
Agency Information

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10102-10474
RECORD SERIES : NUMBERED FILES
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 013071

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : PALMER, BETSY
TO :
TITLE : FBI FILE REVIEW-ORLANDO BEACH AVILA
DATE : 05/16/1978
PAGES : 5
SUBJECTS :
AVILA, ORLANDO BOSCH
DOCUMENT TYPE : MEMORANDUM
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 03/10/1998
OPENING CRITERIA :
COMMENTS : Tabbed 229-1. Box 229.

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR

013001

FROM: BETSY PALMER

DATE: May 16, 1978 (BP)

SUBJECT: FBI File Review - Orlando Bosch Avila

On this date, I reviewed the files on Orlando Bosch Avila at the FBI. Pertinent information is outlined below.

File #149-5378

Section 1, Serials 1-16, January-February 1968

1. Explosion aboard B-25 cargo aircraft, Miami International Airport, Jan. 20, 1968. Ricardo Morales Navarete arrested. His brother-in-law, Hector Montana Cornilott also involved. Also suspected, among others, were Orlando Bosch and Francisco Rodriguez Tamayo. Aircraft owned by Ramon Masco Rodriguez of Merida, Mexico. "Cuban Power" claimed responsibility.

U.S. Attorney Donald I. Bierman advised, based on facts and circumstances currently known, his opinion this is a violation of Destruction of Aircraft or Motor Vehicles Statute.

Section 2 - Serial: 17, January-March 1968

1. CIA has information on two of the suspects, Andres Jorge Gonzalez Gonzalez and Paulino Mario Guterrez Vidal. Furnished information on Bosch on January 26, 1968.

Ricardo Morales remains in jail as of March 1, 1968, unable to raise \$25,000 bail, per Intelligence Unit, Miami Police. Not enough evidence to hold Hector M. Navarrete.

Section 3 - Serials 18-25, February 1968 - February 1969

1. Orlando Bosch and Andres Jorge Gonzales identified as responsible for aircraft bombing - both convicted in Federal Court, Miami on other charges and now serving sentences. AUSA declines prosecution.

File #45-10801, May-December 1968

1. Re: Unsub: Explosion in Engine Room of British Freighter "Granwood" on High Seas, 25 Miles from Key West, Florida, 5/4/68

No known injuries -- carrying large rolls of newsprint -- British agent said vessel does not trade with Cuba and had no reason to believe explosion other than internal ship problems.

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Bosch distributed leaflets (signed Ernesto) claiming responsibility. In an interview on 7/16/68 with Special Agent Eugene J. Flynn and Special Agent James P. Tucker, Bosch denies knowledge of any of the bombings in Miami area.

File deals mainly with FBI efforts to obtain typewriter on which "Ernesto" letter written.

Report on explosion aboard Japanese freighter, "Asaka Maru", in Tampa, May 30, 1968. Investigation says logical suspects are Bosch's group.

On November 5, 1968, Bosch and eight others convicted of conspiracy. Granwood bombing entered as evidence in this trial. Other bombings occurred in New Orleans, Houston, Jacksonville, Mobile and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

File #45-10814, May 1968 - January 1969. Deals with investigation into explosion aboard "Asaka Maru". Nine convicted.

File #45-10815, June 1968-January 1969. Deals with investigation of explosion aboard Japanese freighter, "Mikagesan Maru" in Galveston, 6/1/68.

File #45-10837 - 3 Sections. Investigation of explosion aboard British Freighter, "Caribbean Venture" in Miami on 8/8/68.

File #45-10848 1968
Section 1, Serials 1-14

1. Attempt to dynamite British freighter, "Lancastrian Prince" 8/28/68.
Airtel, 9/13/68 - Bosch has been acquitted in extortion and other matters and continually retains competent legal counsel. Rotating 24-hour surveillance on Gonzalez, Sosa and Balan. Intensifying efforts to recruit informants.
2. Document 45-10848 - airtel dated 9/12/68, not available for review except at FBI headquarters.

Bomb found on British freighter discovered by diver from Dade County. Had not exploded. Made of simulated dynamite which had been passed to Bosch by the Miami office through a cooperative source. No publicity given to recovery but anonymous call in Mexico City to the AP there made reference to it. FBI consistently affirms Bosch is "Ernesto".

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File # 45-10848 (continued)

Section 2- Serials 15-56, September - November 1968

Further investigation of attempted bombing of
"Lancastrian Prince".

Section 3 - Serial 57

Simulated dynamite furnished to Ricardo Morales Navarrete on 7/2/68. Morales subsequently advised on 7/2/68 that it was given to Bosch and (FNU) Prieto.

FBI gives Morales an additional 50 lb. box simulated dynamite on 8/13 for delivery to Bosch and again on 8/14, 8/22 and 8/27.

Section 4 - Serial 58 - Open - August 1970

Bosch in Federal prison in Atlanta. Confidential source said Bosch has told his wife he will resume bombing of Japanese and Spanish ships as soon as he is released. Awaiting results of his appeal to 5th Circuit Court.

