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737.00/7-753

FROM AMEMBASSY, HABANA

38
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. 1 Enc. July 7, 1953
DATE

REF :

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SUBJECT: Bohemia Interview with Colonel Tabernilla on "The 'Invasion of Country XXVI': Cuba"

Bohemia of July 5, 1953 published an article entitled "The 'Invasion of Country XXVI': Cuba" based on an interview with Colonel Francisco TABERNILLA, Presidential Aide and "Jefe de Despacho" in the private secretariat of the President.

In the interview, Colonel Tabernilla spoke of an invasion plan which is undoubtedly the same plan reported in report IR-36-53 submitted on March 4, 1953 by the U. S. Assistant Air Attaché at Guatemala City. He referred to President BATISTA's statement on June 22, 1953 asserting that he was aware of the revolutionary military preparations that were being developed, adding that "the plan approved in Montreal reached my hands four months ago". Colonel Tabernilla stated that the President had authorized him to give publicity to that part of the plan in question which has already been frustrated due to Cuba's representations to friendly countries and to Cuba's information services. Colonel Tabernilla indicated that failure of the plan was due also in part to the "impossibility on the part of the insurrectionists to obtain the necessary elements for war".

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Colonel Tabernilla gave Bohemia for publication certain letters (see CAS report of May 22, 1953 entitled "Anti-Batista Activities") facsimiles of which appear in the article, together with considerable details of the alleged invasion plan.

Certain differences are noted in the plan as published by Bohemia and the plan as reported by the U. S. Air Attaché at Guatemala City. For instance, whereas the shipping required under the plan as reported from Guatemala is given as two ships and two PT boats, the plan published by Bohemia calls for eight ships and forty PT boats plus 10,000 rubber boats or rafts and 5,000 life belts. Similarly, whereas the plan as reported by the U. S. Air Attaché at Guatemala City calls for two fighter-bombers and two amphibious PBY-5A's, the plan as published in

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Bohemia calls for 25 fighter-bombers and 25 "PSY-BA" planes.

Copies of the Bohemia article are enclosed.

For the Ambassador:



Carl T. Crain
Acting Counselor of Embassy

Copies to: American Embassy, Guatemala
" Consulate General, Montreal

Enclosure: *A/1*
Article from Bohemia of July 5, 1953

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