

DATE: June 17, 1959

TO: Thomas J. Kelly, Metropolitan Sheriff

FROM: Frank Kappel, Supervisor, Criminal Intelligence

SUBJECT: CAPTAIN FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ TOMAYO, CUBAN SITUATION

On June 10, 1959, Agent A. L. TARABOCHIA at the request of U.S. Immigration acted as interpreter at the hearing for granting political asylum to Captain FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ TOMAYO.

Captain RODRIGUEZ was among seven other Cuban nationals arrested by Miami City Police the evening of June 8 at a residence located at 1325 S.W. 13th Avenue (see Case #25129-B) and interrogated at length by Captain L. NAPIER and Sergeant CHARLES SAPP.

RODRIGUEZ revealed that he had arrived in Miami on the afternoon of June 3 on the N.A.L. flight from Havana and had presented the immigration authorities a diplomatic passport issued the previous day.

The Captain stated that on June 2 he was called by the Commander of the Cuban Army, Major CAMILO CIENFUEGOS, and given the diplomatic passport after he had requested a regular passport to visit the U.S. as a tourist.

On the morning of June 3 the Captain was called by FIDEL CASTRO who personally told RODRIGUEZ that he was being sent to Miami for two missions that were to be kept in strict confidence.

The first mission was that RODRIGUEZ and three other officers of the Cuban Army were to make contact with an American hoodlum, JOE MEROLA and attempt to buy guns that were to be used in the Nicaraguan revolt. JOE MEROLA had been in contact with rebel elements and had supplied guns to the anti-BATISTA movement during the days of the revolution.

The second mission was to be the assassination of former Senator ROLANDO MANSFERRER. According to the plan, a party of five including RODRIGUEZ was to arrive in Miami by military plane and its members were to shave their beards and disguise themselves. Once established in Miami, they were to get in touch with three American gangsters and eliminate MANSFERRER and some of the most prominent members of the former BATISTA regime.

RODRIGUEZ stated that he did not know, but one of the names of the persons involved because he did not wait for the final instructions that were to be given to him at 4:00 PM of June 3. RODRIGUEZ instead left at 3:00 PM for Miami. The person known to RODRIGUEZ is LOPEZ LOPEZ, and his picture was given to the interrogating officers of the Miami Police Department's Intelligence Unit.

The Captain revealed that he had been selected for the mission because he is the best marksman in the Cuban Army and also because of his proven bravery during the revolution. The group was to be rewarded with promotions to the rank of Major.

Captain RODRIGUEZ stated that he was a member of the Staff of the Rebel Army and was currently undergoing training at the war college headed by former Spanish Loyalist General ALBERTO BAYO. The college was located at the HOTEL MARVELLA on the beach of TARARA, N.W. of Havana. The college had been moved to camp Columbia (Military city) on June 1st because RAUL CASTRO did not want the public to know that the curriculum included mostly marxist teachings. No high ranking officer suspected RODRIGUEZ' intentions to defect.

RODRIGUEZ revealed that during the revolution he had been placed under arrest for two days after he had arrested and brought before CASTRO a Lieutenant who was distributing communist pamphlets and teaching marxism to his troop.

Captain RODRIGUEZ revealed that he is a member of a fast growing underground organization composed by members of the armed forces and government workers who are aware of the communist infiltration of the key positions in the government.

According to the Captain RAUL CASTRO has sent officers of the armed forces to Moscow on several secret missions and at present his sister in law ESPIN is in Moscow on a political indoctrination tour.

RODRIGUEZ stated that he intends to exploit the situation his arrest created and publicize the circumstances of his defection in order to draw the attention of the American public to the danger of Communism now existing in Cuba.

The house located at 1325 S.W. 13th Avenue has been rented by RODRIGUEZ' cousin and apparently serves as headquarters of the group for the time being.

*C. C. U.S. Coast Guard*

Respectfully submitted,

*A. L. Tarabochia*

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