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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CUBAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Two reports of interviews at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on April 8 and 11, 1977, with an individual in recent contact with the Cuban Intelligence Service are attached. This individual is of continuing operational interest to the FBI and it is requested that FBI concurrence be obtained prior to initiating any action based on this information.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 4/8/77

On April 8, 1977, FELIX ZABALA MAS, also known as [redacted], a resident at 350 Lerida, Urbanization Valencia, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, and he furnished the following information:

FELIX ZABALA advised that he was a member of Alpha 66 from 1961 to 1965. He is currently a member of Circulo Cubano, a large Cuban exile social group in Puerto Rico, and beyond this belongs to no other political or social group in Puerto Rico. He stated that he is not a member of Frente Liberacion Nacional de Cuba (Cuban National Liberation Front) or the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations (CORU). He stated that on April 3, 1977, he attended a meeting which concerned itself with human rights and was presided over by one FRANKLIN DELANO LOPEZ who was interested in sending five Cuban exile individuals to Washington, D. C., and present a case to the United States Department of State to tell President CARTER how to deal with the Cubans. He stated that their main concern here was the political prisoners and the system of Communism under CASTRO. ZABALA stated that he participated in no other similar activities. He stated that he does have a close relationship with a very political individual, ENRIQUE NUNEZ, who is the editor of Replica Magazine in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

ZABALA advised that his sister, AMALIA ANGELINA ZABALA MAS and his mother, ANGELINA MAS, came to Puerto Rico from Cuba on December 23, 1976, for a vacation in Puerto Rico. ZABALA stated that his mother has a six month visa which expires in June, 1977, and that she is currently attempting to stay three months longer in Puerto Rico and is awaiting word from Cuban authorities through her daughter who has since returned to Cuba to secure a Cuban government OK to remain in Puerto Rico. Upon receipt of that OK from the Cuban government, the subject's mother will then apply to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS) for a three month extension of her visa to visit Puerto Rico. ZABALA's sister, AMALIA, was in Puerto Rico from December 23, 1976, until January 17, 1977, at which time she returned to Cuba.

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FELIX ZABALA stated that AMALIA is married to JULIO CESAR MAS MARTIN, who is a medical doctor who has a very good practice in Calixto Garcia Hospital in Havana, Cuba. ZABALA stated that AMALIA's husband is not a political-type person and he is not considered to be a Communist. He stated that JULIO CESAR MAS MARTIN is happy living under the Cuban system of government because he is a doctor and therefore lives extremely well. ZABALA stated that the latter's brother, LUIS MAS MARTIN is currently living outside Havana assigned to an agricultural project. ZABALA stated that LUIS MAS MARTIN, who is approximately 50 years old, is currently having a severe drinking problem. ZABALA believes that he is working with the agriculture project in the vicinity of Matanzas, Cuba. ZABALA termed LUIS MARTIN a Communist and an anti-Batistite. ZABALA added that his sister's recent trip to Puerto Rico was her first trip ever to this country. He stated that he last saw her in 1965 in Cuba. ZABALA reported that he went to Jamaica and met his sister and his mother on December 21, 1976, and assisted in their travel to Puerto Rico by helping them to a hotel in Kingston, Jamaica, and then to the United States Embassy there to secure a visa to visit Puerto Rico. He stated that since 1965 he had only talked to his sister on the telephone approximately every six months.

ZABALA stated that he rarely writes to any friends or family members in Cuba. He stated that his brother, DOMINGO ZABALA, also known as Nino, is currently an athletic promoter and he works in a group known as the Instituto Nacional Deportes Revolucionario in Cuba. ZABALA stated that his father, JOSE L. ZABALA, died on November 23, 1954, in Cuba and that his two sisters, AMALIA and ELENA, currently live in Cuba. He stated that his brother, JOSE LUIS ZABALA, also known as "PEPE," DOMINGO, and himself spent various periods of time in Cuban jails. He stated that "PEPE" served four years and nine months which began in May of 1961. DOMINGO, who ZABALA termed a non-Communist, was in jail for 18 months from September, 1961, to 1963. ZABALA stated that he himself was in jail only for seven days which began in May, 1961. ZABALA added that the reason that the above individuals received jail terms had to do with their affiliation with a group which was going to plant bombs in or near the waterworks in Havana, Cuba, in 1961.

