TO: Ed Cohen

REMARKS:

Beth - put up Rosella Pkg

FROM: Phil Kendall

Rolando MASPERNE Rojas

Former Cuban Senator who was considered ruthless. Arrived in US in January 1959 and over the years has engaged in a series of activities related to the overthrow of the Castro regime. Reportedly involved with José de la TORRIENTE in the TORRIENTE plan. As of 1972 still considered himself to be a Marxist Socialist, and had been virulent critic of the US in the past. Killed by a bomb in Miami on 31 October 1975. No Agency association.

Jose de la TORRIENTE Ajuria

Born in 1904 in Cuba. Graduated from University of Kentucky in 1922. Formed an organization in 1940 and received donation of $45,000 from Cuban Medical Association in exile. In February 1970 he formed "Plan TORRIENTE to liberate Cuba and hold rallies in different US cities to collect funds." Traveled extensively in Latin America and Europe raising funds. In June 1974 the Miami press exposed him as president of a large housing development enterprise and using funds he collected for personal use. Shot to death in his home in Miami on 12 April 1974. Police investigation of death negative. Police felt murder was related to TORRIENTE'S misappropriation of funds. He was a US citizen. (In October 1970, in response to a request from President Nixon, DCL Helms directed the DDF to establish a covert funding channel to provide financial support to the Cuban exile group headed by TORRIENTE. The objective was to provide funds to assist this group in carrying out raids on the Island of Cuba. A total of $250,000, was authorized in FY 1971 and for this purpose. A total of $226,000 was expended on this activity. There have been no accusations or rumors that the funds originated with the USC with the Agency. Only one successful operation was mounted.)

Jose Quintana. DOB: 5 October 1945

No identifiable information on person with this birthdate. Require more information, or at the least, patronymic.

Joaquin Antonio CORTIZO- DOB: 10 January 1945

Nothing on person by this name
Luciano NIEVES Mestre

NIEVES was reportedly a Captain in the Rebel army under Osmani CIEN-FUEGOS and subsequently arrested by the DSE in January 1963 for political reasons. He was released from prison in 1965 through the intervention of his brother, a high Cuban official. NIEVES went to Madrid in April 1965 where he was introduced to a CIA officer. He came to the US in August 1965 and was again contacted by a CIA officer. The relationship was unsatisfactory as NIEVES proved erratic and uncooperative and he provided fabricated information. In March 1966 ACSI (Army) indicated an interest in NIEVES and was given an assessment of NIEVES. Since the CIA no longer had an interest in NIEVES, ACSI picked him and subsequently terminated him in March 1967.
Manuel ARTINE, Exiled Cuban

ARTÍNE was one of the leaders of the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionario (MRR), a democratic Catholic oriented anti-Batista reform movement which allied itself with the Castro forces in overthrowing Batista. ARTÍNE was de facto chief of the agricultural reform program in Oriente Province after Batista's fall. ARTÍNE became disillusioned with Castro, departed Cuba and became one of the leaders of the Bay of Pigs invasion force. He was captured, imprisoned and returned in the prisoner exchange in 1962. From June 1963 to April 1965, CIA supported ARTÍNE and the MRR operations against Cuba which can be broadly characterized as harassment, sabotage and psychological warfare at a cost of approximately $7 million. Following that, CIA supported psychological warfare operations such as radio broadcasts and the publication of an anti-Castro periodical. This continued until ARTÍNE was terminated in January 1967. Since that time there has been no official CIA relationship with ARTÍNE although there have been occasional unofficial contacts between CIA officers and ARTÍNE. These contacts were not of operational significance. During the mid-east war ARTÍNE offered DDI Colby the use of himself and his men in any capacity that would assist the Agency. ARTÍNE was last reported to be closely associated with Nicaraguan President, General Anastasio Somoza, in the export-import business. He is believed to be residing in Managua.

