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Report of: WILLIAM W. STEVENS Office: Miami, Florida

Date: OCT 24 1962

Field Office File #: 105-8555 Bureau File #: 2-1763

Title: JUAN E. JIMENEZ - 201-74016  
SERGIO CASTRO GUERRA; 201-113591  
Captain HUMBERTO GUSTAVO JULIO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ;  
Plan to Assassinate President ROBERTO CHIARI of  
Panama 201-206394? *Panama*

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA - PANAMA;  
NEUTRALITY MATTERS;  
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA - PANAMA

Synopsis: JUAN E. JIMENEZ, Also known as "BABY", wealthy Panamanian, former Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba, was in Miami during 6/62 and 7/62, criticizing Panamanian government; stated wanted to contact Cubans for action in Panama, and boasted he was involved in plot in Panama against President ROBERTO CHIARI. JIMENEZ advised General MANUEL BENITEZ VALDES of above, and BENITEZ referred JIMENEZ to Captain HUMBERTO GUSTAVO JULIO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and SERGIO CASTRO GUERRA, known Cuban hoodlums. JIMENEZ contacted RODRIGUEZ and CASTRO, reportedly paid them \$500.00, and told them to stand by for future action. CASTRO reported this to BENITEZ, who advised Panamanian Consul, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. BENITEZ offered to report to Panamanian official on continuing basis the progress of this plot, through information obtained by CASTRO, who was infiltrating instant plot. [redacted] reported matter to U. S. and Panamanian Government officials. Nothing has subsequently developed, and matter considered closed by sources who did not take JIMENEZ' boasting seriously. JIMENEZ reportedly now serving as official of Panamanian Government in Washington, D.C., and no longer opposed to group in power in Panama.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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- P - RE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION  
OF PRES. OF PANAMA  
CCTG

*Rec'd from [redacted] 5-20-76*

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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DETAILS:

On August 28, 1962, MM T-1, another government agency which conducts intelligence-type investigations, furnished information as follows:

Sometime in June of 1962, (FNU) JIMENEZ, Cuban Ambassador to Panama during the administration of GRAU SAN MARTIN, said he was planning to assassinate President ROBERTO F. CHIARI of Panama. JIMENEZ had been trying, for the last six months, to recruit Cubans in the Miami area for work in Panama.

About fifteen days before (in July of 1962), JIMENEZ spent some three days each in Miami, Puerto Rico and New York. In Miami, JIMENEZ was in touch with SERGIO CASTRO and Captain (FNU) RODRIGUEZ DIAZ, both well known gunmen, and gave them \$500.00 as an initial payment for the assassination of the President of Panama. The assassination was to take place during an uprising in Panama, JIMENEZ said, and one of the important figures in the uprising would be ROBERTO ARIAS GUARDIA.

MM T-1 advised further that ROBERTO ARIAS was reportedly ready to assist in the insurrectionary attempt of Major MANUEL HURTADO SEDA of the National Guard, and a small group of guardamen who supported him in Panama in August of 1962.

On September 13, 1962, MM T-2, a Panamanian businessman with contacts among Latin-American diplomatic personnel and residents of the Miami area, furnished the following: 2,4

A former Cuban Ambassador to Panama named JIMENEZ is not known. JUAN E. JIMENEZ is a Panamanian who formerly

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was Ambassador to Cuba from Panama. He served as Ambassador to Cuba on two different occasions, at which time ARNULFO ARIAS was President of Panama.

JIMENEZ is a very wealthy and selfish individual who lives a very fast and expensive social life and visits Miami every few months or so, at which time he stays at the McAllister Hotel. He is a friend of ROBERTO "TITO" ARIAS, who has been relieved from his post as Panamanian Ambassador to Great Britain, and has returned to Panama. ROBERTO ARIAS has been reportedly involved in revolutionary activities in the past.

According to his own statements, JIMENEZ is presently trying to set up a number of gambling casinos in Panama. This is being done with the cooperation of the present Panamanian Government. JIMENEZ owns several race horses, and sometime in the past was prohibited from racing his horses in the State of Florida, because an examination of one of his horses after racing disclosed it had been given some kind of a stimulant.

JIMENEZ was in Miami approximately one and a half months ago, at which time he stayed at the McAllister Hotel. He remained in Miami for several days, and then went to San Juan, Puerto Rico for several days before returning to Miami and subsequently to Panama.

