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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS
2-1622

Masferrer once had a barracks-type house in Miami where some of his supporters resided. In early January, 1961, some of these persons were arrested by the Miami Police Department for vagrancy and others were ordered to leave. On 1-20-61 Masferrer advised Bureau Agents he had been ordered by the police to give up the house since his supporters had become a general nuisance and created disturbances in Miami. An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past reported on 12-30-60 that Masferrer is broke and it is unknown if, or when, he will get financial support from any Cuban or American group.

DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE WITH ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL YEAGLEY ON
1-5-61 RE PROSECUTION

Mr. Yeagley contacted the Director on 1-5-61 to discuss the Masferrer case. After receiving our detailed reports, Yeagley thought the Department had a case which it could present to a Grand Jury; however, due to the break in diplomatic relations with Cuba, the presentation of such a case to a Grand Jury would be a delicate matter. Mr. Yeagley had received a call from State Department as to what Justice planned to do on the case, and Yeagley believed, when he called State back, that he should get confirmation from State that Justice should go ahead with the case despite the break in diplomatic relations. The Director agreed that this was a wise thing to do. The Director pointed out to Mr. Yeagley that with the present state of public opinion, the Department was inviting great trouble if it proceeded against Masferrer. The Director further pointed out that since all sympathy in the Miami area is with anti-Castro forces, it seemed that if any move was made it ought to be at the specific request in writing of the State Department. Mr. Yeagley thought these suggestions were excellent and would advise the Bureau of the final outcome of the matter after conferring with State.

CURRENT STATUS

On 1-6-61 Mr. Yeagley telephonically advised Mr. Belmont he had talked with Thomas Mann of State Department and Mann had advised it would be helpful to State's position if Masferrer's activities were stopped and State had no objection to the presentation of this case to a Grand Jury. Yeagley told Mann that Justice was not anxious to proceed against Masferrer without a request in writing from State.

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On January 25, Mr. Yeagley advised that several discussions had been held with Eric Heger, Legal Advisor of the State Department, the last one being on January 19. Heger offered to furnish a letter to Justice saying that State Department had no objection to prosecution being instituted on Masferrer. However, Yeagley wanted a more positive statement such as that it would be in the national interest to do so. Yeagley said that Heger has now left the State Department and no further word has been heard from the State Department and consequently the Justice Department contemplates no further action as to Masferrer unless and until the State Department sets forth its position definitely in writing.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MASFERRER'S ACTIVITIES

All information developed during the course of our investigations of Masferrer has been promptly disseminated to State, Central Intelligence Agency, the military intelligence agencies, Bureau of Customs, INS and the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice.

ACTION:

This is submitted for your information.

BB *V.* *Q* *P* *SP* *YJP*