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EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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6-18-97

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Customs, Miami (RM)
1 - Central Intelligence Agency, Miami (RM)
1 - Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami (RM)
(A13 108 636)

Report of: JOSEPH C. BALL Office: Miami, Florida
Date: April 17, 1968

Field Office File #: 105-14883 Bureau File #: 105-176716

Title: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

REVIEWED BY FBWJFK TASK FORCE

DATE 2/24/98 do

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA;
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

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 TOTAL DENIAL by AKCB

Synopsis:

Subject born 1/21/36, San Cristobal, Cuba, and has resided in U.S. as Cuban refugee since 9/21/62. Subject has no relatives in U.S. and has wife and child, three brothers and one sister residing in Cuba. Subject formerly employed by U. S. Government agency. Subject made a number of "family runs" by boat to Cuba from 1965 to February, 1967, when he was arrested following shooting incident with U.S. Customs off Florida coast. Subject convicted of assault upon federal officer and thereafter served 3 months of 15-month sentence, being released in 9/67. Material in subject's possession in 3/68 indicates he was in contact with Cuban Intelligence prior to term in prison. Informants advise subject has admitted having been recruited by CIS and having been instructed by CIS to arrange trip to Cuba, ostensibly on "family run," at which time he will be furnished documents indicating desire of high Cuban official to defect, which documents he is to turn over to U.S. Government upon return from Cuba. Purpose of plan is to interest U.S. Government in defection of this Cuban official and permit subject to penetrate U.S. Government agency. Subject contacted another U.S. Government agency

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Group

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and furnished partial information re recruitment by CIS and subject referred by this agency to FBI. Upon contact by FBI Agents, subject furnished partial information re recruitment,^(S) including contact with G-2 official in New York identified as JESUS JIMENEZ, First Secretary, CMUN. (S) Subject advised he was instructed by JIMENEZ to travel to Cuba for conference with RAMIRO VALDES, chief of G-2. (S) Subject volunteered to cooperate fully with FBI in this matter. Informant advised subject paid \$3,900.00, which money was furnished by Cuban contact in New York, for boat to travel to Cuba, construction of boat to be completed on 4/17/68. Description set forth.

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INS
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ON 9/4/92 dcl

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DETAILS:

PREDICATION

This investigation is predicated upon receipt of information on November 29, 1967, from MM T-1, another United States Government agency which conducts security-type investigations, to the effect information had been received from a contact of MM T-1 in November, 1967, that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO had been in contact with the Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS) and was engaged in performing certain tasks for the CIS in the United States. (u)

BACKGROUND

On January 11 and January 15, 1968, Mrs. BARBARA BUCHANAN, clerk, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Miami, Florida, made available INS file A13 108 636 concerning EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO. This file contained the following items:

1. INS Form I-213 (Record of Illegal Alien Apprehended)

This document shows EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO was apprehended on September 21, 1962, by Border Patrol officers at Brownsville, Texas, as he crossed the river from Mexico. He was described as a male Cuban, 5'7", 160 pounds, brown eyes, brown hair, occupation farm laborer, born January 21, 1936, at Candelaria, Cuba, Cuban address San Cristobal, Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba; married to HILDALIZA MARTINEZ ROTTEZ, above Cuban address; father FELIPE ROMERO; and mother SEGUNDA DELGADO. The subject claimed residence at Finca Sabana la Mar, San Cristobal, Cuba, since 1940 and employment by ANTONIO LOPEZ on this farm since 1952. He stated he departed Cuba by boat on August 25, 1962. He claimed he was in jail for 68 days in Cuba on suspicion of being a counterrevolutionary and he advised he had been a member of the Frente Revolucionario (Revolutionary Front) in Cuba. The document showed that the subject was paroled indefinitely by INS as a political refugee on September 21, 1962.

2. INS form showing subject had changed his address to 1700 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida, on October 22, 1962.

3. INS Boat Report showing two 27-foot motorboats named "Cada" and "Flying Saucer" arrived from Cuba at Key West, Florida, on September 21, 1965, with 65 persons aboard. EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, ALFREDO CARILLO VALDES and ENRIQUE GONZALEZ RODRIGUEZ were in charge of one boat, which they had taken to Cuba from the United States. The other boat had reportedly been encountered en route and contained ARTURO MAYANS (captain), ANDRES ANDRES PELEGRINO, JOSE GARCIA LUIS, UMBERTO GONZALES OBREGON and ORESTES HERNANDEZ LOZANO. According to information revealed by these occupants, the two boats arrived at Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, on September 14, 1965, and two members of the group, EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO and ANDRES ANDRES PELEGRINO, went to Havana and contacted some of the people they were to rescue.

