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MM 97-256

SECRET

- ADMINISTRATIVE -

This report is being classified "SECRET" inasmuch as information furnished by MM T-2, a confidential source abroad, is so classified.

(S)

SECRET

- INFORMANTS -

IDENTITY

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INFORMATION

T-1 - [CIA] (u)	Bulet to Miami dated 1/9/59 entitled: "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES - IS - CUBA"
T-2 - [confidential source abroad] (S)	Information from (S) [confidential source abroad] to Bureau on 2/16/59. Copy of information furnished to Miami as enclosure to reBulet 2/24/59.
T-3 - MM 639-S	134-238 Sub A, serials 147, 161 and 154

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report and they were concealed only in those instances where identities must be concealed.

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A.
- COVER PAGE -

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DATE: 11-14-2017

FD-304 (Rev. 9-22-68)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to: 1 - INS, Miami
1 - U.S. Customs, Miami

Report of: ROBERT JAMES DWYER
Date: MAR 18 1959

File Number: (MM 97-256)

Title: DONALD J. HELLER

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Declassify on: OADR

Handwritten notes:
17 to Miami
copy page 1 & 2
line 2 mkt 24
11-14-97
JFK

Character: REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA (SP8 mcf) 211,326
(7/18/94 JFK)

Synopsis: MM T-1, on December 26, 1958 advised that Cessna airplane N-2215-G was being used by Cuban rebels. FAA records reflected this airplane belonged to subject from September 25, 1958 to November 16, 1958. Subject interviewed February 24, 1959, advised he flew this plane to Havana, Cuba in November, 1958 to demonstrate plane to a client. Subject said he flew plane to Nassau on another occasion but plane never used in connection with Cuban rebel activity. MM T-2, on February 16, 1959, advised that subject said planes belonging to his company were used to fly arms to Cuba. Subject reported assisting in conversion of Cuban pesos and attempting to assist in evacuation from Cuba of families of BATISTA supporters. Subject reported to have commented about arms shipment from Europe to Dominican Republic. Subject predicted overthrow of Haitian government and revolution in Colombia. MM T-3 in November and December, 1958 said subject was friendly with Cuban rebels, talked about running guns to Cuba and leased airplane to ENRIQUE DE CORSO, who flew to Cuba and crashed in ocean off Key West, Florida. "BUZ" MILLER, salesman for Liberty Aviation, was in contact with JOSE ALEMAN, head of "Cuba Rebelde". Subject in aviation business in Miami for less than one year. Subject reportedly came from New York, is a pilot and head of Liberty Aviation Company. Cubans in Miami have been seen at subject's company.

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated on information received from MM T-1, another government agency which

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G-2
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Mr. HELLER stated that in early November, 1958, he was attempting to sell this airplane to a client, and in order to demonstrate the plane to him, he flew this client to Havana and spent the day. ~~X~~u

Mr. HELLER stated that on another occasion he personally flew the airplane to Nassau, British West Indies, and returned the following day. Mr. HELLER said that other than these two flights made by him personally with this airplane, the plane had never been out of the United States during the time he owned it. He advised that to the best of his knowledge while the plane was in the United States it was never used in connection with any Cuban rebel activity, although it was possible that some student pilot of Cuban nationality might have flown it. This interview was conducted in connection with another matter. ~~X~~u

MM T-2, a confidential source abroad, on February 16, 1959, advised that according to a reliable source in Nassau, British West Indies, DON HELLER, President of Liberty Aviation, 10700 Coral Way, Tamiami Airport, Miami, Florida, had stated that some unidentified planes, the property of Liberty Aviation, had been used to fly arms to Cuban rebel leader FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba. (S)

MM T-2 stated that he believed that HELLER and IRWIN KARDEN, East D'I Lido Drive, DeLido Island, Miami, were engaged in supplying arms to different revolutionary organizations in different places in Central America and the Caribbean. (S) 74A

MM T-2 said that HELLER and KARDEN were reported to be helping in the conversion of a large number of Cuban pesos into other currency and that the pesos had been brought into Miami by persons who fled Cuba after the fall of the BATISTA regime. MM T-2 said that HELLER and KARDEN were also trying to facilitate transportation out of Cuba for some of the families of the supporters of former president BATISTA. (S) 3/50/59

MM T-2 continued that HELLER and KARDEN reportedly stated that in about January, 1959, a shipment of small arms left an unknown European seaport, destined for the Dominican Republic. (S)

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T-2 advised that HELLER and KARDEN reportedly stated that as soon as things became more stable in Cuba, the Cubans would make an attempt to overthrow the government of RAFAEL TRUJILLO in the Dominican Republic and later an attempt would be made against the government of Haiti. They explained that the attempt to overthrow the Haitian government would be led by an Argentine Communist, whose name sounded something like "CHE GUEVARA". HELLER and KARDEN reportedly stated that later, a revolution would take place in Colombia, South America, and it was T-2's opinion that possibly HELLER and KARDEN would assist in that revolution. (S) (A) (S)

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"BUZ" MM T-3, on November 16, 1958, advised that DONALD J. HELLER, President of Liberty Aviation Company, Tamiami Airport, Miami, Florida, and Mr. (FNU) MILLER, a salesman employed by HELLER were very friendly with Cuban nationals, rebels and exiles who frequented the flying facilities of Liberty Aviation. Reportedly they used a tape recorder to record all conversations taking place in their office, and all telephone calls received. T-3 also stated that HELLER and MILLER have frequently mentioned possibilities concerning flying guns to Cuban insurrectional forces in Cuba.

B. APPROX.

1934

CUBA
FLA

MM T-3 also stated that there is a young man working at Liberty Aviation, name unknown, who claims to have made several trips with CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL, whom T-3 described as a "soldier of fortune, gun runner, participant in Cuban revolutionary activities, and airplane pilot". (M)

(M)
CUBA
FLA

MM T-3, on December 3, 1958, advised that (FNU) MILLER stated he was in contact with JOSE ALEMAN, whom MM T-3 described as a Cuban national, owner of the Trade Winds Hotel, Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach, and leader of "Cuba Rebelde", a Cuban revolutionary organization in Miami devoted to helping in the overthrow of the BATISTA government of Cuba. MM T-3 stated that there were two young Cuban men who had been contacting Liberty Aviation

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