Rolando CUBELA Secades

CUBELA had been the second in command of the Directorio Revolucionario, an anti-Batista student organization which was actively involved with Castro's forces in the overthrow of the Batista government. CUBELA subsequently held the rank of Major in Castro's forces but became disillusioned with Castro and communism. CUBELA was initially met in Mexico in March 1961 but the meeting was without operational significance. In 1962, following reports that Cubela was considering defecting, an attempt was made to determine his state of mind by utilizing a Cuban refugee who met CUBELA in Scandinavia. CUBELA agreed to work in place for the creation of a new Cuba. In October 1963, as a result of CUBELA's demand to meet U.S. Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, Desmond Fitzgerald, Chief of Cuban Operations met with him. At this meeting CUBELA stated that the most effective way to rescue the Cuban Revolution was to assassinate Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders. CUBELA was told that the US was prepared to render all necessary assistance to any group which succeeded in neutralizing the Cuban leadership and assumed sufficient control to invite the US to render assistance. In November 1963 CUBELA was reported to be losing interest if he did not receive technical assistance from the US. Fitzgerald authorized assistance in laying caches which would include a high-power rifle w/scope, explosives and related equipment. The caches were laid in March and June 1964. CUBELA recovered the first cache in December 1964 but it is not known if he recovered the second cache which included two Belgian DAK rifles. CIA arranged to have CUBELA and ARTÍNE meet in Madrid in 1964 and ARTÍNE agreed to provide support for CUBELA's operations ARTÍNE furnished CUBELA with a silenced and money in February 1965. In February 1965 a CIA officer met with ARTÍNE for the last time and refused CUBELA's request for $10,000 to support his operations. (CIA preferred to use the ARTÍNE channel.) In June 1965 CIA terminated the operation because CUBELA was judged insecure. CUBELA was arrested by CASTRO in February 1966, tried in March 1966 and convicted of conspiring with the CIA and ARTÍNE to assassinate CASTRO. He was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. He was released on parole in 1975 and is reportedly practicing medicine in Havana. CUBELA has been the subject of extensive investigation by the Church Secret Sect report.
3. General Questions:

1. already answered

ii. "B-1" is Manual Artime and the anti-Castro group is the MRR

iii. vii. answered

vii. The Miami Station (JMBAVE) was established in 1961 not 1960. Robert Davis served as COS from October 1961 to February 1962. He is now retired. Theodore Shackley served as COS from April 1962 to June 1965. John Dimmer (retired) served as COS from June 1965 to March 1967. We would prefer that Dade County police not talk with the COS'S. We do not know what they could possibly add that the police and FBI don't already know.

viii. We do not desire to have the Dade County police talk with the current The (16-4) has not had contact with the Cuban exile group for several years. The (16-4) is considered to be a foreign installation concentrating on the collection of intelligence in the Caribbean area where there is no US representation and has no charter for domestic activity. The current (27, 16-4) has been there less than a year.

ix. already answered

x. This is a matter of internal security which should be addressed to the FBI
5 April 1977

SUBJECT: Intelligence Sources and Methods

1. The principle of protection and intelligence sources and methods is central to the viability of clandestine operations. The inability to protect intelligence sources and methods will be destructive of the credibility of the Agency in dealing with its clandestine assets, and in dealing with intelligence services around the world to whom our security is already a matter of grave concern.

2. The tragedy of Cuba won the support of the United States Government for the programs to free that country from its dictatorship. It was the sense of the American people and of the United States Government, in both the executive and legislative branches, to find a way tooust the Castro regime. However badly conceived different parts of the program, and whatever the chances of success, the fact is that the ultimate objectives met the highest standards of American ideals.

3. There were a lot of Cubans who worked with the Americans to free Cuba. They carried their plans to desperate extremes, risking their lives at the Bay of Pigs and in hundreds of smaller incursions. Some were associated with scheming to assassinate Castro himself. Some did this on their own as patriots and some, also as patriots, did it with the support of representatives of the United States Government. Right or wrong the identity of those people constitute a trust of the American Government. If betrayed it would be a breach of honor and a demonstration to our allies today, and to those individuals around the world who work with us, that they must review the risk they take in our association.

4. The protection of intelligence sources is more than a dry legal phrase. It involves a moral commitment to protect those who agree to work with us. This is an essential principle to be observed by any organization that expects to involve itself in clandestine operations of any sort.
Our letter to the Attorney General of 14 October 1976 forwarded all information from Agency files responsive to these questions which we judged could be forwarded to the Dade County police without jeopardizing sources or methods, provided the Attorney General found that the Agency could legally do so. A second point, also to follow from the Attorney General's findings was that, even if such information could legally be provided, a determination would have to be made within the Agency whether some of the requested information which related to former or current agents of the Agency might still require protection. Your marginal comment asks whether we are not straining the concept of protection of sources when we protect those who are not now intelligence sources and whether we are protecting them from prosecution for terrorist activity today.