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FELIX ZABALA MAS stated that he doesn't know any individuals who are in FLNC or CORU. He stated that REINOL RODRIGUEZ is a good friend of his and they have been associated since ZABALA's affiliation with Alpha 66. He stated that he did not think that REINOL RODRIGUEZ is still a member of the latter organization. He stated that he has only belonged to one political group in Cuba and that he was a member of the Movimiento Revolucionario Pueblo (MRP) and that that group placed over 100 bombs in and around Havana, Cuba, protesting the CASTRO government.

ZABALA was questioned about his relationship with one ANTONIO VECIANA and he stated that VECIANA is like his own brother. He added that VECIANA is his son's Godfather and is currently a resident of Miami, Florida. ZABALA reported that VECIANA and himself were in Alpha 66 and at one time attempted to form an Alpha 66 group in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Two other individuals, according to ZABALA, were in on this enterprise: TONY CUESTA (who is possibly living now in Miami, Florida). ZABALA considered VECIANA to not only be his friend, but his business partner and added that VECIANA resides at Number 311 Northwest 30 Ct., Miami, Florida, 33125. ZABALA stated that VECIANA left Alpha 66 in 1966 and that he is definitely anti-Castro and would personally like to kill CASTRO. He did not know VECIANA to be affiliated with any political groups at this time. ZABALA stated that four or five years ago that VECIANA, ENRIQUE NUNEZ, and MANOLO RAY went to Costa Rica and formed a revolutionary party (anti-CASTRO), which had the same ideals of Alpha 66. He added that this group which was known as Partido Revolucionario Del Pueblo, lasted perhaps eight months.

FELIX ZABALA MAS revealed that on October 28, 1976, he left San Juan, Puerto Rico, and traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, for the purpose of seeing an entertainment promoter, FELIX SMITH, about putting on the Chinese Circus Review from Taiwan. He added that he met no one other than FELIX SMITH during his stay in Jamaica. He insisted that he had met no one

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who could be a representative of any foreign government, particularly from Cuba. FELIX ZABALA MAS reported that on November 8, 1976, he traveled to Miami and then on to Kingston, Jamaica. He stated that he went there to see the promoter, FELIX SMITH, and discuss problems on how to get money out of Jamaica if ZABALA were to bring the Chinese Circus Review from Taiwan to Jamaica. ZABALA added that this was approximately one month prior to the popular elections and there is always a problem bringing money out of Jamaica. ZABALA again stated that he had contacted no one other than FELIX SMITH.

ZABALA advised that he traveled to Jamaica again on November 30, 1976, and returned to Puerto Rico via Miami on December 2, 1976. He stated that at that time he again visited FELIX SMITH. ZABALA stated that he traveled alone to Montego Bay and another town, Ocho Rios, in Jamaica, and visited theaters where he could possibly present the Chinese Circus. He added that he stayed in the Sheraton Hotel when he was in Kingston on this occasion. He stated that he had seen no family members or anyone who could be possibly considered a representative of a foreign government. He added that while in Jamaica he traveled by public automobiles which are used as taxis or buses.

ZABALA MAS advised that he had rented the "Happy Center Bar" which is located in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, for the period between December, 1974, and July, 1976. He stated he gave up this line of business in that he was not making it financially. He added that at the moment he is not in financial straits and that he has been receiving current income from his promotion of the Taiwan Circus Group and two professional prize fighters (both Dominicans), HECTOR JULIO MEDINA and ADRIANO MARRERO, also known as Nane. He stated that the latter two individuals are under his control as he is their manager and receives approximately 33 percent of any purse for setting up their fights.

