

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1997

GENERAL

1. Cuba to Buy Military Aircraft From UAR: Cuba has evidently decided to purchase from the UAR at least some of the military planes Castro so insistently seeks. [REDACTED] that Captain Victor Pina Cardoso would arrive in Cairo before the end of March with authorization to buy "the planes." Pina Cardoso, who makes frequent arms-purchasing trips for Castro, will also discuss pilot training for 30 to 50 Cubans whom Nasir's government has said it would accept in September.

[REDACTED] that it had available for sale to Cuba some 23 obsolescent British-made jet fighters, numerous trainers, and ammunition for all the planes. [REDACTED] to issue an invitation from the commander of the UAR Air Force to a responsible Cuban official to visit Cairo for discussion of the sale.

According to [REDACTED], the Cuban Embassy in Cairo will not be notified of the mission and Pina will directly contact the UAR Air Force commander. [REDACTED] that Che Guevara, who evidently directs Castro's very substantial arms-purchasing program, does not want too many other Cuban officials to discover the extent of the purchases.

The aircraft are not [REDACTED] long-term commercial agreement discussed with Castro officials by UAR Deputy Foreign Minister Sabri during his visit to Cuba from 9 to 16 March. Thus they may have to be paid for in foreign exchange funds, of which the Castro government is still critically short despite its success in selling the year's sugar crop. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

DELETED TEXT  
NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS

25 Mar 60

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST  
Supplement

Page 1

[REDACTED]