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SUBJECTS :

MANUEL JOAQUIN DIAZ
MARCOS DIAZ LANZ

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-75110)

DATE: November 19, 1959

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (134-368)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

SUBJECT:

MANUEL JOAQUIN DIAZ, aka
PSI - CUBAClassified by 5668/SLD/mde
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)Re Bureau letters dated 9/8/59, and 10/14/59; and
report of SA WILLIAM A. WIGHTMAN, dated 8/6/59, at Miami.

On November 4, 1959, DIAZ advised SA WILLIAM A. WIGHTMAN that he returned to Havana, Cuba, on September 23, 1959, and tendered his resignation as a Lieutenant in the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force (FAR), to JUAN ALMEIDA, Chief of FAR. DIAZ stated he resigned because he did not desire to live in Cuba under the present regime, that he did not want to be a member of any military unit of the Cuban Government, and that he is a United States citizen and prefers to reside in the United States and to do nothing which would jeopardize his citizenship. DIAZ stated that during his tenure as a member of FAR, he was assigned to perform various investigative duties, both in Cuba and the United States.

While in the United States on behalf of the Cuban Government, he did not wear a military uniform and he made little or no attempt to conceal his presence in the United States. DIAZ said that he is currently employed as the Assistant Station Manager of Cubana Airlines at the Miami International Airport, Miami, Florida, which position was approved by ALONZO HIDALGO, former Cuban Consul General in Miami, who is presently the Governmental Supervisor of all Cubana Airlines.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Miami
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DIAZ said that his original purpose in the United States on behalf of the FAR was at the direction of JUAN ORTA, Secretary in charge of the Prime Minister's Office. ORTA told him to establish contact with the FBI and U. S. Customs for the purpose of cooperating with those agencies regarding the activities of BATISTA exiles and anti-CASTRO elements in the United States. This operation was to be with the complete approval of both Cuban and United States authorities and was to be completely overt. DIAZ stated that at one time RAMIRO VALDEZ, Chief of Cuban G-2, had discussed the possibility of sending DIER Agents to the United States, but that this proposal never went beyond the discussion stage and to DIAZ's knowledge, no DIER Agents had been sent to the United States. (S)

During the first part of February, 1959, former Cuban Secretary of State ROBERTO AGRAMONTE, informed DIAZ that he was anticipating contact with the U. S. State Department to make inquiry regarding the status of U. S. citizens who were serving in the Cuban Armed Forces. DIAZ said that this was the first and last mission of this subject. However, he informed Agents of the FBI of this intention of AGRAMONTE for the information of the U. S. Government. (S)

DIAZ has on several different occasions voiced a concern as to his status in the FAR and has said that should his position as a Lieutenant in any way possibly jeopardize his citizenship status, he would immediately relinquish such position. During the time DIAZ was in the U. S. on behalf of the FAR, he cooperated fully with the Miami Office of the FBI and kept this office closely informed as to developments and activities within the Cuban Consulate in Miami, as well as within the Cuban military services and government. (S)

Bureau letter dated September 8, 1959, noted that such a statement is vague and that a succinct summary of the data DIAZ had furnished was desired.

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Miami letter dated September 25, 1959, captioned Cuban Revolutionary Air Force, Foreign Political Matter - Cuba, set forth a complete and detailed listing of personnel assigned to the FAR, including pilots, pilot cadets, air police, ground transport maintenance and mechanics, operations, ammunition dump and headquarters and headquarters company, as well as a complete listing of 77 aircraft which comprised the active strength of the FAR. This information was believed, by the Miami Office, to be of major importance to OSI in providing a factual evaluation of the FAR.