The Boat Report stated in view of the wide discrepancies in statements taken under oath from ARTURO MAYANS, EPIFANIO ROMERO and ENRIQUE GONZALES, inspection was deferred on them until a later date. The subject was noted to then be residing at 107 Southwest 18th Court, Miami, Florida.

4. An INS Boat Report showing the arrival of a 25-foot motor vessel, "Los Delis," at Marathon, Florida, on August 15, 1966, with five persons aboard, including EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO. Also among those aboard was ADOLFO BORGES GALINDO, born March 7, 1942, in Cuba.
5. FBI Identification Record #177 944 F concerning EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO.
6. Sworn statement taken from the subject on September 22, 1965, by INS Inspector HERBERT C. CARMEN. The subject testified he then resided at 107 Southwest 18th Court, Apartment 4, Miami, and his parents were deceased. His wife and one child resided at San Cristobal, Pinar del Rio, Cuba. He went to Cuba in a boat purchased by EUFALIA SAENZ in order to bring her family to the United States. Although he was unsuccessful in bringing her family or his own, he was able to bring back a number of others from Pinar del Rio Province. He said

he made the trip with ENRIQUE GONZALES and ALFREDO CARILLO.

7. A Xerox copy of an article appearing in the "Miami Herald," local daily newspaper, on February 25, 1967. This article was entitled, "Fracas with Customs Agents Lands Two Exiles in Jail." The article stated two Cuban exiles, JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ALONSO, 33 years old, and EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO were charged with assaulting a U. S. Customs Agent on Friday, February 23, 1967. GONZALEZ ALONSO was wounded in the encounter. According to the article, U. S. Customs Agents intercepted two boats containing seven Cuban exiles apparently headed on a "family run" to Cuba. While talking to U. S. Customs Agent STANLEY P. SCHACHTER, ROMERO and GONZALEZ allegedly jumped him and escaped in one of the boats, only to be apprehended after a wild chase in which GONZALEZ was shot.
8. An article in the May 6, 1967 issue of the "Miami Herald" showing that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO was found guilty in U. S. District Court, Miami, Florida, on May 5, 1967, of the offense of "Obstructing a U. S. Customs Officer."
9. Sworn statements of various witnesses to the altercation involving the subject on the night of February 23, 1967, including that of REUBEN ABOY, 2635 Northwest 115th Street, Miami, owner of a paint and body shop at 1277 Southwest 8th Street, Miami.
10. Memorandum showing the subject was convicted of violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 111, in U. S. District Court, Miami, Case #67-117-CR-EC, in that he did wilfully and forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede and interfere with a U. S. Customs Agent engaged in the performance of his official duties on February 23, 1967.
11. A copy of INS Agency Name Check dated March 26, 1965, showing that subject resided at San Cristobal, Cuba, from birth to 1962, at 1326 Northwest 7th Avenue, Miami, from 1962 to 1963, and at 107 Southwest 18th Court, Miami, from 1963 to date of the form. He was

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employed at the Talisman Sugar Corporation, Pahokee, Florida, from 1962 to 1963 and at the Suave Shoe Corporation, Miami, from 1963 to 1965. He was reportedly a member of the Movimiento Revolucionario de Recuperacion (Revolutionary Recovery Movement) (MRR).

12. Copy of a Personal Interview Report (PIR) executed and signed by subject on September 22, 1965. This PIR contained the following background and descriptive data.

Subject indicated he was born on January 26, 1936, at Candelaria, Cuba, and was a Cuban citizen. He had used the nicknames "EL GUAJIRO" and "PICHI" in the past. He had been employed as a farm administrator on the farm of ANTONIO VAZQUEZ at San Cristobal, Cuba, from 1959 to 1962. He had six years of schooling; was married to HILDA MARTINEZ ROYETT, who continued to reside at San Cristobal, Cuba. He was in the Cuban Army from 1959 to May, 1960, attaining the rank of captain. In 1961, he was incarcerated during April and May for 35 days for having deserted from the army. He indicated he had been a member of the MRR from 1960 to 1962 and his superior in this organization was JOSE PILOTO MORA. He fled from Cuba on August 25, 1962, and claimed political asylum. He resided at 107 Southwest 18th Court, Apartment 4, Miami, and had no relatives in the United States.

