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[ (b)(3) ]  
24 JUN 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: [ Operations and Foreign Law Division, OGC ]

VIA: [ Deputy Chief, Compliance and Litigation, PCS ]

FROM: [ Chief, External Inquiries Branch, IMS ]

SUBJECT: Trace Request on Cuban Pilots

REFERENCE: OGC-94-51791 dated 09 June 1994

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1. A search of Directorate of Operations information surfaced the following information concerning Subject(s) listed in reference. This information is for the use of the Office of General Counsel and should not be disseminated outside this Agency, or incorporated in any document which is so disseminated, without specific approval and release from the appropriate component(s) of the Directorate of Operations. This is in addition to OP-89-0564 dated 14 April 1989.

2. Crispin L. Garcia Fernandez and Juan de Mato Gonzalez Romero were identified at a crash site during the Bay of Pigs invasion. The bodies were buried at the site and a Catholic priest performed the final rites.

(b)(3) 3. According to information dated November 1959 from the [redacted] at the time of Crispin L. Garcia's imprisonment in Cuba and held incommunicado with four other members who were trained in the US, he lived at Mayia Rodriguez 207, San Antonio de Los Banos, Habana, Cuba. He was a member of the Air Force graduating class, 59E Multi-Engine Aircraft at Reese Air Force Base. [redacted] dated 18 November 1959)

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Approved for Release  
Date 1/5 1997

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INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
OR METHODS INVOLVED  
LIA 1-87

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4. According to information dated June 1961, one Nabel Gonzalez Romero and Crispin L. Garcia Fernandez, Cuban pilots, were listed as missing during the 17 April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. [ ] (dated 27 June 1961)

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5. According to information dated October 1960, Crispin Lucio Garcia Fernandez was a PM Trainee for Cuba. He was granted a [ ] Approval. Crispin was born on 23 May 1934 at San Antonio de Los Banos, Havana, Cuba, to Bartelo Jose and Lucia. His wife was Nora Capote. (Form #772, #125 dated 24 October 1960 and Form #501 dated 26 October 1960)

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6. According to information dated December 1960, Crispin L. Garcia Fernandez undertook a [ ] interview. He was recruited by the US in Havana, Cuba, and arrived in Miami, Florida, on 26 September 1960. Crispin entered the Cuban Air Force in September 1956 and was released in February 1959. He was with the United States Air Force for training in the United States from November 1957 to February 1959. Crispin flew as a crop duster for Joseph A. Quintana from August 1959 to September 1960. He married Nora Capote, age 26, on 25 December 1954. She and their son, Franklin, age 4, arrived in Miami, Florida, on 06 October 1960. The interview was conducted in English. The results [ ] Crispin's answers to questions asked during testing. (Report of [ ] Interview #286855 dated 07 December 1960)

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7. According to information dated November 1961, Headquarters received information that an armed B-26 with Cuban markings #933 was located deep in the jungle, a few miles from Bocay River, Nicaragua. The remains of two men were in the aircraft (NFI). Headquarters advised the B-26 #933 departed Nas Boca Chica on 18 April 1961 for Tide, however, the B-26 #933 did not arrive (NFI). (DIR-22241 dated 03 November 1961)

8. According to information dated November 1961, the wreck was located at 85 degrees, 30 min E, 13 min N by a search party. The aircraft was identified with wing markings number 933 and internal wing markings, the left wing bearing an old number, 958. The plane apparently crashed approximately midnight 17 or 18 April 1961. Directional gyro indicated impact possibly on Heading 155. The plane hit the side of a 1000 foot steep incline in almost impenetrable jungle. The wreckage was strewn about 200 feet down a 45 degree incline on Heading 210. From the position of the fuel selector, it possibly crashed on one engine. The locals scavenged many pieces of airframe and equipment. Regarding the crew, they found only three shoes, parts of parachutes and

