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SUBJECTS :

JUAN FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO RODRIGUEZ
ROLANDO MASFERRER

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Memorandum

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Donahoe
- 1 - Cotter

Tolson _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
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 Callahan _____
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 Malone _____
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 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Gandy _____

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: February 8, 1960

FROM : S. B. Donahoe

7/31/81
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SUBJECT: JUAN FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO RODRIGUEZ, ET AL.
 ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS - VICTIM
 KIDNAPPING - CONSPIRACY
 INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 MAC/ESC
 ON 5-6-94 (BFLC)

Fla. - Cuba

Mrs. Catherine Taaffe, who has been volunteering data to us for some time re Cuban situation, recently furnished Miami information concerning kidnapping plot by Cuban agents against Masferrer, prominent Cuban exile in Miami. Acting on data supplied by Taaffe, Miami Office placed Special Agent (posing as corrupt local police officer) in touch with subjects on 1/27/60 and, when Agent was propositioned to assist in abduction of Masferrer, Miami arrested Valdes and Fernandez on kidnapping-conspiracy charge. Fernandez is identical with MM 635-S, heretofore a valuable paid security informant of Miami; however, informant was not known to have been involved in plot until time of arrest. Fernandez claims that he had no prior knowledge of kidnapping scheme and no opportunity to advise Miami Office of plot before his arrest. Mrs. Taaffe claims that scheme was first broached to her in mid January, 1960, by Valdes and two unidentified Cuban Agents in Havana. By cable 2/4/60 Legat, Havana, has now reported that official of Cuban National Police has advised U. S. Embassy official in Havana that subjects, both of whom are connected with Cuban police agencies, acted entirely on their own and without official sanction in this matter. According to this Cuban official, Mrs. Taaffe, who is known to Cubans as agent for Cuban counterrevolutionary group supported by Dominican Dictator Trujillo, originated the plot against Masferrer and recruited Fernandez and Valdes. This source further reported that Mrs. Taaffe's motive was to promote adverse publicity against Castro regime. (u)

It is clear that one or more of the principals involved here are not telling the truth. Mrs. Taaffe is of dubious reliability and we already have a pending investigation of her on allegations she is acting as both pro and anti-Castro agent. Fernandez has offered what appears to be plausible story as to his part of this affair; however, he may very well be withholding full facts. It can be expected, of course, that official Cuban sources, such as referred to in Legat's cable, will disavow any

Enclosure

105-84265

RDC:jlw

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