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ROMARIZ, CASTELL Y VALDEZ ET AL - INTERNAL SECURITY

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INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
CUBAN NATIONALS
ROMARIZ, ALBERTO BLANCO
CASTELL Y VALDEZ, OSVALDO ANTONIO
DE LA CRUZ MENENDEZ OLITE, ALBERTO C.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - ONI, DIO, 6th ND, Charleston, S. C. (RM)
1 - OSI, MacDill AFB, Fla. (RM)
1 - G-2, Ft. McPherson, Ga. (RM)
1 - U. S. Customs, Miami (RM)
1 - INS, Miami (RM)

Report of: SA THOMAS H. ERRION
Date: FEB 19 1959
Office: MIAMI

File Number: MIAMI 105-1684 BUREAU 105-74151

Title: ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ;
OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDEZ;
ALBERTO CRESCENCIO de la CRUZ MENENDEZ OLITE

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

MAY 21 1976

Synopsis:

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The Cuban Nationals who, in October, 1958, reportedly identified themselves to the Jamaica Constabulary, Cayman Island, British West Indies (BWI) as ALBERTO BLANCO and ANTONIO GUZMAN, were subsequently identified as ALBERTO CRESCENCIO de la CRUZ MENENDEZ OLITE and OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDEZ. They, along with ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ, also a Cuban National, were passengers in the airplane flown by CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL, an American, on 10/26/58, from Florida to Cayman Island, BWI, in an attempt to fly a load of guns to Cuba. MENENDEZ and CASTELL were left at Cayman Island while BLANCO returned with HORMEL to Florida. No charges placed by U. S. Customs against Cubans. ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ now captain in the Directorio Revolucionario (DR), a Cuban revolutionary organization, and assigned to Havana, Cuba. MENENDEZ deported from U. S. to Mexico 12/30/58. Father of CASTELL reported son not in U. S. in November, 1958.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure

Subject to Criminal Sanctions

DETAILS:

On November 28, 1958, MM T-1, a confidential source abroad, advised that two individuals, who originally gave their names as ALBERTO BLANCO and ANTONIO GUZMAN, arrived in Cayman Island, BWI, on October 26, 1958, as passengers in the airplane piloted by an American named CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL. These two individuals were left

AGENCY: 100-246144, State, CSO,
DATE: 2/15/59
HOW FORMED: Customs
BY: [Signature]

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behind when HORMEL and a third passenger departed Cayman Island. The source stated that the correct names of the above two individuals, as ascertained by source, were ALBERTO CRESCENDO de la CRUZ MENENDEZ and OSWALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDES. The name of the third passenger on the plane was said to be ALBERTO (LNU), and no further details concerning him were known to the source. (S)

MM T-1 also stated that MENENDEZ furnished his address as 1920 Michigan Avenue, Miami, Florida, and CASTELL's address was 1918 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Miami, Florida. (S)

The source stated that subsequent to the departure of CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL and his third passenger, ALBERTO (LNU), a cache of arms was found near the air-strip in Cayman Island. Source said that MENENDEZ and CASTELL admitted they had unloaded the arms from HORMEL's plane, hidden them, and intended to move them on to Cuba. (S)

The "Miami Daily News", a Miami newspaper, in its May 31, 1957 issue, contained an article reflecting that ALBERTO BLANCO, of 1019 Southwest 24th Road, Miami, was one of those arrested by the Miami Police for their part in the demonstration connected with an attempt to march on the Cuban Consulate in Miami, Florida, on May 31, 1957.

The "Diario Las Americas", a Spanish Language newspaper published daily in Miami, Florida, contained in its issue of June 7, 1957, a photograph of ALBERTO BLANCO, and the caption indicated that he was fined \$150.00 for participating in a demonstration in an attempt to march on the Cuban Consulate in Miami.

MM T-2, on February 10, 1958, advised that information from Cuban sources reflected that 25 members of the Directorio Revolucionario (DR), under the leadership of FAURE CHOMON, left Florida aboard an unknown vessel. ALBERTO BLANCO, according to T-2, reportedly participated in this expedition. (S)

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On June 26, 1958, MM T-3 advised that ~~the Cuban Military Intelligence Service~~ had listed OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL VALDES as having left Cuba for the United States June 11, 1957, and described CASTELL as one of those who, because of revolutionary activities in Cuba, had been forced to seek residence in another country. 4

On June 26, 1958, ~~_____~~, New York City, furnished the name of OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDES, ~~_____~~, as one of the known Cuban revolutionaries operating in the Miami area.

On November 3, 1958, ~~_____~~ SOURCE ABROAD ~~_____~~, advised SA LEON O. PRIOR that CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL, operator of a private aircraft, visited Jamaica frequently and was in Cayman Island, BWI, accompanied by ALBERTO CRUZ MENENDEZ, who gave his name as BLANCO, his occupation as a lawyer, and his home address as 1920 Michigan Avenue, Miami, and ANTONIO GUZMAN VALDEZ, home address, 1918 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Miami (S)(u)(G-1)

On November 9, 1958, ~~_____~~ SOURCE ABROAD ~~_____~~ advised that a cache of arms and military supplies had been seized in Cayman Island, BWI, and that the two above individuals had been taken into custody and furnished signed statements admitting that they transported guns with HORMEL from Miami, Florida, by way of Tampa, Florida, and the Caicos Islands to Cayman Island. (S)(u)(G-1)

On December 30, 1958, ALBERTO CRESCENCIO de la CRUZ MENENDEZ OLITE voluntarily advised, at Miami, Florida, that he is a Cuban citizen; that he is a member of the Directorio Revolucionario, and that he was being deported to Mexico on that date.

