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ROLANDO MASFERRER

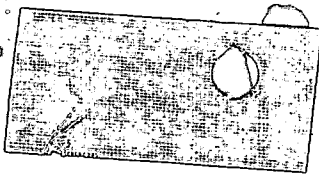
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SLIP(S) OF class
DATE 8-24-81 ens 9-1
January 6, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. MOHR
MR. PARSONS
MR. BELMONT
MR. DELOACH

D.O.J. INFO (Ps. 1,2) REMAINS
UNCLASSIFIED PER THEIR
12/21/90 LTR.
SP6 BJA/gel - 211,326 - 1/21/91

7/10/81
CLASS. & EXT. BY 2892 Pmul BAloms
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 7/10/91

Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley of the Internal Security
Division of the Department of Justice called and stated he thought he ought to bring
me up to date on the Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas case (Neutrality Matters).

Mr. Yeagley stated that the Bureau had investigated and submitted a
detailed report on the case last Thursday or Friday and his Division thinks they
have a case, not a real open and shut case, but as far as the facts and laws are
concerned, it looks like enough to go before a Grand Jury. Mr. Yeagley stated
this is delicate in view of the break in diplomatic relations with Cuba, because if
we start a Grand Jury, people are going to ask which side are we on, Castro's or
the United States. Mr. Yeagley continued that as late as last Friday, he believed
it was, he had a call from the State Department to see what we were doing, whether
going ahead or not, and he, Mr. Yeagley, thought when he called the State Department
back, as he intended, to get confirmation that they ought to go ahead despite the
break in relations, but he thought he ought to mention it to me because from the
Justice Department's standpoint, they would normally proceed, but when they go
to Miami, Justice is going to have the public relations problem.

I told Mr. Yeagley that I thought it would be a difficult one and that I
recalled last week, I thought it was, some fellow in the State Department had
wanted to know if we would not go to Masferrer and ask him to refrain from any
activities that might embarrass this Government and we refused and said it was
the State Department's place to do it. This chap replied he at least made the effort
to get us to do it but thought our reaction would be what it was, but it took so many
days and weeks to get something like that cleared in the State Department, he had
hoped we might do it on his request. Mr. Yeagley inquired if I thought this

represented Masferrer's position, and I told Mr. Yeagley it did not; that it was
the man in the State Department, but that we had received word in Miami from
Masferrer, or his man, that Masferrer would be very glad to refrain from any

DECLASSIFIED BY 5-26-88 SPJ/SPK
ON 11-21-97 (101) (6-18-11)

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11-21-97 (101) (6-18-11)

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

Classified by SP6 mac/jls
Declassify on FOIA (9)
JAN 10 1961

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:55 AM
DATE 1/9/61
BY [Signature]

7 JAN 10 1961

JAN 17 1961

~~SECRET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 11-14-2017

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January 5, 1961

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Mohr, Parsons, Belmont, DeLoach

stated Pearson had jumped on Vice President Nixon for having tried to prevent the prosecution of Hoffa and successfully preventing the indictment until after the election and then the Attorney General had gone ahead and indicted and now leaves it all on the new Attorney General. I stated I did not know whether Nixon interceded and I had my doubts, but, on the other hand, the case in Florida against Hoffa is fairly strong and I thought the indictment was proper. I stated I did know it had been held up a long time before finally going ahead; that the Special Assistant on the case, Dowd (phonetic), seemed to be a capable fellow and he had been trying to get an indictment for some time but there was a question as to the individuals to be included, that there was no question about Hoffa, but a question about a third party in Detroit. I stated now Pearson is trying to make it appear as if it were done just as a dying gasp by the current Administration and I think there would be the same reaction in the Masferrer case.

