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ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS

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7/8/77

SAC, MIAMI (174-926)

UNSUB; BOMBING OF CAR AT
6775 S.W. 27th STREET,
MIAMI, FLORIDA,

XXX 10/31/75,
ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS (DECEASED) - VICTIM
EID
(OO: MIAMI)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (174-6515)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 MAC/ET
ON 5-19-94 (JPK)

Enclosed for the Bureau are one copy each of FD-302s regarding interviews of ANDRES PASEIRO, Mrs. LUCILA MASFERRER and JOSE ELIAS THUMAS and copy of Mrs. MASFERRER's letter dated 4/22/77.

ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS, former editor of "Libertad" newspaper, Miami, Florida, was killed on 10/31/75, when a bomb exploded in his car at Miami, Florida.

MASFERRER was known as "El Tigre" (The Tiger) when he was a Senator in Cuba. Men who worked for him in Cuba were his personal bodyguards and made up a small army which MASFERRER utilized for his own personal protection and for his political advancement. These men were known as "Masferrer's Tigers" and were feared by the Cuban population as they were responsible for many killings.

In March, 1976, MANUEL DE ARMAS, a Cuban exile who was then living in Miami, Florida, and was utilized as an informant by the FBI, defected to Cuba. While in Cuba, DE ARMAS made numerous releases to the press at the request of the Cuban Government. Much of the information furnished by DE ARMAS was false. In one of the interviews which was televised in Havana, DE ARMAS stated that the explosives used to kill MASFERRER were furnished to him by SA ROBERT MILLS of the Miami Division. DE ARMAS said that he in turn gave the explosives to members of the anti-Castro organization Abdala. DE ARMAS alleged that members of Abdala killed MASFERRER using the explosives furnished by SA MILLS. (u)

- (2) - Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM)
1 - Miami

JSD/jky
(3)

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MM 174-926

On 1/24/77, MM 3945-C advised that ANDRES PASEIRO, brother-in-law of MASFERRER, wanted to bring criminal charges against SA MILLS based on DE ARMAS' statements. X(u)

PASEIRO, JOSE ELIAS THUMAS and LUCILA MONTERO MASFERRER, ROLANDO MASFERRER's widow, were interviewed regarding the allegation against SA MILLS in late January and early February, 1977.

It is noted that DE ARMAS returned to the United States in September, 1976, and was interviewed by Special Agents of the Utica, New York Resident Agency and the CIA. In the interview DE ARMAS denied any direct knowledge of MASFERRER's murder, and admitted fabricating this story about SA MILLS having furnished him with explosives. It is noted that DE ARMAS alleged that SA MILLS furnished C-4 for the MASFERRER killing, when in fact dynamite was used. DE ARMAS, who appears to be a pathological liar, also told Homicide detectives of the Dade County Public Safety Department in Miami that the information he furnished about SA MILLS is false. X(u)

Because of MASFERRER's involvement with the violent element in the Miami area and the possibility that his friends and followers may have believed DE ARMAS' story and could retaliate in some violent way against SA MILLS or his family, it was decided by the Miami Office that an interview of Mrs. MASFERRER and her brother-in-law was proper to evaluate the possibility of a threat to SA MILLS or his family. SAs FREDERICO VILLALOBOS and ROY L. MOBLEY, JR. were instructed to interview Mrs. MASFERRER, ANDRES PASEIRO and JOSE ELIAS THUMAS, aka Jose Elias Nacin. (Copy of FD-302s regarding these interviews are enclosed).

It is noted that NACIN is a member of a violent terrorist organization named "Pragmatistas" and was recently convicted in Miami of conspiracy to commit murder. This involved the shooting death of LUCIANO NIEVES, a well-known Cuban exile in Miami.

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