JIMENEZ was in Miami on his most recent visit for the purpose of visiting a Cuban girl friend named VILMA MATILLA, who formerly resided in Miami, Florida, and recently has moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico. MATILLA had some difficulties taking an automobile to Puerto Rico which had been purchased for her by JIMENEZ. JIMENEZ went

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to Puerto Rico in order to pay the necessary import taxes required by the Puerto Rican Government on this automobile.

JIMENEZ has not been known to have made any statements indicating he was involved in a plot to assassinate the President of Panama. Inasmuch as JIMENEZ is currently attempting to set up a series of gambling casinos in that country, it would appear foolhardy to be involved in such a plot, inasmuch as the gambling operation requires the sanction of the Panamanian Government. It is not known that JIMENEZ was recently in contact with any local Cuban hoodlums, and MM T-2 was not familiar with individuals named SERGIO CASTRO or Captain RODRIGUEZ DIAZ.

MM T-3, who was formerly connected for many years with the foreign service of Cuba, advised on September 13, 1962, that he could not recall any individual by the name of JIMENEZ who had ever been Ambassador of Cuba to Panama. 2,4

MM T-4, a former Cuban official now residing in Miami familiar with various Latin-American activities, furnished the following information on September 11 and 17, 1962: 2,4

JUAN E. JIMENEZ, known as "BABY" JIMENEZ, is a Panamanian, approximately 50 years of age. He was Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba some years ago, possibly in 1948. He is married and maintains his family and residence in Panama. He is a rich man who likes parties, drinking, women, drinks a lot and talks a lot. In June of 1962, he was at the McAllister Hotel, Miami, Florida. Later, in July, he went to Puerto Rico for approximately three weeks. He came back to Miami, and then returned to

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Panama, where he is at the present time. When he was in Miami last June, he went around with a Cuban woman, blonde, very pretty, young, who said her name was VILMA MATILLA, and whose telephone number was Franklin 1-6940.

It is rumored that "BABY" JIMENEZ gave VILMA a 1962 Chevrolet. VILMA sold this car in a short time, because she said she needed the money to send to her mother. Then JIMENEZ reportedly rented for her or gave her another car, this time a Cadillac. There had been reports from a local Panamanian official that during JIMENEZ' recent visit in Miami, he was in contact with a known contraband arms dealer, and that he had a conversation at the McAllister Hotel, Miami, with ex-General MANUEL BENITEZ, a Cuban exile in Miami. "BABY" JIMENEZ had indicated he was interested in buying arms, and General BENITEZ had recommended JIMENEZ contact HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and SERGIO CASTRO GUERRA as middlemen in the arms purchase.

HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ is an ex-rebel Captain, who was with FIDEL CASTRO in the mountains. RODRIGUEZ DIAZ, with another known Fidelista, killed a communist named ESCALONA in a police station in Havana in 1959. Condemned to prison, he later escaped and came to Miami. HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ, who reportedly carries a gun, and SERGIO CASTRO, his close associate, both have poor reputations in the Miami area. RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and CASTRO GUERRA and other Cuban hoodlums form a local gangster group who make their living by "blackmailing wealthy Cubans". They solicit money allegedly to buy arms or ships to go to Cuba for commando raids, and subsequently spend the money frequenting amusement places drinking, gambling, dancing and driving expensive cars. They are generally associated with prostitution activities and narcotics activities.

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MM T-4 had no further information as to the quantity of arms "BABY" JIMENEZ wished to buy or that he was associated with any plot against the President of Panama.

It is to be noted that MM T-5, a Cuban businessman with numerous contacts in Cuban groups and activities in Miami, reported on September 13, 1962, that HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and his associate, SERGIO CASTRO GUERRA, reportedly were currently in the Miami area. RODRIGUEZ and CASTRO have the reputation of being capable of being involved in any sort of shady deal, including narcotics. There is no information indicating they are involved in a plot regarding Panama, and this source had no information concerning a Panamanian official named JIMENEZ. 24

On September 19, 1962, MIGUEL ANGEL CAMPOS, El Corozal Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, a Cuban exile who was in the Cuban Diplomatic Corps for over thirty years, advised he had never heard of any individual by the name of JIMENEZ in the Cuban Diplomatic Corps.

