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ROLANDO MASFERRER

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

# Memorandum

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: January 4

FROM : J. Walter Yeagley  
Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS  
NEUTRALITY MATTER

~~SECRET~~

Reference is made to your memorandum of <sup>December</sup> September 27, 1960, in which you requested to be advised whether the facts developed warrant prosecution.

The report enclosed with your memorandum reflects that Julio Fernandez Trevejo, who described himself as a very close associate and confidant of Masferrer, furnished the following pertinent information concerning the twenty seven man invasion force which landed in Cuba in October 1960, under the leadership of Armentino Feria Perez. Masferrer acted as counsel and adviser in the preparations of this group and was in charge of handling the men who were to go on the expedition. Four boats were utilized in the operation. The "Aladino," piloted by Horacio Canizares Padron, was scheduled to rendezvous with the "Sunspot," piloted by Frank Joseph Williams, at Mira Por Vos, about sixty miles north of Cuba. At this point, the "Aladino" was to pick up the men, supplies, arms and necessary equipment for the expedition to invade Cuba. The "Sunspot" was to transport the fuel for the "Aladino" to make the trip from Mira Por Vos to Cuba and return. The "Mary Ann" piloted by Santiago Alvarez, was to transport the men from Miami to an island in the Bahamas about one-half way to Mira Por Vos. A fourth boat, piloted by an individual known only as Cartaya, was to transport the arms, uniforms and equipment to an island somewhere in the Bahamas, approximately midway between Miami and Mira Por Vos. Masferrer knew that arms and ammunition were to be transported on one of the boats and all the persons involved knew they were to embark on a military expedition. At this point, Fernandez' statement is non-specific concerning details but apparently all four boats did participate to some extent in the invasion. Fernandez made available a book which reflected the contributions received and monies disbursed for this expedition.

The following individuals, who were not previously known to have been directly involved in the preparations for the expedition, were implicated by Fernandez:

1. Richard ~~Cervera~~ U.S. Cuba
2. (First Name Unknown) Maricbal

12:31 pm  
1/4/61 - Belmont  
By hand to Mr. Belmont's office

Memo Baumgardner  
to Belmont  
1-4-61  
Airtel to MM  
1-4-61  
RDS/pw.

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(JFK)

- 3. (First Name Unknown) Cartaya
- 4. ~~Raul Menocal~~
- 5. ~~Alfredo Cabellero~~

} U.S. Cuba

Masferrer advised on December 6, 1960, that he was partially responsible for this expedition. He stated that the members thereof were organized in the United States with the knowledge they were to embark on a military expedition against Cuba. He explained that Santiago Alvarez transported the arms on his boat the "Mary Ann" to a location in the vicinity of Gun Key in the Bahamas for this expedition. It is noted that Alvarez, upon being interviewed on October 10, 1960, advised that he did not possess any pertinent information concerning the invasion force which departed from Miami on September 26, 1960.

Frank Joseph  
Williams

It is our present intention to send two ~~Departmental~~ attorneys to Miami to present this entire matter before a grand jury the early part of next week. It is anticipated that these attorneys will arrive in Miami on January 6, 1960. In the meantime, it is requested that you determine whether ~~Frank Williams~~, ~~Julio Fernandez~~ and ~~Evelio Alpizar~~ would be willing to testify in the event prosecution were undertaken against Masferrer under the neutrality statutes. It is also requested that you attempt to interview the individuals identified by Fernandez and listed above concerning their own and Masferrer's participation in the organization of the expedition of September 26, 1960, as well as their willingness to testify.

Fla.  
Cuba

We noted that the report of Special Agent James D. Hayes dated November 17, 1960, set forth information concerning the establishment of a training area at No Name Key, Florida. We noted that seventeen of the individuals on No Name Key were interviewed and each advised they had gone there voluntarily and without compensation. They explained that for the most part they were in dire financial straits, and in addition to getting into good physical condition, they were able to live without any expenses. All expenses were presumably paid by Masferrer or his associates and these individuals advised that they were not presently aware of the existence of any plans for the formation of an invasion or expedition against Cuba. A physical inspection of No Name Key by Bureau agents failed to disclose any firearms.

However, we also noted that an article which appeared in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" on December 26, 1960, indicated that 23 Americans and 200 Cubans from Miami and New York, commanded by Masferrer, were making final preparations to invade Cuba. If this information can be established by competent available evidence, a prosecution

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/ for violation of 18 U.S.C. 960 may be warranted. Accordingly, it is requested that investigation be continued in this regard.

// In the interest of expediting this matter before the grand jury it would be appreciated if the Bureau would furnish the results of their additional investigation to the Departmental attorneys in Miami as it becomes available.

~~SECRET~~