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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Cuba
SUBJECT UMAP Camps near Vertientes/Organization/
Problems/Personalities

REPORT NO. OO-K-323/11049-67
CAC
DATE DISTR. 26 Apr 67
NO. PAGES 2
REFERENCES C-DC6-53134
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DATE OF INFO. Apr 67 and earlier
PLACE & DATE ACQ. Vertientes, Camaguey/Apr 67 and earlier

SOURCE

[This report was developed by a Marine Corps representative assigned to the office of preparation.]

[Map reference: Sheet #4579 I through IV and #4580 II, AMS Series E-723.]

- In November 1965 I was sent to a UMAP camp near Vertientes, Camaguey, where I remained for about six months [camp coordinates 847573]. At that time this camp served as the home of the Fourth Company, 29th Battalion, also referred to as MUN 2662. This battalion is one of five battalions which compose the "Vertientes Group", also known as MUN 1943 and which is subordinate to UMAP Division 1015 in Camaguey City. The five battalions making up the Vertientes Group are numbered 26 through 30. I do not know the military unit numbers for the other battalions within the Group.
- Each of these battalions is composed of four numbered 120-man companies. The companies are organized into three platoons of four 10-man squads led by a regular army corporal. An army sergeant commands each platoon and first lieutenants serve as company commanders assisted by a second lieutenant and a political officer. Each company has five additional army privates who serve as security guards. These latter troops are armed with Czech M52 rifles; the officers and NCO's carry P38 pistols.
- Each company has personnel designated to serve as cooks, clerks, supply men and medical corpsmen. Prior experience or the lack of it has no bearing on job assignments. Consequently, everyone suffers from poorly prepared food, confused administrative matters, supply shortages and inadequate medical care. Each company has two semi-tractors with trailers used to transport personnel to work areas. The battalion has three GAZ-54 trucks; two of these vehicles are also used for troop movements while the third is reserved for hauling supplies. About six additional trucks are maintained by Group Headquarters in Camaguey.
- Major ^{ERNESTO} Casillas was formerly the commanding officer of Division 1015 but late in 1966 he was replaced by Captain Quintin del Pino. Captain del Pino has two other captains on his staff, Captain Guerra ^{MAIOS} and Captain ^(SMA) Sandino. Captain ^(SMA) Zapata is in charge of the Vertientes Group. He is ^{JOSE DURAN}

*Probably 3F
RABANA FELIX*

YES ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification S YES

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10283

Orlando

assisted by Captain (fnu) Benitez, the Group executive officer. Captain Zapata is a staunch Communist Party member and it is said that he was trained in the Soviet Union. He fought in the Sierra Maestra under Camilo Cienfuegos. He is a hard and unyielding man who is very serious minded. Physical description of Zapata: Caucasian, age 45, 5'6", 170 lbs, black hair, brown eyes. Captain (fnu) Benitez was in the Sierra Maestra and gives the impression of being a highly trained and efficient military man. He is always mild mannered. Physical description of Benitez: Negro, age 34, 6', 170 lbs, black hair, dark eyes, wears a thick mustache, always wears sun glasses and is a heavy cigar smoker.

5. The UMAP inmates are not permitted to become too familiar with any one area and the units are moved periodically from one camp to another. All of the UMAP camps have the same basic configurations. The camps used by the Fourth Company, 29th Battalion while I was a member were: Santa Susana [coordinates 937363]; La Vega #1 [coordinates 885404]; La Vega #2 (which was the battalion headquarters) [coordinates 885385]; and La Union [coordinates 906422].
6. The daily routine in each camp is the same. The workers are assigned work norms which are seldom realized. Each cane cutter has a norm of 150 arrobas daily but the average cut per man is about 40 arrobas. The company has a quota of 7000 arrobas but seldom cuts more than 2000 arrobas a day. However, no penalties are assessed against the workers or the company as long as everyone appears to be working to the best of his ability. Those who work steadily without complaining are allowed to have visitors on the third Sunday of each month. They are also allowed a 10-day pass after six months of steady work with no demerits.
7. Camp Santa Susana is now being used as a disciplinary camp and about 85 men are confined there under heavy guard serving five-year sentences for work stoppages or for disobedience. Between 24 and 29 Jan 67 there were several disturbances and near riots in the 28th Battalion. All of the troops from this battalion were sent to the Isle of Pines as prisoners. The 29th and 30th Battalions were redesignated the 28th and 29th respectively and a new 30th Battalion was formed with new inmates and a few men from each of the other battalions.
8. While traveling throughout the area I observed the location of several other UMAP camps. The headquarters and First and Second Companies of the 27th Battalion were located at a camp known as Palmarito [coordinates 995328]. This camp was formerly a camp site of the 26th Battalion. Another camp of the 27th Battalion was located near Aguilar, Camaguey [camp coordinates 035287]. A UMAP camp for females was located in an area known as EL Jaguey [coordinates 841416]. This camp was called UFMAP (Unidad Feminina Militares Ayuda de la Produccion). The female inmates, about 70 in number, formerly were serving jail sentences in Nuevitas. This camp was an experiment, the theory behind it was so that the GOC could benefit from the labor performed by women prisoners instead of having them spending their sentences behind bars. The women were to be awarded more privileges and a greater degree of liberty. Generally speaking, the experiment is a failure since once the women are in the camp they are able to find innumerable excuses for not working.
9. A camp for students is under construction near Laguna San Felipe, Camaguey [coordinates 893617]. Four barracks are being built at this site which are larger than the standard UMAP barracks. This camp is allegedly for students from the eighth grade through college level who will spend 45 days during the vegetable harvest season working in the fields. Some of the older students will cut cane. The students will attend classes during the evening hours. Reportedly, all students eventually are to spend a summer at similar camps. There is a widespread rumor that children of Communist Party members and high GOC officials will be exempted from such tasks.

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SUBJECT	UMAP Camps near Vertientes/Organization/ Problems/Personalities	DATE DISTR.	26 Apr 67
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		REFERENCES	C-DC6-53134 (368) DCS Case 45985 Responsive to: D-104-12677
DATE OF INFO.	Apr 67 and earlier		

PLACE & DATE ACQ Vertientes, Camaguey/Apr 67 and earlier
THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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