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JOSEPH MEROLA
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLADOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : J. A. Sizoo

DATE: August 28, 1958

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EXPEDITION TO OVERTHROW
HAITIAN GOVERNMENT
NEUTRALITY ACTSEP
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/21/95 BY SP2 rjg/ky

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Nease	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

SAC Teague of Miami at 2:53 p.m., August 28, advised he had been visited by the Vice Consul of Haiti, Rudolf Babour, about 45 minutes previously. Babour said he had information from an unnamed informant who was a Haitian citizen. The informant told Babour there was going to be another shipment of arms to Port Au Prince, Haiti. The informant wanted Babour to give him \$10,000 for his operation. Informant said there were 27 Americans involved including one Leonard Bird and Joseph Merola (Teague said there was no record on Bird, and Merola is a top jewel thief who lives in Miami Beach.).

Informant told Babour that five FBI men are involved in this matter. Teague told Babour this was ridiculous. Babour said informant would not tell him who was involved until he got money. Informant told Babour that there was a place for storage of arms and ammunition within one hour of Miami; also, there was a \$70,000 cache of arms on an island between Florida and Haiti. Informant said further that some unknown pilot was allegedly given \$10,000 to fly arms to Haiti. The pilot's wife is a cousin of a Mr. Dillard, who owns a lumber company in Miami. Dillard allegedly is trying to get a lumber contract in Haiti.

Teague pressed the Vice Consul for the name of the informant but the Vice Consul did not give it to him because he said he was still dealing with the informant and that he would get further details. Teague told Babour that unless he gave him full information there was not much we could do regarding this. Teague furnished Babour the name of Wyatt, the Agent in Charge of Customs in Miami because of the allegation on shipment of arms. Teague is also advising Customs.

ACTION:

I told Teague that he should run this out as far as he could based on the limited information; that he should try to identify the unknown pilot, and possibly interview Dilliard, the lumber man. I told him that as the allegation involves an alleged plot to send an expeditionary force to Haiti, we should conduct investigation until we could establish whether there was truth to the allegation.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sizoo

AHB:tw 2w
(3) F-114

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