On September 19, 1962, ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS, New York City, former Cuban Senator and newspaper publisher, advised he had never known of anyone by the name of JIMENEZ who had been a Cuban Ambassador to Panama. He was, however, personally acquainted with one Captain HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ. In this connection, he furnished the following information:

RODRIGUEZ DIAZ was the son of a doctor from the town of Coliseo, Matanzas, Cuba, and had been very pro-CASTRO during the Cuban revolution. RODRIGUEZ DIAZ,

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during the presidency of CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, killed a man in Maxim's Nightclub in Havana, and then fled to Spain. HUMBERTO DIAZ eventually gave himself up, was returned to Cuba, and imprisoned by the BATISTA Government. HUMBERTO DIAZ was sent by the BATISTA Government to a mental hospital called Mazorra, near Havana, Cuba, and during the revolution was released from the mental hospital with the help of members of the July 26th Movement of FIDEL CASTRO.

After RODRIGUEZ DIAZ escaped from Mazorra, he went to the town of Santiago de Cuba, where he eventually killed three or four BATISTA soldiers and was forced to flee the area and went into the Sierra Maestra, where he joined with the forces of FIDEL CASTRO.

After FIDEL CASTRO came to power, Captain RODRIGUEZ DIAZ was captain of the police in the Havana area, and was in charge of one of the "repression" groups in the Havana area. It has been reported that Captain HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ had also killed, in one of the police stations in Havana, the infamous RAFAEL ESCALONA, who was engaged in all kinds of rackets in Havana, and who is a brother of the well-known Cuban communist ANIBAL ESCALONA. It has been reported and rumored among Cubans that Captain HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ is addicted to the use of dope.

MASFERRER also advised on September 19, 1962, that he had heard of SERGIO CASTRO only by reputation, and had never met the person personally. SERGIO CASTRO was a member of the July 26th Movement in Cuba during the time of BATISTA, and had also been an officer in the police after CASTRO seized power in Cuba. MASFERRER



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advised that it has been reported to him that SERGIO CASTRO was forced to leave Havana, Cuba, because he had been engaged in counterfeiting activities. MASFERRER said he has been informed by sources that SERGIO CASTRO is considered to be a completely amoral individual, who is characterized as a dope addict.

MASFERRER advised that from the information he has concerning Captain HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and SERGIO CASTRO, it is his conclusion these men would do anything for money, including killing.

A characterization of the July 26th Movement is contained in the Appendix of this report.

2.4 On September 13 and 18, 1962, MM T-6, a Panamanian businessman familiar with various Latin-American activities in the Miami area, furnished the following information:

JUAN E. JIMENEZ was former Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba. He is a wealthy Panamanian who raises race horses and is well known in Panama. JIMENEZ was not known to be currently associated with local Miami Cuban hoodlums. There was no evidence he was currently involved in any plot in connection with the Panamanian government; however, the following had been learned:

One LUIS FERNANDEZ CASTRO, formerly employed at the McAllister Hotel, had recently stated JIMENEZ, in about July of 1962, was a guest at the McAllister Hotel. On one occasion, JIMENEZ was heard talking in a very loud voice in the lobby, stating he was involved in a plot to kill the President of Panama. FERNANDEZ CASTRO indicated it certainly did not appear JUAN JIMENEZ was

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serious, but he was only trying to make himself important in discussing such a matter in such a loud tone. Had he been serious, JIMENEZ certainly would not have discussed the matter openly in the hotel lobby.

On September 18, 1962, GLENN ADAMS, Supervisor, Investigations, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Miami, Florida, advised a search of the files of that agency failed to reflect any file relating to JUAN E. "BABY" JIMENEZ.

During September of 1962, various sources in San Juan, Puerto Rico; New York, New York and Miami, Florida, familiar with Latin-American activities in those areas were contacted, but were unable to furnish any specific information concerning JIMENEZ, Captain RODRIGUEZ DIAZ or SERGIO CASTRO.

