

JUL 3 1964

Castro Sister Worked With CIA for 4 Years

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WASHINGTON.

Premier Fidel Castro's sister, Juana, who defected to Mexico on June 20, had been in contact with Central Intelligence Agency operatives for nearly four years, the Herald Tribune learned yesterday.

And Premier Castro's brother, Raul, his trusted No. 2 man as War Minister in the Communist regime, protected Juana from the bearded dictator's wrath for all that time and then paved the way for her flight to Mexico City while Premier Castro was away from Havana.

In Havana on Wednesday night Premier Castro told newsmen that Juana's defection was indeed a blow. "This incident to me personally is very bitter and profoundly painful. But I understand this is the price of being a revolutionary."

Highly placed intelligence sources here yesterday confirmed that she had been instrumental in spiriting at least 200 Cubans out of the country.

The CIA also made it easy for Juana to enter Mexico when she arrived on a scheduled Cubana Airlines flight from Havana on the afternoon of June 20. "She came out quite openly," said an intelligence source.

In Mexico City, she was immediately whisked through the usually scrupulous customs—with 21 pieces of



Juana Castro



Raul Castro

luggage—and taken to a hideaway.

The first public knowledge that Juana had defected came 10 days later when the tall 31-year-old brunette participated in a televised interview and condemned her brother's regime as "a dictatorship of fear," and warned Latin nations to "halt the insidious campaign of sabotage and Communist subversion."

The fact that she left Havana's International Airport, always swarming with heavily-armed G-2 men, without being stopped confirmed that her defection was approved and planned on the highest level of Cuba's government.

Intelligence sources said Raul Castro, who has shielded openly anti-Fidelista Juana from the usual retaliation for years, was the

one who plotted her escape—mostly out of long-standing brotherly loyalty—before Fidel Castro could do her physical harm.

Juana, who didn't seem to cut out for a collective way of life, and who is described even by Cuban exiles whose cause her defection serves as a "woman with more than a little larceny in her heart," has been a thorn in Premier Castro's side ever since he took over Cuba.

But under Raul's personal protection she remained in Cuba, clandestinely aiding would-be exiles, hiding them in her 11-room boarding house, once the palatial Havana residence of one of Cuba's richest families, and getting away with it because of her name and her connections.

Against her big brother was

effective. Her use of influence in getting relatives and friends of high officials out of the country proved a useful safety valve for the government itself. Even hard-bitten Communist Ernesto "Che" Guevara, intelligence sources said, used Juana to sneak endangered friends out of the country.

The first trouble between Juana and Premier Castro was not long in coming. Shortly after he assumed power in 1955, she enraged Fidel by using her name to make a fat profit, peddling movie cameras and projectors to all the country's colleges and universities.

Premier Castro soon put a stop to that, and threatened her with mayhem if she indulged in such things again. It was then that Raul Castro stepped in as buffer between his older sister and brother.

Shortly after the death of Mrs. Lina Ruz Castro, the Castro's mother (there are three sons and four daughters in Fidel Castro's immediate family, plus a son and a daughter by Fidel's father's first marriage), came the bitterest split of all between Juana and Fidel.

Afraid that the huge Castro estate in Oriente Province would be taken over by the government and that she would get no compensation, Juana sped to the plantation and began selling its cattle.

When Premier Castro found out he violently denounced Juana as a "worm" (worm).

Continued

and a counter-revolutionary. faced to Oriente to deal with her. But again Raul stepped in, warned Juana that Fidel was coming. She managed to go into hiding in Camaguey Province until he cooled down.

But Juana's activities for herself didn't stop there. After that near-disaster, however, she operated a good deal more quietly and turned her Castro-baiting talents less toward personal profit and more toward seriously hurting Fidel.

She was given a seized mansion in the Havana suburb of Miramar which she turned into a boarding house for government people—and potential defectors. The house was under constant surveillance by the G-2, but even they were cowed by her name.

Her contacts, most of them at any rate, were known. But still she managed to get tidbits of information to CIA agents, and managed to increasingly anger Fidel with every day.

Finally, one source said, the heat Juana was generating inside the government raised Premier Castro's temperature to the danger point. About two months ago Juana's increasing danger became known to intelligence people in the U. S. and the way was cleared for her to gain asylum if she could get out of Cuba.

Juana, as a parting favor from Raul, managed to get the permits necessary because, as one informed source said, "She was getting to be a real pain in the neck to him, and she was hurting his position."

There was no confirmation that Premier Castro knew anything about Juana's departure, and it appeared that great pains were taken to schedule her leaving when he was not in Havana.

The defection has been welcomed by Cuban exiles and has caused speculation about Premier Castro's influence with his other brothers and sisters. At the moment, it seems, Premier Castro's family problems stack up about this way:

¶Ramon Castro, 48, still in Cuba and not too happy with Fidel, although he is not openly against the regime. A tall, hulking farmer and not a good speaker, he has occasionally been browbeaten and threatened into making speeches on behalf of the agrarian reform and agricultural program.

¶Angela, about 44, lives quietly in Havana and has no known taste for politics.