File #45-10852, September 1968

Section 1, Serials 1-26

Explosion on Spanish registry vessel, "SS Coromoto" September 12, 1968. San Juan incident. Miami trying to find whereabouts of Gonzales during this period.

Section 2, Serial 27 - further investigation of Coromot explosion.

Section 3, Serials 28-open. Bosch arrested October 11, 1968.

File #45-10854

Section 1, Serials 1-46, September-October 1968

Attempt to damage Polish registry vessel, "Polancia" in Miami, September 16, 1968. Informant records conversations of Bosch, Jose Diaz, Gonzales, Marcus Rodriguez. Conversations general in nature. Intends to use device when in contact with Aimee Miranda, girlfriend of Bosch.

Airtel 10/7/68 says principal source in this matter is Ricardo Morales Navarrete.

Section 2 - Serial 47 - further investigation of "Polancia" case.

File #45-10854 (continued)
Section 3, Serials 48-69, October 1968

Fingerprints on Lancastrian Prince were those of Jorge Guitierrez Ulla. He is not a diving expert, so it appears other members of Bosch's group went to New Orleans with Ulla.

Section 4, Serials 70-144

Details of trial - testimony of Morales. Mr. Edward Zehnder, Date County Public Safety Department, receives letter of commendation from J. Edgar Hoover. The Bureau to pay Morales for his services. U.S. Attorney says this will not affect any appeal.

Section 5, Serials 145-165
File #105-165503

Section 1, Serials 1-36, April-August 1967

Frank Angelo Fiorini and others reported plans to blow up Cuban ship in Mexican port, possibly Veracruz.

Confidential source - abroad. Aldo Fernandez Miyar sent \$200 by cable to Fiorini in Mante, Mexico. FBI believes Bosch sent money and used Fernandez's name as he lives near Bosch.

File #2-2173, Orlando Bosch Avila

Section 1 - Serials 1-46 - Cubana Airlines DC-8 Bombing, 10/6/76

Section 2 - Serials 44-49, Cubana Airlines Combinb

Section 3 - Serials 102-154

1. Cubana Airlines - CORU - headed by Bosch
CONDOR - takes credit - allegedly
same as CORU

2. Ricardo Morales Navarrete of DISIP (Venezuelan Intelligence apparatus) says Guillermo and Ignacio Novo Sampol responsible for deaths of Orlando Letelier, Jose Elias dela Torriente y Aguria and Rolando Masferrer. Orlando Bosch had nothing to do with Leterlier's murder according to Morales.

Morales was a paid FBI informant for several years and prime U.S. Government witness in trial of Bosch in 1968.

Section 4 - Serials 155-194 - Cubana Airlines

Section 5 - Serials 197 - 230 - Cubana Airlines

Section 6 - Serials 231 - Open - Cubana Airlines

File #9-42758

Section 1, Serials 1-16 - September-November 1964

1. Extortion of money for use of MIRR - November 1964
Letter postmarked 9/14/64 to Julio Cesar Iglesias stated \$100,000 needed to assassinate Castro and overthrow Cuba and that rich Cubans had to pay. Family under surveillance. Message of cooperation transmitted through Roberto Gonzalez Mendoza who is unaware of his designated role of go-between. Mendoza threatened if he fails to cooperate.

Section 3 - Serials 33-55, January - March 1965

1. Also threatened: Alberto Vadia Mena, Coral Gables, in November 1964. Charged with shots fired at his home were Raul Estevez and Alberto Jardines. Approached to give money for his "protection" by a man calling himself "Captain Arencibia."

Section 4 - Serials 56-90, March - November 1965

1. Victim - Arturo Bengochea, Sr.
Bosch apprehended in New Haven, Conn. on Nov. 25, 1965. Also arrested, Marcelino Garcia Jimenez.

File #9-48130

Section 1, Serials 1-34, June - October 1968

1. Alleged threats to governments of Spain, Mexico, England and Japan to suspend trade with Cuba or suffer consequences. Signed: Ernesto, Delegate General, Cuban Power. Letter to Sir Harold Wilson said that the blowing up of a British cargo ship on 5 May was an act of anti-Castro Cubans.
2. Bosch has admitted in the past that he was "Ernesto". Western Union employee identified Bosch as the individual who delivered Spanish telegrams to his office for transmittal.

U.S. Attorney plans to arrest Bosch on 10/4/68, charging extortion in relation to telegrams.

3. On 10/3/68, Internal Security Division backed out of its commitment and insisted the USA proceed under a lesser bombing statute -- a misdemeanor. Situation

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discussed with AAG J. Walter Yeagley, Internal Security Division who, after checking, said he would not alter the IS position. FBI says their informant would probably not testify against Bosch on the lesser charges.

Section 2 - Serials 35 - Open - October - December 1968

1. Bosch trial set for 11/5/68. On 12/13/68, Bosch sentenced to be confined in the custody of the AG for one year.

Bosch's Miami attorney - Melvin Greenspan

Bosch - DPOB - August 18, 1926, Cuba
FBI # 265 393 F