On October 8, 1962, SOURCE

[REDACTED] advised he was a Cuban national employed as an official of the Panamanian Government. In connection with his official capacities, he had obtained the following information:

JUAN "BABY" JIMENEZ, a Panamanian who had been an Ambassador from Panama to Cuba in the past, had been in the Miami area during the period of June and July, 1962. JIMENEZ was a very influential and important man in Panama, with connections in the government, in the past, and active in various business interests. It has been reported some of his business activities have been "on the margin of the law", and he was reportedly connected, in the past, with an attempt to unseat a former president of Panama.

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On his recent visits in Miami, JIMENEZ on several occasions expressed strong sympathies in opposition to the present Panamanian Government and President, and the current Panamanian Government policies. He indicated he wanted to hire several gangsters for possible future action in Panama. Accordingly, he was trying to make contact with a group of local Cubans in this connection.

In June of 1962, JIMENEZ had stated he wanted to buy a quantity of arms, and he was involved in a plot to shoot the President of Panama. He indicated the assassination was to take place during an uprising in Panama, and offered as proof of the alleged plot the fact that there would be an uprising in the near future in Panama. In connection with this plot, JIMENEZ had contacted General MANUEL BENITEZ, a Cuban exile in Miami, who had recommended that JIMENEZ contact SERGIO CASTRO and Captain HEMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ to assist him in this plot.

SOURCE:

[REDACTED] explained he had obtained the above information from General MANUEL BENITEZ VALDES, who was a personal acquaintance of GARCIA NAVARRO. He characterized General BENITEZ as an opportunist and promoter, who was not completely truthful, and had been involved in various plots and intrigues. General BENITEZ had reported the activities of JIMENEZ and JIMENEZ' contact with RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and CASTRO to [REDACTED] SOURCE and stated he (BENITEZ) would follow the activities of this plot through SERGIO CASTRO and furnish information on a continuing basis to [REDACTED] SOURCE. General BENITEZ had explained that SERGIO CASTRO, who was a contact of his, would infiltrate this plot, and [REDACTED] SOURCE would be promptly advised of all developments.

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Source

[REDACTED] stated in his opinion, General BENITEZ was attempting to ingratiate himself with the Panamanian Government, and apparently planned to try to obtain economic aid from the Panamanian officials in return for information in the alleged plot.

SOURCE General BENITEZ had subsequently advised [REDACTED] that JIMENEZ had paid some \$500.00 to SERGIO CASTRO in connection with the alleged plot, but that CASTRO and RODRIGUEZ DIAZ had taken no action to further the plot, but were only standing by awaiting further developments. No further developments apparently materialized.

SOURCE

[REDACTED] advised he had not taken the above allegations of a plot by JIMENEZ, as reported by General BENITEZ, at all seriously, in view of General BENITEZ' reputation. Subsequently, however, at the time of the uprising on the part of members of the National Guard in Panama, which appeared to coincide with the threats made by JIMENEZ, [REDACTED] felt that there might be some basis for concern, and accordingly had furnished information concerning the alleged plot to United States Government officials, as well as to Panamanian officials. Subsequently, an Inspector from the Panamanian National Police had been sent to Miami to investigate this matter, and had interviewed BENITEZ in connection with the alleged plot.

Subsequent to that time, no further information has been developed concerning the alleged plot, either through the Panamanian investigator or General BENITEZ, and in [REDACTED] opinion, the matter is closed.

SOURCE

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General MANUEL BENITEZ VALDES, 20 Palermo Street, Coral Gables, Florida, furnished the following information on October 9, 1962:

He was personally acquainted with JUAN JIMENEZ, a Panamanian businessman who had visited in Miami in June and July of 1962. He characterized JIMENEZ as a wealthy man who was a big talker and a big bluffer. JIMENEZ had contacted General MANUEL BENITEZ, and they had met at the McAllister Hotel. JIMENEZ had criticized the current Panamanian Government situation, and stated he was interested in locating men to take part in a revolutionary action in Panama to get rid of the current Panamanian Government. JIMENEZ indicated the situation in Panama was very bad, and he was in contact with other revolutionary forces in Panama. JIMENEZ indicated he was opposed to communism, but the current Panamanian President was not the man for the job.

