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SECRET

11 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Domestic Collection Division

ATTENTION: (Mr. [REDACTED]) 03

SUBJECT: Joseph R. MEROLA

REFERENCE: HH 25826, 8 January 1974

1. On 10 January 1974 the WH/2/GS desk received the referenced memorandum from the Domestic Collection Division indicating the Miami field office had been in contact with one Joseph R. MEROLA. MEROLA had just returned from a business trip to El Salvador; and he reported that a friend of his had identified a (Mr. [REDACTED]) in the Political Section of the American Embassy in San Salvador as a suspect CIA representative. Headquarters traces on Joseph R. MEROLA indicated that on several occasions in the past MEROLA had claimed that he was a CIA agent. The [REDACTED], the (Mr. [REDACTED]) referred to above, was recently questioned regarding any Embassy contact with MEROLA while the latter was in San Salvador. The [REDACTED] stated that both within the Embassy community and at social functions MEROLA had frequently referred to his contact with the CIA, past and present. He also volunteered this information to a former [REDACTED] contact.

2. In light of the above, it would appear that MEROLA had taken advantage of his agency contacts in an inappropriate manner to the potential embarrassment of the [REDACTED]. We would, accordingly, appreciate that this be given due consideration in your assessment of the advantage of your [REDACTED] contact with him.

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