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INCARCERATION, CUBA, TRAINING, INTEL ACT, ASSA
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1/4/98
CLASSIFIED BY 5608 SLW/pud
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(CLASSIFIED) 3/4/98 - JPK
SECRET

FBI
Date: 2/14/69

CLASSIFIED
DATE 5-15-84

Via AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-180256)
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (105-95685) (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
EMILIO ECHARTE PEDROSO, aka
Luis Marrero,
Luis Velez,
Luis Alberto Marrero Velez,
Jose Perez,
Juli Pocho
IS-CUBA
FALSELY CLAIMING CITIZENSHIP
(OO: NY)

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: NOV 9 1988
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Class. & Ext. By
Reason: E.O. 11652, 1-2
Date of Review

Title has been changed to include "POCHO" the code name assigned to the subject by Cuban Intelligence NYO believes the case file "RAMON RODRIGUEZ, aka Pocho; ESP-CUBA (Bu 105-132914; SI 105-7247; NY 65-23342) may be identical with subject.

- Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)
 - (1 - Legat. Mexico City)
 - (1 - 105-92239) (MIGUEL ROCHE MONROY)
 - (1 - 105-132914) (RAMON RODRIGUEZ, aka Pocho)
- 5 - Miami (105-15880) (Encls. 5) (RM)
 - (1 - 105-17437) (JOSE LUIS ZAYAS)
 - (1 - 105-11814) (CARLOS FERRET)
 - (1 -) (EDDIE SUAREZ)
- 1 - New Haven (Encl. 1) (Info) (RM)
- 3 - San Juan (Encls. 3) (RM)
 - (1 - 105-7247) (RAMON RODRIGUEZ, aka Pocho)
- 5 - Washington Field (105-88719) (Encls. 5) (RM)
 - (1 - 105-55007) (JOSE LUIS ZAYAS)
 - (1 - 134-8195) (ADM)
 - (1 -) (EDDIE SUAREZ)
- 1 - New York (39-396) (EMILIO ECHARTE)
- 1 - New York (65-23342) (RAMON RODRIGUEZ, aka Pocho)
- 2 - New York

FEB 15 1969

Approved: [Signature]

SECRET

1 cc of AIRTEL 2 cc of LHM
to Leg. Att. 7/3/69
Per [Signature]

NY 105-9568 ~~(S)~~(u)

~~SECRET~~

ReNYairtel to Bureau, 1/27/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above setting forth results of interview of subject on 2/5 and 7/69. ~~(S)~~(u)

The attached LHM has been classified "Secret" inasmuch as it contains admissions of a Cuban Intelligence agent, discloses a Cuban Intelligence operation in the US, and in view of the future [double agent potential] of subject. ~~(S)~~(u)

It is suggested that the Bureau consider very limited distribution of attached LHM at this time until it is more clearly resolved how subject's admissions and his [potential as a double agent] may best be utilized. For this reason, no dissemination is being made by NYO to either INS or Secret Service, locally. ~~(S)~~(u)

Subject was interviewed on 2/5 and 7/69, after signing rights waiver form on both dates at the Federal Correctional Institution, Danbury, Conn., by SAS JOSEPH T. CORRIGAN and FRANCIS I. LUNDQUIST. Conditions were very unsatisfactory for interview. The interviewing agents were afforded the use of three rooms for the interviews, all of which were utilized. However, all rooms had glass panes on the doors and, therefore, the subject and interviewing agents were visible to passersby. The interviews were disrupted on 30 to 40 occasions by different inmates who were curious as to what was happening and who peered through the glass panes, apparently in an effort to identify the subject whom they probably regarded as a "stool pigeon." Moreover, fragments of the interviews unquestionably could be heard by inmates standing and loitering outside the doors of the interview rooms. This made the subject highly nervous and interfered with his concentration. ~~(S)~~(u)

On 2/5/69, the subject was openly hostile and maintained that he had already repeated the whole true story several times to INS, CREC and the FBI. In the interview conducted 2/5/69, the interviewing agents stressed the small discrepancies in subject's previously related accounts in an ~~(S)~~(u)

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NYO is of the opinion that information the subject furnished on 2/7/69, is essentially true regarding his affiliation with Cuban G-2 beginning in 1959, his code name, his training and his assignments to assassinate MANOLO RAY and FELIPE RIVERO. Unquestionably further details surrounding subject's story have yet to be obtained and it may be that he has not yet told the complete story concerning his intelligence activities in the US. (S)(u)

If the original source, [MIGUEL ROCHE], is telling the truth, then of course the subject is lying when he says he has not been involved in Cuban G-2 activities since he returned from Mexico in the Spring of 1967. NYO is inclined to believe this is the case but found this position extremely difficult to press during the interview and at the same time protect the sources, [ROCHE] and the RCMP. (S)(u)

Of course there is a possibility, although very remote, that the subject told the whole truth and now Cuban G-2 is trying to retaliate against the subject for his failure to carry out either of the two assassination assignments given to him. It would then mean that [ROCHE] is now working for Cuban G-2 and has been instructed to expose the subject as a Cuban agent to the US Government. (S)(u)

