



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

105-1360

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Miami, Florida
August 27, 1962

Classified by SP1 ADK/108
Declassify on: OADR
4-2-83
25,869

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Re: DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO ESTUDIANTIL,
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

On August 25, 1962, public news media in Miami, Florida, reflected that two vessels shelled a suburb of Havana, Cuba during the late evening hours of August 24, 1962, and fled under cover of darkness. It was further reflected that the target or targets of this shelling consisted of a theater and a hotel, and that no personal injuries resulted, even though these targets were struck by the missiles of the shelling.

Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba, publicly charged the United States Government with being responsible for this attack. It was further reported that twenty millimeter shells were utilized for this attack, and were fired from two ships which had departed from a secret Florida base. The participants in this raid were described as being young, none over twenty-three years of age, and it was said that one ship had already returned to its secret base in Florida, and the other ship was expected later.

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF Class
DATE 4/17/83

105-100081-30
ENCLOSURE

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Re: DIRECTORIO REVOLUCIONARIO ESTUDIANTIL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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On August 25, 1962, at 6:15 p.m., a press conference took place at the headquarters of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil, located at 1705 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Miami, Florida. This press conference was presided over by Juan Manuel Salvat Roque, Secretary of Military Matters of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil. Isidro Cosme Borjas Simo served as interpreter. During the press conference, Salvat stated that he was in charge of the raid which had been described in the United

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States press on August 25, 1962; that there were two boats involved; and that he was captain of one boat, and the other boat was captained by Isidro Borjas. Salvat further stated that the two boats embarked upon this expedition from a point outside the United States, and that for security reasons, he did not desire to disclose the exact location of this point outside the United States.

Salvat continued by stating that upon arriving off the Cuban coast at Havana, Friday night, August 24, 1962, they assumed a position approximately three hundred yards off of the Miramar Section of Marianao, a residential area of Havana, Cuba. Salvat stated that when they assumed that position, they were directly in front of the Sierra Maestra Hotel, which formerly was the Rosita de Hornedo Apartment Hotel. Salvat stated that they selected this date for the attack, inasmuch as according to their intelligence information, this is the place and the night that the Russians hold their orientation meetings for other Russians newly arrived in Cuba. Salvat stated they fired approximately thirty rounds of twenty millimeter cannon shells, of which twenty-eight hit the hotel, and two went wild and hit the Charley Chaplin (formerly known as the Blanquita) Theater, which is nearby.

There was no fire returned from the shore. After the first shots were fired, there was a complete blackout of this section. Salvat stated that this measure was taken by the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil in Exile because the diplomats have failed

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to solve the problem of Cuba, and it was felt by the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil that instant action would arouse the sympathies of the millions of students in Latin America and elsewhere to their plight. Salvat explained that instant operation was one hundred per cent Cuban; that the boats were purchased with Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil funds, and that all ammunition and weapons were also obtained by the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil. He said they had been furnished no assistance by any other organization or by a foreign power.

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

The August 26, 1962 edition of the "Miami Herald," a daily newspaper published in Miami, Florida, contained an interview of Jose Basulto Gomez, by Carlos Martinez, of the Latin American Staff of the Herald. This interview reflected that Basulto participated as gunner on the August 24, 1962 attack against Havana. Basulto stated that one of the two boats which participated in the attack was thirty-four feet in length, and carried a German twenty millimeter cannon, which had been purchased by the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil for three hundred dollars. Basulto said that after the two boats entered Cuban waters, they passed along the coast and went about two hundred yards off the shore, in front of the Rosita de Hornedo Hotel (also referred to as the Sierra Maestra and Icar). Basulto fired the cannon about twenty-six times, and the other members of the crew fired rifles and pistols. Basulto stated that the hotel had a gun emplacement, consisting of four four-barrelled machine guns on the roof, but that these

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were not used against them. Basulto also stated that on their flight from Cuba, two boats of the Castro forces attempted to intercept them. However, they were slower, and were left behind.

On August 27, 1962, while Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were interviewing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Miami, [REDACTED]

introduced himself into the interview and volunteered the following information:

The expedition which consisted of two boats and about sixteen members of the DRE was organized, financed and planned by the DRE. The personnel was furnished by the DRE and by the Agrupacion Montecristi (AM), an anti-Castro organization in the United States.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION
[REDACTED]
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