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3/13/63

SAC, PHOENIX (134-363)

Attention: FOREIGN LIAISON DESK

RICARDO DIAZ-LANZ  
PSI - CUBA

*ps*

RICHARD V. BRAHM, MONEY Oldsmobile Company, 530 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, advises that he has an individual working for him as a car salesman by the name of RICARDO DIAZ, who is a Cuban. Mr. BRAHM states that he does not have a full background picture of this individual, but regards him highly at this time as a salesman, and has reason to believe that he could be of assistance to our office in Cuban matters. Mr. BRAHM explained that DIAZ reportedly spent some time in prison in Cuba by reason of the CASTRO dominance in the affairs of Cuba.

Mr. BRAHM furnished the following description and background of DIAZ, as it is contained in his file:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Name:                   | RICARDO DIAZ  |
| Residence:              | 620 N. 2nd Street,<br>Phoenix, Arizona                              |
| Date of Birth:          | November 11, 1931   |
| Height:                 | 5' 10" to 5' 11"  |
| Sex:                    | Male  |
| Build:                  | Slender   |
| Weight:                 | 145 pounds  |
| Age:                    | In the 30's   |
| Education:              | Reportedly has a degree from<br>the University of Havana in<br>Cuba |
| Social Security Number: | 569-66-3351   |

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (RM)
- 2 - Miami (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
- 1 - Phoenix

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/95 BY SP6 BJA/LUA  
(JFR)

*134-11829-1*

ORIGINAL FILED IN

References:

SHIRLEY HARDEN,  
Selznick Studio,  
Los Angeles, California;  
W. R. WILLIAMS,  
204 New Jersey Avenue,  
Glen Burnie, Maryland;  
Reportedly worked as an auto-  
mobile salesman in Culver  
City, California.

The Bureau, Los Angeles, Miami and New York are requested to search PSI's name through the general indices of their respective offices. Los Angeles is also requested to conduct a credit and criminal check against PSI.

A review of the newspaper morgue of The Arizona Republic disclosed an article written in the February 22, 1963, issue of the paper. This article is set forth verbatim as follows:

"I did just what I had to do." "And what did Ricardo Diaz have to do?"

"Fashion a knife from a spoon, kill his prison guard, and navigate 100 miles of open sea in a stolen sailboat.

"But it freed the 31-year old Diaz, now a Phoenix automobile salesman, from the Cuban revolution he embraced before it turned down the Communist path.

"Now Diaz, whose full name is Diaz-Lanz, is afraid someone will consider him a hero.

"It was expediency," he said. "I was like a pig in a pen. I had to get out. It was my brother who was the hero.

"His brother is Maj. Pedro Diaz Lanz, chief of the Cuban air force, who became disenchanted with the revolution in July 1959 and told the world of Fidel Castro's ties with communism.

"Ricardo was a social worker in the Castro regime. He was thrown into prison without explanation. He was beaten and kicked. Some of his ribs were broken.

"Twenty months later, last Sept. 28, he escaped from the Isle of Pines. He slew his guard during one of their daily health walks on the island.

"A night and day later he landed at Key West, Fla.

"Ricardo was a revolutionary and acquaintance of Fidel Castro at the University of Havana. Ricardo has a master's degree in sociology.

"But he took no part in the abortive revolt of July 26, 1956, at the Havana police barracks, nor in Castro's landing after his return from exile.

"In fact, his family had been among the favorites of the Batista regime, and Ricardo had a paper-shuffling job in a Havana government tourist agency.

"Ricardo said:

"He doubts that Castro had any Communist help until after his successful return to Cuba from Mexico. He landed with 17 men and meager supplies.

"Castro didn't need any help from Russia.

"Cuba was overwhelmed with hatred of the Batista regime and ready for revolution. It had been talked up by the students and young intellectuals of Cuba for years.

"But there was no leadership, no planning. Castro didn't provide it either.

"But the sheer audacity of his attack on the police barracks tabbed him as a man of action. And his successful return three years later made him the man of the hour.

"By the time Cubans learned he had betrayed them to communism, it was too late.

"So what are the plans of a learned young man with a dream of equality for everyone, a young man who had a hand in an abortive attempt at a bright new world?

"I want to make a lot of money," he said. "Maybe

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a million dollars."

"He's made a pretty fair start in the capitalistic world.

"He sold a new car his first day at Money Oldsmobile, four in the first two weeks. But he's had to work 12 hours a day to do it".