REQUESTS OF THE BUREAU

1. (S) Although the subject was unable to recall the precise dates he visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City in the Spring of 1967, it is noted that the subject terminated his employment at the Washington Gaslight Co., WDC, on 5/8/67, when he failed to report to work. Further it is noted that he was arrested at NY, NY, on 6/3/67, on a narcotics charge. In all probability subject visited Mexico City between 5/8/67 and 6/3/67. The Bureau is therefore requested to have Legat Mexico City ascertain whether or not CIA has photographs of any unidentified Negroes entering the Cuban Embassy at Mexico City between 5/8/67 and 6/3/67. If any are available, have Legat Mexico City forward same to NYO for examination. (S)(u)

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B. APPROX 1937-1939

2. Also have Legat Mexico City determine whether or not ENRIQUE (LNU), aka Mickey, (whom subject described as a white Cuban male, age 30 - 32, 5'5", 125 lbs., dark complexion, and who subject believes is Vice Consul at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City) answers the description of ENRIQUE MIGUEL CICARD LABRADA, 3rd Secretary - Consul at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. If so, CICARD LABRADA should be included in the Cuban Intelligence Album. If a photograph of CICARD LABRADA is available, it should be forwarded to NYO.

(u)

3. NYO is well aware of the Bureau's position with regard to polygraph testing and appreciates the Bureau's reluctance to rely upon its use in the average case. However, the subject of this case became affiliated with Cuban G-2 soon after it was formed in 1959, he was afforded extensive training and he entered the US under the guise of an escaped refugee carrying \$4,000 given to him by Cuban G-2 to carry out the assassination of MANOLO RAY, an anti-Castro leader in Puerto Rico. Subject has also admitted travelling to Mexico City in 1967 and then receiving from Cuban G-2 the assignment to assassinate FELIPE RIVERO, another anti-Castro leader. Obviously this is a very unusual case with numerous ramifications, and NYO feels every available tool should be employed to resolve the security aspects of this case which may very well involve other Cuban Intelligence agents whose identities are still unknown. If other Cuban agents are not involved, then this should be determined with certainty.

Although subject has disclosed considerable information concerning his own affiliation with Cuban G-2, he professes not to know other Cuban agents currently involved in activities in the US for the Cuban Government. However, there is a strong indication that the subject, if not ringleader, may well be a member of a Cuban Intelligence apparatus that finances itself through the sale of narcotics.

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Therefore, NYO requests the Bureau to authorize a polygraph test for subject and asks that the most serious consideration be given this request. If approved, NYO would attempt to obtain more favorable circumstances for the polygraph test. This might result in subject's disclosure of additional vital and valuable information concerning current Cuban Intelligence activities in the US and the insidious distribution of narcotics in the US by agents of the Cuban Government.

If the polygraph test supports subject's denial that he has been involved in intelligence activities in the US since his return from Mexico City in 1967, then it will indicate MIGUEL ROCHE has furnished false information and may in fact still be an agent of Cuban G-2 (S)

4. The Bureau is also requested to weigh the propaganda value that would result in public disclosure of subject's being specially trained by Cuban G-2 and being dispatched to this country as an assassin. Even the Mexican Government might regard the Castro Government in a different light if it were disclosed in the press that the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City is involved in illegal Cuban Intelligence activities. (S) (A) (u)

5. A check of Bureau indices on the following is requested:

- A. "POCHO," subject's code name in Cuban Intelligence. (S) (u)
- B. OLGA PEREZ VALLE, Campanario #22, Apt. 17, Havana, Cuba, who was subject's mistress, and mail drop. (S) (u)
- C. DANILO CORON CANALEJO, subject's friend in Cuba. (S) (u)
- D. "Tito the Barber" who subject indicated may be a Cuban G-2 agent in either US or Puerto Rico. The Bureau's attention is invited to "Tito" mentioned on pages 5 and 8 of NYairtel to the Bureau dated 1/31/66, captioned FOXTROT BESP-CUBA (Bureau 65-67951) (S) (u)

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NY [105-95685] (X)(U)

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LEADS:

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. Determine whether or not identification and photographs of other refugees who arrived aboard the "Leda" at Miami, Fla., on 2/26/64, with the subject can be obtained through CREC records. If so, forward same to NYO to be exhibited to the subject for future interview. (S)(X)(U) (S)(X)(U)

2. Check indices and sources for possible identification of Cuban G-2 agent "Tito the Barber". Attention is invited to "Tito" mentioned on pages 5 and 8 of NYairtel to the Bureau and Miami, 1/31/66, captioned "FOXTROT ESP-CUBA" (MM 65-2945) Note subject's associate EDDIE SUAREZ is a barber. (S)(X)(U) (S)(X)(U)

