
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90061-10016
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 109-430-2075

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : MM
TO : HQ
TITLE :

DATE : 03/13/1958
PAGES : 83

SUBJECTS :
CARLOS PRIO SOCCARAS
ROBERT RAY MCKEOWN

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/12/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : RPT, TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGES 1D-1F, INDEX PAGES 72-76

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expedition would take place before the end of January; that the July 26 already had groups ready to attack Army compounds and posts in Cuba simultaneously with the landing; that Commander JORGE claims to be the only man alive who knows all the details and that he will not even tell FIDEL CASTRO, founder of the July 26 Revolutionary Movement, about all the details, because of the possibility of security leaks. (S)(u)

T-1 said that Commander JORGE said that armed forces of another Latin country, which he did not identify, would attack BATISTA forces at about the same time as the expedition landed, in Cuba. (S)(u)

T-1 said that RENE RAYNERI, on January 14, 1958, in the presence of Commander JORGE, disclosed that there would be at least three boats participating in this expedition. Commander JORGE referred to these boats as being "exceedingly good" and as more than satisfactory to meet their needs, but he did not confirm that there were to be exactly three boats, nor did either he or RENE disclose the identity of these boats, nor the place of embarkation. (S)(u)

Commander JORGE disclosed to the informant that the men on this expedition would be armed very much like United States units; that four medical doctors will participate in the expedition, and that there are high Cuban Army officers in Cuba who have pledged their cooperation, including a Colonel. Commander JORGE felt that career Army officers would join the rebels, although political appointees would not. (S)(u)

Commander JORGE disclosed that he had been expecting a replacement for himself to arrive in Miami, but that now the leaders of the July 26 Movement in Cuba feel that this replacement is unnecessary as this will be an "all-out, do or die" proposition. (S)(u)

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Commander JORGE stated that it had not yet been decided who would be in command of the expedition. (X)(M)

RENE RAYNERI disclosed to the informant that Commander JORGE and LESTER RODRIGUEZ have about the same rank in the July 26 Movement in Miami, but that they do not get along well. (X)(M) B. CUBA 3-22-27 (M) FIDEL CASTRO

The informant said that Commander JORGE has expressed the opinion that Cuban soldiers will not have the stomach to fight the men of FIDEL CASTRO. (X)(M)

Shipment No. 1

T-1 advised that on the afternoon of January 14, 1958, Commander JORGE instructed that five trunks be picked up at 60 S. W. 18th Road, Miami, and delivered to the Railway Express Office in Miami and shipped to "DICK MC KEOWN, Galena Park, Houston, Texas". T-1 said that Commander JORGE provided the money for the shipment of these trunks, the cost totaling approximately \$167. T-1 said that Commander JORGE disclosed that these trunks contained military clothing and field equipment such as combat packs and heavy web nets for carrying ammunition. Commander JORGE disclosed that these trunks would leave the country, but he did not disclose their ultimate destination, nor when they would leave the country. T-1 advised the trunks were shipped under the name of EDGAR LEWIS. (X)(M)

T-1 stated that he believed, but was not certain, that the residence at 60 S. W. 18th Road, Miami, was occupied by a relative of MARIO VILLAMIA, a July 26 leader, who, as previously reported, is now residing in Houston, Texas, where he is engaged in activity on behalf of the July 26 Revolutionary Movement. (X)(M)

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commando-type attack for the purpose of blowing up bridges, railroads and other objectives. Commander JORGE did not disclose to the informant where this landing would take place, nor the identity of the airstrip which they expected to seize. (S)(u)

T-1 said that RENE RAYNERI had disclosed to him that fifteen hundred men would be in on this expedition. (S)(u)

T-1 said that from the drift of conversations among the top echelon of the July 26 group, he believed that they were trying to work out plans with CARLOS PRIO and he was of the opinion that the men involved in this expedition would be leaving Miami and other cities via car, bus, plane or other means for some other destination from which point the expedition would be launched. (S)(u)

T-1 said that there is an atmosphere of disunity among the various Cuban groups in Miami, but it appeared that PRIO was more cooperative toward the July 26 than any other group. (S)(u)

On January 16, 1958, Miami Informant T-2 advised that he had received information from a source which is in close contact with CARLOS PRIO and other members of the PRIO group, to the effect that PRIO, who was closely cooperating with the July 26 in the formation of an expedition against BATISTA, planned a second expedition to take place after the first, and that PRIO would supposedly participate in the second one. (S)(u)

T-2 said that according to his source, airplanes, which were reportedly being acquired by PRIO, would be used to bomb Havana when PRIO landed. (S)(u)

11.

