files reviewed indicate that CIA had no involvement in fifteen of the cases; i.e., never had any contact with the individuals mentioned or was not in contact with them at the time of the alleged incidents. In the remaining nine cases, CIA had operational relationships with some of the individuals mentioned but not for the purpose of assassination. It is noted that one case is currently being reviewed by a SSC staff member for selection of documents to be sanitized. This case (Rolando CUBELA Secades) was not reviewed in connection with this memorandum. Of the twenty-three cases reviewed, nothing has been found to substantiate the charges that CIA directed its agents to assassinate Castro.

Raymond A. Warren
Acting Chief
Latin America Division

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