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28 December 1967

SUBJECT: BARTES, (CLARENS), Francisco Antonio
aka BARTES, Frank
(See also HEMMING, Gerald P.)

ALLEGATION:

To date there has been no information which involves Frank BARTES, Cuban exile, in GARRISON's investigation. However, as a New Orleans citizen who was prominent in Cuba, opposed to CASTRO, head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in New Orleans, and known to Gerald HEMMING and LABORDE, he may be involved later.

SOURCE:

Memorandum dated 20 November 1967 from CI/R&A and Enclosure 14 of Memorandum No. 5 dated 7 August 1967.

CIA CONNECTION:

Subject, an alien, former President of Cuban Railways, was approved for contact use in January 1961 and May 1967. The FBI interposed no objections to these contacts. He was to furnish information concerning Cuban railways. He was granted a Provisionsl Operational Approval on 4 January 1961 for contact and assessment for use on Project JMATE. This approval was cancelled 31 August 1961. On 7 October 1965 Subject was granted another POA for use as a [redacted] [redacted] He was covertly investigated with favorable results and received an [redacted] [redacted] He returned to the United States on 11 February 1966 and his clearance was cancelled 28 October 1966.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

Subject is 47 years old (born 14 September 1920 in Havana, Cuba). He was formerly President of Consolidated Railways of Cuba and also owned sugar and rice plantations. He left Cuba because of his opposition to CASTRO and entered the U. S. on 4 January 1961. An FBI report dated 14 June 1963 from New Orleans, Louisiana concerned a visit by BARTES to the New Orleans FBI office in which he offered his services to the U. S. Government and said he would be willing to cooperate with the U. S. Government in any acceptable plan the U. S. might devise to combat CASTRO's government with no thought of personal gain or favor. On 20 December 1966 BARTES called the New Orleans DCS office to inform that office that his mother had arrived from Cuba and would be willing to provide information. He also stated that a cousin, a 29 year old Cuban ballerina, Alicia Cruz BUSTILLO, not a Communist and still residing in Cuba, [redacted]

[redacted] There is no record of Alicia CRUZ BUSTILLO in OS indices and no indication that these offers were acceptable by the Agency.

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DETAILS:

In June 1962 Frank BARTES reported to our New Orleans DCS office that Lawrence Joseph LABORDE, Gerald P. HEMMING, Jr., and Howard Kenneth DAVIS called on him and said they wanted to train Cuban refugees as guerrilla fighters and demolition experts for use in Cuba. BARTES reached an agreement with LABORDE who, he said, was anti-CIA.

Subject was head of the New Orleans Cuban Revolutionary Council. A "States-Item" article for 21 July 1962 reported that Gerald P. HEMMING, aka Jerry PATRICK, "showed up in New Orleans apparently at the invitation of local Cuban Revolutionary Council leaders and other Cubans who wanted to take direct action against CASTRO." The article related how "PATRICK" made regular trips in and out of New Orleans and was supplied with machine guns, explosives and other military supplies. HEMMING, aka PATRICK, agreed to set up a training base at Lake Ponchartrain but the Miami CRC headquarters nixed this base for undisclosed reasons in July 1962, according to the "STATES-ITEM" account.