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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET / 0611 00140 0611

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FROM: RI/AN				DOCUMENT NUMBER: <sup>22</sup> HKSA 00140. ✓	
				DOCUMENT DATE:	
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. WH 040				EB	<p>NOTE: If a copy or attachments are removed from the attached document, note the location of the copy and/or attachment hereon. If this RECORDED COPY is to be retained in the Lab at the Desk call the Central File Section for permit loan.</p> <p><b>COPY DETACHED</b></p> <p><b>MICROFILMED</b> JUN 24 1963 DOC. MICRO. SER.</p> <p>FILE TITLE: <sup>709</sup> NIAS FERRER y ROJAS, Rolando Arcadio</p> <p>FILE NUMBER: 13 Nov 57 201 42669 ✓</p> <p>ENCLOSURE: _____ ABSTRACT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DATE PROCESSED: 13 Nov 1957 INDEX: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
2. Caub			31 Dec	R	
3. Caub/FI			31 Dec	UCA	
4. Caub/PO			2 Jan	PH	
5. Caub/RO			3 Jan	RO	
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13. WH/3/Caub/Sec			20 JAN 1958	Q	
14. FM/FI					

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MICROFILMED  
JUN 24 1963  
DCC. MIC/NO DEP.

VIA AIR  
(Specify Air or Sea Route)

DISPATCH NO. 22 140

SECRET  
CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, MID DATE 13 December 1957

FROM Chief of Base, [Santiago de Cuba] Info: COS, Havana  
COS, [Caracas]

SUBJECT { GENERAL Operational  
SPECIFIC Flight to Caracas

16-77

1. On 1 December 1957, Rolando MASFERRER, a Cuban senator who is noted for gangster-type activities, and Laureano IBARRA, the local chief of customs, belonging to the owner of a cement firm and flew to Caracas. This, immediately, threw the town in an uproar, and rumors regarding the reasons for the trip became so rampant that during the next week, it was impossible to separate truth from fiction. The most prevalent rumor of all was that MASFERRER and IBARRA had taken a million pesos of custom deposits and had gone to Caracas to purchase heavy arms, such as bombs, but this, the base believes, has no basis in fact.

2. The true reason for their trip seems to be more along the following lines - During the recent trouble in Santiago de Cuba, IBARRA, who is sometimes said to be the true government boss in town, became frightened of rebel reprisals, and he sand-bagged his house and stationed an armed guard in front. This, however, did not quite satisfy him, and he sought protection from MASFERRER, who, it is claimed, maintains bands of armed thugs. The latter gave IBARRA a squad of men, and they lived in IBARRA's garage. After a few days of this arrangement, MASFERRER told IBARRA that he did not have enough money to pay these men and that it would be necessary for IBARRA to foot the bill. IBARRA, however, claimed that he was short of money, so in order to obtain an operating fund, a plan was put into effect whereby MASFERRER's men staged a series of robberies in Santiago de Cuba. The man on the street maintains that there were 33 robberies in one week, but a more conservative estimate would be between 12-15. In addition to this, MASFERRER and IBARRA extorted various sums

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of money from local money lenders, saying that the money was for "higher authorities", i.e., General Alberto DEL RIO Chaviano, the military commander for Oriente Province. When word of this dual action - the robberies and the extortion - reached DEL RIO, he became very angry and called in MASFERRE and IBARRA, and after chewing them out, forced them to return the money to the money lenders. On leaving the military barracks, MASFERRE is said to have complained to IBARRA that it was impossible to conduct business with DEL RIO in charge of the area, and that serious thought should be given to "eliminating" him. Unfortunately for MASFERRE, it is said that this statement got back to DEL RIO, and consequently, there wasn't any commercial aviation leaving Santiago de Cuba fast enough, so they requisitioned the private plane and flew to Caracas.

3. As stated previously, it is quite difficult to separate fact from fiction on this matter, but this is probably the best account of the trip that the base has been able to find. It probably rates an overall evaluation of C-3. Under ordinary circumstances here, MASFERRE and IBARRA probably could have gotten away with their operation, but their timing was wrong. Unknown to them, they staged the robberies and extortion at a time when DEL RIO was up for promotion - Colonel to Brigadier General - and when he heard what they were doing he thought this would reflect against his command, and therefore he put an end to their operation.

*Nelson L. Raynock*  
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