General MANUEL BENITEZ had recommended that JIMENEZ contact Captain RODRIGUEZ DIAZ and his associate, SERGIO CASTRO, who were local Cuban gangsters who might be of assistance to JIMENEZ. General BENITEZ subsequently determined through SERGIO CASTRO that JIMENEZ did contact CASTRO indicating his intention to buy some arms. JIMENEZ had advised SERGIO CASTRO and RODRIGUEZ DIAZ to stand by for future action, but had not indicated to them he had any specific plans, and nothing has subsequently developed. General MANUEL BENITEZ indicated he was not aware JIMENEZ had paid any money to CASTRO in the above connection.

General BENITEZ stated JIMENEZ was a big bluffer, and he (BENITEZ) did not take his big talk of a

plot against the President of Panama as serious. He had felt, however, that he should report this matter to his acquaintance, SOURCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Accordingly, he had made the above information available to SOURCE [REDACTED] who subsequently reported it to his government. General BENITEZ indicated in his opinion, [REDACTED] SOURCE [REDACTED] may have over-emphasized the significance of this alleged plot in order to enhance his SOURCE [REDACTED] position with the Panamanian Government.

General BENITEZ said probably the primary purpose of JIMENEZ' visit to Miami during the summer had been to visit his Cuban girl friend, who subsequently has moved to Puerto Rico.

General BENITEZ stated since this all happened, an official of the Panamanian Government had come to Miami to investigate this matter, and had interviewed several of the participants in the alleged plot, including SERGIO CASTRO. It was determined at that time that no further action had been taken in this plot, and that it was considered a closed matter.

General BENITEZ advised that he has recently learned from a friend of his, one JOSE LUIS ALFARO, a former police official in Panama, that JUAN JIMENEZ recently received an appointment with the Panamanian Government. JIMENEZ is reportedly now assigned in a diplomatic capacity for the Panamanian Government, and is reportedly in Washington, D. C. Accordingly, JIMENEZ is no longer unhappy with the Panamanian Government.

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LUIS FERNANDEZ CASTRO, 844 Milaga Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, advised on October 9, 1962, he had been formerly employed on the bellboy staff at the McAllister Hotel. He stated he had become acquainted with JUAN E. JIMENEZ, who was a guest at the McAllister Hotel from time to time, and who had stayed there briefly in June and July of 1962. He characterized JIMENEZ as a wealthy Panamanian who spent money liberally, and boastfully considered himself to be an important individual and a "tough guy". FERNANDEZ CASTRO recalled on one occasion in the Summer of 1962, that JIMENEZ had been loudly bragging in the lobby of the McAllister Hotel that he was involved in a plot against the President of Panama. JIMENEZ, who was always criticizing the bad situation in Panama, stated that the current President of Panama was too soft, and should be replaced. He indicated that if the situation continued, he would have to take action.

Inasmuch as JIMENEZ made these statements in the crowded lobby of the McAllister Hotel where he could be easily overheard, it was FERNANDEZ CASTRO's opinion he was only bragging, and trying to make himself look important.

FERNANDEZ stated JIMENEZ was acquainted with various Cubans in the Miami area, but he had no information indicating JIMENEZ had ever taken any action in connection with the above plot against the President of Panama or had contacted any local Cubans in this regard. FERNANDEZ CASTRO reiterated he had never taken the boasting of JIMENEZ seriously, and had considered the matter closed.

On 10/10/62, MM T-4 advised no further information had come to that source's attention indicating any

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further developments in connection with the plotting by JIMENEZ to purchase arms for action in Panama. Further, there was no information indicating JIMENEZ had made any subsequent contacts with Captain HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ or his associate, SERGIO CASTRO.



APPENDIX

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JULY 26TH MOVEMENT

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, present Prime Minister of Cuba, led an unsuccessful attack upon the Moncada Barracks in Cuba on July 26, 1953, from which the July 26th Movement has taken its name. This movement brought about the successful downfall of the regime of former Cuban President FULGENCIO BATISTA on January 1, 1959.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Miami, Florida

1972 4 1862

RE: JUAN E. JIMENEZ;  
SERGIO CASTRO GUERRA;  
Captain HUMBERTO GUSTAVO JULIO RODRIGUEZ DIAZ;  
Plan to Assassinate President ROBERTO CHIARI  
of Panama  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA - PANAMA;  
NEUTRALITY MATTERS;  
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA - PANAMA

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent  
WILLIAM W. STEVENS, dated and captioned as above, at Miami,  
Florida.

All sources and informants referred to in  
above-referenced report have furnished reliable information  
in the past.

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