3. Check indices, particularly JOE SURVEY indices, on subject's code name "POCHO"; subject's mistress and mail drop, OLGA PEREZ VALLE, Campanario #22, Apt. 17, Havana, Cuba, and subject's friend, DANILO CORON CANALEJO. (S)(X)(U) (S)(X)(U)

4. Attention is invited to "INES" mentioned throughout MMairtel to Bureau, 2/17/66, captioned "FOXTROT ESP-CUBA." Consider possibility "INES" may be identical with wife of JOSE LUIS ZAYAS. (S)(X)(U)

NEW HAVEN

One information copy is designated for the NH office inasmuch as subject is incarcerated at FCI, Danbury, Conn. (S)(U)

SAN JUAN

AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

For the information of SJ, this case has been under investigation since April, 1968, when a CIA source disclosed he had been approached by the subject to work for Cuban Intelligence. Subject was arrested by Buagents at NY, NY, on 9/12/68, and charged with falsely claiming citizenship. He is presently serving a term. (S)(U) (U)

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NY 105-95685 (S)(u)

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of 18 months at the FCI, Danbury, Conn. He has also been convicted on a narcotics charge in connection with an arrest made by the NYCPD on 6/3/67, and has been sentenced on this charge to serve 2 - 4 years which will have to be served after completion of his federal sentence. The subject was born 7/28/37, at Havana, Cuba, is a mulatto male, 5'10", 160 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, and a Cuban citizen. (S)(u)(S)(u)

1. Determine whether or not it is feasible to check registration cards of Holiday Inn Motel and the San Geronimo Hotel, both located at San Juan, for confirmation of subject's statement that he and his wife stayed at both places during the Summer of 1967, although specific dates are unknown. (S)(u)

2. Advise the NYO whether or not any information was received from sources during the period 2/64 - 7/64, regarding an assassination plot against MANOLO RAY and which information might pertain to subject. Advise NYO where RAY was residing and employed in that period so that NYO will be able to question subject's statement that he had RAY under surveillance. (S)(u)(S)(u)

3. Check indices and sources for possible identification of Cuban G-2 agent "Tito the Barber." Also check indices on all names utilized by subject in his activities. (S)(u)(S)(u)

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. Ascertain whether or not CIA tested [ROCHE's] original allegation against subject on a polygraph. If not, advise whether or not confirmation by polygraph is feasible at this time. Also, (re-evaluate plans to have [ROCHE] make contact with Cuban G-2) outside US, inasmuch as additional information may be obtained from subject when again interviewed. (S)(u)(S)(u)

(S) 2. It will be noted that subject stated on 2/7/69, that [MIGUEL ROCHE] is the [only Cuban G-2 agent] he now knows to be residing in the US. Undoubtedly subject will expect [ROCHE] to be interviewed concerning his knowledge of the subject. WFO is requested to advise NYO specifically how they prefer this to be handled during next interview of subject. (S)(u)(S)(u)

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3. Check Central INS for record on FILIPO (or FELIPE) GARCIA described by subject as a white Cuban male, about age 35, 5'6" - 5'7", 160 lbs., with curly hair, receding at the temples. According to subject GARCIA must have entered the US subsequent to 1962. Note that subject claims GARCIA is an old acquaintance from Cuba whom he encountered at NY, NY, on 6/3/67, the day subject was arrested by NYCPD on a narcotics charge. ~~(S)~~(u)

at Bureau with...
4. Determine whether or not telephone toll charges are still available for the years 1966 and 1967 on subject's phone at 1661 Park Rd., WDC. If so, check for confirmation of telephone calls subject made to MANUEL RODRIGUEZ SEOANE in preparation for his trip to Mexico City. ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u)

5. Subject states he was accompanied on his trip to Mexico City by one EDDIE YURI (ph), (subject states he never knew how to spell the surname) who in early 1967 resided at 1823 Lamont St., WDC. Attempt to identify YURI and trace present whereabouts so that he can be interviewed concerning his knowledge of subject's trip to Mexico City. ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u)

6. Check CIA for information available on subject's code name "POCHO," on subject's mistress and mail drop, OLGA PEREZ VALLE, Campanario #22, Apt. 17, Havana, Cuba, and subject's close association in Cuba, DANILO CORON CANALEJO. ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u)

7. Check WFO indices on the name "POCHO" as well as checking indices and Cuban sources for identification of Cuban G-2 agent "Tito the Barber." Determine whether or not EDDIE SUAREZ has ever been known by the nickname "Tito." ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u)

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1. Will reinterview subject after Bureau and WFO respond to requests made herein. In next interview of subject details will be developed regarding the code and radio instruction subject received. Further details regarding under what name and where subject lived in Puerto Rico when he had MANOLO RAY under surveillance; further details regarding subject's border crossing into Mexico and where he lived in Mexico, and further details regarding subject's trip to Canada. ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u) ~~(S)~~(u)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
February 14, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

10-8-87
CLASSIFIED BY 36210T/AG
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
Appeal # 82-1347
(Subj: Reele, M)
(Spm/2/GCL)
(1/11/84 JPK)