On August 14, 1959, DIAZ was in a position whereby he was the only source available to the Miami Office who was familiar with the activities of RICARDO PIMENTEL who was at that time in charge of all intelligence investigations in Miami and was operating within the Cuban Consulate in Miami. DIAZ furnished information regarding specific details of PIMENTEL's activities which can be located in the case entitled Ricardo Porfiorio Pimentel y Roger, aka, IS - CUBA. LA

DIAZ also furnished information regarding RANDOLFO COSSIO, Cuban Air Attache, Miami International Airport, Miami, Florida, and ARMANDO LOPEZ, FAR Sergeant assigned to the Cuban Air Attache's Office. (W)

It is commonly recognized that the FAR has been the center of defection within the Cuban Armed Forces following the arrival of PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, former Chief of the FAR in the United States on July 1, 1959. DIAZ was in a position during that critical period to furnish information regarding the widespread purge which occurred at the direction of FIDEL CASTRO and RAUL CASTRO, following the defection of PEDRO DIAZ and his brother, MARCOS DIAZ, former Inspector General of the FAR. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY AIR FORCE

On September 17, 1959, DIAZ through a personal conversation with the Chief of the Cuban National Police EFIGENIO AMEIJERAS provided confirmation of the fact that

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FLA
Cuba
FERNANDO COBA had tricked RAFAEL DEL PINO into flying to Cuba on July 25, 1959, where the Cuban Police were waiting in ambush for them. It is pointed out that investigation concerning the circumstances of this flight was the subject of considerable time and effort on the part of the Miami Office, which investigation can be located in the file relating to FERNANDO FUENTES COBA. First-hand information, such as that furnished by DIAZ, resulted in a significant saving of time and money on the part of the FBI. It is also pointed out that information furnished by DIAZ in the past has been furnished with his complete cooperation and, that at no time has payment either been requested by DIAZ or mentioned by agents of the Miami Office. Information furnished by DIAZ was completely voluntary.

DIAZ has also furnished information concerning such individuals as JOSE PAULA, ALONSO HIDALGO, RAMIRO VALDES, BLAS ROCA, JOSE RAMOS, EFRON PICHARDO, CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, JUAN ALMEIDA, VINCENT HANARD, and numerous individuals within the Cuban Government.

Cuba
Concerning DIAZ's association with CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, DIAZ stated he met PRIO in Miami in approximately 1957, and is a close personal friend of PRIO. DIAZ said that in the latter part of 1957, he purchased three F-51 airplanes in Phoenix, Arizona, in the name of the Golden Wings Corp., which was formed by DANIEL VASQUEZ, and PRIO. PRIO requested DIAZ to fly these planes from the United States; however, DIAZ refused. Approximately one year later these planes were destroyed by fire while on the ground at an airport in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. DIAZ said that he is still a friend of PRIO since he feels that PRIO definitely is anti-Communist; however, he stated that the former Cuban Government under the direction of PRIO was totally corrupt and injurious to Cuba.

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Information furnished by DIAZ is too numerous to set forth in letter form, however, the above summary should indicate to the Bureau the importance of the information which this PSI has furnished.

The Miami Office has kept in mind the possibility that DIAZ may be a plant or may be cooperating with the FBI for the purpose of protecting his citizenship. The Miami Office also has realized that DIAZ or any other source or informant in the field of Latin American affairs may possibly use his association with the FBI to his own advantage at some future date. It is further recognized that a great many individuals who furnish information to the FBI may have an ulterior motive in doing so, that they may be opportunists or mercenaries and that the furnishing of information might be a self-serving action. Information furnished by DIAZ, however, has been found to be reliable and has enabled the Bureau to keep abreast of the Cuban situation at those times when DIAZ happened, by virtue of his position, to be within the focus of attention. No promises, payments, or written records were furnished to this informant in return for his voluntary cooperation.

In view of DIAZ's present position with Cubana Airlines, he has lost a large degree of his former potential as an informant of Latin American matters and accordingly, no further action is being taken toward his development as a PSI; however, UACB, DIAZ will be recontacted from time to time as a source of information and in regard to specific matters which may arise, such as request for information set forth in Bureau teletype dated November 12, 1959, regarding the influx of several thousand leaflets published by the Cuban Government regarding the recent leaflet flight by PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, et al. These leaflets allegedly arrived in the United States by Cubana Airlines.

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UACB, no further investigation will be undertaken regarding the Registration Act case concerning subject, in view of his resignation from the FAR.

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Dec 10 1962