

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY CUBA REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/655,164

SUBJECT COMMENTS OF ANTONIO MACEO ON ALLEGED DISSEMBARKATIONS IN CUBA DATE DISTR. 21 JUNE 1963

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF INFO. 20 JUNE 1963 REFERENCES TDCSDB-3/655,165 IN 64263

PLACE & DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES (20 JUNE 1963) THEIR ACCURACY

APPRAISAL 2 (THAT MACEO MADE THE STATEMENTS), 3 (AS TO FIELD REPORT NO.)

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE COMPETENT AMERICAN OBSERVER (B), FROM ANTONIO MACEO.

1. ANTONIO MACEO, LEADER OF THE CONSEJO REVOLUCIONARIO CUBANO (CRC, CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL) SAID ON THE AFTERNOON OF 20 JUNE THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE DISSEMBARKATIONS IN CUBA UNTIL QUERIED BY THE PRESS THAT MORNING, AT WHICH TIME HE DENIED THE REPORT. HE THEN CONTACTED MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA AND MET WITH OTHER CRC MEMBERS. VARONA TOLD MACEO THAT HE ALSO WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS SPECIFIC ACTION. ALL THE CRC KNEW, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL MEMBER GROUPS REGULARLY CARRIED OUT SUPPLY MISSIONS TO GUERRILLAS INSIDE CUBA.
2. MACEO THEN CONTACTED JOSE FERNANDEZ BADUE, OF THE MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO (MDC, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT MOVEMENT), WHO HAD SIGNED "WAR COMMUNIQUE I" AND REPRIMANDED HIM FOR NOT COORDINATING HIS ACTIONS

GENERAL OFFICE

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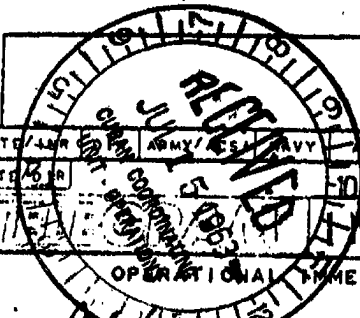
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4) PRIOR TO THE PRESS RELEASE. FERNANDEZ SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY A "BULLETIN" SIMILAR TO THOSE RELEASED BY THE MDC FROM TIME TO TIME AND HE HAD NOT REALIZED IT WOULD CAUSE SO MUCH INTEREST. FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS, FERNANDEZ SAID, THERE WERE MORE NEWSMEN AT THE CRC THAN AT THE TIME OF JOSE NIRO CARDONA'S RESIGNATION.

3. ACCORDING TO MACEO, FERNANDEZ SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE OPERATION EXCEPT THAT FOUR LANDINGS HAD BEEN MADE THE NIGHT OF 19-20 JUNE BY COMANDOS WHICH USUALLY NUMBERED SIX TO TWENTY-FIVE PER GROUP. WHEN QUERIED RE THE AUTHENTICITY OF FERNANDEZ' STATEMENT, MACEO SAID THAT IT COULD BE TRUE.

4. MACEO SAID THAT MANY EXILES WERE COMING TO CRC HEADQUARTERS TO ENLIST WITH THE CRC TO JOIN THE FIGHT AND THE BRIGADE WAS CALLING UP ITS MEMBERS. MACEO WAS RECEIVING PHONE CALLS FROM NEW YORK AND MANY OTHER PLACES.

5. MACEO DECIDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STAND CONCERNING THE PRESS, TO WHICH OTHER CRC MEMBERS ALSO AGREED AT ABOUT 2 P.M. THE AFTERNOON OF 20 JUNE: NO MORE NEWS WOULD BE RELEASED, TO PREVENT THE USE OF NEWS RELEASES FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP PROPAGANDA. THE CAUSE WAS BEST SERVED BY TAKING SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. THEREFORE, THE ONLY NEWS TO BE MADE PUBLIC WOULD BE THAT ORIGINATING IN CUBA. MACEO SAID "THIS IS WAR" AND SECURITY MUST BE MAINTAINED TO PROTECT THE PATRIOTS. THE CRC WILL ALSO TELL THE EXILES TO BE READY BUT NOT TO BECOME TOO ENTHUSIASTIC

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AND GET THEIR HOPES UP TOO HIGH. THE CRC WAS DENYING THAT IT WAS CALLING UP THE BRIGADE SINCE THAT WAS STRICTLY A BRIGADE MATTER.

6. MACEO SAID THAT ONE LANDING APPARENTLY HAD BEEN MADE IN ORIENTE PROVINCE. SINCE THE CRC HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ORIENTE PROVINCE DATED 31 MAY SAYING "WE CANNOT TAKE ANY MORE; WE ARE GOING TO RISE UP ABOUT THE 15TH OR SHORTLY AFTER" TENSION IN THAT AREA MIGHT BE SUCH THAT THE PRESENCE OF COMMANDOS WOULD SPARK SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THE LANDING ITSELF.

7. MACEO SAID THAT THE FACTION OF THE MOVIMIENTO DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIA (MRR, MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY) WHICH IS IN THE CRC HAS RADIO CONTACT WITH CUBA. THE FIRST CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED ON 14 JUNE BUT THE MESSAGE FROM CUBA WAS NOT CLEAR BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE. A SECOND ATTEMPT AT CONTACT WAS MADE ON 19 JUNE. MACEO SPECULATED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THIS RADIO WOULD BE USED FOR THE ANNOUNCED BROADCAST SCHEDULED FOR 1 P.M. ON 21 JUNE, FROM CRC FORCES INSIDE CUBA.

8. IN COMMENTING ON OPERATIONS UNRELATED TO THE CRC, MACEO SAID THAT RESCATE HAD UNDERTAKEN AN OPERATION IN ORIENTE PROVINCE TWO WEEKS AGO. THE BOAT "L'ORIENTAL" WAS SUNK, BUT THE PERSONNEL MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND ONE MAN MADE HIS WAY TO HABANA WHERE HE TELEPHONED RESCATE IN MIAMI. MACEO SAID THAT RESCATE HAD NOT MADE THE INCIDENT PUBLIC IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE MEMBERS INVOLVED.

9. FIELD DISSEM: CINCIANT, CINCSO

END OF MESSAGE

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