He said that he had accompanied ALBERTO BLANCO, CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL and OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDES to Cayman Island in October, 1958, and that he and CASTELL

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had remained on Cayman Island while ALBERTO BLANCO returned to Miami with HORMEL. He stated that BLANCO had returned to Cuba subsequently, and had been killed while participating in the fighting on the side of the Cuban rebel forces.

MENENDEZ said that he had never used the name BLANCO, but in view of the fact that he understands no English, it was possible that the name BLANCO might have entered the conversation and been confused with his name during the interrogation which took place at Cayman Island.

A comparison of the photograph of the ALBERTO BLANCO mentioned in the "Diario Las Americas" article of June 7, 1957, with MENENDEZ reflected that BLANCO was not identical with MENENDEZ.

MENENDEZ, during his interview, described the DR as a Cuban revolutionary organization which was formed for the purpose of combating the regime of FULGENCIO BATISTA, with fighting forces under the command of FAURE CHOMON in Cuba.

On December 30, 1958, LUIS ROBERTO BLANCA FERNANDEZ voluntarily advised SA THOMAS H. ERRION at Miami, Florida, that he was the Delegate Abroad of the DR, and the person in charge of all DR activity outside of the Island of Cuba. He stated that ALBERTO BLANCO, who had gone to Grand Cayman Island, BWI, with MENENDEZ, CASTELL and CHARLES HORMEL in October, 1958, had returned to Cuba shortly afterward, and had been killed while fighting as a Captain of Troops in the DR forces in Cuba.

On January 5, 1959, [REDACTED] Miami, Florida, verified the deportation order and departure of MENENDEZ for Mexico on December 30, 1958. *June*

[REDACTED] made [REDACTED] for ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ available, and it was noted that he was born in Havana, Cuba, on July 23, 1935. He entered the United States

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at Miami, Florida, September 28, 1954. He listed his occupation as student; his address as 1019 Southwest 24th Road, Miami, Florida. He furnished his address in Cuba as 609 San Indalecio, Santos Suarez, Havana, Cuba. His description appeared as white male, age 23, height 5'8", weight 172, hair black, eyes, brown, marital status single, parents LINO BLANCO, father, and DOLORES ROMARIZ, mother.

Source

The file reflected that ALBERTO BLANCO and TONY CASTELL [redacted] were members of a party which included FAURE CHOMON, which had gone to Cuba to join the rebel forces of FIDEL CASTRO in February, 1958.

Source

[redacted] stated that the file contained no information concerning the whereabouts of BLANCO subsequent to the notation that his presence was verified in Cuba in February, 1958.

Source

[redacted] made [redacted] for OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL VALDEZ, available, which reflected CASTELL was born in Havana, Cuba, February 28, 1932, was a white male, age 26, married, height 5'11", weight 150, hair black, eyes brown, features regular, FBI Number 701098C, Miami Beach Police Department Number A22282 (arrested for larceny May 21, 1955 - dismissed May 25, 1955), parents ANTONIO CASTELL and LOUISA VALDEZ, Miami address on July 3, 1957, 1918 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Miami; Cuban address 619 Virtudes Street, Havana.

The file further stated that CASTELL entered the United States as a student June 12, 1957, and was deported to Nassau October 12, 1957.

The file further reflects that CASTELL participated in the attack on the Presidential Palace in Cuba on March 19, 1957, and that CASTELL was one of those who returned to Cuba to join rebel forces in February, 1958, and was with

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FAURE CHOMON and barely escaped capture by Cuban Military Intelligence agents. The file also states that he sought safe conduct in the Paraguayan Embassy and left Cuba. It was further mentioned that he was believed to have been involved in the assassination of Colonel BLANCO RICO, former Director of Cuban Military Intelligence.

Source
A memorandum dated November 12, 1958, sets forth information that CASTELL's father, who is in Havana, Cuba, had stated that his son was not in the United States. ~~CASTELL~~ advised that CASTELL was considered a voluntary departure from the United States on December 17, 1958, based on the above information.

On January 5, 1959, Mr. W. SHANLEY, U. S. Customs, Miami, Florida, advised that CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL had had three passengers on his trip to Grand Cayman Island, BWI, on October 26, 1958. Mr. SHANLEY identified them as follows:

1. ALBERTO CRESCENCIO de la CRUZ MENENDEZ OLITE
2. OSVALDO ANTONIO CASTELL y VALDEZ, also known as ANTONIO GUZMAN
3. ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ.

SHANLEY stated that no action was taken by Customs against MENENDEZ or CASTELL, who were left at Cayman by HORMEL, or against BLANCO, who supposedly returned to Miami with HORMEL after HORMEL left MENENDEZ and CASTELL.

SHANLEY advised that he had heard that CASTELL had been deported and was in Costa Rica, but his files contained no information concerning the definite place of deportation or present whereabouts of CASTELL.

MM T-4, a confidential source abroad, advised February 5, 1959, that ALBERTO BLANCO ROMARIZ is a Captain in the DR, presently assigned to Havana, Cuba, and that he is the ALBERTO BLANCO who flew to Cayman Island with CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL in the latter part of 1958.

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