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AM LASH/1

Rolando CUBELA Secades
born 19 Jan 1933

Subject is former protege of Raul CASTRO and former President of
commie-oriented Castro student organization, "Federation of University
Students", in Havana. Subject was also one-time major in revolutionary
army. When Subj took over FEU, a purge, commie-style, of students and
faculty was commenced. FEU ultimately took over administration of
Havana Univ. Subj is reported to have gradually become disaffected
with Castro Govt and has contemplated defection for some time. Latest
indications of Subj's attitude came from contacts of AMCONCERT/1
and an unidentified FBI source in Miami. Subj has now been relieved
of his Presidency of FEU, allegedly because of booze and women, but
probably because he didn't play ball with the PSP re Univ politics.
Subj is considered by friends to be anti-Communist and also rather
critical of the USA.

First contact with Subj by a KUBARKER was during a meeting in Mexico
City on 9 March 1961. This meeting was arranged by Subj good friend,
Carlos TEPEDINO, Cuban dissident now in jewelry business in NYC.
The staffer was [redacted] also a ~~good~~ longtime acquaintance
of TEPEDINO's. The meeting was merely "to exchange views on Cuba",
and Subj made certain that [redacted] understood this. Subj admitted
however that trouble in Cuba today was the PSP and the manner in which
they were influencing Cuban govt today. [redacted] made no commitments
but did offer, if Subj should so desire, listen to whatever Subj had
to say in the future and to offer what aid was within his power.

Subj was again the subject of interest and potential defection op
when he attended French National Student Union Cultural Festival
in Aug 1961 at Fontier, France. Paris was given OK to approach Subj
but as far as file reflects (and French Desk) no effort was ever
conducted. This particularly baffling since Subj had sent a message
to TEPEDINO via a girl friend who came Miami that he desired to talk
with "friend of [redacted] in Paris if possible."

2.

On 15 June of this year it was learned from a reliable source that Subj was going to attend the Helsinki Youth Festival in July-Aug 1962.

He was to go via ~~Prague~~ Prague. [redacted] sources reported on

5 July that Subj had applied for a visa to attend the festival from

20 July thru 9 August. In view of evidence, it decided that Subj

was ripe for approach. AMCONCERT/1 stated that TEPEDINO person with

most influence over ~~Subj~~ Subj. CA/PROP Staff felt best bet for our money

would be have Subj defect during last week of Festival and give widest

possible press play to defection, including statement of Subj's

dissatisfaction with present Cuban govt. Due Finnish sensitivity

and Soviet pressure, it felt that Subj defection ~~played~~ played low key

Hels press, then take him Copenhagen for larger play via Station assets

there. Then bring Miami for debriefing personality leads, Cuba conditions,

etc.

Due pressing commitments [redacted] station, it felt necessary to have

Hqs case officer accompany TEPEDINO and guide/ support the attempt

against Subj. KUBARK will pay expenses TEPEDINO and return expenses

Cubelo, providing he ~~plays~~ ^{plays} ball our way.

TEPEDINO has POA, has expressed to Miami officer, his willingness

go Europe to help Subj. Plan already laid on for contact and briefing

TEPEDINO in NYC this week.

NOTE: On 8 July TEPEDINO informed Sloman that he had received a postcard on 30 June postmarked Vienna, ~~from~~ from Subj saying that TEPEDINO should not fail meet him Paris in August 62.

* TEPEDINO revealed to Sloman on 8 July that he had been in touch with FBI in Miami. Also mentioned that he was dissatisfied with previous KUBARK efforts re Cubelo's planned defection in Paris in summer 61, and for this reason he approached FBI. (Can we then assume that (and I think we can) ~~FBI~~ FBI knows of TEPEDINO's

interest in defecting ~~Subj~~ Subj? Also interesting that FBI indicated no interest in TEPEDINO when we ran POA check with them week of 2 July.