* 24,326
Classified by SP8 BTJ/gcl
Declassify on: OADR 5/1/84

Emilio Echarte Pedrosa
Internal Security - Cuba
Falsely Claiming Citizenship

It is to be noted that on September 12, 1968, the subject was confronted by Special Agents (SAs) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) upon his arrival at Kennedy International Airport on a flight from Canada. The subject, under questioning by the SAs of the FBI, claimed he was a citizen of the United States (US). Subject was then arrested for violation of Title 18, Section 911, United States Code (USC) in that he falsely claimed US citizenship when, in fact, he was a Cuban national. (S) U

CLASSIFIED BY 5668-32D/ndk
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
Classified by 36210T/AG (SFK)

On November 15, 1968, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Frank Natoli, Eastern District of New York (EDNY), advised that the subject waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a one count information on October 24, 1968, before Judge George Rosling. (S) U

On January 16, 1969, AUSA Frank Natoli advised that the subject was sentenced that date by Judge Leo F. Rayfield, to 18 months under Section 4208 (a)(2), Title 18, USC. (S) U

Records at Federal Detention Headquarters, New York, disclosed on January 27, 1969, that the subject had been removed to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) at Danbury, Connecticut, on January 20, 1969. (S) U

The subject was personally contacted at FCI, Danbury, Connecticut, by SAs Francis I. Lundquist and Joseph T. Corrigan on February 5 and 7, 1969, on which occasions the following information was developed. (S) U

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRCC)
DATE NOV 9 1988 5659 P/2/6/68

Copy to NSA (P-2) attn: Thomas Sharp (-)
by routing slip for info action
date 4/4/73
by HZO/ly

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
Date of Review OADR 10-5-82

~~SECRET~~
GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE 10/28/81
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
105-180256-706
ENCLOSURE

Class. & Ext. By 36210T/AG
Reason-FCIM I, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 2/11/83 23
1/28/81

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

Date 2/12/69

On February 7, 1969, EMILIO ECHARTE PEDROSO read and signed a rights waiver form printed in Spanish. He was then interviewed in English by SAS FRANCIS I. LUNDQUIST and JOSEPT T. CORRIGAN who identified themselves to him as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). On that occasion he furnished the following information:

In about July, 1955, ECHARTE joined the July 26th Movement in Cuba. For about two years he was active in printing and distributing pro-Castro propaganda and participating in street disturbances conducted by the Movement. (S) (u)

In about 1957, ECHARTE was trained in the use of incendiaries by the July 26th Movement and was involved in acts of sabotage in Cuba. One of ECHARTE's associates in the Movement was SEGUNDO PEREZ who had lived and been raised in the same neighborhood as ECHARTE. By 1956 SEGUNDO PEREZ held a position of leadership in the upper echelon of the July 26th Movement and later on became prominent in Cuban Intelligence (hereinafter referred to as Cuban G-2). (S) (u)

Immediately after FIDEL CASTRO seized power in Cuba in January, 1959, the Cuban G-2 was organized under the leadership of RAMIRO VALDES. GABELARDO COLOME IBARRA became first assistant to VALDES. COLOME had two assistants under him and they were SEGUNDO PEREZ and (FNU) LOMBARDIA an attorney. SEGUNDO PEREZ selected ECHARTE as one of his personal assistants. For about two months ECHARTE served as bodyguard to SEGUNDO PEREZ and assisted in investigations of individuals who had become employed in the new government but whose complete loyalty to FIDEL CASTRO was somewhat questionable. (S) (u)

One of the early steps taken by SEGUNDO PEREZ was the formation of about 25 groups of about 10 men each, which groups were to function directly under SEGUNDO PEREZ. (S) (u)

ECHARTE recommended one of his associates, MANUEL RODRIGUEZ/SEOANE hereinafter referred to as RODRIGUEZ to SEGUNDO PEREZ, and RODRIGUEZ became leader of one of the 25 groups which were then being formed. RODRIGUEZ is still in Cuban G-2. (S) (u)

On 2/7/69

at FCI, Danbury, Conn.

File #

NY 105-95685

by SA FRANCIS I. LUNDQUIST and SA JOSEPH T. CORRIGAN/jec

Date dictated

2/11/69

~~SECRET~~

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NY 105-95685 ~~(S)~~(u)

and is now an assistant to [MANUEL PINEIRO LOSADA] ^(S), commonly known as ["Red Beard."] ~~(S)~~(X)(S)

