

FEB-28-1996 14: 18 FROM INTL DESK  
vf/ Juan Pablo Roque  
Pilot

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPTION OF 'THE PABLO ROQUE INTV.  
SHOT IN HAVANA 2/27  
1 IPM -

3:15:59

LUCIA: THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US. FIRST OF ALL MR. ROQUE,  
THERE HAS BEEN A LOT  
OF CONFUSION OVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HOW YOU LEFT CUBA  
AND WHY YOU RETURNED.  
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU VERY BLUNTLY: WERE YOU A SPY FOR, THE CUBAN  
GOVT.?

3:16:12

ROQUE: YES I LEFT CUBA. I AM NO STATE SECURITY AGENT. WHOEVER  
SAYS THAT  
SHOULD STOP THAT. I LEFT CUBA BECAUSE I WAS FRUSTRATED  
PROFESSIONALLY. I  
COULDN'T FLY AND THAT IS VERY SERIOUS FOR A PILOT. I HAD  
PERSONAL PROBLEMS.  
PROBLEMS WITH MY BROTHERS. SOME OF THEM WERE IN PRISON. I  
SEPARATED FROM MY WIFE. IT WAS FRUSTRATING. THAT MADE ME  
MAKE THE DECISION TO ABANDON CUBA. WHY  
DID I RETURN? BECAUSE I BECAME FRUSTRATED OVER THERE.  
FRUSTRATED WITH  
THAT SOCIETY. I REMEMBERED WHAT JOSE MARTI SAID WHEN HE  
SPOKE ABOUT LIVING IN  
THE BELLY OF THE BEAST. THE LIFE I WAS LIVING... THE POLITICAL  
INTOLERANCE... I  
GREW FRUSTRATED WITH ALL OF THAT AND DECIDED TO RETURN.

3:17: 01

LUCIA: YOU SAY YOU WERE FRUSTRATED IN CUBA AND THEN YOU  
WERE FRUSTRATED IN THE UNITED STATES UH- YOU'LL EXCUSE ME  
FOR SAYING SO BUT YOUR CREDIBILITY IS  
SERIOUSLY IN QUESTION. HOW CAN PEOPLE BELIEVE YOU?

3:17:14

ROQUE: THERE IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT GOES ON IN  
MIAMI. THE RIGHT WING  
RHETORIC THERE WOULD IMPAIR ANYONES MIND. EVEN SOMEONE  
WHO TOOK THE  
DECISION THAT I TOOK. REGARDLESS OF WHAT MY BROTHERS THINK.

IS IS MY PERSONAL  
DECISION AND SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

3:17:30

LUCIA: BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST QUIT BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE.  
WHY DID YOU LEAVE  
WITHOUT TELLING YOUR WIFE?

3:17:34

ROQUE: WHY SHOULD I TELL MY WIFE MY INTENTIONS? SHE DIDN'T  
EVEN BELIEVE WHAT  
WAS HAPPENING. WHY SHOULD I TELL HER. IT IS A PERSONAL  
DECISION. MY CHILDREN ARE HERE NOT THERE.

3:17:49

LUCIA: YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU WERE WORKING FOR BROTHERS TO  
THE RESCUE YOU HAD CONTACT WITH AN FBI AGENT, OR WITH THE FBI.  
COULD YOU TELL ME MORE THE DETAILS OF WHAT SORT OF CONTACTS,  
WHAT WAS THE ROLL OF THE FBI IN THE ORGANIZATION BROTHERS TO  
THE RESCUE.

ROQUE: I WAS RESPONSIBLE WITH PROVIDING THE FBI WITH  
INTELLIGENCE ABOUT ALL ANTI- CASTRO ORGANIZATIONS, NOT JUST  
BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE.

3:18:12

LUCIA: WHY DID YOU AGREE TO DO THIS?

