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SUBJECTS : ROMERODELGADO, EPIFANIO

EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

MANUEL ARTIME

RAMON FONT

FELIX PALAEZ

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
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98. PG 70 REVIEWED BY USCS AND RELEASE IN FULL.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 105-14883

Miami, Florida
January 11, 1968

REVIEWED BY FBWJFK TASK FORCE

SECRET

ON 2/25/98 JAL

- RELEASE IN FULL
- RELEASE IN PART *as stated by ARB*
- TOTAL DENIAL

Re: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA ; REGISTRATION
ACT - CUBA

On January 9, 1968, a confidential source, a Cuban refugee and resident of Miami, Florida, since 1961 who is well acquainted with the Cuban element in Miami, furnished the following information to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

The source met EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO, also known as "Pichi" ROMERO, 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

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declassification

902d #S-68/181

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Re: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

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 "PIQUILLI", 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 AM in the morning 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 in New York" (source noted he was probably referring to the Czechoslovakian mission to the United Nations). This letter was in answer to a previous letter from ROMERO to the Cuban government. ROMERO showed the source a typewritten, one page letter which instructed him to determine and report upon the activities of the following:

1. MANUEL 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 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 as the source could recall.

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Re: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

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. (U)

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 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in this information. (U)

According to the source ROMERO did not state that he would attempt to interest CIA in conducting an infiltration effort into Cuba in which the participants would be arrested, but only indicated that he would attempt to interest CIA in the possible defection of some important Cuban government officials based on the documents furnished to him for this purpose. (U)

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. (U)

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. (U)

The source stated that ROMERO requested that he take (U)

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Re: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

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. (u)

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, 1967, STEPHEN CSUKAS, Enforcement Agent, United States Customs Service, Miami, advised that EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO was involved in a shooting incident with the United States Customs near Key Biscayne, Florida, on February 23, 1967, involving two boats with identification numbers FD 3340F and FL 1462AE. According to CSUKAS, ROMERO was subsequently found guilty in United States District Court, Miami, for Assault Upon A Federal Officer and on May 5, 1967, was sentenced to fifteen months in prison. He was subsequently released on parole after having served three months of this sentence.

CSUKAS advised that a source close to ROMERO had stated on January 7, 1967, that ROMERO had been in telephonic contact in December, 1967, with someone at New York City, tele-

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ON 7-23-97 JAL

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RELEASE IN PART

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Re: EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

phone number 795-6287. CSUKAS stated his source was not aware of the identity of this individual in New York.

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
January 11, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 105-14883

Title EPIFANIO ROMERO DELGADO

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA;
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
above at Miami, Florida

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

The confidential source mentioned in this memorandum has furnished insufficient information to determine his reliability. He is a Cuban refugee who has resided in Miami since 1961 and is well acquainted with the Cuban element in Miami.

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