ECHARTE was assigned to the Cuban "White House Police" in Havana, from about March, 1959 to July, 1959. Then one day in about August, 1959, ECHARTE encountered some friends in Manolo's Tailor Shop located at Gloria and Angeles, Havana, Cuba. In the course of conversation several comments were made about the pistol which ECHARTE was carrying. As a result, ECHARTE withdrew his pistol which he believed to be unloaded, pointed it at CONSUELO (LNU) who was present, and pulled the trigger. However, there was a bullet in the chamber, the gun fired and CONSUELO was mortally wounded. ECHARTE ran from the shop and confronted his superior, SANTIAGO FRAYLE, who, he felt, was directly responsible for the accident. In a recent Cuban G-2 raid ECHARTE had loaned his pistol to FRAYLE because FRAYLE was reluctant to carry a machine gun, and FRAYLE had failed to completely unload the weapon when he returned it to ECHARTE although he had indicated to ECHARTE that he had done so. ~~(S)~~(X)(S)

At this point ECHARTE explained that SEGUNDO PEREZ was not completely emotionally stable and at periods of time became mentally unbalanced. It was about this time SEGUNDO PEREZ was suffering through one of these periods and FRAYLE was replacing him. ~~(S)~~(X)(S)(u)

Nevertheless, ECHARTE was found guilty on a charge of culpable homicide and was sentenced to six years imprisonment. He was incarcerated at Principe Prison in Havana, Cuba, where he became acquainted with PEDRO SANTIESTEBAN, a political prisoner. SANTIESTEBAN repeatedly discussed politics with ECHARTE at Principe and ECHARTE realized that there was some logic to SANTIESTEBAN's opposition to the Castro regime. ~~(S)~~(X)(S)(u)

After ECHARTE had served 15 months of his term, he was released in early 1961 through the personal efforts of RAMON PEREZ, brother of SEGUNDO PEREZ. PEDRO SANTIESTEBAN had been released prior to this. ~~(S)~~(X)(S)(u)

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When ECHARTE was released, RODRIGUEZ, whose authority in Cuban G-2 had greatly increased by that time, approached ECHARTE to spy upon PEDRO SANTIESTEBA and report on SANTIESTEBA's activities to Cuban G-2. ECHARTE refused. ECHARTE then spent about one or two months making money on the streets any way he could. Then in about March, 1961, or soon thereafter, ECHARTE was given employment as switchboard operator in the office of the Commandante at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Commerce, located at Infante #23, Havana, Cuba. RAMIRO VALDES was responsible for assigning ECHARTE to this position and he did so upon request from SEGUNDO PEREZ. ECHARTE had no intelligence responsibilities in this position. (S) (X) (u)

After a year or slightly more in this position, ECHARTE was caught dealing in money exchange on the black market and was again arrested. His employment at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Commerce was terminated. ECHARTE posted \$500 bond and after he was out on bail several weeks, he personally contacted RODRIGUEZ. (S) (X) (u)

ECHARTE stated he had observed that since 1959 RODRIGUEZ had become more sophisticated, dressed better, reflected more self confidence and had become very secretive about his duties. ECHARTE concluded from these observations that RODRIGUEZ had more authority in Cuban G-2, and that possibly he had travelled abroad and that his duties concerned Cuban G-2 activities abroad. He confronted RODRIGUEZ with these observations and although RODRIGUEZ avoided discussing this area of responsibility in Cuban G-2, he nevertheless acknowledged his duties involved Cuban G-2 activity abroad. (S) (X) (u)

RODRIGUEZ in turn observed that ECHARTE had been involved in two incidents while employed by the government and that incidents such as these created a poor image of the government in the eyes of the Cuban people. RODRIGUEZ warned ECHARTE that if he continued his ways, he would have more and more trouble with the Cuban Government and suggested that ECHARTE consider leaving Cuba. ECHARTE agreed with RODRIGUEZ and indicated he would be willing to perform any service abroad needed by the Cuban Government. RODRIGUEZ conceded that ECHARTE could be useful. (S) (X) (u)

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NY 105-95685

A statement was drawn and [RODRIGUEZ] had ECHARTE sign it. Essentially it constituted a statement to the effect that ECHARTE agreed never to disclose information about the training he was to then be afforded and never to disclose any official assignment he received from Cuban G-2.

ECHARTE was then instructed that he was to continue to give the appearance of being unemployed and to appear as though he were making his living by his wits on the street dealing in jewelry and any other way possible. However, his training was to commence immediately. He was told to report alone to a certain address, now unrecalled, which was near the [zoo] in Havana. When he arrived there, he was shown to the basement of the building where he encountered a [Chinese Cuban] male who never disclosed his name, but merely said he was to be ECHARTE's instructor.

This [Chinese Cuban] instructor was about age 31, approximately 5'8" tall, about 170 pounds, muscularly built and had a slightly [deformed] left leg which caused him to walk with a limp. The instructor indicated that his [left leg] had been injured by a severe blow in the [hip] area which permanently damaged the nerves and muscles of the [leg].

ECHARTE was instructed by this individual in the art of fighting and defending himself with his hands and feet, the use of a knife in hand to hand combat, and the use of the garrote. ECHARTE was afforded this training three to four hours daily for a period of about two months. Purposely ECHARTE was to be seen on the streets at various hours during the day to create the impression he was unemployed. Later on some of this training was conducted at a house located in the vicinity of [3rd] Street and [5th] Avenue [Miramar], Havana, Cuba. ECHARTE learned this house was owned by a pro-Castro Cuban who had been repatriated from the United States, but never learned the owner's name.

