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# The Black Vault

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The image shows a close-up of a heavy, metallic vault door. The door is partially open, revealing a complex internal mechanism with multiple locking bolts and a central handle. A bright blue light emanates from the gap between the door and the frame, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding metal. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mysterious.

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Agency Information

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Document Information

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FROM : DONAHOE, S. B.  
TO : BELMONT, A. H.

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SUBJECTS :

IID, REGISTRATION ACT, ASSOC, TEAMSTERS UNION,  
MEROLA, JOE, HOODLUM, JEWEL THEFT

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: 5/17/61

FROM : S. B. Donahoe

~~SECRET~~

1 - Parsons  
1 - Belmont  
1 - Rosen  
1 - Donahoe

1 - Kayne  
1 - Nasca  
1 - Cotter

Tolson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Evans  
Malone  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Ingram  
Gandy

SUBJECT: IRVING DAVIDSON  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(NATIONALITIES INTELLIGENCE)

Classified by SP-6/MSR/100  
Declassify on: OADR

Davidson is Washington, D. C., attorney who is registered as agent of both Nicaraguan and Israeli Governments as public relations consultant. He has, in the past, volunteered data to Bureau on a number of occasions regarding Latin-American matters and he fancies himself as an expert in this field. At present we are making review of his books and accounts at specific request of Department in view of fact Davidson has reportedly filed incomplete registration statements. Bureau files also show that Davidson has been mixed up with arms exporting in the past; that he has been associated with a number of questionable individuals, including Jimmy Hoffa of the Teamsters Union; and that he is, in short, a con man and opportunist.

On the afternoon of 5/12/61 Davidson telephonically contacted Supervisor R. D. Cotter who has interviewed Davidson in the past and advised that he had information of possible interest. Davidson said he had just been contacted by Joe Merola of Miami, Florida, and latter claimed he had information of interest to U. S. Government concerning reasons for failure of recent Cuban invasion attempt. According to Davidson, moreover, Merola claimed he had tried to furnish this information to local FBI office but had been "given a hard time" by Special Agent Sweeney (phonetic) who had, in fact, allegedly held a pistol to Merola's head. Davidson said that Merola had indicated he was mixed up in some type of criminal activities and was in contact with FBI office in that regard but Davidson had no details in this regard.

Merola is hoodlum type who is well known to our Miami Office. He formerly was a criminal informant (MM 660-C) but has now been discontinued and he has been a principal suspect in the theft of \$117,000 worth of jewelry at Miami, 3/20/61, (Bureau file 87-58792). In connection with latter case, Merola was interviewed by Special Agent H. Wayne Swinney of Miami and subsequently Merola alleged that Swinney threatened to have his

Enclosure  
2-1423

DECLASSIFIED BY 57668 SLD/MSR  
ON 10-1-97 (JEK)

1 - 87-58792 (Unsub; Theft of \$117,000 in Jewelry at Miami, Florida, 3/20/61)

XEROX  
RDC: bar 1961  
(9)

Teletype to Miami  
5-23-61 RDC: bar

~~SECRET~~

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