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U.S. NATIONALS IN CUBA
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Class/Me
DATE 6/7/84

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (64-47305)

DATE: 9/19/73

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-7039) (RUC)

REC-106 names
105-107868 (Payle)
105-1526 (SPICITO)

SUBJECT: U. S. NATIONALS IN CUBA
IS - CUBA

105-169874 (LPIE)
105-115335 (LUNT)
105-116692 (Emrich)
105-126660 (Jacobson)
164-1878 (Learner-Ruth)
105-158111 (TUR)

5-17-95
Classified by 5668-SW/ndc
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

ReBulet, 7/26/73.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

On August 27 and September 7, 1973, [MM (1228-S)] (C) who has furnished reliable information in the past, was contacted concerning information set out in the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) report, dated May 31, 1973, re "Americans Allegedly Incarcerated in Cuban Penal Institutions." Based on continuing contacts with various political prisoners in Cuba, including ANTONIO CUESTA VALLE, and their families in the United States, over a period of several years, this source reported as follows:

Re JOHN (LNU)

Classified by 508 BTJ/gel
Declassify on: OADR 5/8/84

Source has never received any information regarding a JOHN identifiable with information as set out (page 2, Par. 2) Source is of the opinion that this information might relate to different individuals. TONY CUESTA had been friendly with one JOHN BARBER, a prisoner in Havana during 1962, and had written his wife in Miami regarding BARBER. JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, a subject of Miami 164-582, Knoxville 164-37, was identified by this source through information from CUESTA as a prisoner in Principe Prison, Havana, in July, 1972, who was rumored to have been involved in running narcotics from various Caribbean ports to the United States. His wife, Mrs. BARBER, 3002 Morgan St., N. W., Huntsville, Alabama, was trying to arrange his release through the U. S. State Department. He had reportedly been in prison in Havana since April, 1962, after his plane had been caught in a storm and forced down on a small island on the north coast of Cuba.

- Bureau (RM)
- New York (Info) (RM)
- Newark (Info) (RM)
- Miami

- (1 - 134-1368 Sub A)
- (1 - 134-816 Sub A)

WWS:ed
(7)

OCT 9 1973

CLASSIFIED BY: 5668-SW/ndc
REASON: 1.5 (C, A)
DECLASSIFY ON: X (1, 2, 3)
NIS INFO ON PAGE 1 + 3 ARE (JFK)
NDU) DECLASSIFIED per choice
LET. DTD 12-12-97 ma sub/KSR
2/10/98 JSG/daf 5-29-98 (JFK)
for review FBIHQ by
HSCA 12/16/97 reg
re Antonio Valle
see Bufile 62-117290

SEP 24 1973

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

Unrecorded Copy Filed In
105-107868-
2-1526-
105-14874-
105-126660-
105-115335-
105-110692-
164-1878-
105-158111-

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 5668-SW/ndc
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 9/19/83

105-14874-199

John W. Barber
AIA
LWA

DATE: 11-14-2017

MM 105-7039

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This source reported on November 20, 1972, that in late October, JOHN W. BARBER was on the verge of being released from prison in Cuba. Source reported on May 30, 1973, that BARBER had contacted Mrs. TONY CUESTA in Miami ^{FLA} by telephone on May 27, 1973, reportedly from Huntsville, Ala. He indicated he had been released from prison and had returned to his home. During the last few months of his incarceration, he was held at the immigration facility at the Ministry of the Interior. (S)(u)

There had never been any indication that BARBER was born in Cuba or that he could even speak Spanish. Source learned that BARBER and CUESTA had never actually met, but Mrs. CUESTA told source that when she talked to BARBER on the telephone, she did not recall that he spoke any Spanish, or had any accent and she did not have the impression that he was other than a native North American. (S)(u)

Re Other Individuals

MM [1228]-S has received no information identifiable with LARRY FRASER. From time to time, sketchy news has been obtained of American students who are hippies detained in Cuba, but source could recall no additional details or identifying data. (S)(u)

MM [1228]-S has furnished information from time to time regarding RUSSELL J. LEASE (Bufile 64-1878), who was imprisoned in Principe Prison on April, 1972, on the charge of illegally entering Cuba, in that he and another American companion, STEPHEN L. BUTH, had apparently flown a plane to Cuba. (S)(u)

