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JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/21/63

WJ
FROM : SAC, MIAMI (92-463) (C)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA, aka
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During the course of the investigation of the dynamiting of the Rose Bay Bridge, north of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, 9/19/63, JIMMIE WOODARD was interviewed at Knoxville, Tennessee, as to the source of the 3,150 pounds of dynamite found at his former residence in South Dade County, Florida. WOODARD advised that he stored this dynamite for members of several anti-CASTRO groups in the Miami area. WOODARD advised that JOE MEROLA, whom he described as a "kingpin of underworld narcotics" and a well known hoodlum in the Miami area, informed him that this dynamite was obtained legally from the Redstone Arsenal. He assumed that MEROLA was telling the truth about the origin of the dynamite and that when the Cubans contacted him originally through MEROLA during March, 1963, he agreed to let them store the dynamite on his farm in South Dade County, Florida. WOODARD claims that originally over five tons of dynamite were stored on his small farm. WOODARD stated that at one time he took four cases of this dynamite to JOE MEROLA's place on Broad Key. He stated that he had planned to dynamite a lagoon near the key so that MEROLA could land his seaplane.

WOODARD claims MEROLA has dossiers on Customs and Bureau Agent personnel as well as local law enforcement personnel, including photographs, descriptions and background information. WOODARD claims that MEROLA states he has many close friends in high places in the Miami area.

- 2 - Bureau
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