On January 15, 1968, records of the Dade County Department of Public Safety, reviewed by IC CLIFFORD M. WERNER, showed that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, white male, born January 21, 1936, in Cuba, 5'7", 160 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, occupation butcher, residence 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, was arrested on June 29, 1967, and held for the United States Marshal. He was released to the United States Marshal on July 24, 1967.

The above record indicated subject had previously been arrested on February 24, 1967, at which time he was again turned over to the United States Marshal.

Records of the Miami Police Department, Bureau of Criminal Identification Number 94420, showed that

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EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, white male, born January 21, 1936, in Cuba, residing at Apartment 3, 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, appeared at the Miami Police Department for voluntary criminal registration on September 22, 1967.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (u)

As set forth above, MM T-1, another United States Government agency, advised that agency had received information in November, 1967, from a contact, designated below as MM T-2, who advised the subject had been in contact with the CIS and was performing certain tasks for CIS in the United States. MM T-1 advised as follows: (u)

MM T-1 advised that on November 20, 1967, MM T-2 was told by the subject that he had recently established contact with "an official Cuban source" in New York City and had offered his services to the Government of Cuba. The Cuban official allegedly told the subject that in return for his cooperation, he would be provided safe passage "on any boat trip he wanted to make to Cuba." The subject told MM T-2 that he would assist him in arranging G-2 approved "family runs" if MM T-2 would perform certain tasks for the subject in the United States. (u)

The subject reportedly said he had been directed by the Cuban Government to establish a group in Miami for the purpose of conducting an infiltration effort. The plan, as explained by the subject, was to interest MM T-1 in mounting an operation which supposedly would involve 1) the infiltration of the subject and his group into Cuba and 2) the exfiltration of "some important government and rebel army dissidents from Cuba." The Cuban Government reportedly would furnish the subject with sufficient information and documents to convince MM T-1 that the group had reliable contact with, and access to, persons in Cuba who wished to defect. (u)

The subject stated that should MM T-1 decide to undertake the venture, Cuban G-2 officials would be forewarned, and hopefully, the personnel and ship or ships involved would be captured. (u)

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In discussing the infiltration group, the subject mentioned two former employees of MM T-1 as possible recruits. These persons are identified as follows:

ADOLFO BORGES GALINDO, also known as "Callego,"
INS Number A12 878 680.

He was born March 7, 1942, at Rancho Veloz, Las Villas Province, Cuba. He is described as Caucasian, black hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 150 pounds, and his address as of December, 1964, was 1046 Northwest Third Street, Miami.

JOSE BENITO CLARK SANCHEZ, also known as
Orlando Garcia Sanches,
INS Number A12 480 548.

He was born July 6, 1940, at Havana, Cuba, and is described as Caucasian, black hair, brown eyes, 5'9", 169 pounds, and his address as of March, 1964, was 1636 Northwest 7th Court, Miami.

MM T-1 advised that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELCADO was also known as "Pichi" and held INS Number A13 108 636. He was born January 21, 1936, at Candelaria, Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba. He was described as Caucasian, brown hair, brown eyes, 5'6", 160 pounds. He reportedly received only three years of formal education and while in Cuba worked as a farmer. His address as of June, 1967, was 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, and he was also a former employee of MM T-1.

MM T-1 also stated that MM T-2 was a former employee of this agency and then believed to be out of the United States. MM T-1 stated he was expected to return to the Miami area within a short time.

On January 9, 1968, MM T-2, a Cuban refugee and a resident of Miami, Florida, since 1961, was located and interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He furnished the following information:

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The source met EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, also known as "Pichi" Romero, and another Cuban refugee in Miami, in about 1962 or 1963 and has maintained infrequent contact with him since that time. ROMERO is from Candelaria, Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, and is married to HILDA, last name unknown, who still resides in Cuba. The source described EPIFANIO as a person of little education who has a strong aversion to any type of work and constantly smokes cigars and "plays the big shot." ROMERO is a white male Cuban, age about 33, 5'8", 160 pounds, thick black hair, dark eyes, and round face. He drives a 1964 Ford Mustang automobile. He resides at the apartment of ADOLFO BORGES GALINDO, 1050 Northwest First Street, Miami, another Cuban refugee and close friend of ROMERO. Also residing in this apartment are the mother and sister of BORGES.

