Cuba's intelligence presence within the Cuban embassy in Uruguay

Staff Report
May 15, 2020



Photo of Cuba's embassy in Montevideo
https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-relaciones-exteriores/comunicacion/publicaciones/cuba

Cuban Embassy staff in Uruguay

The names and titles of the Cuban diplomatic personnel in Uruguay comes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay (site updated as of November 8th 2019).

Ambassador (Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario)
Héctor Agustín Fraginals de la Torre

- Fecha de acreditación: 18/12/2017
- Cónyuge: Adanays Pallasá Saint – Yves

Other diplomats (Otros funcionarios diplomáticos)
(Known or likely intelligence officials are in red.)

- Asuntos Políticos: Primera Secretaria, Alina Acosta Suárez
- Asuntos Económicos y Comerciales: Primera Secretaria, Claudia González Toledo
- Asuntos de Cooperación: Segundo Secretario, Alberto Montano Rodríguez
- Asuntos Consulares: Tercer Secretario, David Roblejo Balbuena
- Prensa y Cultura: Tercera Secretaria, Mónica Rodríguez Sánchez
- Agregado Diplomático: Miguel Caraballo Peñalver

Embassy personnel working for Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence (with diplomatic cover)

I. Miguel Caraballo Peñalver: cryptographer ("clavista")

Caraballo is in charge of coding and decoding messages at the Cuban embassy in Uruguay. A source that worked with him prior to 2002 identifies him by name. Miguel works for the 8th Direction of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT), not the Directorate of Intelligence, a department presumably still located in the MININT building at the Plaza de la Revolución square in Havana. Cryptographers stationed in embassies overseas are subordinated to the head of the intelligence center (most embassies have intelligence centers) or to the Ambassador if there is no intelligence center.

Caraballo must live inside the embassy in Montevideo and may only leave the premises with another staff member of the Cuban embassy. This is standard practice; crypotgraphers are allowed to leave the diplomatic premises only escorted by a co-worker and usually only on weekends. The strict security protocol is intended to avoid defections and kidnappings, as the cryptographer has access to all incoming and outgoing communications, including the most sensitive. The same is true also for their spouses and children; many go abroad with their spouses and young children (adult children must stay in Cuba) and live in apartments located inside the embassy. Their assignment is typically as Attaché for two to three years.

No information on Caraballo has been found in the internet. A sister was located in databases in Cuba, Noris de los Angeles Caraballo Peñalver. She works as a doctor and her residential address is 59 # 11610 in between 116 and 118, Habana; telephone number 267-5795.

II. Other likely Intelligence officers

The Second and Third secretaries at Cuba's embassies are typically members of Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence (DI).

1. Second Secretary: **Alberto Montano Rodriguez**

His address in Cuba is General Lee # 96, Apartment 5 in between Rabi and Flores, Santo Suarez, 10 de Octubre, Habana. Alberto's home telephone number is 6400871 and his cell phone number is 5354225299. Alberto's Cuban ID no. is 69080512086, which means that his date of

birth is August 5th, 1969. He is 50 years old. I have not found a Facebook or other social network account under his name.

2. Third secretary: **David Roblejo Balbuena**



David and Monica, photo from Facebook

His cell phone number in Cuba is 5358295750 (this is a recent cell phone number from 2014). His address is 5ta # 6403 in between Central y Pasaje Lopez, Guanabacoa, Habana. There is no Cuban ID no. attached to that number, which is unusual.

David is married to **Monica Rodriguez Sanchez** who also works at the embassy as a third secretary in charge of the Press and Culture. Monica was born May 19th, 1987.

David Roblejo Balbuena:
https://www.facebook.com/david.roblejobalbuena

Monica Rodriguez Sanchez:
https://www.facebook.com/monica.rodriguezsanchez.923

Sources used to elaborate this report

Investigation by Luis Dominguez for Cuba Archive, May 14, 2020, using open sources (Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations, Uruguay's Ministry of Foreign Relations, and Facebook), databases of Cuba's telephone company ETECSA, and confidential sources: two former officers of Cuban intelligence officers and one of Cuba's military intelligence, all living in the United States.