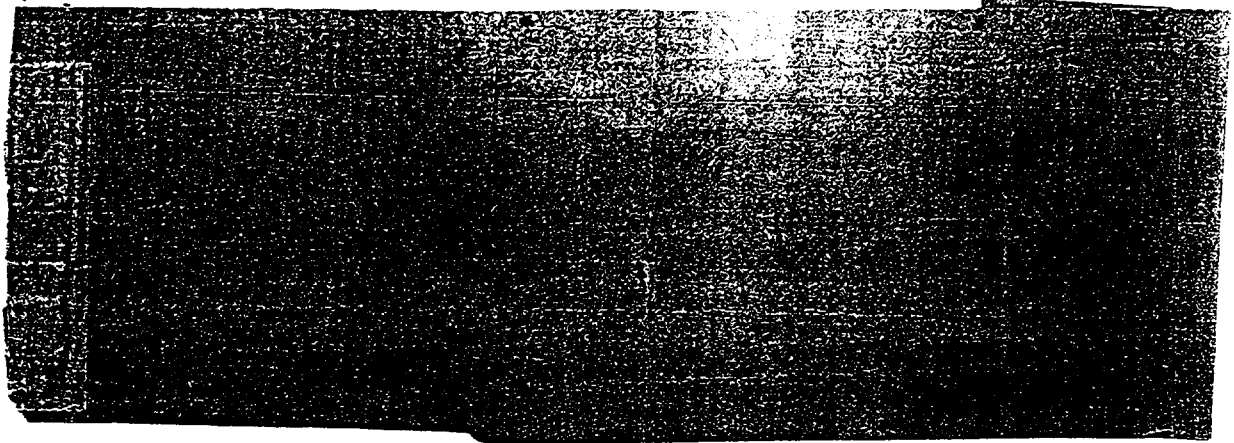


DELETED TEXT
NOT RELEVANT
TO BAY OF PIGS



LATIN AMERICA

12. Persistence of Guerrilla Action Apparently Bothers Castro:
Fidel Castro is apparently worried about his inability to suppress the guerrilla bands now operating in the Sierra Maestra. Castro claimed on 17 April that there was only one guerrilla band of 14 men, but he remained in Oriente Province longer that his purported "inspection trip" warranted. The government-controlled daily Revolucion and news agency Prensa Latina are both taking great pains to discount the importance of the uprisings.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, considered the Cuban Communist party leader closest to Castro, is reported by a usually reliable source to be concerned over the situation. The Communists anticipate hostile intervention in Cuba and evidently fear that the insurrection, if not soon suppressed, will hasten an external attack.

Guerrilla leader Manuel Beaton's continued ability to elude Castro forces would indicate support from local peasants. There is one report that they have already given him assistance and may have led him to the cache of government arms and ammunition Beaton is reported to have filched. Beaton himself is a native of the area who guided Castro's guerrilla fighters. Since the Sierra Maestra peasants were Castro's chief supporters during much of his revolt and are supposed to be its chief beneficiaries, their desertion would be a significant indication of disillusionment.

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

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Some of Castro's opponents in Cuba had suspected that Beaton--a revolutionary army captain who escaped to the mountains from imprisonment for a murder he denies having committed--was planted by the regime to trap counterrevolutionaries. They considered his guerrillas chiefly outlaws, who traditionally hide from justice in the Sierra Maestra, and they planned to send only a few volunteers in order to test his sincerity.

[REDACTED]