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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

DATE: 2/24/77 MAR 10 1977

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : LEGAT, CARACAS (64-2) (P)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
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SUBJECT: RENE JESUS CASTILLEJO COVA
FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS — *Venezuela*

8/1/94 Sp8 MAC/GAT
Classified by
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

Approximately two months ago, subject was offered the position of Security Investigator by Mr. SIDNEY T. TELFORD, Regional Security Officer (RSO), American Embassy, Caracas, Venezuela. This position involves conducting background investigations of local-hire employees for the U. S. Embassy and other duties.

Subject currently resides in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, where he is under contract with the Netherlands Antilles Government as Director of Training for the Netherlands Antilles Police Force (NAPF), which position he has held for the past two years. His job with the American Embassy, Caracas, was to begin at the termination of his current contract with NAPF.

When personally contacted by Mr. TELFORD in Curacao approximately three weeks ago, subject stated he was looking forward to his job at the American Embassy, and would report for duty in a few days. He did not report, and all efforts by the RSO and others to contact him have been futile. It should be noted that attempts to contact his wife have also met with negative results.

Mr. RICHARD MARTINEZ, Narcotics Coordinator, Agency for International Development (AID), American Embassy, Caracas, who has known and worked with subject for eleven years, states the apparent disappearance to be completely out of character for CASTILLEJO, and strongly suspects the possibility of foul play. Both MARTINEZ and TELFORD point out that in Curacao subject was in contact with top-level government officials, including the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice, and could have become privy to information concerning illicit activities by these individuals, noting that their approval is needed to establish gambling casinos, obtain licenses to manage casinos, and to own ~~DE-48~~ operate hotels in the Netherlands Antilles.

DINO VINCENT CELLINI, who is allegedly the godfather of the son of S. TRAFICANTE, a Miami LCN figure, is currently negotiating with the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to establish a

- 5 - Bureau
 - 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
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5-34 ES/pw
3/9/77

REVIEWED BY *JFK* TASK FO
11/4/97 *mr/dk*
22 MAR 1977

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floating hotel-casino off the island of Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, which necessitates minister of justice approval. DINO's brother, EDWARD GOFFREDO CELLINI, and one ROSARIO SPADARO, are currently negotiating to purchase the Great Bay Hotel in St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles (Bufiles 182-3468 and 163-37211; CARfiles 182-1 and 92-10). RSO, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Legat suspect the floating casino and the hotel may well be schemes to launder LCN money through the Netherlands Antilles.

On the last attempt to contact subject and his wife, RSO and MARTINEZ were told by NAPF authorities that the minister of justice considered subject's contract to be indefinite, and further, that no attempt to contact subject should be made in the future, and refused to state where subject was currently located. Attempts to contact subject through his family in Caracas have been negative.

It appears unlikely that Netherlands Antilles authorities would have placed subject in isolation merely in order to prevent him from accepting a position with the U. S. Embassy in Caracas. However, because of subject's high-level contacts in government circles in the Netherlands Antilles, he could possibly have come into possession of information concerning corruption or political intrigue that would make it advisable for them to keep him in Curacao if at all possible.

Both RSO and Mr. MARTINEZ strongly feel that subject's disappearance is directly connected with his intention to take a position with the U. S. Embassy at Caracas.

[CIA, Caracas] stated they have no information concerning the political scene in the Netherlands Antilles that might involve subject, and suggested that [CIA, Miami] which handles the Netherlands Antilles, be contacted in this regard. (S) (S) FL Venezuela

Subject is described as follows:

Name:	RENE JESUS CASTILLEJO COVA
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	January 1, 1931
Place of Birth:	Aruba, Netherlands Antilles
Height:	5'6"
Weight:	160 lbs
Hair:	Black (balding)
Eyes:	Dark
Complexion:	Dark

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He is a dual national (Netherlands Antilles - Venezuela), and holds Venezuelan Passport and National Identification Card No. 1875070.

The Bureau is requested to authorize the following leads as a matter of cooperation with the RSO, U. S. Embassy, Caracas:

MIAMI

1. Be alert for any information from LCN sources that may possibly bear on subject's disappearance, including problems in licensing floating hotel-casino, or any information indicating LCN payoffs to high Netherlands Antilles Government officials.

2. Contact [CIA Station, Miami] for any information they may have concerning subject and his activities in the Netherlands Antilles. (S)

(S)

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