

CONFIDENTIAL

DCU-203/77
8 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to DDO for
External Oversight

FROM : Jackson R. Horton
Chief, Domestic Collection Division

SUBJECT : Joseph Raymond Merola

1. DCD's only recorded contact with Joseph Raymond Merola prior to August 1961 occurred on 6 February 1961. It followed a series of telephone calls over a period of several months in which Merola had expressed interest in offering his assistance in connection with Cuban matters. The DCD officer had declined contact until 6 February when Merola claimed to have information on a Brazilian senator who was a "close friend and confidante" of "Che" Guevera. Because Guevera was the subject of requirements levied on DCD, our officer agreed to a meeting. The substance of the 6 February 1961 meeting is described in report OO-A(S)-3179213, dated 8 February. (This report has been returned to the Agency Archives, but will be retrieved and reviewed for classification. Should it carry a "Secret" classification, it will be downgraded to "Confidential" and may be so considered for the purposes of this inquiry.)

2. If the following deletions are made, I have no objection to the release of this document.

- a. Heading: "Support"
- b. Paragraph 2: Delete the first sentence
- c. Paragraph 4: Delete "Sam Kay"
- d. Signature: Delete "Justin F. Gleichauf" and "JFG/amb"

3. Further inquiries on this matter may be directed to Ruth Elliff, extension 2271.

[Redacted Signature Box]

JACKSON R. HORTON

cc: ISS/PICG

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