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EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

CUBAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS (CMUN)

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

105-14883

Miami, Florida
October 10, 1968

Handwritten: ✓ JG CE Del
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100 CEW
MM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO
INTERNAL SECURITY- CUBA

CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KS
DECLASSIFY ON 1,6
(5668 SLD/GCL)
(2/25/98-JFK)
(JFK)

It was previously reported that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, a Cuban refugee residing at Apartment #3, 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, Florida, had been in contact with the Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS) in early 1967, and thereafter was in personal contact with a Cuban G-2 official in New York identified as JESUS JIMENEZ, First Secretary, Cuban Mission to the United Nations (CMUN),^(S) New York City. ROMERO was reportedly instructed by CIS to arrange a clandestine boat trip to Cuba, at which time he would be given papers of a high Cuban Government official, indicating this official's desire to defect to the United States. ROMERO thereafter would re-enter the United States by boat and turn these papers over to the United States Government in an effort to penetrate a United States Government intelligence agency.

Upon interview by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), ROMERO furnished partial information concerning his recruitment by the Cuban Government and contacts with a Cuban Government official in New York, but denied any association with the Cuban Government prior to November of 1967. (u)

It is noted that as of April 1, 1968, JESUS JIMENEZ ESCOBAR, 401 East 88th Street, Apartment 8D, New York, New York, was First Secretary of the CMUN. (S)

On March 1, 1968, STEPHEN CSUKAS, United States Customs, Miami, Florida, made available a copy of (u)

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declassification.~~

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RELEASE IN FULL

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EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

a Western Union money order message received by ROMERO from New York. According to CSUKAS, this message was obtained by CSUKAS from a source close to ROMERO on February 27, 1968. This source said ROMERO received a \$200 money order on February 26, 1968, with this message: (u)

"NUMBER NQB 005 10:17 A.M. EST.
To EPIFANIA ROMERO, 1050 NW 1st
Street, Apartment 3, Miami, Florida.
The money order paid you herewith is
from JULIAN at New York, New York,
and included the following message:
'Saludos.'" (u)

On March 1, 1968, PAUL MUIR, Western Union Office, Miami, advised that the number "NQB 005" is the designation for a Western Union branch office located at 346 West 34th Street, New York, New York. (u)

Inquiry at the above New York Western Union Office determined the original of the above telegram is maintained at Minneapolis, Minnesota. On April 3, 1968, records of the Money Order Audit Bureau, Western Union Telegram Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, were found to contain an original application for a money order dated February 26, 1968, in the amount of \$200, payable to EPIFANIO ROMERO, Apartment 3, 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, Florida. The sender on the application is shown as JULIAN MONTES, 207 West 113th Street, New York, New York, and the only message with the money order was "Saludos." (u)

Western Union records also contain an original draft, number FS25199, dated February 26, 1968, in the amount of \$200, payable to EPIFANIA ROMERO. The original application and draft are maintained at the Money Order Audit Bureau.

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The original application and draft, should they be needed for prosecutive purposes, may be obtained only upon the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, which should be directed to the manager of the Western Union Office in the city where prosecution is had.

Copies of the original draft and application were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C. On August 1, 1968, the FBI Laboratory advised the handprinting on the above original draft and application was prepared by JESUS JIMENEZ ESCOBAR. (S)

On March 9, 1968, MM T-1, who is well acquainted with ROMERO, made available the following items, which were in the possession of ROMERO on that date:

Airmail envelope, postmarked P.M., of November 7, 1967, at New York, New York, and containing the handprinted address "EPIFANIO ROMERO, 1417 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33126" (u)

Airmail envelope, postmarked P.M. of January 27, 1968, at Flushing, New York, containing handprinted address: "EPIFANIO ROMERO, 1058 Northwest First Street (Apt. 3), Miami, Florida 33128" (u)

By report dated August 1, 1968, the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., advised the handprinting on the above two envelopes was prepared by JESUS JIMENEZ ESCOBAR. (S)

During interview of EPIFANIO ROMERO by Special Agents of the FBI on April 4, 1968, ROMERO furnished an envelope postmarked November 30, 1967, and containing the handprinted address "EPIFANIO ROMERO, 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, Florida, " and a return of "ELIZA MARTIN, 42 West 120th Street, New York, New York." ROMERO advised (u)