After referent memorandum was sent to you, the Attorney General refined an earlier opinion from former Assistant Attorney General Antonin Scalia. The Department of Justice now concludes that, to the extent Agency information either does not involve U.S. persons or falls within one of seven exceptions to the general prohibition against collection of information concerning the domestic activities of U.S. persons, such information can be provided to local police authorities. It is significant, however, that the Attorney General in his 23 March letter to you (Attachment B) expressly included the following language:

In addition to the facts above, the Office of Legal Counsel has pointed out that Executive Order 11905 does not require CIA to respond to Dade County. Indeed, the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence to protect sources and methods of intelligence, established by statute, 50 U.S.C. #403(g), and E.O. 11905, Section 3(d)(vii), is authority for him to withhold such information from local law enforcement officials if he believes its disclosure would threaten the security of intelligence sources or methods. (Emphasis added)

In the light of the Attorney General's opinion, those offices holding the relevant files are now reviewing them to confirm that the information originally selected for passage to Dade County law enforcement officials is responsive and complete.
Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Mobster's Summons by Probers

Perhaps the most feared mobster in the underworld is Florida's Mafia chieftain, Santos Trafficante. House investigators approached his Miami hideaway, therefore, with some apprehension.

He appeared at the screen door to accept their subpoena. "Shove it under the door," he said softly. They peered through the screen. The sinister Trafficante was pale, and his hands were shaking.

He may have had reason to shake. The House Assassinations Committee had taken a sudden interest in the murder last July of mobster John Roselli. Before he died, the flamboyant Roselli hinted that he knew who had arranged President John F. Kennedy's assassination. Carefully hedging, he told an incredible story that implicated Trafficante.

The New York Times reported on the front page that Roselli was murdered as a "direct result" of his Senate testimony about the Kennedy assassination.

Twelve days before his death, Roselli dined with Trafficante at the fashionable Landings Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It is the custom of the Mafia to wine and dine a wayward member before he is executed.

The unfortunate Roselli had been the victim of a gangland execution. This raised some nagging questions in the minds of the committee's homicide experts who are wise in the ways of the mob.

Why would the Mafia knock off a retired racketeer? The fact that he had appeared before the Senate normally would have deterred the crime lords.

They would rather not risk antagonizing the federal government by murdering a celebrated witness unless there was some compelling reason.

The experts doubted the Mafia was upset over Roselli's confession that, as a hit man for the Central Intelligence Agency, he had attempted to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. The mobsters hated Castro, who had expropriated their casinos in Havana. So they should not have minded his CIA mission.

We furnished the committee with a more likely motive for the murder. We got the story from Roselli himself, bit by bit, over the past six years. He had come to trust us during our investigation of the CIA plot to kill Castro. Whenever Roselli was in Washington, he dropped by. His associates, knowing of his trust in us, called us ahead of the authorities about his disappearance.

The CIA had figured that the Havana underworld must have killers who could eliminate Castro. The CIA, therefore, spoke secretly to Howard Hughes' chief henchman in Las Vegas, Robert Maheu, about the project. Maheu recruited Roselli, then the Chicago mob's debonair representative in Las Vegas.

Roselli looked upon the assassination mission as an opportunity to gain favor with the U.S. government. But he lacked the stature to deal with Santos Trafficante, who controlled the Havana underworld. Roselli enlisted his own superior, Chicago godfather Sam Giancana, to approach Trafficante.

Giancana flew down to Miami to make the arrangements with the Florida racket boss. Then with Trafficante's blessing, Roselli used the Havana underworld to plot Castro's demise. The assassination squad tried to plant poison pills, supplied by the CIA, in Castro's food. Castro became ill but failed to die. Then underworld snipers were dispatched to a Havana rooftop. Unhappily for them, they were caught.

Roselli told us the rest of the story as his own speculation. But it was his habit to pass us tips in the form of conjecture. There is a good chance he was not merely speculating but had picked up information inside the mob. At least, here's his startling story...

Roselli heard that Castro had tortured the would-be assassins and had learned about the plot on his life. It would be the sort of irony that Latin Americans appreciate, Roselli suggested, for Castro to use the same plotters to retaliate against the U.S. President.

According to Roselli's speculation, Castro may have used these underworld elements, most of them Cubans from the old Trafficante organization, to arrange the assassination of Kennedy.

They may have lined up Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin or may have used him as a decoy while others ambushed Kennedy from closer range. Once Oswald was captured, the mob couldn't afford to let him reveal his connection with the underworld. So Roselli speculated that Jack Ruby, a small-time hoodlum with ties to the Havana underworld, was ordered to eliminate Oswald.

This sort of speculation might have induced the mob to silence John Roselli.