ZABALA stated that he would like to go back to Cuba if CASTRO and the Communist system of government was out of Cuba. He added that he personally believes in a system of Socialism and Democracy. ZABALA reported that his family here does not like the Communist form of government and that his brother, DOMINGO (NINO), does not like the current Cuban system. ZABALA was not sure if his sister, AMALIA, likes the

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CASTRO or Communist system. He added that she told a friend, HUGO PEREZ, a Cuban exile who is about 50 years old and resides in Floral Park, Puerto Rico, that if she could get out of Cuba with her four children, she would leave. She reportedly told PEREZ that her husband, JULIO CESAR MAS MARTIN likes the good style of living that he currently enjoys in Havana, Cuba, as a ranking medical doctor. ZABALA added that HUGO PEREZ sent a lot of clothing back to Cuba with his sister, AMALIA, for HUGO PEREZ' father.

ZABALA advised that as far as his future travel plans are concerned, he intends to go to Los Angeles, California, about the 15th of April and there, prepare theatrical arrangements. He stated that this would take approximately two or three days. He added that he has to go to Santo Domingo at some future date for the theatrical presentation of the Chinese Circus Review from Taiwan. He stated that this would probably be in May, 1977. He added at this point that VECIANA, supra, and he set up all the Chinese Circus Review from Taiwan's engagements. He added that he might possibly be in Chicago and New York City, New York, after May, 1977.

The interviewing Agents reminded ZABALA that he at one time in 1966 was interviewed and polygraphed by a United States Government official. ZABALA, who stated that he did not know the results of that interview or the polygraph, stated that he remembered taking the test and being interviewed at a hotel room in the Miramar Hotel, Miramar, Puerto Rico, but that he did not know who or what organization was behind it. He stated that an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at that time had set up the interview and the examination. He stated that at that time he was asked about going to Cuba and working for the United States Government for intelligence reasons. He could not furnish any details about any of the individuals, approximately three or four, who were in the room at that time.

The interviewing Agents questioned ZABALA about a possible trip to Panama which was made on January 10, 1977. He was confronted with information that revealed that he had traveled with Pan American Airlines, flight 585, to Panama on January 10, 1977, United States Passport number 22494541,

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tourist card number 745643, and that he returned to the United States on January 11, 1977, on another Pan American Airlines flight, number 586. ZABALA stated that he was in Panama for one night and thereafter traveled to Miami, Florida, and West Palm Beach, where he spent one night in the company of JOSE PRADOS HERRERO, who currently resides in Puerto Rico (telephone number 783-4367). He stated that he went to Panama on this occasion for boxing business and that he saw LUIS ESPADA, a boxing promoter, and Dr. RODIGO SANCHEZ, of the World Boxing Association. He stated that he only contacted these two persons and one radio commentator, while he was in Panama on this occasion. He added that one of his fighters, HECTOR JULIO MEDINA, was supposed to fight ROBERTO DURAN and that ZABALA called MEDINA (a resident of Santo Domingo) from Panama and the fighter advised ZABALA that he was out of shape and therefore could not fight DURAN. ZABALA added that he has exclusive permission to sign a contract re MEDINA. He stated that he discussed the possible fight with the aforementioned radio commentator.

The interviewing Agents again requested that ZABALA be perfectly honest with them about any possible contact of foreign agents or other government representatives while on the above trips outside Puerto Rico. He strongly advised that the interviewing Agents had his word that he never contacted anyone from a foreign government, embassy official, consular official, foreign attache, or intelligence officer.

ZABALA stated that on the above mentioned dates, January 10, January 11, 1977, he was supposed to go to Houston and San Antonio, Texas, and other places in the United States to arrange for a presentation of the Chinese Circus. He stated, though, upon arrival at Miami, there was a convention of managers of auditoriums from throughout the United States (these are individuals who could present the Chinese Circus). ZABALA stated for this reason he did not have to go to Texas as the managers that he wished to see were there in Miami, particularly at the Ramada Inn Hotel around January 11, 1977.

In light of the subject's current probation regulations with United States Probation Office, he was questioned as to whether he had gotten the permission of his probation officer to travel to Panama during January of 1977. He stated that he had this permission.

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