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12 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rolando MASFERRER, Jr.

1. Please be informed of a possible future contact--Rolando MASFERRER, Jr., recently promoted to Vice-President of Sales, Military Armament Corporation, Washington D.C. office, 905 L' Enfant Plaza, #4020. He is also associated with Parabellum Corporation, another military weapons firm. Subject, born approximately 1945, in Habana, Cuba, is believed to be a naturalized citizen.
2. Subject makes frequent sales trips to Latin America. Because of the nature of his main product (machine pistols with silencers) he has good access to top Latin American governmental officials and military and security officers. He has personally met many Latin American presidents. He should be a good source of information on the current status of arms sales in Latin America; internal security, military armament levels, order-of-battle, and internal politics in host countries; and, if needed, status of Cuban exile movement. He is presently on a sales mission to Colombia and is scheduled to return in mid-June.
3. MASFERRER, Jr. has been a Miami resident since 1959 and more recently lived in Atlanta. He will permanently locate in the Washington, D.C. area when he returns from his Colombian trip.
4. Subject is not to be confused with his father, ^{same} by the same name, the infamous Rolando Arcadio MASFERRER y Rojas (201-42669). Masferrer Sr. was a former Cuban Senator and leader of a dreaded private army of Batista enforcers called "Los Tigres (The Tigers)". He is presently serving in a U.S. federal prison for attempting to organize a 1967 invasion of Haiti in order to set up a base of operations against Cuba. Masferrer Sr., violently anti-Castro, was involved in numerous Cuban exile operations against Cuba during the last decade.
5. I was Subject's Commanding Officer in the Florida National Guard and sometimes saw him socially while in Miami. Although Cuban by birth, he now feels that he is an American. Politically anti-Communist, he joined the National Guard (while not under duress from the draft) to become a "Green Beret." He is polite and correct in his social relationships. I received a letter from him, 7 June 1972, advising me of his impending move to the Washington, D.C. area. He

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solicited my aid in finding a local army reserve unit.

6. If you are interested in exploring this possibility further, please feel free to contact me at any time. I could suggest cautions and method of contact or introduction. Subject is unwitting of my Agency employment.

03 [Signature]
J. Grey G. Petersen

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6. During the first three months of 1972, Subject made two trips to Mexico. During his first trip, three weeks in late January and February, Masferrer travelled with Alliegro and Mitchell Werbell (Mitchell Livingston Werbell III, 201-259910, former OSS member in C-B-I in World War II; former President of Military Armament Corporation; and presently associated with Defense Systems Incorporated, Powder Springs, Georgia.) In Mexico City, Francisco Bravo introduced the deputation to Mexico City Police Chief [Daniel GUTIERREZ Santos] and Miguel NAZAR Haro, "Chief of Political Police". [Actually Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service, DFS, a political and intelligence organization working within the Secretariat of Government.] During conversations Nazar admitted Mexico's insurgency problems and specifically named "Force Seven". Masferrer mentioned that both Nazar and Gutierrez Santos were angry with President Echeverria because of the Mexican Government's policy of light criminal punishment and short prison terms for bandits and/or guerrillas painstakingly captured by the police.

7. Bravo took the three to Cuernavaca where he showed them a house on the outskirts of the city that the police used for unofficial detentions and heavy-handed interrogations. Bravo complained that the local Catholic Archbishop was implicated with the insurgents as well as certain U.S. film personalities who vacation in the American community in Cuernavaca. Bravo also implicated a professor that was kidnapped in Guerrero in late 1971. Bravo believed that the professor [Jaime CASTREJON Diez, Rector of the University of Guerrero] actually conspired with the insurgents for his own kidnapping in order to raise the ransom money for the insurgent movement. [The ransom was finally paid by President Echeverria.]

8. Subject travelled again to Mexico in March 1972 with Bernardo DE TORRES. [Mexico 2038, 4 December 1969, mentions that LITEMPO-12, WH/MIAMI, received a phone call from one Bernardo De Torres regarding a supposed Swiss contraband arms dealer in Mexico City.] Nazar had invited Masferrer to return to Mexico to go on a "hunting party", that is, to participate in an actual counter-insurgency operation. Masferrer and De Torres arrived in Acapulco and were met by Bravo. They travelled by police vehicle for about an hour east of Acapulco to an area near La Treintas (NFI).

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Just before they arrived they heard on the police radio that the Army had just "shot down" a twin-engine Beachcraft. When they arrived, a search of the wreckage yielded a few weapons. A short firefight (about 15 minutes) ensued with insurgents that left two soldiers dead. Masferrer said he did not know the number of insurgent casualties. One insurgent was captured along with his .45 caliber pistol.

9. The captured insurgent turned out to be a U.S. citizen, white, male, approximately 27 years old. (Masferrer claimed he forgot the prisoner's name, but that he had it in Miami.) Bravo did not trust the Acapulco or the Guerrero state police and had his men take the prisoner to the detention house outside of Cuernavaca. Masferrer said he witnessed the interrogation in which the prisoner's head was repeatedly dunked in a rain barrel to make him talk. The prisoner eventually revealed the following information about "Force Seven": participating Americans were ex-ranger, airborne, Marine or Special Forces types, many with Vietnam combat experience. They were armed with CAR-15 (M-16) rifles and some had M-79 grenade launchers. Other Americans operated elsewhere in Latin America. "Force Seven" provided training to the insurgents and, whenever possible, supplied weapons. In return, the Americans were paid in money and drugs, mostly marijuana, but some cocaine. Masferrer said no heroin was mentioned. The prisoner said the insurgents used the money from the drug smuggling to finance operations. Bank robberies had become increasingly difficult since the Army began posting armed guards at area banks. The prisoner said he had worked under Genaro VASQUEZ [Mexico's infamous bandit turned-guerrilla; killed in a car accident last February]. The prisoner put guerrilla strength at about 1,000 men. Masferrer, however, said Bravo felt that figure to be high. The prisoner also mentioned that some of the insurgents had previously received guerrilla training in North Korea.

10. Masferrer said that later, upon Hazar's orders, the American prisoner was shot and killed. The whole affair was never reported in the local press because, according to Masferrer, such information, if revealed, would damage the area's tourist trade.

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[Jeffrey G. Peterson]

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT (Optional)

FROM

NH/3/V Peterson 3B2627 Hqs

EXTENSION

9494

TO

DATE

TO: (Officer, designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

C/WII/3/V

DC

C/WII/3

C/WII/3

FRD/DCSL -

DCS/OSS

900 Key

FR/DCSL

910 Key

NH/3/V

3B2627 Hqs

12 JUN 1972

15 June

03
 Hold for Mr. [Hathaway]
 SUGGEST NO OPS
 RELATIONSHIP WITH
 MASSERMAN JR.
 THE OLD MAN WOULD
 PROBABLY USE
 RELATIONSHIP FOR
 LEVERAGE TO GET
 OUT OF PRISON.
 MASSERMAN SR.
 HAS ALWAYS BEEN
 ASSOCIATED WITH
 CRIMINAL RECRUITS.
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