

Comments:

One could probably and perhaps properly INFER that Jose is a Castro agent, but aside from the episode dealing with his release, at the behest of Thelma King, and the report that he carried with him, after his release from prison, 150 scholarships, which appears to have some significance, there is no conclusive evidence pointing toward Jose's involvement, in past or present, with Castro's security apparatus.

There is, however, considerably more evidence that he is not an agent of Castro's For examples:

1. He has fought against Castro and was imprisoned by him.
2. ~~That~~ He has reportedly denounced Thelma King openly.
3. ~~That~~ He does not get along with his brother Jorge, who is tied in with Piniero.
4. He has broadcasted anti-Castro and anti-Batista propaganda from Radio CIENMIL, a panamanian station.
5. ~~That~~ ^{columns of his} he is anti-Castro, Anti-Communist and pro-democratic and that his actions, according to Jose, since 1953 should speak for themselves, including his actions and propaganda work against Castro since his arrival in the United States.

I don't believe I'm that naive to think that Jose's actions to date could not be part of a pre-arranged plan, but the evidence available points in the other direction.

I do suggest ~~two~~ two possible alternatives, the first of which I prefer:

1. Apprise Ray of this information and let him determine Puente's bona fides; caution him to be discreet with his future plans and avoid telling PUENTE.
2. Let us determine PUENTE's bona fides by re-tracing, including Bureau checks and ~~AKA/T~~ files. Determine his relationship with Jorge in Cuba and attempt to ascertain whether he is corresponding with him. If desired, ^{and plausible} we could ~~xxx~~ begin a mail intercept. In line with your thoughts re not being an intell unit for RAY, I ~~xxxxxx~~ suggest the former proposal.