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JOSEPH MEROLA
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office MIAMI	Office of Origin MIAMI	Date 9/30/58	Investigative Period 8/22,29; 9/3,4,8,13,19, 26,29/58
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED JOSEPH MEROLA; B. LEONARD BIRD; ROBERT N. DILLARD; UNKNOWN PILOT		Report made by CHARLES W. EDMISTON	Typed By: mbs
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT; NEUTRALITY MATTERS	

Synopsis:

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B. LEONARD BIRD, businessman, Miami, Fla., states he has no knowledge of any planned revolution in Haiti. He said he recently received a contract from the Haitian Government to construct houses. States he is personal friend of ARTHUR BONHOMME, Secretary of Public Works in Haiti, and through him obtained authority for housing project. ROBERT N. DILLARD, businessman, Miami, advised he had no information about any planned revolution in Haiti and he had no relative who is a pilot and had no relative who had been contacted to fly arms into Haiti. DILLARD advised that he knew HAROLD BUSSINIUS, a Haitian National, and described him as a liar and con man. RUDOLPH BABOUN, Haitian Consul, Miami, advised that information furnished by HAROLD BUSSINIUS was not believed reliable. JOSEPH MEROLA, Miami, FBI No. 4989299, not available for interview.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/21/95 BY SP7 waf/y

Approved <i>LOT</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 4 - Bureau (RM) 1 - USA, Miami (RM) 1 - U. S. Customs, (Miami) (RM) 1 - New York (Info) (RM) 3 - Miami (97-230) <i>REC'D</i>		97-3575-7	OCT 3 1958	REC-29 EX-108

AGENCY *State, CIA, ONI, OSI, INS, UN, 28*
accy, customs, Ins, Legat Havana
DATE FORW. *10/14/58*
HOW FORW. *R/S*
RWC/FR

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DETAILS:

(TN)

The title of this case is being marked changed to show the full name of B. LEONARD BIRD, as furnished by BIRD when interviewed on August 22, 1958.

This case is predicated on information furnished by RUDOLPH BABOUN, Haitian Vice Consul, Miami, Florida, who furnished the following information to the Miami Office of the FBI on August 28, 1958. BABOUN stated that he had received information that 27 Americans and one LEONARD BIRD of Miami, and one JOSEPH MEROLA, who hangs around the Garden of Allah Motel, Miami Beach, were involved in a revolutionary attempt against Haiti. BABOUN also said that one Mr. DILLARD, who operates a lumber business, and who has been trying to obtain a lumber contract through the Haitian Government, has a relative who has been offered \$10,000.00 to fly arms into Haiti. BABOUN also said that his informant advised that the Haiti Revolution had a depot of arms and ammunition located some distance from Miami and arms worth \$70,000.00 cached on an island between Florida and Haiti.

On September 4, 1958, BABOUN recontacted the Miami Office and advised that his informant was HAROLD BUSSINIUS, a Haitian National, and that BUSSINIUS had returned to Haiti at BABOUN's expense. FLA

On August 29, 1958, BABOUN advised the Miami Office that one ROBERT GREEN contacted him and said he was representing MEROLA and that if BABOUN wanted to deal with MEROLA to send word to GREEN. GREEN quoted MEROLA as saying, "This time we won't miss". BABOUN interpreted this to mean that the Revolution will be successful.

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DILLARD again stated that he wanted it understood that he, had at no time, had any knowledge of any planned revolution in Haiti and had no relatives who had been approached to fly arms to Haiti.

DILLARD stated that in his opinion, LOCASSIO, NUNNALLY, and BUSSINIUS are nothing but "con men" who would attempt to make a dollar in any manner they could. He also said that even after financing the trip to Haiti for BUSSINIUS and NUNNALLY, and after ascertaining they had no timberland available to them, BUSSINIUS again approached him in August, 1958, and tried to tell him he now had timberland available if DILLARD was interested. DILLARD said he told BUSSINIUS he wanted no further business dealings with him.

On September 4, 1958, RUDOLPH BABOUN, Haitian Vice Consul, Miami, advised that HAROLD BUSSINIUS was sent to Haiti by him and he did not know when BUSSINIUS would return to the United States.

On September 8, 1958, BABOUN advised SAS TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS, JR. and CHARLES W. EDMISTON that he now realized that LEONARD BIRD and DILLARD are not connected with any planned revolution in Haiti and that he did not believe all information furnished by BUSSINIUS was reliable. He also said that he now recalled that he had met BIRD and that BIRD was negotiating with the Haitian Government in order to obtain a contract for constructing a housing project in Haiti.

On September 19, 1958, CHARLES J. MATHEWS, Special Investigator, Dade County Manager's Office, Miami, telephonically advised that he had just returned from Haiti and while in Haiti had interviewed HAROLD BUSSINIUS. He stated that he contacted Haitian officials about BUSSINIUS' location and they were reluctant to admit that BUSSINIUS was in the National Penitentiary. They gave Mr. MATHEWSS permission to interview him.

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