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Romárico Sotomayor García. Born in 1939 in Sierra Maestra, Oriente, white. An illiterate highlander, during 1959-70 he completed primary and secondary education, as part of his military training, showing exceptional qualities. His military studies include Basic Course for Officers in Matanzas in 1963; Superior War College in El Morro in 1969; the FAR Academy “Máximo Gómez” in 1974; and starting in 1980 at the “Voroshilov” Academy in the U.S.S.R. where he specialized in General Troops. In 1987-88 he was Chief of one of the first four groups of advisors to arrive in Angola. He holds the rank of Major General.

He was one of the many illiterate rebels that supported, together with his family, the Rebel Army. Despite his initial limitations, he is a model of cultural achievement. He is one of the officers selected by Raúl and Fidel to take over and control the MININT. Sotomayor was not only appointed Chief of the PNR but also to other key responsibilities including: a greater and more direct control of dissidence within Cuba, using all types of legal and warning methods (warnings, threats) and a monopoly in the anti-drug activities, including the signing of anti-narcotics agreements with France, Colombia, the Bahamas, Mexico, Great Britain, Canada, France, and other countries.

Sotomayor is very close to Raúl Castro’s Inner Circle and belongs to the “historicos.”