ECHARTE ascertained that [Cuban G-2] frequently changed the location where instruction was conducted. Whenever an additional location or a change of location was required, a Cuban G-2 agent would scout for a suitable house, approach the owner and simply inform him that the facilities were needed temporarily. The owner was obliged to comply and make the basement or some other place available even though the owner had no connection whatsoever with Cuban G-2 or the Cuban Government. The owner was simply told that certain individuals, never identified by name, would use the facilities at certain hours. The trainee and the instructor never identified themselves to the household personnel. Cuban G-2 took this precaution to prevent identification of their intelligence personnel.

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5.

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Upon completion of the aforementioned training, ECHARTE was told to report to a house located in the vicinity of 92nd Street and First Avenue, Miramar, Havana, Cuba, which turned out to be an empty house. Here ECHARTE was afforded training in photographing documents, developing film, technical aspects of photography, codes, the preparation and use of secret inks, chamfering, and ways to conceal messages. There was no training in microdots or reduction of photographs. The instructor in this phase of training was a Cuban mulatto, about age 21, who was a college student, but ECHARTE never learned his name. This instructor was about 5'9", very slightly built and weighed about 125 pounds. Here again the training was furnished only two to four hours daily, not necessarily on consecutive days, and the specific hours varied from day to day. There was no set schedule followed every week. When ECHARTE's instruction was completed for the day, he would then be told what day he should next report and the hour to be there. ECHARTE said this was done intentionally so that ECHARTE's daily life did not fall into a set pattern that could be traced.

ECHARTE was told to prepare his secret ink by mixing lemon juice and water, or salt and water or any other acid with water, and to write his message with the prepared solution on regular stationery. He was instructed that after he completed the message he was to completely rub the paper smooth all over in the vertical direction as well as the horizontal direction of the paper. He was then told to write an open text message on the same paper and forward it to any designated drop given to him.

With regard to the code instruction ECHARTE received, he stated he never had the opportunity to utilize a code and doubted that he could recall it. He indicated that he would attempt to recall in his own mind the basics of the code which he had been taught to use and said he would furnish this information in the event he found he was able to recall it. This same instructor also furnished ECHARTE fundamentals in the reception and transmission of clandestine radio messages.

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ECHARTE's third and last phase of training was conducted at a large hacienda set out on a huge piece of land. This property was located at Baracoa on the road leading to Mariel and Pinar del Rio. Here ECHARTE was instructed in the dismantling, the assembly and firing of machine guns, the M-3 rifle and .45 caliber pistols. He was also taught the fundamentals of explosives, how to make bombs, the setting of fuses, the placement of explosives in order to obtain desired damage, how to blow up a car and how to use Molotov cocktails. ECHARTE's instructor for this phase of training was a white Cuban male, about age 60, about 5'8" tall, and about 175 pounds in weight. Here again ECHARTE never learned the name of this instructor. This was the only location where ECHARTE observed others undergoing the same training. At various times ECHARTE observed four to six others who appeared to be Cubans, each being trained by a separate instructor. The trainees never came in contact or very close view of each other and ECHARTE never learned the identity of the others who were being trained.

ECHARTE believes others were probably trained at the same locations he reported to for the previously mentioned phases of his training, but they apparently were intentionally scheduled at later or earlier hours than he reported so that Cuban G-2 kept the trainees from learning the identity of each other.

One day in the course of this training ECHARTE visited RODRIGUEZ at his office. There was another man present. When ECHARTE entered RODRIGUEZ turned to the other individual and said "Here's one of the men I want you to meet," and introduced ECHARTE by name to the other individual who was introduced as MARCOS BRAVO. On looking back ECHARTE feels quite certain that he was being trained to be a guerrilla fighter in Latin America.

After ECHARTE had been in training about six months, he was told to report to RODRIGUEZ. When he did, RODRIGUEZ told him that FIDEL CASTRO had decided that MANOLO RAY, leader of JURE, an anti-Castro organization headquartered in Puerto Rico, was causing the Government of Cuba (GOC) too much trouble and that FIDEL CASTRO had ordered Cuban G-2 to select the best man available and give him the assignment of assassinating MANOLO RAY. RODRIGUEZ said he considered ECHARTE the best man and was giving this assignment to him.

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[RODRIGUEZ] instructed ECHARTE to purchase a boat and to locate about 24 people who wanted to escape from Cuba and to plan an escape with these individuals. ECHARTE was to create the impression that it was a legitimate attempt to escape from Cuba although [RODRIGUEZ] promised ECHARTE that Cuban G-2 would make the necessary arrangements with coastal patrols, at the selected departure point, so that no unfavorable incident would occur. The money to purchase the boat was furnished to ECHARTE by Cuban G-2 and ECHARTE was assigned the code name "POCHO".

