

SECRET

5 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SA

Chief, WH

SUBJECT : Nikolay Sergeyevich LEONOV, KGB Officer
Possibly linked to PACHON Case in Colombia1. BACKGROUND:

Feliciano PACHON Choconta is the Colombian Communist courier apprehended by Colombian security officials in late April 1968 when alighting from a commercial flight from Mexico with U.S.\$80,000 apparently destined for the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Military Arm of Orthodox Communist Party - FARC). A female cohort of PACHON was picked up several hours later alighting from a second aircraft with U.S.\$20,000. Both arrests were based on a tipoff by another Colombian Communist, Agelmo URREA Garcia, whose motives are as yet unclear. URREA was first claimed that the funds were of Cuban origin later changed his story to the effect that they are in fact Soviet. Subsequent interrogation of PACHON, URREA, and the female courier has failed to shed further light on either story.

2. However, a re-examination of PACHON's suitcase turned up a compartment in which were found several cryptic notes, including a reference to Avenida Mazatlan, Mexico City 5455 (IA 03800) reports Avenida Mazatlan 206 to be the address of the Soviet Press Office, and Soviet Press Attache Nikolay Sergeyevich LEONOV (201-152139) to be a KGB officer, known to have handled CP Operations in the past.

3. A review of LEONOV's file reveals the following possibly significant information, when related to the PACHON case:

a. 1956: Subject's personal calling card was found in an address book taken from Fidel CASTRO Rus when Fidel was arrested by Mexican police on 21 June 1956 in Mexico City. (See MEXICO CITY 0839, 27 June 1956, IA 55356.) This event was apparently reported in the Mexican press but the file does not contain a copy nor the date of publication, and there is some indication that the card may have been a plant. (See HQM 10265, 24 Nov 61.)

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Note:
Card was
definitely
Planted by
LIVOSTOCC - 2.
This was discussed
by the Station much
later. Proper
written

201-132139

b. 1963: April. Subject was Fidel Castro's interpreter during the latter's tour of the Soviet Union. The file contains many photos of the two with all the big-wigs of the USSR. The event was reported in El Mundo with a picture of Subject, Fidel, etc. on 8 May 63.

c. 1963: May. Subject was observed in a meeting with a former Mexican army captain Lorenzo CARDENAS Barajas who was supposed to be an arms smuggler to the Guatemala guerillas. A nation inspired article appeared in the 31 May 63 edition of Atenas, Mexican newspaper, accused Subject and Cardenas of being the key figures in Central American revolution plans. The source of the information was attributed to a former lawyer exiled from Cuba. The article was picked up and played in the 31 May 63 edition of Elitians Noticias. A photo copy of the article is in Vol. 3 of Subject's file attached to NMMA 33293, 18 Oct 63.

d. 1964: A letter was obtained through LIMUD addressed to Subject from Carlos A. DONILLA S. (201-273728). The letter indicated that the two were apparent close friends. Donilla at that time was the president of the Federation of Workers of Cundinamarca (FTC) and a leading Colombian Communist. (See NMMA 30139, 26 Sept 66 and NMMA 5413, 7 Oct 66.)

e. 1966: Subject was reported as being a close friend of Bernardo LEMUS Mendoza (201-91373) since 1953. LEMUS was at one time a prominent Guatemalan communist, on Central Committee. Subject was also reported as being in contact with Ricardo MIRANDA Alcala, also a prominent Guatemalan communist who is now dead, during January 62 (201-727303).

f. 1967: Soviet Press Office, where Subject also lives, was used as a payoff point for funds given to support the Central Nacional de Estudiantes Democráticos which organization is controlled by the Communist Party of Mexico. Subject was not the contact man for the funds. (See NMMA 3117, 19 Jan 67.)

g. NMMA 33215, 5 Oct 67, gives a rundown on other contacts of Subject with Guatemalan communists or guerillas.

4. LEOGOV was in Mexico from July 1953 to October 1959, as Secretary to the Ambassador, and returned in July 1961 as a Third Secretary and Assistant Cultural Attache. He has served since October 1964 as Second Secretary and Press Attache.

James B. Roland
C/SB/U/WH

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