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at the time that he had been sent a \$200 money order in this envelope from his Cuban intelligence contact in New York City, (u)

By report dated August 1, 1968, the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., advised the handprinting on the above envelope was prepared by JESUS JIMENEZ ESCOBAR. (S)

On May 23, 1968, ROMERO was again contacted by Special Agents of the FBI, at which time he furnished the following information:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/29/68

EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO was contacted at his residence, Apt. 3, 1050 NW 1st Street, Miami, and was interviewed in the Spanish language. He was advised of his rights by SA SAMUEL W. JONES and was furnished a warning and waiver form, which he duly executed. He thereafter furnished the following information:

ROMERO recalled he was previously interviewed by SA JOSEPH C. BALL and SA SAMUEL W. JONES on April 4, 1968, at which time he furnished information regarding personal contacts with an individual in New York City who identified himself to ROMERO as JESUS JIMENEZ, First Secretary to the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. (S)

ROMERO stated he had received three telephone calls from this individual since the above interview on April 4, 1968. The last such call was about 7:30 AM on Monday, May 20, 1968. These calls were from New York City and concerned only JIMENEZ' attempts to convince ROMERO to travel to Cuba by boat. (S)

JIMENEZ also asked ROMERO to come back to New York for a meeting with him but ROMERO told him he was afraid to do so since it would be a violation of his parole. JIMENEZ gave him no instructions other than to contact the telephone in Cuba previously furnished to ROMERO upon his arrival in Cuba. ROMERO has had no additional contacts with JIMENEZ either by mail, telephone or otherwise and has received no money from him since last interviewed by SAs JONES and BALL. (S)

ROMERO has the promise of a boat which is almost ready, for a trip to Cuba and he would like permission of the United States Government to make this trip. The boat is a new boat about 24' in length and ROMERO claimed he did not know its present location. ROMERO is not purchasing this boat but it is being loaned to him by its owner, a Cuban whom he met on several occasions at the Varadero Super Market in Miami.

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On 5/23/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 105-14883
 by SA SAMUEL W. JONES and
SA JOSEPH C. BALL:JCB:jgm Date dictated 5/24/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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ROMERO knew this individual only by the name "PUCHE". Although ROMERO said he had been on the boat several times, he claimed he was unable to further describe the boat or to further identify its owner.

ROMERO said, incidentally, he had been told that LUCIANO MARTINEZ, who possibly works for the FBI or some other government agency and lives in Hialeah, had been talking publicly about ROMERO's contact with Cuba and his plan to meet RAMIRO VALDEZ in Cuba. ROMERO felt he should not have publicly discussed this information. According to ROMERO, the wife of LUCIANO MARTINEZ, YOLANDA ALVAREZ de MARTINEZ, is the sister of NILA ALVAREZ, whom ROMERO has dated on occasion.

ROMERO was advised no person named LUCIANO MARTINEZ was employed by the FBI in Miami. He was further advised the FBI certainly could not authorize his departure for Cuba or for New York in violation of his Federal parole.

ROMERO was shown a group of 28 photographs, among which were two different photographs of JESUS JIMENEZ ESCOBAR, First Secretary of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. (S) Among these photographs were those of the following individuals:

ROBERTO GUERRO GONZALEZ
CHAFIK HOMERO SAKER ZENNI
JOSE VIERA LINARES
JOSE MANUEL GALARDY
OSCAR GUTIERREZ FERNANDEZ
LAZARO EDDY ESPONCZA BONET
CARLOS MORALES QUEVEDO
ARMANDO ULISES ESTRADA
JORGE E. REYES VEGA
GUSTAVO BLAZA PETERSEN
NICOLAS RODRIGUEZ ASTIAZARAIN
MIGUEL M. SANTANA FRAIZ

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ROMERO immediately selected the two photographs of JIMENEZ ESCOBAR as being identical with the individual whom he had previously identified as the person he had met in New York City. ROMERO placed his initials and the date on the back of each of these photographs which he had identified. (S)

ROMERO thereafter furnished the following signed statement, as translated from Spanish:

"Miami, Florida
May 23, 1968

"I, EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, have read a statement of my rights and I understand them. My rights were explained to me by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who has identified himself to me as SAMUEL W. JONES. He was accompanied by another person who also has identified himself to me as a Special Agent, JOSEPH C. BALL. I signed a waiver of my rights after I had read them.