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On February 3, 1958, T-1 reported that he had learned that ROBERT MC KEOWN and MARIO VILLAMIA in Houston were expecting another shipment from Miami, consisting of three crates and three cartons; that this shipment was being made to MC KEOWN via the Goltzman Brothers, Miami, with JOAN MOLLER, identity unknown, as consignor. T-1 said that this shipment had apparently been delayed and that Mrs. MC KEOWN, wife of ROBERT MC KEOWN, was scheduled to arrive in Miami from Houston, Texas to inquire concerning the failure of this shipment to leave for Houston. *X(m)* *TE/A*

On February 4, 1958, Mr. WILLIAM LANKFORD, Investigator, U. S. Customs Service, Miami, verified that a shipment weighing 1500 pounds was en route to MC KEOWN at Houston, Texas from Goltzman Brothers, 911 N. E. 79th Street, Miami, via the American Van and Storage Company, with JOAN MOLLER being named as consignor. *USA*

* * * * *

(a) Plans Involving New Orleans, Louisiana

On January 23, 1958, T-1 reported that Commander JORGE SOTUS, under very secretive circumstances, dispatched three Cubans to the New Orleans area on a mission, the nature of which was then unknown to T-1. T-1 said that at the time, Commander JORGE gave these men final instructions, Commander JORGE had in his possession a map of the United States on which there had been made four small circles in the vicinity of New Orleans. Commander JORGE instructed these three Cubans to change their names upon arrival in Jacksonville and to proceed separately to their destinations. He cautioned them *X(m)*

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against disclosing that they were Cubans and it was arranged for them to travel as Americans. T-1 said that prior to their departure, Commander JORGE handed to one of these three Cubans, hereinafter described as Individual No. 2, an envelope addressed to an individual whose name appeared to be "HUMBLE". (u)

T-1 furnished the following descriptions of the above three individuals. (u)

Individual No. 1 :

Name	Unknown, wa. John Rodriguez (Brother of LESTER RODRIGUEZ)	FLORIDA *
Age	40-45 yrs.	
Height	5'9"	B. APPROX. 1918
Weight	235-250 lbs.	
Build	Heavy set and fat	
Hair	Light grey	
Complexion	Fair	
Peculiarities	Slight mustache	
General appearance	Distinguished looking; wears glasses; speaks no English	
Clothing	At the time of his departure, he was wearing a light brown suit and khaki rain-type hat	(u)

Individual No. 2 :

Name	Unknown; travelling under alias of Dick Smith	FLORIDA
Age	22-24 yrs.	
Height	5'8"	LA.
Build	Slender	B. APPROX. 1936
Hair	Black, crewcut	
Complexion	Fair	
Face	Clean-shaven	

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Speech	Speaks good English, with slight accent
Peculiarities	Has a prominent blood vessel in the lower left side of his left eye
Clothing	At the time of his departure, he was wearing a charcoal colored suit and no hat

Individual No. 3 :

Name	Unknown, travelling under alias of Jack Moore
Age	22-24
Height	5'7" - 8"
Weight	165-170
Build	Medium Heavy
Hair	Black, crewcut and receding
Face	Clean-shaven
Clothing	At the time of his departure, he was wearing dark blue double- breasted suit with long pointed lapels and white shirt, with French cuffs, too long

FLORIDA
L.A.

APPROX 1936

T-1 said that the above men were carrying two airplane-type pieces of luggage, both small and one being dark blue. *X(u)*

On January 27, 1958, T-1 reported that on January 24, 1958, pursuant to specific instructions of Commander JORGE, RENE RAYNERI, accompanied by two Cuban girls, identities unknown to T-1, proceeded to New Orleans, Louisiana with five suitcases which had been turned over to them by Commander JORGE. *X(u)*

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T-1 described two of these suitcases as being of the airplane type; one was a small metal type and one was a large over-sized one made of some composition material. T-1 was unable to recall the appearance of the fifth suitcase. *(u)*

T-1 said that Commander JORGE, prior to the departure of the above individuals, handed over to RAYNERI several letters bearing addresses unknown to T-1, and also gave RAYNERI approximately \$350. in cash. *(u)*

