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JFK Assassination System Identification Form

Date:

4/3/2015

Agency Information

AGENCY: FBI

RECORD NUMBER: 124-10302-10241

RECORD SERIES: HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 2-1499-2ND NR 25

Released under the John

F. Kennedy

Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 54462 Date:

10-04-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR: FBI

FROM: SAC, MM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE:

DATE: 04/14/1959

PAGES: 2

SUBJECTS:

FS, ASSOC, MIL, TRA

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

RESTRICTIONS: 4
CURRENT STATUS: Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 06/17/1998

OPENING CRITERIA: INDEFINITE

COMMENTS:

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (109-430)

DATE: April 14, 1959

FROM:

SAC, MIAMI (2-165)

SUBJECT:

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS; ET AL FPM & Cuba; RA; NM

CLASSIFIED AND SPOTEMENT CAD 2 241)

REASON FOR SPOTEMENT CAD 2 241

FCIM, II,

DATE OF REAL PORT 2 24189

DECLASSIFICATION 24189

Re Bureau letter 3/23/59 to Legat Havana.

On April 6, 1959, JOSEPH R. MEROLA, 2018 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, a jewel thief who is presently under indictment for transporting in interstate commerce guns stolen from the Canton, Ohio National Guard Armory, October 14, 1958, confidentially advised that he had returned several days previously from a business trip to Cuba, where he had been in contact directly with CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS several times during a nine or ten day period, terminating April 4, 1959. MEROLA stated that he personally visited PRIO at PRIO's estate, "La Chata" and that he saw no evidence whatsoever indicating that PRIO is under guard or surveillance of the CASTRO government. He said that PRIO appears to have complete freedom and that neither he nor his men are restricted in their movements. MEROLA has recently volunteered information to the Miami Office relating to Cuban and other Latin matters. His information has been found to be substantially correct where it is susceptible of being crossed checked.

On April 7, 1959, MM-635-S advised that he had just returned to Miami from Cuba where he had been since March 25, 1959. MM-635-S is now an officer in the Cuban Air Force and closely associated with PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, Chief of the Cuban Air Force. MM-635-S stated that FRANK FIORINI (whose real name is FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS) disclosed to him that PRIO is under house arrest and that about one month ago PRIO had been prevented from departing Cuba. MM-635-S said that FRANK FIORINI is now a captain in the Cuban Air Force and is very closely associated with PEDRO DIAZ and other officials of the Cuban government.

4) - Bureau (RM)

1 - New York (109-43) (Info) (RM)

1 - Miami

GED: mbb 66 APR 23 1959

NOT RECORDED 165 APR 22 1959

N 3-21-95 (JE)