MEMORANDUM

June 9, 1997
updated June 10, 1997

To: Assassination Records Review Board

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Agrupacion Montecristi HQ 105-106995

On May 15 and May 21, 1997, and again on June 9, 1997, I reviewed the FBI's HSCA file on Agrupacion Montecristi and negotiated the postponements with Carol Keeley at the FBI. This file consists of one Main File and two "sees," and it covers the period January 1962, to September 1964. I reviewed approximately 240 pages in the main file, 16 pages in vol. 1 of the "sees" and 243 pages of vol. 2.

Agrupacion Montecristi was an anti-Castro group based in Miami that contemplated raids on Cuba but which was inactive at the time of the assassination. This file contains information on other individuals and anti-Castro groups such as DRE and Commandos-L. Also included are intelligence-agency observations on the activities of Agrupacion Montecristi in other cities including New Orleans, Tampa, and San Juan.

Main postponement issues

Most of the postponements are informant symbol numbers and FBI file numbers, and names of PSIs and identifying information. The category "Source of Information" has not been clearly defined by the FBI, which claimed but could not demonstrate its equivalence to a PSI. The Assassination Records Review Board has agreed to protect PSIs without evidence. (*See* Guidelines for Review of Postponements in the Segregated Collections, p. 4) During negotiations, the FBI insisted on protecting "Sources of Information." The Guidelines place a burden on ARRB staff to open names rather than burdening the FBI to justify keeping a name postponed. The "Source of Information" has been postponed under the "positive information" standard adopted by the Review Board.

The second volume of the "see" package contains a "CS"--a confidential source, which the FBI wishes to postpone. Finally, the FBI claimed a 1(C) postponement and stated that the redacted (classified) information shows interest and cooperation by another entity. This issue has not yet been resolved.

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