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COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE

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TO: PRIORITY LA (MIAMI) 4

MHABYSS PBRAMPART 4

REF: LA [] 22730 [IN 432300*] 4

Coordinate by Campbell with Jack Hennessy, MFO.

1. REGARDING JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA (201-257804), U.S. CITIZEN, SUBJECT PARA 1 REF, PLEASE INFORM DEA THE FOLLOWING:

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, AN OCCASIONAL CONTACT OF OUR OVERT OFFICE IN MIAMI SINCE 1961, PERIODICALLY PROVIDES THAT OFFICE WITH FOREIGN POSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE FBI BE CONTACTED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. 4

2. DEA HQS INFORMED BKHERALD JUNE 74 THAT MEROLA WAS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST. THEY REQUESTED TRACES AND STATED HE REPORTEDLY WORKED FOR BKHERALD IN LATE 1950'S. WE REPLIED THAT MR. MEROLA HAD NEVER WORKED FOR BKHERALD, ALTHOUGH WE WERE AWARE THAT HE HAD MADE SUCH CLAIMS ON NUMBER OF PREVIOUS INSTANCES. 4

3. HQS RELAYING FOR STATION USE ONLY WH [] 20664, 11 JAN 74 AND DIRECTOR 502254, 17 JAN 74, WHICH REPORTS DEROGATORY INFORMATION ON MEROLA. 4

4. MEROLA BEING PROCESSED INTO THE ISR AS DEA SOURCE. WILL

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ADVISE WHEN REGISTRATION COMPLETED. 4

5. PLEASE ADVISE LOCAL DEA ORLANDO B B A T I S T A VIERA'S OCCUPATION AS DETECTIVE IS INCLUDED IN CATEGORY OF PERSONS WHOSE OPS USE IS PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE INTEL COMMUNITY AND ISR POLICY PRECLUDES HIS REGISTRATION. HOWEVER, EMPHASIZE TO DEA THAT THIS FACT NOT INTENDED TO PROHIBIT THEIR USE OF SUBJECT. BATISTA WILL BE RECORDED AS A CONTACT OF DEA IN BKHERALD FILES IN CEASE ANY OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXPRESSES OPS INTEREST. DEA HEADQUARTERS IS BEING INFORMED OF ABOVE. 4

6. THE FOLLOWING MAY BE PASSED TO DEA: BATISTA WAS BORN 10 JULY 1933, HAVANA, CUBA, WAS IN CUBAN NAVY; ARRIVED IN U.S. IN EARLY 60'S AS EXILE. SUBJECT IS MARRIED TO DAISY DE LA TORRE. WAS IN PRISON SEVERAL MONTHS IN 1959 IN CUBA ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBER OF BASTISTA'S ARMED FORCES AND HAVING IDEAS OPPOSED TO CASTRO REVOLUTION, SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. SUBJECT OF OPS INTEREST TO BKHERALD IN 1963-1964; INTEREST DROPPED IN 1964 AND SUBJECT TERMINATED WITHOUT PREJUDICE. ASK DEA TO REFER TO FBI FOR MORE INFO ON SUBJECT. 4

DATE: 23 APR 64
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7. FYI ONLY: POA GRANTED 63 FOR SUBJECT'S USE IN PM BOAT OPERATIONS; HOWEVER POA CANCELLED WHEN HE CLAIMED HE UNABLE SATISFACTORILY TREAT HIS SEASICKNESS. IN 64, SUBJECT INTERVIEWED BY FBI IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA RE. GROUP OF CUBANS IN MIAMI INVOLVED IN DRUG OPERATIONS. SUBJECT REVEALED HIS BKHERALD CONNECTIONS TO FBI. 4

8. FILE: 200-11-11/19; 201-740127; 201-257804. E2 IMPDET.H

*REQUESTED PRIORITY TRACES ON MEROLA AND BATISTA, DEA SOURCES AND REGISTER IN ISR.

DCD/OSS (TELECOORD)

LA/NARC

DATE: 6 DECEMBER 1974

ORIG: [redacted] AR

UNIT: LA/NAARC/LA/CAR

EXT: 6312/1249

DAVID A. PHILLIPS

C/LA

RELEASING OFFICER

DDO/NARCOG

LBSN/ISR

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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