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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (109-12-210)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (105-1747)
RE: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

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1-6-94
Classified by 9903 RUD/uf
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211326

Transmitted herewith are eleven copies of a letterhead memorandum, dated and captioned as above, with two copies suggested for the use of Legat, Mexico. For the purpose of continuity, the results of this interview are not divided into a number of short items but copies are placed in the file captioned: "CUBA'S RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES - FPM - CUBA."

The source, RENE PELLEJA Y JUSTIS is the brother-in-law of RAUL ROA, Cuban Minister of State. ROA's wife is Doctora ADA KOURI described as having a political viewpoint very different from that of her sisters, and generally regarded as a Communist. SILVIA KOURI still another sister, is married to PORFIRIO PENDAS, described by Dr. SAMUEL NODARSE FERNANDEZ an anti-CASTRO refugee residing in the Miami area, as an "autentico," (member of the Authentic Party), a strong Catholic, and anti-Communist.

- P.
- ④ - Bureau (Encl. - 11) (AM - RM)
- 2 - Philadelphia (Encl. - 2) (AM - RM)
- 4 - Miami (2 - 105-1747
2 - 105-2877)

ELS/ems
(10)
C.C. WICK

Sub a cc of airtel and attachment in new file on RENE PELLEJA Y JUSTIS and (acc in 105-78205 on RAUL ROA, SD)

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UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN 109-12-210-300

Claro: Sid [unclear] J.21
ONI, OSI 6.2
by afs. Sanjper - 5/16/61

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

SECRET
Sent 10 1961

MAY 17 1961
NAT. INT. SEC.

SECRET

(S) [PELLEYA] appeared to be extremely fearful when first interviewed by SAs WILLIAM A. WIGHTMAN and EDWIN L. SWEET, on May 9 (S) 1961. He stated he did not want his name revealed to anyone in CIA or the State Department, and in this connection, stated that [ROA] told him on December 30th or December 31st, 1960, that Russian Intelligence had told him that their information regarding the planned attack of the United States on Cuba in January, 1961, came from the Russian contact in CIA. The Russians stated outgoing President EISENHOWER wanted to leave the Cuban matter cleaned up for incoming President KENNEDY, and the attack would be before January 20, 1961. (S)

The possibility is recognized that CIA may have intentionally sown the seed of this rumor with a known or suspected Russian agent. It will be recalled that the Cubans did convert Havana into an armed camp from January 2 - 20, 1961, but no attack occurred. (S)

(S) [PELLEYA] stated he is very fearful of the United States State Department, as he still has a brother and relatives in Cuba. ROA told him that when he was in the United States, (he believed in November, 1960, but at any rate, following the elections), he was visited in New York by CHESTER BOWLES, or a representative sent by BOWLES. (PELLEYA was not clear on this). The visitor asked ROA for an unofficial opinion as to what reaction might be expected from FIDEL CASTRO and the Cuban government if President KENNEDY would make a friendly or conciliatory statement regarding Cuba, such as something to the effect that everyone makes mistakes, perhaps the Cuban situation should be reevaluated, and indicate that the United States would be willing to negotiate differences. The United States would want to reestablish diplomatic relations, negotiate a commercial treaty with Cuba, negotiate payment or recognition of debt in some form for confiscated American properties in Cuba, and would desire that Cuba desist from its anti-American propoganda campaign in the rest of Latin America. FIDEL CASTRO allegedly found these unofficial overtures unacceptable. (S)

(S)(U)
IF OVERTURE
MADE TO
REESTABLISH
DIP. RELATION
IT WOULD
BEEN AFTE
1-3-61
SWS

- 2 -

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Source went to [Mexico] on [the Friday] following the attempted invasion, which would apparently be either April [21 or 29], 1961. The [CALCINES] mentioned in attached memorandum was on that same flight. Source could furnish no further data on any of the above, but said he saw the special passport in the hand of [CALCINES] and recalled seeing him in the Cuban Department of State.

Source was [a part owner] of the [Independent Petroleum Company], with [wells at Jatibonico], near Sancti Spiritus, and was also a [coal importer] in Cuba. In addition, he was an [economic adviser] in the Cuban Department of State from [October], 1959 to [April 29], 1960. He stated that with [ROA's] assistance, he got out of Cuba on the pretext that he was going [to Mexico and Canada] to locate new [sources for imports].

He had previously gotten two of his minor daughters out of Cuba and [into a Catholic girl's school] in [Germantown], Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where there is the [same Sister Superior] who had been their [teacher] before having to flee Cuba. This [school] is [Ancilla Domini Academy, 700 East Church] Lane.

It has been constantly borne in mind that [PELLEYA] might be a plant, but he appeared very sincere and very frightened, and in discussing his daughters and the goodness of [the Catholic Sisters] in accepting them, even though he had no money, he became visibly disturbed, briefly incoherent, and cried.

He examined both agents' wristwatches and appeared greatly concerned that his interview might be recorded. He has refused to come to the Miami Office. He has refused to talk if notes are taken, and begged that his information be so disguised as not to be traceable to him.

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His wife is residing at 161 South Worth Court, West Palm Beach, telephone TE 2-5289. He can be reached during the day at 2015 Southwest 84th Avenue, Westchester, Miami, telephone CA 6-3043.

The enclosed memorandum is classified "CONFIDENTIAL" at informant's request and to protect additional members of his family residing in Cuba.

LEADS:

The Legal Attache, Mexico City, should examine incoming manifest of Cubana flight from Havana arriving Mexico about noon on April 21 or 29, 1961 for any data re source and for complete name and data concerning CALCINES and thereafter conduct such investigation of activities of CALCINES as feasible, attempting to verify if, in fact, Cuban Embassy is propaganda center for rest of Latin America. Source indicated a printing press is operated there and the staff is much larger than officially appears.

Philadelphia will discreetly verify enrollment of two girls with paternal-maternal names of PELLEYA KOURI. It should be emphasized that the inquiry is confidential.

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