I advised Mr. Yeagley that he could use the information about the call from Devine and indicate the position we took and it seemed to me that the State Department ought to put in black and white what they want done. Mr. Yeagley stated he thought he had to ask them to. I stated this was loaded with dynamite, because of the way the public has been reacting in Florida; that there is a hatred of Castro and I cited some incidents which had occurred while I was recently in Miami and it seemed to me that with that kind of public opinion, they were inviting great trouble if they went ahead against Masferrer. Mr. Yeagley stated he thought I was right and he appreciated my help.

I mentioned to Mr. Yeagley that I thought Masferrer was under some kind of Immigration bond to refrain from certain activities, but I did not know. Mr. Yeagley said that was a good thought. I stated there were several factions of the Cubans who were anti-Castro, but each one wants to be king. [Mr. Yeagley stated that might be what is behind this and mentioned that the Senate Committee is going to start investigation next week of this fellow Wieland.] I stated George Sokolsky had come out with a column and Senator Eastland's Committee was going to hold public hearings on him as they think they have an Alger Hiss case. I stated that pressure to go against Masferrer may emanate from elements like this in State [and CIA. I stated CIA has a group training to go over and invade Cuba and] (u)

D.O.J. WFO (BR. INIP2) HAS BEEN DECLASSIFIED PER THEIR 12/21/90 LTR.. REMAINDER OF CONTINUES TO BE CLASSIFIED AT THIS TIME. SP6 BJA/GCL-211,326 - 1/24/91

- 3 -

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Bracketed info on P- classified per CIA's 9/1/92 letter. 9803 udd/fcl #211,326 9/30/92

DATE: 11-14-2017

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January 5, 1961

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Mohr, Parsons, Belmont, DeLoach

(u) ~~(S)~~ [Overthrow Castro and while it is supposed to be hush-hush, around Miami it is more or less public knowledge; that Castro probably knows about it as he has his agents over here who, no doubt, have penetrated the group; that Masferrer has not joined the group that CIA is backing and it may be some elements like that are involved.] [Mr. Yeagley stated he could not say he has been told but it has been inferred that they did not want Masferrer in.] I stated Masferrer was wealthy and I thought he got some money out of Cuba before he came to this country, but he has connections and is getting money and living in ease and comfort while other refugees are serving as waiters, et cetera. [I stated Masferrer has not been allowed to join the group CIA has been supposed to be secretly backing and there may be some motivation to try to knock him off, but it would backfire against Justice and not CIA.] (u)

*Bracketed info lines 1-5 (P of Ho) and lines 7-12 id
classified per CIA 9/1/92 letter
9803 add/ssl #21,326/9/30/92*

[Mr. Yeagley stated they have a case where they would normally go ahead and indict with one count and maybe more, and he can't say don't do it, but the State Department can.] I stated it seems in view of the action of the President, it does not make sense and I did not see how getting an indictment against somebody trying to overthrow Castro can be explained to the public. I stated I had noted in the press that it had been intimated by somebody in the State Department that the only way diplomatic relations with Cuba could be resumed would be the overthrow of Castro and here you would be prosecuting somebody who may not have the good will of our Administration but who wants to remove Castro (u) [and has more facilities really than some of these groups with CIA backing.] I stated the sympathy down in Miami is all with the anti-Castro forces and it seems if any move is made, it ought to be at the specific request of the State Department and it should be in black in white, that it ought to be put in writing by them. (u)

[Mr. Yeagley stated that was excellent and he thought that is exactly the kind of help he needed and he would let me know the outcome. He stated we had gone ahead with the investigation and we are holding the bag and we ought to make the proper disposition.] I stated it seemed to me if the disposition is made properly, the State Department should indicate that prosecution would be ill considered or ill advised and should so state their desires. Mr. Yeagley stated he appreciated my help and he would let me know the outcome. (u)

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SP6BSA/GCL -211,326-1/24/91
DOJ: LTR DTD 12/27/90

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

~~SECRET~~

*In IP1 lines 10, the first set of bracketed info is unclassified, second set is classified per CIA's 9/1/92 ltr
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