This source reported June 8, 1972, that Mrs. PATRICIA LEASE, RUSSELL's wife, telephone 813-922-8776m Sarasota, Florida, was planning to travel to Cuba to arrange for the release of her husband. It was the opinion of other Cuban prisoners that LEASE had been making marijuana runs and had been inadvertently downed in Cuba. (S)(u)

On May 27, 1973, JOHN BARBER had advised TONY CUESTA's wife in Miami, that RUSSELL LEASE had also been released from prison in Cuba and had returned to the United States to Sarasota, Florida. In February, 1973, he had (S)(u)

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been sentenced to a term of four years in prison in Cuba, but had already arranged his release. (S)(u)

LEASE is obviously identifiable with "(FNU) ROOT" (page 1, par. 1) in NIS report. (S)(u)

This source has not heard of any American prisoners alleged to have been members of the FBI, but indicated that rumors are always circulating in Cuban prisons alleging that different prisoners are government informants, CIA Agents, etc. The only American prisoner known to MM [1228]S [C] named RICHARD, was IRVING RICHARD POYLE, Bufile 105-107868, who had returned to the United States from Cuba in early July, 1973, and had [] contacted source. (S)(u)

On August 28, 1973, and September 1 and 5, 1973, MM 3240-PSI was contacted regarding referenced information. Based on 9 years in Cuban prison as a political prisoner, 1964-73, this source reported as follows: (u)

Re: [JOHN] (S)(u)

Source stated information regarding JOHN appeared to relate to at least two or more different JOHNS. JOHN W. BARBER, an American from Huntsville, Ala., was incarcerated in Havana during the period April - August, 1972, and was freed with little or no explanation. Although source had never personally met BARBER, he had the reputation of being involved in narcotics and had been reported to have been an "Interpol Narcotics Agent" who was infiltrated into the prison to expose the drug traffic between Cuba and the United States. BARBER had a fight with LEASE when each reportedly claimed that the other had stolen their drug customers in Jamaica and the United States. There was never any indication that he spoke or understood Spanish, or that he had any Cuban background. His nickname in jail was "Yankee." BARBER had been acquainted with TONY CUESTA. (S)(u)

JOHN SPIRITO (Bufile 2-1526), born in Sicily, who claimed American citizenship, spoke Spanish like a Cuban and had a very heavy accent when he spoke English. (S)(u)

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SPIRITO is in Cienfuegos, Cuba, at the present time working as a construction engineer in the Cuban Government. (u) (s)

JOHN PIS MASUTIER (Bufile 105-161874) was a Cuban with American citizenship, arrested in 1965, and sentenced to four years. When he was in jail in Cuba, PIS would not speak English because he was afraid. He said it was because he had promised not to speak English until he completed his sentence. He is supposed to be in San Jose, California, at this time. (u) (s)

Re Other Individuals

MM 3240-PSI indicated that RUTH and ROOT were obviously identical to STEPHEN L. RUTH and RUSSELL J. LEASE, with whom source had associated closely in prison. RICHARD JOHNSON and (FNU) PHILLIPS were not known to this source. He recalled there were several student hippie types in prison from time to time. One pair of white youths, ages 19 and 21, one tall and one short, both with long hair, who had come to Cuba by boat, claimed to be "revolutionaries." They did not, however, fool the Cuban officials, and were thrown in jail. It was thought one's name was JIM. (u) (s)

Source did not know LARRY FRASER, or any American prisoners who claimed to be members of or connected with the FBI. (u) (s)

On September 1, 1973, MM 3240-PSI listed American prisoners still in jail in Cuba in 1973, as follows: (u) (s)

At La Cabana, Havana

Americans - 3
Puerto Ricans - 1 (s) (u)

At Guanajay, Cuba

Americans - LAWRENCE KIRBY LUNT 105-115335 ✓
FRANK EMMICK 105-116692 ✓
JUAN TUR VALDES 105-158111 ✓
EVERETT JACKSON 105-126660 ✓
MARIA DEL CARMEN Y LOPEZ (RUIZ) -
America Libre Farm (s) (u)

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Puerto Ricans - 1 - CLAUDIO MORALES (S)(u)

There were also several Americans at Patio Militar and Principe Prisons, numbers not indicated. (u) (S)

It is to be noted that it was the considered opinion of both MM [1228]-S and MM 3240-PSI that information [C] set out in referenced NIS report was confused, non-specific and replete with inaccuracies. (S)

If additional information is developed in this connection, it will be promptly furnished. (u)

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