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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T   REPORT NO.   CS DB-312/01409-68

                                                DATE DISTR.   28 June 1968

COUNTRY   Cuba

DOI   Late April 1968

SUBJECT   Prison Break at El Principe Prison
           in Havana

ACQ   Canada, Ottawa (25 June 1968)   FIELD NO.

SOURCE   An official [   ]   service from officials in Havana.

> 1. In late April 1968 there was a successful prison
> break at the El Principe Prison in Havana. A group of
> prisoners escaped by digging a tunnel to the courtyard of
> a neighboring hospital. After the escape, ex-Major
> Rolando Cubela Secades, who was convicted in March 1966
> for plotting to assassinate Fidel Castro, was transferred
> from El Principe to a prison in Oriente Province.
>
> 2. It was rumored that Huber Matos, imprisoned since
> October 1959, was one of the escapees. However, according
> to the wife of a prisoner in La Cabana Prison in Havana,
> Matos and 20 other political prisoners were still in Gal-
> lery 23 of that prison. Although none of them wore prison
> uniforms, it is said that the authorities stopped being
> severe with them on this count.
>
> 3. Field Dissem: None.

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(classification)   (dissem controls)

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WHC/OPS 2	WHC/JMCOBRA 1		E/MADR	1		(IN-37968)
WHC/EW 1			E/R	1		NP (SMACT-1)
WHC/PP 1	CI/OPS/WH2		E/OTTA:	1		
WHC/WAVE 1						E/BC7C/R RH

TOTALS   IE 2,   CI 4,   FI 3,   CA 1,   DO 1,   LIAISON
    WH/C 9 (2),   EUR 2 (2),   WH 1   14 *   RRH
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