

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Spain
SUBJECT Communist Guerrillas in Asturias

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1. Colonel Enrique LISTER has been instrumental in the elimination of guerrilla leaders who formerly were prominent in the Spanish Communist Party, according to statements made to source in mid-October 1948 by one of these former leaders. The informant added that Communists who are subservient to LISTER and his coterie are protected. Communists who disagreed with LISTER have been sent to Spain, where they eventually have been either captured or shot. The informant said that he had been subjected to LISTER'S two-week training for guerrillas being sent to Spain, which involved walking in the mountains of southern France carrying a knapsack weighing twenty to thirty kilograms, but that he had refused to go to Spain because he considered the mission foolhardy. This refusal was the cause of his disgrace in the Party. Among the guerrilla leaders who are out of favor in Party circles are Ricardo OSCOZ and Francisco QUITIAN Cerrijo, the latter known as "Comandante Paco."
2. Two young Communists who crossed the Franco-Spanish border in late October said that they had been sent to France by Manolo CAJIGAL, chief of guerrillas in Asturias, to determine the loyalty of two men who had come to Asturias in March 1948 claiming to have been sent from France by the Communist Party Political Bureau to take charge of the whole guerrilla movement in Asturias. Their guide, a certain ELOY, was known and trusted by the guerrillas, but CAJIGAL was unwilling to trust the two men to the extent of informing them completely as to the guerrillas' sources of support and other details. They thereupon suggested that CAJIGAL send someone whom he trusted with them to France when they returned to report on their mission. CAJIGAL sent ELOY, and they were to prove their reliability by immediately sending a code message through the Pyrenees clandestine radio. When four months had elapsed without word from them, the guerrillas began to expect an ambush from moment to moment. The two guerrilla envoys said that in a previous debacle, sixteen men had been killed by Spanish police who in the guise of Political Bureau liaison men had stayed in the mountains with the guerrillas for several days. The two men told Source they must see Santiago CARRILLO, Vicente URIBE, or "La Pasionaria herself" (Dolores IBARRURI).

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3. The guerrillas said that it was also part of their mission to tell the Communist leaders in France that arms, ammunition and money were urgently needed in Spain. They dreaded this assignment, saying that a comrade previously sent on such a mission had been killed by the Communists in France. They made the following statements regarding their situation in Asturias.

Weapons and Ammunition.-Forty hunting rifles, four rapid-fire pistols, with thirty rounds (cartuchos) for each pistol. A rapid-fire rifle, with 88 rounds. A cannon (naranjero) with 100 rounds. A carbine with 50 rounds, a Parabellum (submachine) gun with 300 rounds. Two British machine guns, each with 300 rounds. Ammunition for the last, a new special size (largo), is easily obtained from the Franco forces if payment is made in gold pesos. [REDACTED] Comment. Socialist guerrillas from the Asturian area also have mentioned the availability of ammunition from their enemies for payments in gold. [REDACTED] Sixteen additional rifles are hidden in the home of one of the guerrillas. All the guerrillas carry rifles of the type used in the Spanish Civil War, and each has a pistol and two or three hand grenades. The grenades, however, are defective, and the majority of them do not explode when thrown.

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Guerrilla Leaders and their Locations.- Manolo Diaz CAJIGAL is the supreme leader of the Communist political and guerrilla movement of Asturias. The police have offered a 1,000,000 peseta reward for him, as well as 50,000 pesetas for each guerrilla delivered dead or alive. CAJIGAL, who is known as "Villa", is 36 years old, of short stature and swarthy complexion. His headquarters is in the Peña Mayor region. [REDACTED] Comment. Probably the Peña Mayor, referred to is the region located midway between Cangas-de-Onis and Mieres). His deputy is Manolin FERNANDEZ, "El Peque", who has eight guerrillas under him, of whom two are now in France. Other leaders and their groups are:

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Aladino SUAREZ, "Eldraque", 29 years old, from the town of Santa Barbara. He commands six guerrillas at Peña Mea (not located).

Andres LLANEZA, "El Gitano", swarthy, average stature, commands a group of five guerrillas near Mieres.

Canol FERNANDEZ has three guerrillas under him on Monte Sebares. (not located).

A guerrilla band near Llanos has been out of touch since their shooting of a captive being held for ransom aroused the special vigilance of the Falange.

Marcelino FERNANDEZ Fernandez, is chief of clandestine organizations around Cangas-de-Onis. He maintains contact with the Communist cells in various towns.

Propaganda leaflets are produced in CAJIGAL'S headquarters and distributed among the peasants and miners.

These guerrillas are the only ones in the mountains of Asturias. There are a few leftist elements who are hidden in their houses or the houses of relatives, but who would rather remain in hiding than endure the hard life of the mountain guerrillas. There are also about thirty or forty Socialist guerrillas who once were active but who lately seem to be engaging only in defensive action. [REDACTED] Comment. Some Socialist guerrillas have escaped to France, according to information reported in [REDACTED]

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The Socialist guerrillas ~~have not~~ cooperated, but the Socialists appear to have received orders from France to break with the Communists.

The Communist Party never has sent money to the guerrillas; on the other hand, it has often demanded and received money from them. Weapons and ammunition are badly needed and morale is very low. The best men have been killed or captured, and the few good ones remaining are tired and are beginning to believe that they are being betrayed by the Party in France.

The Asturian guerrillas have no contact with the guerrillas of Levante or of any other province. They had contacts some time ago with fugitives from the mountains of Galicia and Leon, but these contacts no longer exist.

A group of forty guerrillas under Major Rodolfo PALOMO was captured.

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6. Most of the Socialist guerrillas were sent by the French authorities to a work camp at Besançon. The eight members of the two committees expected to go to St. Jean de Luz to see PRIETO. They are:

Socialist Party Committee

President: Jose MATA Casero

Secretary: Mario FERNANDEZ Garcia

Members: Faustino HELGUERA Garcia and Manuel FERNANDEZ Casas

UGT Miners' Committee

President: Aristides LLANEZA Jove

Secretary: Manuel FERNANDEZ Villanueva

Members: Juan HELGUERA Garcia (brother of Faustino) and
Manuel FERNANDEZ Peon.

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