

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	OO- B-3,138,281
SUBJECT	Invasion of Cuba Believed Staged/ Precarious Position of William Morgan and Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo	DATE DISTR.	1 Sep 59
		NO. PAGES	3
		REFERENCES	
DATE OF INFO.	Aug 59 and earlier		
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	Various sections of Cuba/ Aug 59 and earlier		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national who held the rank of commissioned officer in the Cuban revolutionary army.

Source was associated with the Cuban revolutionary movement from Dec 58 and was closely associated with Major Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo. Source was granted a commission and served as technical advisor to the Cuban Air Force until his arrest at the time of the invasion of Cuba and subsequent expulsion from the country. Source is a soldier-of-fortune type and his reliability is subject to question.

1. In my opinion the Aug 59 "invasion" of Cuba was a staged affair and the alleged heroics of Major William Morgan and Major Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo strictly phony. I believe that, contrary to the "facts" as widely publicized, Morgan and Gutiérrez probably actually were engaged in a conspiracy against Castro, and I further believe that both of them will shortly experience either fatal "accidents" or be assassinated, supposedly by agents of Trujillo.
2. My reasons for such opinions are several. I was associated with Menoyo and with Morgan in the Second Front of the Escambray from Dec 58 and I served as personal pilot for Gutiérrez for some time before being assigned as a technical advisor in charge of training Cuban Air Force personnel. On a number of occasions Gutiérrez talked to me about the possibility of bringing arms and ammunition from the US. He wanted guns, grenades, and mortar shells, and he told me that he already had 50 Garand rifles stashed away which no one knew about.
3. I saw Gutiérrez once after the invasion and at that time he was flanked by five guards and merely nodded acknowledgement of my greeting. I was very much surprised to note that none of the guards were Gutiérrez' men, but the entire group was composed of Fidel's supporters. This was in the Estado Mayor, the equivalent to the Pentagon.
4. At the Estado Mayor, I also saw Major William Morgan. He was about to enter the office of the chief of army intelligence and, although he was carrying a machine gun, he looked absolutely panic-stricken. Captain (fnu) Jiberi, an air force lawyer, was escorting him and he was flanked by 4-5 guards. It was very interesting to note that prior to entering the office Morgan had to take the clip out of his machine gun, but none of the other members of the group did so. Also, none of the guards were Morgan's men who usually accompanied him, and as in the case of Gutiérrez, the guards were members of Fidel's group.

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STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	AEC				
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5. The time of my observation of Morgan entering the intelligence office was the day after the invasion. I was under arrest; Morgan later asked for my release, but his request was ignored and I was not released for eight days.
6. In my opinion Morgan has been greatly overrated as far as his alleged feats of daring are concerned, and I believe that about 99% of such are purely imaginary. I do not think him either smart or capable enough. I do not believe that he has any left-wing sympathies, but he is a 100% opportunist. Morgan married a Cuban girl and I believe they just had a baby in August.
7. In addition to seeing Gutierrez and Morgan under what amounted to house arrest, I have another reason for doubting that the invasion occurred as reported. At the same time that Fidel was "capturing" a C-46 from the Dominican Republic, a Cuban Air Force C-46 was taken off the status board and had not been heard from by the time I left the country. I attempted to see the captured ship to check the serial numbers, but I was not permitted to do so, and the captured ship has not been available for such inspection.
8. I am also very dubious about all the arms allegedly captured as evidenced by the photographs published in the Cuban press. The photos indicate that much of the equipment is nothing but junk, consisting of empty clips, heavy machine guns with no cooling cans, and a very large stack of spare machine gun mounts which seem to serve no useful purpose.
9. While I was under arrest the group of prisoners captured at Trinidad were led past my place of confinement and I had an opportunity to observe them closely and to notice the treatment accorded them. There was not a mark on any of them and they all appeared to be quite cheerful. The treatment given the leaders of the group was unbelievable, the head of the guards being extremely jovial and even patting the top ranking prisoner on the back. There was absolutely no evidence of prisoner-captor relationship. I had a chance to speak briefly with one of the alleged members of the invasion group, Alfredo Malibrán Moreno. I noticed his boots, which were exactly the same as a Nicaraguan invasion group with which I was affiliated. The boots are made in Cuba; but when I asked Malibrán where he got them, he said from the Dominican Republic.
10. While I was in jail I met one of the alleged leaders of the counter-revolutionary attempt, Dr Armando Cañas Milanés, head of the Cattlemen's Association. He had been kept incommunicado in an office for six days, but then was moved down to the movie theatre at Camp Libertad where hundreds of other people picked up in the post-invasion roundup were confined. He was accused of being one of the leaders of a counter-revolutionary plot, but he told me that he actually knew nothing at all about it and said that the only reason he had been picked up and charged was that he was outspokenly anti-agrarian reform, and so he was being framed. He told me that if I ever had a chance he would appreciate my assisting him to get out of Cuba.
11. Also under detention was Ramón Mestre, President of the Naroca Construction Company. He told me he had nothing to do with any plot but said that he was arrested as an "enemy of the state" because he kicked up a row about the government confiscation of construction equipment belonging to his firm.
12. Another peculiar feature about this whole situation is the fact that Comandante Claudio F Media y Fuentes was alleged to be implicated, and was to be appointed chief of the army after the overthrow of Castro. I cannot imagine a less-likely conspirator. I knew him quite well and, although very intelligent, he is so timid that it is unthinkable that he

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would be head of anything. He was formerly the historian of the Cuban Army and was trained at Harvard. I do not think there is a chance that he was involved in a conspiracy as it would be completely contradictory to everything in his nature.

13. In my opinion the big splash put on by Castro following the "crushing" of the invasion was strictly staged to avoid the indication of serious defections in the ranks of the Castro regime. Castro cannot afford to have any public indications of dissatisfaction with his regime.

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