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Castro's Sister Aided CIA for Four Years

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Associated Press

Fidel Castro's sister Juanita voluntarily supplied the United States Central Intelligence Agency with valuable information for four years before she fled to Mexico from Cuba, authoritative sources said yesterday.

These authorities speculated that Castro and his brother Raul, a trusted aide, let her seek asylum in Mexico because they were fed up with her opposition and figured it was the simplest way of dealing with a family squabble.

Juanita Castro Ruz left Cuba openly June 20 on a scheduled airline flight to Mexico City and denounced Castro's Communist regime as a puppet of "Russian imperialism." It was generally known in Havana that she opposed the regime and was critical of her brother.

Thus, it seemed she had to have either the help or consent of either Fidel or Raul Castro or both to leave Cuba freely.

Religion May Be Factor

United States sources said the CIA made contact with Miss Castro shortly after her brother took power four years ago. She was described as cooperating voluntarily with CIA contacts because of her strong opposition to her brother's policies.

Another factor in her break with her brothers may have been that Miss Castro is known to be a religious person, according to persons here familiar with her.

During her long cooperation with the CIA, the sources said, Miss Castro provided data that helped considerably in piecing together more complete information about activities of the Castro regime and conditions in Cuba.

The New York Herald Tribune said in a story about Miss Castro's activities that

she also had helped at least 200 persons flee Cuba before she herself defected.

There was no indication here of any split between Fidel and Raul, the Deputy Prime Minister and chief of the Cuban armed forces, over their sister going to Mexico City. Knowledgeable authorities speculated that Fidel approved her going and the arrangements were supervised by Raul.

Blames U.S. Embassy

The suspicion is that they felt she could be dealt with more openly outside Cuba and the United States could be blamed for their troubles. Fidel Castro told reporters in Havana on Wednesday that the United States Embassy in Mexico had written the statement his sister made in Mexico City attacking his regime.

This, Fidel said, was a "low and repugnant procedure that transcends universally recognized limits." The Embassy denied his statements.

Miss Castro indicated she

has no desire to settle in the United States. She had told friends in Mexico City that she would prefer to live somewhere in Latin America. However, this did not rule out a possible visit to Washington. There has been speculation that Miss Castro might come to a meeting of foreign ministers scheduled here July 21.