



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
December 4, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Re: Fidel Castro Ruz -
Internal Security - Cuba

Daniel James, Executive Secretary, Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, 1426 G Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., advised on November 23, 1963, that he was in contact on November 22, 1963, with Andrew St. George, a photographer for "Life" Magazine. James stated that Andrew St. George informed him that [Jose Pardo Llada, Cali, Colombia, South America, a newspaper reporter and writer] knows of a plan of Fidel Castro to kill United States Ambassadors in various countries. James stated that St. George received this information personally from [Pardo] whom he had seen in Colombia. James stated that this information apparently had been received by Andrew St. George several months ago when he was in Colombia for some time.

Andrew St. George, "Life" photographer, on December 3, 1963, advised that he had been to Washington, D. C. on November 22-23, 1963. St. George stated that on November 22, 1963, he had spoken with Paul Bethel, an associate of Daniel James, Executive Secretary of the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba. St. George stated that Bethel is the former Press Attache at the American Embassy in Havana, Cuba, and in all probability told James about the details of his conversation of November 22, 1963.

St. George advised that in June, 1962, he had made a trip to Chile in order to do a story on the Peace Corps and had then traveled to Peru on an assignment and then proceeded to Cali, Colombia, where he had an assignment to do photographic work for an international food exhibit. While in Cali, Colombia, Andrew St. George stated that he spoke with [Jose Pardo Llada, former leading television-radio commentator and newspaperman in Cuba] who had been very close to the government of Fidel Castro [prior to his defection which took place in February, 1961]. St. George

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advised that during one of his conversations with [Pardo Llada,] [Pardo Llada] told him the following story:

[Pardo Llada] stated that one day during the latter part of 1960, he had been to the Presidential Palace in Havana where he met a friend who had just come out of a meeting with Prime Minister Fidel Castro prior to assuming his post as Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia. [Pardo Llada] said that he congratulated his friend whom he stated was a former student leader during the Cuban revolution, and his friend was very discouraged and downhearted as a result of his interview with Fidel Castro. [Pardo Llada] stated that the new Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia left the office of Fidel Castro carrying a package and later after they had left the Presidential Palace, the new Cuban Ambassador showed [Pardo Llada] a machinegun which had been given to him by Fidel Castro, and was in the package which he carried out of the Prime Minister's office.

[Pardo Llada] stated that in conversation with the new Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia, he, the new Ambassador, said that Fidel Castro told him of his plan to assassinate United States Ambassadors in 11 neutral countries in the event that the United States invaded Cuba. The new Cuban Ambassador told [Pardo Llada] that Fidel Castro was crazy, and that Castro was doing many things that he could not understand, and this was the reason why he was depressed and downhearted as a result of his interview with Castro. The new Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia told [Pardo Llada] that Castro had told him that he was selecting as Ambassadors to 11 neutral countries young revolutionaries who were dedicated to the ideals of the Cuban revolution, and that in the event the United States invaded Cuba, these 11 Cuban Ambassadors were to have a trusted staff member of the Cuban Embassy immediately seek out the United States Ambassador in that country and assassinate him.

Andrew St. George stated that in his conversation with [Pardo Llada] he asked [Pardo Llada] whether or not he thought this story was true, and [Pardo Llada] said that from his past knowledge of, and association with, Fidel Castro, he had implicit trust in what the new Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia had told him, and he said that Castro was crazy enough to carry out such a plan.

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Andrew St. George also advised on December 3, 1963, that at the time of his interview with [Pardo Llada] which took place in July, 1962, [Pardo Llada] had given him the name of the Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia, but he did not recall his name exactly, but remembered it only as sounding like Cartano (phonetic). St. George stated that this individual, Cartano, apparently had assumed his post as Ambassador to Tunisia during late 1960 or early 1961, and he was described by [Pardo Llada] as being a man in his middle thirties, who had been friendly with [Pardo Llada] for many years in Cuba and particularly at the University of Havana.

Andrew St. George stated that during his conversation with [Pardo Llada] relative to this plot of Castro to assassinate United States Ambassadors in the event of a United States invasion of Cuba, [Pardo Llada] said that there were no specific individuals mentioned, but the only specific statement made by the Cuban Ambassador to Tunisia was that Castro had indicated his plan as being directed against United States Ambassadors assigned to 11 neutral countries, without naming these neutral countries.

Andrew St. George further stated on December 3, 1963, that while in Washington, D. C. during the period of November 22-23, 1963; he had prepared a memorandum in which he detailed his personal feelings about the possibility of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy being in some way caused by Cuban propaganda. St. George stated that his idea was to write a story for "Life" Magazine setting forth his thinking that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy could have been triggered by someone of the lunatic fringe who had been influenced by the constant Cuban propaganda directed against the United States and President John F. Kennedy by Prime Minister Fidel Castro. St. George stated that this theory was not accepted by his superiors, and in Washington, D. C. he noted that the American press was directing the opinion that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy had been brought about by someone connected with the extreme political right.

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Andrew St. George also advised on December 3, 1963, that the only national magazine which has, in any way, indicated the possibility of Cuban involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the current issue of "US News and World Report" dated December 9, 1963. This article appears on pages 90 and 91, and it is captioned, "What Are the Odds Against Castro Now". This article sets forth the thinking that Fidel Castro is everywhere stirring up trouble and violence and, specifically, states that pro-Castro terrorists are creating problems in Venezuela and other countries of this hemisphere.