

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Cuba/Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	OO-B 3,170,077
SUBJECT	Air Force Technicians to Attend Radar School in Czechoslovakia/"Havana Air Force Base" Rumored Being Readied to Work on Secret Aircraft/Militia at San Julian Armed with Few Czech Carbines/Chinese Technicians	DATE DISTR.	31 October 1960
DATE OF INFO.	Mid-Aug 60 and earlier	NO. PAGES	2
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	Throughout Cuba; Mid-Aug 60 and earlier	REFERENCES	CD/00 Case 33369

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US national; former non-commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.

Source is a 23 year old ex-Marine who spent the period from February 1959 through July 1960 serving in the Cuban Army and the Cuban Air Force. He obtained his discharge from the Cuban Air Force in June 1960 and returned to the US via Mexico City on 30 Aug 60. According to source, he had been nominated by the Marine Corps to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at a US university, even though he had not finished his high school education. He reportedly did not accept this offer because he was much more interested in Special Forces type activity, and this led to his decision to leave the Marine Corps and a short time later to enlist in the Cuban Army. He appears to be a keen observer. While source's plans are indefinite, he should be available for further interview during the next few weeks (mid-October-November 1960).

1. Shortly before my departure from Cuba in mid-August 1960 (I had been discharged from the Cuban Air Force in mid-June 1960 but had remained in Havana for two months) I talked to Frank Rigal, an Air Force technician. He told me that he was to leave with about 30 other Cuban Air Force technicians in late August 1960 to attend a radar school in Czechoslovakia. He also stated that a Cuban Britannia airliner was to be used to fly this group to Czechoslovakia, probably via Spain. Rigal noted that he had heard that Cuban G-2 personnel were holding up this program because they did not know all of the details involved. Considering my own experiences with the confusion rampant in the Cuban military services and especially in the area of military intelligence, it appears to me to be quite possible that G-2 was attempting to stall this program until they could find out more of the details. I believe that the technicians finally departed for Czechoslovakia after I left Cuba, but I have no confirmation of this.
2. I talked to a Cuban Air Force pilot from Paracoa (about 90 miles east-northeast of Cuatanamo), who told me that 35 Cuban aviation cadets had been sent to Czechoslovakia for training. Some of the other Air Force pilots doubted this report, because they said no Czechs spoke Spanish [sic].
3. An interesting development occurred in mid-August at the "Havana Air Force Base" [presumably San Antonio de los Baños]. About 50 percent of the mechanics at this base were transferred and the base was left under the command of Evans Rosales (rank not known), a good friend of "Che" Guevara. It was rumored at the time that the base was being readied to work on new and secret aircraft (presumably Soviet).

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4. It is my belief that the Czech carbines which recently appeared in Cuba were transported to Cuba on a Soviet tanker [not further identified] which arrived in Havana about 5 Jun 60. This vessel docked at La Cabaña first, remaining there about six days, and then moved to the petroleum dock for unloading. I observed a few Czech carbines (with the broad blade, 9" bayonet which folds back along the side of the stock) in the hands of the militia at San Julián Air Force Base in early August 1960.
5. I personally did not see any Soviet Bloc military technicians during my tour of duty in the Cuban Army and Air Force (February 1959-June 1960). I did see a few Chinese technicians near the IKRA (National Agrarian Reform Institute) building in Havana in late July 1960. One of these Chinese was supposedly an expert in rice cultivation. He spoke poor Spanish, and I overheard him extolling the wonders of the "new China" to a group of Cubans. I also heard of the appearance of a few Chinese technicians who were alleged to be experts in sugar cultivation, but I did not observe them and cannot verify their existence.

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