T-1 learned that following the arrival of this party at New Orleans, RAYNERI proceeded to 430 West Avenue, Harahan, Louisiana, and delivered the five suitcases and the letters to a woman who occupied the residence there, along with her husband and son. He said that Harahan is a suburb of New Orleans. *(u)*

T-1 learned that the suitcases, which weighed between 50 and 70 pounds each, were locked in the garage of this residence. *(u)*

T-1 also learned that the delivery was made at Harahan about 1:30 or 2:00 AM, Sunday, January 26, 1958, after which RENE and his companions returned to Miami. *(u)*

T-1 stated that one of the one hundred dollar bills which RAYNERI had in his possession for this trip, bore Serial Number which he believed to be K-00018408, Series 1950. *(u)*

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this truck lined up. He also said that he has a friend who is the manager of a boat dock on an almost deserted waterway near Houston which is used by oil tankers; that this man has been involved in shady deals, and he believed he could work out a deal with this man. MC KEOWN claimed that only he and ARQUES will know where the boat will dock when the expedition is launched. He speculated that the boat would be leaving Miami on or about February 3 or 4, but ARQUES felt that it might first go to a foreign country where it is registered. *X(m)*

ARQUES disclosed that he had recently taken 11 maps to Miami, and that these maps showed the locations and names of motels where it was expected that men would be housed in the Houston area prior to departing on the expedition. *X(m)*

MC KEOWN disclosed that he was running short of money and had only about \$3,000.00 left; that he had received this money from PRIO. T-1 said MC KEOWN appeared to be over confident, and was obviously attempting to handle this matter himself to the exclusion of MARIO VILLAMIA who represents the July 26 group on this expedition. *X(m)*

MC KEOWN and ARQUES believe, according to T-1, that the purpose of this expedition was to make CARLOS PRIO president of Cuba. MC KEOWN indicated that he believed PRIO to be the greatest man in the world, but he expressed a dislike for PRIO's wife. MC KEOWN, ARQUES and VILLAMIA speculated that there was between \$50,000.00 and \$90,000.00 worth of equipment stored in the house under their protection. MC KEOWN disclosed that he is a personal friend of a man who was about to be elected president of Costa Rica. VILLAMIA disclosed that 13 to 15 planes from a foreign country would participate in the expedition immediately after the landing was made, and that these planes would be used for bombing and strafing. *X(m)*

T-1 said that VILLAMIA and his wife, CARMEN, believe that MC KEOWN had been holding out on them; that they were not satisfied with the relations which existed between MC KEOWN, of the PRIO group, and themselves, representing the July 26 group. *X(m)* *JEX*

27.

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that a captain from FIDEL CASTRO was then in Miami, having just arrived from Cuba. On November 14, T-1 first met this person, whom he later came to know as Commander JORGE DIAZ and as JORGE SOTUS R., which name appeared on an airline reservation made on behalf of this person. On November 24, T-1 reported that RENE RAYNERI disclosed that Commander JORGE had left Miami November 23, 1957, for New York City. (S)(u)

FLORIDA

On January 17, 1958, the Washington Field Office advised that records of the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D. C., on January 13, 1958, reflected that one JORGE E. SOTUS ROMERO, born November 9, 1933, Cuba, who resides Luz Caballero 853, Guantanamo Oriente, Cuba, was admitted to the United States at Miami via Pan American Airways, Flight 458, on November 6, 1957. He was traveling on Cuban passport 23105, and was issued a B-2 visa, and admitted to December 1, 1957. His destination was the Miami Airways Hotel, Miami, and the address of the person in the United States knowing his whereabouts was listed as 87 Hamilton Place, Apartment 1A, New York. The records reflected that SOTUS departed the United States at Miami, Florida, on November 23, 1957, via CAM 101 (Guest Airlines Flight 101 which travels between Miami and Mexico City).

FLORIDA
M.F.

On February 17, 1958, the New York Office furnished four photographs of Captain JORGE SOTUS which had been obtained by Mr. ANDREW SAINT GEORGE, a newspaper writer of Mount Vernon, New York, who had obtained these photographs while on a visit to the forces of FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba in April or May, 1957.

On February 24, 1958, T-2 furnished Miami with copies of a photograph of JORGE ENRIQUE SOTUS ROMERO, obtained through Cuban sources. (S)(u)

FLORIDA
CUBA
M.F.

[B. 11-9-33] (S)(u)

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