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INFORMATION REPORT

231914

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COUNTRY Costa Rica

DATE DISTR. August 1948

SUBJECT Possible Communist Penetration of Caribbean Revolutionary Group

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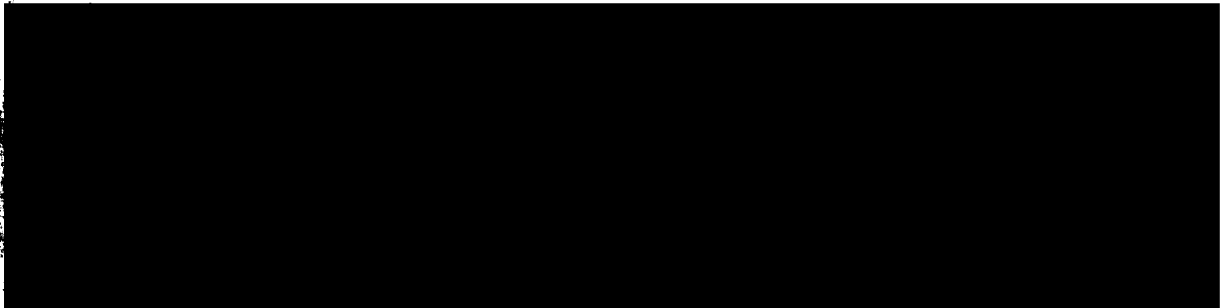
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1. [redacted] the Grupos del Caribe (which is apparently a new name for the Caribbean Revolutionary Junta, alias the Caribbean Legion) are about to be advised by a group of four Spanish veterans of the International Brigade who arrived in Costa Rica about 1 June 1948. The names of these Spaniards are unknown at present, but one is reported to be an infantry general who was the right-hand man of General Jose Miaja during the Spanish Civil War; another is said to be a military engineer; the third is a military aviation specialist acquainted with all phases of aerial warfare; and the fourth is an artillery officer. While these officers may not be out-and-out Communists, they are considered extreme leftists. A prominent Nicaraguan who learned of their presence in Costa Rica stated that they do not work for pay, which suggests the possibility that funds for their activities are supplied by someone whose connections with the Grupos del Caribe are not commonly known. 25X1X6

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2. [redacted] these four Spaniards will effect an alliance with Prudencio Sayaguez, who was Chief of Calderon Guardia's Intelligence Service in 1943 and 1944 but is now an economic adviser in the Costa Rican Ministry of Hacienda. Sayaguez, a native of Spain who was wounded while fighting on the government side during the Spanish Civil War, has been described as a Communist with a criminal record, but Alberto Marten, the Minister of Hacienda, who appointed him to his present position, denies that Sayaguez is a Communist.* [redacted] Sayaguez' position in the treasury may afford him the opportunity to offer financial assistance to the Grupos del Caribe, and that Sayaguez, together with the Spaniards, will thus be able to guide the Grupos del Caribe along the lines of their own ideology. 25X1X6

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Washington Comment: A report dated 1 April 1948 [redacted] describes Sayaguez as a determined anti-Communist but a conservative left-winger. 25X1X6

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