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8 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Analysis Group

FROM : John F. Sullivan, Jr./Michael W. Renick

SUBJECT : El Mundo Exposure

1. Reference is made to the attached cable from Caracas regarding an article that appeared in the 4 March 1977 edition of the Caracas Daily, El Mundo. This article accused eight Venezuelan news media personalities of being CIA agents and named seven other individuals as "CIA spies."

2. Office of Security indices have been searched in the names cited in the article and file reviews conducted as appropriate with the following results:

Name Cited in El MundoSANCA Results and Comments

Rafael POLEO

Probably identical with Rafael David POLEO Isava (OS#287 626), a former placement asset, Venezuela. Editor, El Mundo, 1963-1965. POA granted in January 1963. Files canceled in July (1976).⁰⁹

Felix MARTINEZ Suarez

Probably identical with Felix Antonio MARTINEZ Suarez (OS#242 302), Director of El Mundo in April 1961 when a POA was granted and subsequently updated in July (1973)⁰⁹ for use by WH/3/V as Propaganda Placement (PP) asset. Named as CIA by De ARMAS (OS#591 865) in Havana press conference, April 1976. Files canceled as of December (1976).⁰⁹

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Name Cited in El Mundo

SANCA Results and Comments

Salfador ROMANI

Probably identical to Salvador ROMANI-ORUE Garcia (OS#223 776) on whom an OA was granted in November 1960 for use by WH/4/ Cuba as a PP agent in Cuba and Caracas, Venezuela. Files canceled January 1967. Employed by several newspapers 1953-1960 including El Mundo as reporter. Listed on PRQ one Dr. Manuel ARTIME as Relative/Friend/ Correspondent in United States. Named as CIA by De ARMAS (OS# 591 865) in Havana press conference in April 1976.

Sofia (IMBER) RANGEL

Probably identical with Sofia Imber de RANGEL (OS#910 348) on whom WH/3/V requested name checks in February (1973) for use as TV asset in Caracas. ^a Files canceled in October (1974).

Carlos RANGEL

Probably identical to Carlos Enrique RANGEL Guevara (OS# 910 350), husband of Sofia Imber de RANGEL above. WH/3/V requested name checks in February (1973) for his use as a TV asset. Files canceled in October (1974).

Ramon KOESLING

Probably identical to Ramon Emilio KOESLING Salas (OS# 255 668) on whom an OA was granted in January 1962 for use by WH/1/V as a PP agent in Caracas; interest was canceled in March 1963 apparently because of a drinking problem. WH/3/Venezuela requested name checks in September 1968 for his use as an unwitting press placement. Files canceled in April 1969.

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Name Cited in El Mundo

Omar LARES

Rolando BLANCO

→ Orlando BOSCH

SANCA Results and Comments

No Office of Security traces.

Probably identical to Rolando BLANCO Bolanos (OS#223 744) on whom an OA was granted in October 1960 for use by WH/4/Cuba as a PP agent in Cuba and Caracas, Venezuela. There is no indication if and when interest was canceled but the Office of Security file was retired in 1966.

Possibly identifiable with Orlando BOSCH Avila (OS#257 971) on whom a POA was granted in September 1962 for PM Ops use by WH/4 in the Florida area. Files canceled in November 1962. FBI information reflects that BOSCH was sentenced in 1968 to 10 years imprisonment for shipbombings and extortion but was paroled in 1972. A warrant for his arrest was issued in 1974 apparently for parole violation (reinvolvement in terrorist activities) but he fled the United States. He was arrested by Venezuelan authorities in 1976 for his alleged involvement in the bombing of a Cubana Airlines plane in October 1976. BOSCH was of interest to the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) in December 1976 as a result of the Committee's investigation into the Agency's present and past relationships with members of the Cuban exile movement.

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Name Cited in El Mundo

SANCA Results and Comments

Ricard MORALES Navarette

Possible identifiable with Ricardo MORALES Navarette (p. 30 Monthly Intelligence Report, 1 September 1968, OS#364 014) an alleged member of a "Cuban Power" group who was arrested in Miami in February 1968 for allegedly placing a bomb in the office of a firm shipping packages to Cuba. Named by De ARMAS (OS#591 865) as CIA in Havana press conference in April 1976.

Orlando GARCIA Vasquez

Possible identifiable with Orlando GARCIA Vasquez (OS# 224 866) on whom WH/4 requested a Covert Security Approval in September 1960. Interest was canceled in July 1961. WH/1/Venezuela requested name checks in October 1962 in connection with his proposed use as a contact. 24 [redacted] reportedly had 16-17 [redacted] contact with him from 1960-1964. Name checks were again requested in November 69 (1972) by WH/3/Venezuela in connection with GARCIA's proposed use as an informant. Filed were canceled in November 69 (1973). The case was reinstated in January (1974) only to be 69 canceled again in November (1974). Security file reflects GARCIA became a U. S. citizen in 1945 but renounced his citizenship in 1959 to accept an appointment in the Ministry of State of Cuba. He was alleged to be a Castro agent in 1960 but a 1961 polygraph failed to substantiate this charge. GARCIA did admit assassinating a number of people including two individuals in Costa Rica (in 1953 or 1954).

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Name Cited in El Mundo

SANCA Results and Comments

Antonio Ignacio BUSTILLOS
Perzez

Possibly identifiable with Antonio Ignacio de la Caridad BUSTILLO Perzez (OS#756 656) on whom name checks were requested in September and October 1964 for his proposed use by WH/SA/IOS as a unilateral asset. Files canceled April 1965.

Luis POSADA Carriles

Possibly identifiable with Luis Clemente POSADA Carriles (OS#319 235) in whom Domestic Collection Division expressed an interest in 1963. Name checks were requested in April 1965 for his proposed use by WH/C/RR/OSOA as a Training Instructor; in February 1968 for his use by WH/3/Venezuela (V) [redacted] and again in January 1972 for his use by WH/3/V [redacted] 24 Carriles was implicated in a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro in December 1965. He was awaiting trial as of January 1977 for alleged complicity in the October 6, 1976, Cubana Airliner crash. POSADA was also of interest to the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) in December 1976 (see BOSCH above).

Freddy LUGO and
Hernan RICARDO Lozano

No Office of Security traces. However, FBI report dated 15 December 1976 regarding Orlando BOSCH Avila (see Orlando BOSCH, OS#257 971) indicates on Freddy LUGO and Hernan RICARDO Lozano were two Cuban exiles arrested in Trinidad and sent to Venezuela immediately after the crash of the Cubana Airliner on 6 October 1976. Both individuals were also of interest to the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in December 1976.

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3. In those cases above where a security file exists, there is no evidence that any of the individuals are current, active assets. Consequently, no further action is recommended.

Michael W. Renick

John F. Sullivan, Jr.
Security Analysis Group

Attachment

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