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one sheath knife scabbard bearing a bugle tooled in leather. Locals who buried the remains stated the bodies were headless, limbless and barely recognizable as human remains. The remains were buried at the crash site. Deterioration, animals and insects have all contributed to total destruction of any identifiable remnants. It was arranged with the local [ ] to have a Catholic missionary in the area to hold appropriate religious rites. [ ] dated 07 November 1961

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9. According to information dated January 1962, Mrs. Nora Capote, widow of pilot, Crispin Lucio Garcia, was told the remains of her husband had appeared in Nicaragua and were buried in an unknown cemetery. Nora requested the remains of her husband be returned and buried in the Cemetery of Miami, Florida, without publicity being given to the affair. (Memorandum dated 15 January 1962)

10. According to information dated March 1962 regarding the return of Crispin Lucio Garcia Fernandez's remains, it was suggested by this Agency that the widow be advised there was no possibility at any time in the future of returning her husband's remains to either Miami, Florida or Cuba. It was also stressed to emphasize the reasons were inaccessibility to the crash site, the more than six month delay in discovering the crash, and the reported fact that when burial did occur, a Catholic missionary was present, and held appropriate religious rites. (Memorandum dated 02 March 1962)

11. According to information dated May 1960, Juan de Mata Gonzalez Romero was a pilot for Fidel Castro Ruz until mid-1959. He claimed he was arrested in December 1959 for counter-revolutionary utterances, but later released. A friend suggested Juan leave Cuba to avoid arrest. He drove from Mansanillo, Cuba, to Santa Clara, Cuba, stole a Cessna 180 (Cuban Registry #CUN676), and flew to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, via Bimini, Bahamas. Juan was taken into custody by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on 07 May 1960. He asked for political asylum. (DBF-49036 dated 14 May 1960)

12. According to information dated October 1960, Juan Gonzalez Romero was born on 08 February 1934, Camajuan, Las Villas, Cuba, to Juan and Celina. His former address in Cuba was Dr. Docina Nr 28, Manzanillo, Oriente. He was listed as a PM Trainee for Cuba. Juan was granted a [ ] Approval. (Form #501 dated 21 October 1960 and Forms #772, #125 dated 24 October 1960)

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13. According to information dated December 1960, Juan M. Gonzalez Romero undertook a [ ] interview on 10 October 1960 and the test was conducted in English. The results [ ] Juan's answers to questions asked during testing. (Report of [ ] Interview dated 08 December 1960)

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14. According to information dated April 1968, Juan Gonzalez Romero was killed by enemy action. (Official Superior's Report of Injury and Death dated 11 April 1968)

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Attachment:  
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IMS [ ]  
(21 June 1994)  
Based On: [ ]

] via Operator "0"/CL BY [ ] (b)(3)

- [ ] dated 27 June 1961
- [ ] dated 18 November 1959 (Garcia) (b)(3)
- Form #772 dated 24 October 1960 (Garcia)
- Form #125 dated 24 October 1960 (Garcia)
- Form #501 dated 26 October 1960 (Garcia)
- Report of [ ] Interview dated 07 December 1960 (b)(1), C
- (Garcia)
- DIR-22241 dated 03 November 1961 (Garcia)
- [ ] 03817 dated 07 November 1961 (Garcia) (b)(1) (b)(2), C
- Memo dated 15 January 1962 (Garcia)
- Memo dated 02 March 1962 (Garcia)
- DBF-49036 dated 14 May 1960 (Gonzalez)
- Form #772 dated 24 October 1960 (Gonzalez)
- Form #125 dated 24 October 1960 (Gonzalez)
- Form #501 dated 21 October 1960 (Gonzalez)
- Report of [ ] Interview dated 08 December 1960 (Gonzalez)
- Official Superior's Report of Injury and Death dated 11 April 1968 (Gonzalez)

File In: [ ] , X-ref [ ] (b)(3)

Coord In Draft: NR [ ] (b)(3) (b)(1) C  
LA [ ]

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