

RAUL HELPED HER ESCAPE CUBA

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Fidel's Sister Revealed as CIA Friend

Herald Tribune Service

WASHINGTON — Premier Fidel Castro's sister, Juana, who defected to Mexico on June 20, had been in contact with Central Intelligence Agency operatives for nearly four years, the Herald Tribune News Service learned Thursday.

Premier Castro's brother, Raul, his trusted No. 2 man in the Communist Cuban regime, had protected Juana from the bearded dictator's wrath for all that time and then paved the way for her flight to Mexico City while Premier Castro was busy away from Havana.

In Havana Wednesday, Premier Castro told news-

men that Juana's defection was indeed a blow. "This incident to me personally is very bitter and profoundly painful. But I understand this is the price of being a revolutionary."

It was made all the more galling by the confirmation from highly placed intelligence sources Thursday that the CIA had been in contact with Juana since 1960 and that she had been instrumental in pirating at least 200 Cubans out of the country.

The CIA also made it easy for Juana to enter Mexico when she arrived on a scheduled Cubana Airlines flight from Havana on the afternoon of June 20.

"She came out quite openly," said an intelligence source. "People at the airport in Mexico City saw her getting off the plane." The first reaction of the Cubans was to jeer. But she was immediately whisked through the usually scrupulous Mexican customs — with all 21 pieces of luggage — and taken to a secure hideaway.

The first public knowledge that Juana had defected came 10 days later when the tall brunette appeared at an emotional press conference and condemned her brother's regime as "a dictatorship of fear," and warned Latin nations to "halt the insidious campaign of sabo-

tage and Communist subversion."

The fact that she left Havana's International Airport, always swarming with heavily-armed G-2 men, without being stopped confirmed that her defection was approved and planned on the highest level of Cuba's Communist government.

Intelligence sources said Raul Castro, who has shielded openly anti-Fidelista Juana from Premier Castro's retaliation for five years, plotted her escape — mostly out of long-standing brotherly loyalty — before Fidel could do her physical harm.