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ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES

CEPERO, JAVIER VERNIER

DEL TORRO, FERNANDO, AKA: RODRIGUEZ, RAMON

THE "JOHNNY EXPRESS"

ARTIME, MANUEL BUESA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida
November 19, 1968

2-165

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PER ARMY 10-6-97
SUBPICS 10-6-97 (JFK)

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

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MM T-1, another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, on June 4, 1968, advised CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, former President of Cuba, claimed he had given \$5,000 to several Cuban exile groups in an effort to unify them in the objective of eliminating FIDEL CASTRO RUZ. (S)

JAVIER CEPERO VERNIER, who fled Cuba via Guantanamo Naval Base, arrived in Miami on April 16, 1968. On May 2, 1968, CEPERO claimed he represented a group of officers and former officers of the Cuban Armed Forces, who planned to assassinate CASTRO and then enter the mountains as guerrillas. CEPERO and FERNANDO DEL TORRO, alias RAMON RODRIGUEZ, who fled Cuba with CEPERO, claimed to have contacts with members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Cuba. (S)

On about May 15, 1968, a ship called "Johnny Express," owned by TEOFILO BABUN, left Miami and carried two men on an infiltration mission into Oriente, Cuba. These two men, FERNANDO DEL TORRO and ALFREDO ISALAYA VALERO, on May 17, 1968, landed in Cuba. (S)

On May 28, 1968, ALEJANDRO BROOKS, Captain of the "Johnny Express," gave BABUN personal documents of the infiltrators and the exact location of the infiltration point. (S)

On May 28, 1968, ATON CONSTANZO PALAU, a Cuban emigre, told BABUN that the landing had been successful, and that the mission would be completed by June 14, 1968, at (S)

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Group 1

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RE: CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS

which time the infiltrees would re-enter the United States through the Guantanamo Naval Base. (S)

MM T-2, another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, on October 14, 1968, advised that CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS was helping in a plot proposed for inside Cuba. MM T-2 said that PRIO was willing to help with money donations, but was not certain that the person he was trying to help was really the person he previously knew in Cuba. (u)

On October 15, 1968, MM T-3, a Cuban exile closely associated with Cuban revolutionary matters in Miami, advised that PRIO continues to be in the construction business in Puerto Rico, but also maintains a residence in Miami. PRIO is a former law partner of MIGUEL SAN PEDRO, Second in Charge of the Cuban Nationalist Movement (CNM), an anti-CASTRO organization in Miami. Although PRIO and SAN PEDRO are close personal friends, PRIO refused to make a \$3,000 donation to SAN PEDRO's organization.

MM T-3 explained that PRIO has been contacted by a majority of the anti-CASTRO organizations in Miami, but has not donated money to them for the past two years.

On October 22, 1968, the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Miami, Florida, reflected that JAVIER CEPERO VERNIER, Alien Registration #A17 698 493, born June 18, 1941 in Cuba, single, and a student, claimed he was in jail in Cuba from 1961 to 1966, and formerly resided at Reparto Fontanar, Avenue #183, 8813, Havana, Cuba.

CEPERO entered the United States on April 16, 1968, and listed his address as in care of Mr. WILLIAM KAYRUZ, 3495 Broadway, Apartment #94, New York City, New York. INS records reflected CEPERO's present address in Miami was unknown.

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RE: CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS

On November 12, 1968, MANUEL ARTIME BUESA, Head of the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MRR - Revolutionary Recovery Movement), advised PRIO is not active in Cuban revolutionary matters, but has given some money donations to several anti-CASTRO organizations in Miami.

ARTIME said that PRIO's donations have generally been to Spanish-language newspapers in the Miami area for the purpose of obtaining favorable press publicity.

MM T-4, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary matters for the past several years, on November 12, 1968, advised ATON CONSTANZO PALAU, exile activist in Miami, is not liked by MANUEL ARTIME BUESA, because a few years ago he stole some military equipment from ARTIME's warehouse in Hialeah, Florida.

On November 8, 1968, CONSTANZO sent one of his associates to tell ARTIME that AMOCHE MOSQUERA, also known as YARAY, infiltrated into Oriente Province, Cuba, with nine men. About one week ago, (first name unknown) CEPERO left Cuba via Guantanamo Naval Base, and on arrival in Miami, requested ARTIME be contacted and asked for arms to be sent to YARAY. Thereafter, CEPERO left Miami and presumably went to Chicago, Illinois.

ARTIME replied he knew YARAY, in that they had both been in a camp in Central America together, and ARTIME considered him an expert in guerrilla warfare. ARTIME said he would be willing to make arms available for delivery to YARAY.

ARTIME said he would leave Miami on about November 12, 1968, to go to Nicaragua to obtain arms and arrange delivery of them to CEPERO, so that they could be taken to YARAY.

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RE: CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS

ARTIME stated that the only condition he would demand was that arms would go to Cuba and not to Miami. He said he would be willing to supply any guerrilla band in Cuba after February 1, 1969, and claimed he, himself, had a base near Oriente Province, Cuba.

CONSTANZO's representative interpreted this as meaning that perhaps ARTIME has a base in Haiti.

CONSTANZO said he had an appointment to see CARLOS PRIO at 6:00 PM in Miami on November 12, 1968. MM T-4 felt that CONSTANZO would seek financial aid from PRIO. MM T-4 explained that CONSTANZO is generally considered untrustworthy, unreliable, unscrupulous, and is attempting to obtain arms from ARTIME for CONSTANZO's personal benefit and use. CONSTANZO indicated he had no intention of delivering these arms to CEPERO.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
November 19, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2-165

Title CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference Memorandum, dated and captioned
as above, at Miami, Florida.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
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