3:18:18

ROQUE: WHY DID I AGREE TO DO THIS? BECAUSE WHEN I BECAME  
DISILLUSIONED WITH  
PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THEY LOVE CUBA, BUT THEY JUST REAL WANT  
TO JUST DROP  
BOMBS ON CUBA OVER THE SO-CALLED COVER OF HUMANITARIAN  
MISSIONS. THEY'RE CARRYING OUT TERRORIST ACTIONS. THEY'RE  
TOLD DON'T ENTER CUBAN AIRSPACE AND THEY STILL DO IT. I'M  
CONSTANTLY TELLING THE FBI. FBI AGENT OSCAR MONTOTO TELLS ME  
ON FEB. 21ST. 'DON'T GO ON THAT MISSION BECAUSE THEY ARE KNOCK  
YOU OUT OF THE  
SKY' 'BASULTO.. BASULTO... THEY'RE GONNA SHOOT-DOWN THE  
PLANES. THIS IS MADNESS.  
I KNOW THE CUBAN AIRFORCE. 3RD TIME YOU'RE OUT. THEY'VE  
ALREADY PUT UP WITH TOO  
MUCH. AGENT MONTOTO TOLD ME NOT TO GO. THE US GOVT. KNEW  
THEY WERE GOING TO  
SHOOT THEM DOWN.

3:19:03

LUCIA: HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

3:19:05

ROQUE: THEY TOLD ME PERSONALLY.. THE FBI WHAT IS IT? IS IT A TRAVEL AGENCY? A TRAVEL AGENCY.. IT IS THE GOVT.

3:19:22

LUCIA: HOW CAN YOU PROVE, WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE.. HOW WAS IT BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE WAS PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO?

3:19:35

ROQUE: I, AM THE FIRST PROOF. I PARTICIPATED IN THESE ACTIONS. THE 2ND PROOF IS IN THE HANDS OF THE FBI. ALL THE EVIDENCE. ALL THE PROOF. THE FBI HAS IT. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC PLAN TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO PER-SAY. IT WAS A PLAN TO INTRODUCE WEAPONS TO CARRY ON ATTACKS AGAINST TARGETS INCLUDING FIDEL CASTRO, SO I INFORMED THE FBI OF ALL THIS. THE FBI OPPOSED THESE ACTIONS. CAUSE THEY VIOLATED THE NEUTRALITY ACT. I TRIED TO PURSUADE BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE NOT TO CONTINUE THEY'RE FLIGHTS. BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN. MY OPINION DID NOT COUNT, BECAUSE THEY WANTED MARTYRS. MARTYRS TO BOOST THEIR ANTI CASTRO INDUSTRY. RATINGS WE'RE DOWN. THEY WANTED MARTYRS.. THEY GOT THEM. THOSE INNOCENT PILOTS WHY DIDN'T BASULTO DIE? WHY DID HE STAY AWAY WHEN WE ALWAYS FLEW IN LOW TOGETHER. WHEN WE VIOLATED CUBAN AIRSPACE WE HAD AGREED TO DIE TOGETHER. SO WHAT DID HE DO? SENT OUT THE SOLDIERS CAPTAIN STAYED BEHIND.

3:20:40

LUCIA: ALOT OF PEOPLE SAY THE DOWNING OF THESE AIRPLANES WAS NOT AN ACT OF PATRIOTISM BUT AN ACT OF COLD BLOODED MURDER. DO YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED ON SATURDAY?

3:20:49

ROQUE: NO.. NO.. ON THE CONTRARY.. MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. CAUSE I WARNED THE US GOVT. THEY WERE GOING TO SHOOT THEM DOWN. IT WAS MADNESS. I DID EVERYTHING

TO AVOID THE DEATHS OF MY 4 COMRADES BUT NOBODY PAID ATTENTION.

3:21:12

LUCIA: WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?' YOU BETRAYED MANY OF THE CONFIDENCES OF YOUR FAMILY, OF YOUR WIFE. YOU ALSO SAY YOUR OWN. ADMITTANCE BETRAYED YOUR COUNTRY AT SOME POINT..., WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO DO FROM NOW ON?

3:21:22

ROQUE: THAT'S A VERY NARROW DEFINITION OF BETRAYAL YOU'D HAVE TO LOOK UP THE MEANING IN THE DICTIONARY OF TREASON. I WAS BORN HERE. MY CHILDREN WERE BORN HERE. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING MY CASE. I THINK I CAN RECTIFY MY MISTAKES. MAYBE I WONT FLY AGAIN BUT MAYBE THE GOVT. WILL GIVE HE A CHANCE. I WILL DO MY BEST TO RAISE MY CHILDREN HERE.

3:21:49

LUCIA: THAW YOU VERY MUCH. WE'VE MEN SPEAKING. TO CUBAN PILOT JUAN PABLO ROQUE. THIS IS LUCIA NEWMAN REPORTING FROM HAVANA.