¶Emma, 29, lives in Mexico with her civil engineer husband. Her marriage provoked Premier Castro into a rage when it took place in Havana in 1959. He showed up at the huge cathedral wedding in sweaty fatigues, touched off a big family fuss the scars of which have apparently never healed. Emma can be considered to have defected.

¶Augustina, 27, lives in Europe with a Spanish pianist, takes little interest in Cuban Affairs, but her political bent is not well known.

¶Emilia Argote, the first wife of Premier Castro's father Angel, lives in Havana on a \$n100-a-month pension paid personally by her stepson Raul, who seems devoted to her for her former kindness to him.

¶Pedro Emillion Castro Argote, in his late forties, is now somewhere in Central America, probably Honduras. A step-brother of Premier Castro and the son of Emilia Argote, he fled Cuba in 1960 after his 12-year-old son stole his pistol and shot a playmate after a fight.

¶Idia Argote, in her late forties, the daughter of Emilia, is pro-Castro, lives in Havana and has a minor position with the government.

Marta Diaz Balart, in her early thirties, was the wife of Fidel until their bitter divorce in 1960. A stunning blue-eyed blonde she has since remarried a lawyer, lives in the beachside town of Parara about eight miles from Havana and stays out of politics.

Fidelito, 14, Fidel's son, was sent to school for nearly two years in Russia, now lives in Havana with reliable "pro-Castro Guardians."

NOTE: A shorter version of the Collier story, not including the material after the arrow above, appeared in the 3 July 1964

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JULY 3, 1964

Castro's Sister Linked to C.I.A. As an Informant for Four Years

Supplied 'Useful' Tidbits to
U.S. and Aided Foes of
Her Brother's Regime

By TAD SZLUC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 2—
Juana Castro, the youngest sister of Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro, was described here tonight as a provider of "useful tidbits" of information to United States operatives in Cuba for the last four years. The information aided the Central Intelligence Agency.

According to qualified informants, Miss Castro had turned against her brother and his regime as early as the beginning of 1960, and since then she had devoted much time and energy to hiding and helping anti-Castro Cubans as well as supplying United States intelligence with occasional information on general affairs.

However, qualified sources familiar for years with Miss Castro's activities emphasized tonight that under no circumstances could she be regarded as a "controlled agent" of the Central Intelligence Agency or any other United States Government organization.

The C.I.A. had no formal comment on Miss Castro.

According to Miss Castro's



Associated Press

Juana Castro Ruz

personal friends, she had warned Cuban and American friends in July, 1959, that her brothers Fidel and Raul were leading Cuba toward Communism. Raul Castro is Armed Forces Minister in his brother's Government.

Those friends reported that Miss Castro, after returning from a long trip into Cuba's interior, especially in Las Villas Province, told friends with alarm that old-line Communists were taking over all the key

positions in cities and villages in Cuba's provinces.

She sought out personal friends, including several high officials in the Castro regime, pleading with them to put her in touch with Premier Castro so that she could apprise him of this information. She told friends that she did not believe that her brother Fidel was actually aware of the extent of the communism infiltration.

Contacts on 1960

Early in 1960, Miss Castro, who owned at that time a small commercial radio station in Havana developed personal contacts with several members of the United States Embassy in Havana.

This correspondent also maintained occasional contacts with her at that time, and, directly or through mutual friends, he was able to receive from Miss Castro indications on how affairs were developing within the Castro family and in regard to developments within the regime.

Miss Castro was known early in 1960 to have likewise developed contacts with the anti-Castro underground organization. On one occasion, in mid-1960, Miss Castro participated in a meeting with several American operatives. A few minutes after leaving a house where she and several Cuban plotters were present, the two American officials were arrested by the secret police and subsequently expelled from Cuba.

In November, 1960, Miss Castro told friends that she seriously considered leaving Cuba at that time because she could no longer participate in life under her brother's regime.

However, she expressed fear

that her departure would be misinterpreted both in Cuba and outside, and she therefore decided to remain in the country.

After the interruption of United States-Cuban diplomatic relations early in 1961, Miss Castro became an occasional supplier of "useful bits" of information to C. I. A. operatives in Cuba, it is understood.

However, because her own access to Premier Castro was extremely limited, she disposed of only occasional and rather superficial bits of information, it was said.

During that period, it was understood, Miss Castro had only a few opportunities to see her brother, Fidel. One of them occurred in 1961 when she encountered him, stopped at a red light at the Havana intersection next to her car. She jumped out of her car and entered his, and spoke to him for an hour, seeking to persuade him to abandon the pro-Communist line. However, she reported later, Dr. Castro only nodded and gave no replies.

After most of her friends left Cuba for exile, Miss Castro arranged to have the control of a number of private homes in Havana's residential districts where she hid numerous persons who were seeking to evade the secret police. At the same time she had been active in assisting people in leaving the island.

Her decision to leave Cuba on June 20 was understood to have been made early last month. She received permission from the Havana Government to do so, and flew out aboard a Cubana Airline aircraft in the company of another Cuban woman.

NOTE: This article appeared on page one of the Late City Edition.