"I recall that I was interviewed by Agents JONES and BALL on April 4, 1968, and I gave them information concerning some meetings which I had with a Cuban in New York who identified himself to me as JESUS JIMENEZ, First Secretary of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. (S)

"On this date, I was shown by Agents JONES and BALL 28 photographs of individuals. Among them I selected two which I know to be photographs of JESUS JIMENEZ. (S) I placed my initials and the date on the back of these photographs.

"Since April 4, 1968, I have received three telephone calls from JESUS JIMENEZ in New York. (S) The last was received about 7:00 AM on May 20, 1968. He called me about a trip to Cuba which he had previously proposed.

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(S)
"JIMENEZ repeated the instruction that when I arrived in Cuba I should call a certain person who would place me in contact with RAMIRO VALDEZ. (S)

"I have read this statement of two pages and it is correct.

"/s/ EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

"Witnesses:

"/s/ JOSEPH C. BALL, Special Agent, FBI, Miami, Florida,
5/23/68

"/s/ SAMUEL W. JONES, Special Agent, FBI, Miami, Florida,
5/23/68"

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EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO
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On June 27, 1968, MM T-2, a Cuban national who is well acquainted with EPIFANIO ROMERO, stated that on that date, ROMERO told him he had not been successful in his plan to travel to Cuba, inasmuch as he had not obtained United States Government permission for such travel.

ROMERO stated he wanted to travel to Cuba on a "family run," during which he planned to bring back 15 persons for \$1,000 each. ROMERO indicated, however, he would not make this trip without proper United States authority.

MM T-2 advised that ROMERO had previously asked the source for the names of all persons known to him to be working for a United States Government intelligence agency in Miami, and subject was furnished the names of a number of Cubans who are widely known to be working for a United States Government agency in Miami.

It was previously reported that MM T-3, a Cuban national who is well acquainted with the subject, advised on January 9, 1968, that in November of 1967, EPIFANIO ROMERO had exhibited to him a letter purported to be from the Cuban Government. This letter contained instructions for ROMERO to report upon the activities of three individuals, one of whom was FELIX PELAEZ, Manager of the 7-Eleven Food Store on the corner of Northwest 27th Avenue and 17th Street, Miami, Florida.

On July 5, 1968, MM T-4, a Cuban national who is acquainted with activities among Cuban exiles in Miami, advised FELIX PELAEZ PENA, also known as "TITO," had previously been associated in Cuba with an anti-CASTRO organization known as Movimiento Revolucionario del Pueblo (MRP - Revolutionary Movement of the People). Since PELAEZ'

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arrival in the United States, he has been closely associated with JOSE PRINCE who is employed in a 7-Eleven Store and attends Miami-Dade Junior College. The source stated PELAEZ cooperated with JOSE PRINCE in an attempt to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO in either 1965 or 1966. PELAEZ, at the present time, is also employed in a 7-Eleven Store in Miami.

On September 30, 1968, MM T-2 advised a boat, approximately 40 feet in length, owned by one DANILO MESA, is currently docked at the docks of the East Coast Fishery, Marathon, Florida. This boat was formerly named "Alileti," and is now named "Santa Barbara." It holds Florida Registration FL6786B.

MM T-2 advised that the above boat is believed to be piloted by JUAN PEREZ, a friend of EPIFANIO ROMERO, who has previously made a trip with ROMERO to Cuba. ROMERO has been seen on this boat several times, and the source advised ROMERO planned to leave the coast of Florida in a smaller boat and make contact with the "Santa Barbara" out at sea, after which he would travel to Cuba.

On October 8, 1968, STEPHEN CSUKAS, United States Customs, Miami, advised information had been received from a source to the effect that subject planned to depart for Cuba on October 3, 1968, along with two other Cubans, RAFAEL HARRYMAN and ADOLFO BORGES. The plan was for HARRYMAN and BORGES to leave the Florida coast from a point near Miami and pick up EPIFANIO ROMERO, who would be waiting at Crandon Park Marina on Key Biscayne. According to CSUKAS' source, ROMERO planned to travel to Cuba in order to return with a large supply of cocaine for distribution in the United States.