

Agency Information

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SUBJECTS :

JUAN FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO RODRIGUEZ
ROLANDO MASFERRER

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MM 105-2307

LEADS

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. Will interview FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ COUCEIRO, who reportedly has some knowledge of this conspiracy, obtain all information he might have concerning the subjects, the conspiracy and any other persons involved.

2. Will interview JOHN EK for any knowledge he might have of this conspiracy and its participants. It is noted that subject FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO planned to spend the night with EK on 1/27/60.

3. Will check INS records concerning subject VALDES.

4. Will follow and report prosecutive action in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Eleven copies of this report are being furnished the Bureau since information contained in it is of security intelligence value to other agencies, and the Bureau may desire to make dissemination. Dissemination is being made locally to INS because both subjects are aliens.

On 1/26/60, RICHARD JAFFE, who is under development as a PSI in Miami and who is closely associated with ROLANDO MASFERRER, was advised that there had been received a possible threat to kidnap MASFERRER. He stated that MASFERRER had moved from 1945 Southwest 7th Street and now resided at an address believed to be 1900 Southwest 21st Terrace at 19th Avenue in a green house. His new phone is HI 4-9442. JAFFE stated he would immediately contact

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MASFERRER. No personal contact with MASFERRER was believed advisable because he is currently subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Court in Miami (Judge CHOATE) in an immigration matter in which he is protesting an INS order to move from Florida to a place more than 150 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Notification of the possible threat was made in line with the policy of notifying possible kidnap victims in matters of this type to avoid possible future comment that FBI was in possession of information affecting the personal safety of an individual and failed to advise said person. JAFFE stated that he had heard nothing concerning any possible threat. (u)

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On 1/28/60, AUSA LLOYD G. BATES, JR. was advised by letter of the filing of the complaint against the subjects, the issuance of a warrant for their arrest, the subjects arrest and the fact that no criminal record was known on either subject at the time of arrest. He was also furnished information for the preparation of an Information on Indictment.

The Federal agency to which CATHERINE TAAFFE refers in her signed statement is CIA. She insisted on putting this information in her statement.

MM 639-S advised SA ROBERT JAMES DWYER on 1/29/60, that he received information that CATHERINE TAAFFE told FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ COUCEIRO that the FBI Agents who arrested the subjects were hiding in the bathroom of her hotel room where the arrests were made. This, of course, is not true, and TAAFFE, in fact, had no knowledge of the place where the Agent was going to meet VALDES. (u)

MM 639-S advised SA DWYER on 2/1/60, that he called FERNANDO COBA, Lt., Confidential Section A (intelligence unit) of the Cuban National Police, Havana, and told COBA of the arrest of the subjects. He said COBA was very excited and wanted TAAFFE's telephone number. He said it appeared that COBA is acquainted with TAAFFE and was going to call her. (u)

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MM 639-S also advised that he called Lt. COBA on 2/1/60, and COBA was already in possession of information that TAAFFE had moved from the International Airport Hotel to the Miami Colonial Hotel, Miami. COBA told the informant that TAAFFE set up the kidnaping attempt on behalf of the U. S. police because if she had not she would be in jail with FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO and VALDES. COBA also commented that it was an entrapment because TAAFFE had called around Havana trying to recruit people to help her in this kidnap plan. (u)

Following his arrest VALDES signed a waiver of search which permitted a search to be made of his hotel room and his property therein. During the search, certain letters and papers were located which may be pertinent to this case. No evaluation of these letters has been made as yet and therefore no mention of them is made in this report. A receipt for the material was obtained from VALDES and is being kept in the files of this office together with the waiver of search.

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