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Document Information

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TO : BELMOMT

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SUBJECTS :

JUAN FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO RODRIGUEZ
ROLANDO MASFERRER

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

RE: JUAN FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO RODRIGUEZ
GEORGE L. VALDES AMABLE, aka.
ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS

of Masferrer to Cuban ship in international waters, taking of him to Cuba with subsequent release of story by Cuban Government that Masferrer had headed expedition but had been captured. Other man exhibited credentials identifying self as Juan Fernandez de Castro of Cuban National Police. Valdes proposed payment of \$15,000 to Holloman if assistance needed and \$25,000 if not. Valdes major participant in discussion although Fernandez discussed details of plan.

Subjects placed under arrest at 8:16 p.m., 1/27/60. Upon interview Fernandez said he had come to Miami from Havana on instructions of Efigenio Ameijeiras, Chief of Cuban National Revolutionary Police, to meet George Valdes on unexplained deal. On arrival Valdes said deal was to kidnap Masferrer. Fernandez made no further substantial admissions and declined to furnish signed statement. Valdes claimed he is travel agent with no official Cuban connection. He claims he was acting for Ameijeiras to arrange extradition of Masferrer and denies kidnapping plot. He claims that as result of proposing extradition idea to Taaffe she offered to discuss matter with FBI and he thought subsequent meeting was to be with U.S. Government official along that line. His story does not jibe with what transpired at meeting. What Taaffe actually said and did is problematical as she has intelligence complex, operates on her own and there are indications she has played both sides of street in Cuban situation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Upon authorization of AUSA Bates complaint filed 1/27/60 charging Valdes and Fernandez with conspiracy to kidnap (Title 18, Section 1201, U.S. Code). Hearing before U.S. Commissioner Roger E. Davis set for 2:30 p.m., 1/28/60. SAC Teague advises this time set by Davis in accordance with desires of both Davis and AUSA Bates. U.S. Commissioner indicates he will set bond at \$100,000 each. Both subjects confined to Dade County jail.

Miami Office was authorized to make local press release on evening of 1/27/60 confined to data in complaint plus fact arrest result of FBI investigation. Release made 1 a.m., 1/28/60. State Department was telephonically advised at 11:45 p.m., 1/27/60 of arrests and charges.

Fernandez is Cuban national identical with Miami informant MM 635-S. He has been utilized since 1955 as paid informant on Cuban affairs. He has furnished excellent data. Since September, 1959, he has been working with Cuban police in Havana and personal contact extremely limited. Miami has recognized need to establish present loyalties

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but informant's absence has precluded this. It is not clear at this time whether he would have furnished us data on this matter and rapid sequence of events may have prevented this. Irrespective of whether he would have played it straight or not, his arrest was necessary. If he was not dealing honestly with us he deserves arrest and, if he intended to deal with us truthfully, his arrest was necessary for his own personal safety. X(u)

We are furnishing brief summary of facts in letters to Attorney General and Vice President Nixon.

Details are being furnished in letter to Criminal Division with copy to Internal Security Division of Department and in letter to State with copies to CIA, intelligence services of armed forces and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In letters to Department of Justice only we are confidentially advising of informant relationship with Fernandez since it is felt Department must know this rather than be confronted with it unexpectedly at trial or prior thereto. To hold out and have to advise Department later might create impression something was behind concealment. If it later develops that there are mitigating factors regarding Fernandez we will advise Department. X(u)

ACTION:

Above action is being expedited today. Whether or not subjects are eventually convicted or simply returned to Cuba their arrest should serve notice on Castro that such activity will not be tolerated.

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