EPIFANIO ROMERO is not employed at the present time but was recently employed at a doll factory in Miami. He is on parole, having been recently released after having served three months of a fifteen-month sentence for Assault Upon a Federal Officer. This incident occurred in about February, 1967, when ROMERO was involved with others in a shooting incident with United States Customs off the Florida coast. The incident occurred during the last of a number of unauthorized boat trips to Cuba by ROMERO over the past few years. It is the source's understanding that one of the conditions of ROMERO's parole is that he not again attempt to travel to Cuba by boat.

The source had planned a clandestine boat trip to Cuba in November, 1967, in order to attempt to rescue a friend of his in hiding in Havana. This friend is JOSE LUIS FORNELL-JACINTO, also known as "Piquili," a Cuban refugee who had been intercepted by the Cubans during a clandestine trip to Cuba and who has been in hiding since early 1967. The source was unsuccessful in his attempt to rescue FORNELL.

About the middle of November, 1967, at around 2:00 A.M., ROMERO came to the home of the source and advised that he had recently received a letter from Cuba which was sent by diplomatic pouch to the "Czechoslovakian Embassy^(S) in New York" (source noted he was probably referring to the Czechoslovakian Mission to the United Nations). (S)

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This letter was in answer to a previous letter from ROMERO to the Cuban Government. ROMERO showed the source a type-written, one-page letter which instructed him to determine and report upon the activities of the following:

1. MANDEL ARTIME and the Nicaraguan problem.
2. RAMON FONT, who has explosives of Comandos L (anti-CASTRO organization in Miami).
3. FELIX PELAEZ, manager of the 7-11 food store at the corner of Northwest 27th Avenue and 17th Street, Miami.

According to the source, the letter also contained an instruction in the last paragraph to call the writer at a certain time, time not recalled by the source. The source said, however, this time was written in military style, for example, 1330, and the source could not recall if a day or date was mentioned. The letter was unsigned, as best the source could recall.

The source stated that EPIFANIO explained that the letter had been sent to him from a Cuban in New York through whom he had made contact with the Cuban Government. He said he had been instructed by this person to form a clandestine group of five persons, composed of himself, the source, ALFREDO BORGES GALINDO, JOSE BENITO CLARK SANCHEZ and JOSE LUIS FORNELL-JACINTO. Although the last named individual is in Cuba, he is to be taken into the group upon his return to Miami.

According to the plan as outlined by ROMERO to the source, ROMERO would make a trip to Cuba, where he would be furnished certain documents from ranking officials in the Cuban Government indicating their dissatisfaction with the Cuban Government and a willingness to cooperate with the United States. With these documents in hand, ROMERO would return to the United States and attempt to interest MM T-1 in this information.

According to the source, ROMERO did not state that he would attempt to interest MM T-1 in conducting an

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infiltration effort into Cuba in which the participants would be arrested, but only indicated that he would attempt to interest MM T-1 in the possible defection of some important Cuban Government officials based on the documents furnished to him for this purpose.

According to the source, ROMERO stated he hoped to be paid by both the Cuban and United States Governments at the same time and to thus solve his financial problems.

According to the source, ROMERO stated he had already discussed this plan with JOSE BENITO CLARK SANCHEZ and although he did not mention having talked with ADOLFO BORGES, the source assumed he had also discussed details of the plan with BORGES since they are extremely close friends and reside together.

The source stated that ROMERO requested that he take him, ROMERO, with source to Cuba on his next trip in order that he could obtain these documents and initiate this plan. Although the source agreed to do so, he subsequently left for Cuba within a few days without ROMERO and returned to Miami in mid-December, 1967. During a later contact with ROMERO, the source explained to him that he had not taken him because ROMERO was on parole and the source feared he might get into trouble with the authorities.

The source further advised that in general conversation with one MANUEL CHAMISO, 435 Southwest 4th Street, Miami, supervisor at the doll factory where ROMERO recently worked, he had determined that ROMERO had made two trips to New York City in November and December, 1967. According to CHAMISO, ROMERO had said he was making these trips in an effort to obtain a boat to travel to Cuba.

The source stated he was of the opinion that ROMERO holds no loyalty to the Cuban Government and is not a Communist, but is strictly an opportunist who would do anything for money.

On January 8, 1968, STEPHEN CEUKAS, Enforcement Agent, United States Customs Service, Miami, advised that

