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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

IN 87092

PAGE 1 OF 3

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062357Z

CITE [redacted]

(b)(3)

DIST 6 SEPTEMBER 1968

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

DOI: 28 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO
KILLED AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON MEIN

C.R./a

ACQ: [redacted]

SOURCE: [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

1. [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON MEIN ON 28 AUGUST 1968 IN GUATEMALA.

[redacted] HAD WITNESSED THE ASSASSINATION AND COULD

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

PROVIDE A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SHOT THE

AMBASSADOR. [redacted] WAS SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF LEADING MEMBERS OF

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

THE REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR, CUBAN-ORIENTED INSURGENCY MOVEMENT).

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IN 87092



(b)(3)

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(classification) (dissem controls)

6 Sept. 1968

[REDACTED] POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF JORGE ISMAEL SOTO GARCIA AS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SHOT AMBASSADOR MEIN. HE SAID THE PHOTOGRAPH OF PERCY AMILCAR JACOBS DE LEON RESEMBLED THE SECOND INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION. SOTO IS A FAR GUERRILLA LEADER WHOSE PSEUDONYM IS "MANZANA". HE HAS ALSO USED THE ALIAS OF MANUEL RIVERA MALDONADO. JACOBS IS A LEADER WITH THE URBAN RESISTANCE FRONT OF THE FAR. HIS PSEUDONYM HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE "CANCION".

2. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS DRIVING SOUTH ALONG LA REFORMA AVENUE, HEADING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THAT OF THE AMBASSADOR. WHEN HE ARRIVED AT A POSITION PARALLEL TO THE SCENE OF ACTION, HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE TWO ARMED MEN STANDING NEAR THE AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE. ONE WAS ARMED WITH A FOREIGN-APPEARING SUBMACHINE GUN WITH A PERFORATED BARREL COVER AND A MAGAZINE PROTRUDING FROM THE LEFT SIDE. THE SECOND INDIVIDUAL WAS CARRYING WHAT APPEARED TO BE A 45 CALIBER PISTOL. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN AND THE AMBASSADOR, AND THEN THE AMBASSADOR GOT OUT OF HIS VEHICLE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE AMBASSADOR BEGAN TO RUN, AND THE MAN WITH THE SUBMACHINE GUN SHOT HIM. THE SECOND MAN ALSO BEGAN TO FIRE HIS WEAPON, BUT HE

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IN 87092

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

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(classification)

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APPEARED TO BE SHOOTING IN THE AIR. THE TWO ASSASSINS THEN RACED BACK TO A LARGE GREEN AUTOMOBILE, WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN USED TO FORCE THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR TO THE CURB. [REDACTED] THE GREEN VEHICLE WAS A LARGE CAR, PROBABLY A 1968 GRAND PRIX PONTIAC OR A BUICK. THE GREEN VEHICLE THEN LEFT THE SCENE VIA 12TH STREET. [REDACTED] HE COULD ONLY POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE ONE VEHICLE USED BY THE ASSASSINS, BUT THAT HIS WIFE, WHO HAPPENED TO BE DRIVING NORTH ON LA REFORMA AVENUE AND WHO WITNESSED THE ASSASSINATION FROM BEHIND THE AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE, SAID THAT THE TWO MEN HAD GOTTEN OUT OF A VEHICLE WHICH WAS PARKED BEHIND THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR. THE WIFE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE VEHICLE PARKED BEHIND THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR.

3. BEFORE HE WAS SHOWN THE PHOTOGRAPHS, [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SHOT AMBASSADOR MEIN AS BEING ABOUT SIX FEET TALL, MUSKY BUILD, BUSHY OR KINKY HAIR, SIDEBURNS AND A PUGISH TYPE NOSE. HE WAS WEARING A GREEN CORDOUDY JACKET. THE SECOND MAN WITH THE PISTOL WAS DESCRIBED AS SHORTER AND THINNER WITH A SHARP FACE AND STRAIGHT HAIR. HE WAS DRESSED IN A GRAY SHIRT AND DARK TROUSERS.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, AIR, CINCSO, CINCLANT.

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