ECHARTE's closest associate at that time in Cuba was [DANILO CORON CANALEJO] and he was one of the individuals ECHARTE approached to "escape" with him. However, [CORON] is not a very courageous individual and he expressed fears as to the consequences in the event the escape was thwarted. In order to convince [CORON] that he should go along, ECHARTE finally told [CORON] that the escape had the blessing of Cuban G-2 and that the coastal guards would be removed from the point of departure at the appropriate hour of escape and that safety was assured.

ECHARTE and [CORON] then set out to find and purchase a suitable craft. They were not immediately able to locate such a boat and after several days of searching, ECHARTE became irritated. At this point [CORON] stated "Tomorrow there will be just the boat we need advertised in the newspaper. You'll see." The following day [CORON] came running to ECHARTE waving the newspaper saying, "I told you. Here is just the boat." Suddenly, ECHARTE felt that possibly [CORON] was also working for Cuban G-2 and that he knew beforehand that that particular advertisement would appear in the paper. ECHARTE and [CORON] went to see the fisherman who advertised the boat and again ECHARTE had the feeling that the fisherman who was offering the boat for sale was also either working for or taking instructions from Cuban G-2. The boat, "Leda" was then purchased.

ECHARTE and [CORON] then began selecting their companions for an escape by sea. Some of the individuals approached were personal friends and others were referred by friends. To give the escape plan a legitimate aura, all individuals approached to participate in the escape were told that they would have to pay

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their proportionate expenses for the trip to cover the cost of the boat. At that time ECHARTE was acquainted with one JOSE ARRANGACIA who had recently escaped from prison. ECHARTE included ARRANGACIA in the planned escape because it helped give a legitimate appearance to the escape. [CUBA] (S) (u)

In one of ECHARTE's last conversations with [RODRIGUEZ] before the departure took place [RODRIGUEZ] assured ECHARTE that in the event he needed assistance in returning to Cuba after killing MANOLO RAY, he [RODRIGUEZ] would send a message to one of his agents such as "Tito the barber" to assist ECHARTE in every way possible. The implication was that "Tito the barber" was a Cuban G-2 agent located in either the United States or Puerto Rico. ECHARTE denies knowledge of the full identity of "Tito the barber." (S) (u)

[RODRIGUEZ] personally furnished ECHARTE \$4,000 in United States currency, just prior to ECHARTE's departure from Cuba, to cover ECHARTE's services and expenses on this assignment. ECHARTE said he arrived in the United States with \$5,000 United States currency of which \$1,000 was his own money. (S) (u)

When the day of departure arrived and the coast was cleared of guards, [DANILO CORON] caused unnecessary delay in departure by insisting upon driving into the countryside to pick up a Chinese millionaire who, according to [CORON] had a million dollars banked in the United States and was willing to pay heavily upon safe arrival in the United States. When [CORON] returned to the departure point, it was dark and his car lights were apparently spotted by a peasant. The police were called by the peasant and they captured [CORON] and others on the beach and fired their guns at the boat. ECHARTE fled in the boat with about 10 others. ECHARTE does not know for certain whether other individuals in the boat were Cuban G-2 agents but thinks it possible. (S) (u)

At that particular time ORLANDO PANTOJA was Chief of the Coastal Defenses. ECHARTE feared that if PANTOJA or one of his assistants heard the shots being fired, he would believe that an actual escape was taking place and would either fire coastal guns at ECHARTE's craft or send boats out to capture it. Consequently, ECHARTE took a diversionary course out to sea. (S) (u)

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ECHARTE arrived at Miami, Florida, with the assistance of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in late February, 1964, exact date unrecalled. He said that his preparations for the escape, including purchase of the boat and organizing the escape group, had taken about six or eight weeks time after he completed his training. Upon arrival at Miami, ECHARTE telephoned [RODRIGUEZ] and told him of his safe arrival. ECHARTE then proceeded alone to Puerto Rico and located the residence of MANOLO RAY. He placed RAY under surveillance in order to determine his day to day activities and habits. Within a matter of weeks he sent [two plain text] letters to his mistress in Cuba. He identified her as OLGA PEREZ VALLE and said she resided at Campanario #22, apartment 17, Havana, Cuba. ECHARTE had arranged with his mistress prior to departure from Cuba, to have her take any letter she received from ECHARTE directly to [RODRIGUEZ]. ECHARTE said he was supposed to utilize either [code] or [secret inks] in his messages but in both of these instances felt it was unnecessary to do so, and he merely indicated in the [plain text] that he had located MANOLO RAY, had him under observation and that everything was progressing satisfactorily. ECHARTE stated he soon learned after his arrival in the United States, that there was neither censorship nor a watch on United States mail, and, therefore, he felt [secret inks] and use of the [code] were unnecessary.

ECHARTE estimated that he had remained in Puerto Rico approximately 25 days and that this involved a lapse of period of about three - four months from the time he had received the assignment to assassinate RAY. ECHARTE said he concluded that circumstances had changed and that RAY was no longer a serious threat to the Cuban Government, and that to murder him would be an unnecessary and dangerous step for him to take. He said that thereupon he sent a [third plain text] letter to his mistress which he knew would be delivered to [RODRIGUEZ] and therein stated that his mission was impossible and that he was abandoning it. ECHARTE added that even prior to the time before he left Cuba, he contemplated not fulfilling this mission but merely accepting the assignment as a means of getting out of Cuba. He also stated that after he observed RAY with his two children he felt that assassinating him would be absolutely brutal and that his heart softened for RAY.

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ECHARTE said that he had no contact whatsoever with Cuban G-2 for about two years thereafter. However, he became concerned that his mother, father, sister and brother might be subjected to reprisals in Cuba initiated by Cuban G-2 for his own failure to carry out this mission. Therefore, in about the summer or fall of 1966 he informed his mother, while conversing over the telephone with her, to alert [RODRIGUEZ] to expect a telephone call from him. Soon thereafter ECHARTE contacted [RODRIGUEZ] by telephone and went into considerable explanation as to why he felt the assassination of MANOLO RAY had been impossible in 1964. He said it appeared as though [RODRIGUEZ] forgave him and [RODRIGUEZ] suggested that ECHARTE meet with Cuban G-2 agent "JACOBO" in Mexico City. [RODRIGUEZ] told ECHARTE to make the necessary arrangements to proceed to Mexico City and to let him know when he found it possible to make the trip. ECHARTE said that a period of six months elapsed before he found it possible to travel to Mexico but that in this period he maintained contact with [RODRIGUEZ] telephonically. He said that he made these telephone calls over his own telephone which was installed at 1661 Park Road, Washington, D.C. ECHARTE said that he recalled "JACOBO" as being a Cuban G-2 agent but he was unable to furnish the full name of "JACOBO." He described "JACOBO" as a white male, about age 34, 5'9", 170 pounds, with straight black hair.

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ECHARTE arrived in Mexico City in about the Spring of 1967 and went directly to the Cuban Embassy there. He was told that "JACOBO" had been there but had left. ECHARTE was then placed in contact with one ENRIQUE (LNU), also known as "Mickey," who was "Vice Consul" at the Cuban Embassy. ECHARTE said that "MICKEY" used to be a bodyguard for [MANUEL VINEIRO LOSADA], also known as "Red Beard." He described "MICKEY" as a Cuban male, about age 30-32, 5'5", 125 pounds, dark complexion. "MICKEY" said he had instructions from G-2 headquarters to give ECHARTE the assignment of assassinating FELIPE RIVERO, leader of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, an anti-Castro organization.

ECHARTE stated that he travelled to Mexico City in his own car accompanied by his wife, FIDELIA BALSINDE, his daughter, and neighbor named EDDIE YURI (ph). He said that YURI used to live at 1823 Lamont Street, Washington, D.C., but has since moved to Virginia and he no longer knows his address. He added that YURI was a United States citizen, was never involved in Cuban political matters and only accompanied him as a friend to Mexico City.

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Identify himself to the Canadian police authorities. Due to this confrontation with the police he decided that he should try to make his way to Spain through Mexico. As a result he booked passage for his wife, child and himself, on the same day, to New York from Montreal, with the intention of then proceeding to New Orleans, Louisiana. He believed he would be able to secure a car in New Orleans and then drive across the United States border to Mexico. However, when the plane landed at New York, New York, he was confronted by agents of the FBI. He identified himself to them as LUIS MARRERO, a Puerto Rican, and claimed he was a citizen of the United States. He was then arrested by the FBI agents. (S)(u)

ECHARTE was questioned concerning his relationship with CARLOS FERRET. He said that he knows FERRET as a good friend from Cuba, but that FERRET now sells cars in Miami and he sees him only infrequently. He asserted that to the best of his knowledge FERRET has never been affiliated with Cuban G-2. (S)(u) 71a

ECHARTE was asked if he knew anyone presently in the United States who had ever been affiliated with Cuban G-2 and he responded that the only individual known to him in that category was MIGUEL ROCHE (S). He said ROCHE is a white Cuban, about age 34, married and resides in the area of Washington, D.C. He said that when he was acquainted with ROCHE in 1962, ROCHE was then a Lieutenant in Cuban G-2, and that ROCHE is also a friend of SEGUNDO PEREZ and MANUEL RODRIGUEZ SEOANE (S). He said he doubted that ROCHE would know him (ECHARTE) as a member of Cuban G-2. (S) ECHARTE was again questioned as to whether or not he knew anyone who had fled Cuba with him in the boat "Leda" as a member of Cuban G-2. He repeated that he would have no way of knowing for certain but that it was quite possible Cuban G-2 might have attempted to infiltrate other agents into the United States in the same planned escape. He said that the individual he would most likely suspect as a Cuban G-2 agent among those who arrived with him in the United States, was a Negro male who was accompanied by a white friend, neither one of whom he was personally acquainted with. (S)(u)

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