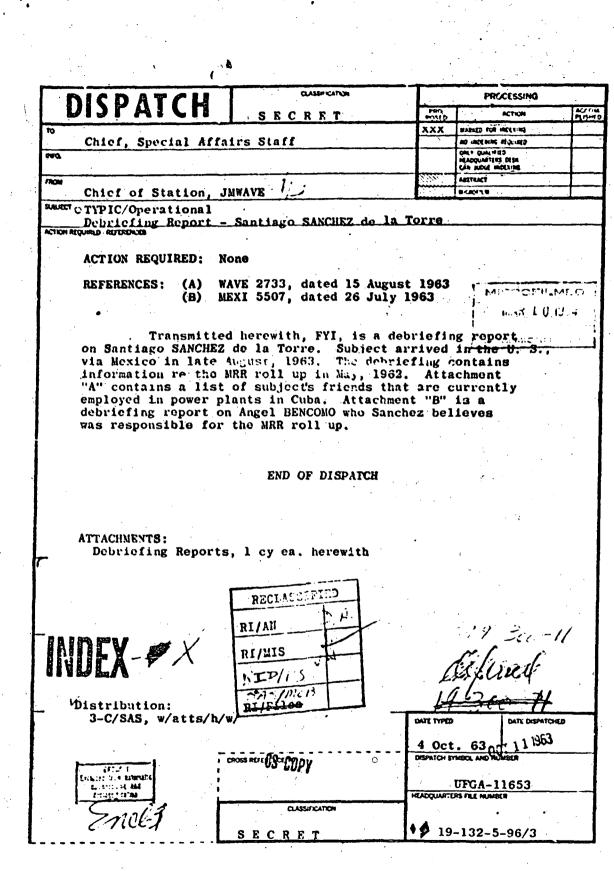
2022 RELEASE UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS ACT OF 1992

104-10193-10016



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3 September 1963

DEBRIEFING REPORT : Santiago SANCHEZ do la Torre - aka "Jose Antonio" DATE & PLACE : Safehouse #182, 29-30 August (0900 - 1300 hrs) CASE OFFICER : Claronce E. SMERYAGE

1. Subject began to work against the CASTRO regime with the MRP in 1960. At that time he was employed in the Santa Clara power plant as a technician. His job was controlling the amount of electric current that was distributed. (Attachmont "A" contains a list of Subject's friends currently employed in power plants in Cuba). On 17 April 1961 Subject made contact with a KJBARK infiltration team and began to assist the team. Team consisted of Segundo *BORGES. Officer Comment: AMARGO/1 has confirmed the fact that Subject worked with his team in Cuba. Subject permitted the team to install their RS-1 set in his house located at #219 Carretera de Camajuani in the City of Santa Clara. He also safehoused the team on occasion and permitted them to hold meetings at his house. After the failure of Playa Giron the team reorganized the MRR in Las Villas Province, selecting Subject to be the Civil Coordinator of the movement in that province.

and Subject were in Havana for discussions with MRR leaders (*AMHOOK/1 and Othe KUBARK infiltration team and many other members of the MRR in Las Villas, including Subject's wife, were arrested. (Discussions were about actions to take place 26 July 1961).

from Santa Clara, age 50/55 yrs, called In Havana and told him not to return to Santa Clara as many people had been arrested. passed the, information to Subject but as subject thought it applied only to late at night on 22 July. He went to his home and on 23 July proceeded to work at the power plant. Dintercepted him on his way home for lunch and told him that the G-2 was at his home and that they also were going to the power plant to arrest him. Subject also learned that there was surveillance on his home on the night of 22 July 1961, but the person watching the house had gotten drunk and did not see subject when he returned from Havana. From that moment until entering an Embassy on 6 September 1962, subject lived "black".

3. Subject proceeded to the outskirts of Santa Clara where a friend, Efrain WWAREN, resided. His friend told him to go to Havana. While driving to Havana Subject met another person who informed him that the G-2 had a roadblock on the highway at Colon, Matanzas, and that all cars were being searched. On 24 July 1961, Subject went to a beach called "GANUZA" located on the north coast of Las Villas near Corralillo. Subject's sister has a home at "Ganuza" so he left his car there and proceeded to Havana with some friends of his sister. Later the G-2 confiscated his auto. (It is interesting to note that the G-2, after confiscating subject's auto at the beach, believed that Subject had departed from Cuba. Subject thereafter communicated with his wife by sending her letters in jail via Miami where they were postmarked).

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4. On 25 July 1961 Subject went to the house of an MRR leador, FNU in Havana. When Subject approached "Thouse he noticed a "blind move as if someone was watching" so he did not go in. He walked two blocks to a bus stop. From the bus stop he could observe the house and he noticed that a car departed at a "high rate of speed". Later that day Subject made contact with at the house of "in O" Fontanar, Havana) still lives in Havana) told Subject of the MRR plans for the following day (26 July). Said that the movement was "going ahead with their plans" even though they were aware of irrest A Subject resided for approximately one week at the home of In Veradero." fontinues to work for the GOC at this time. He is the Deputy Chief of "Tsphalt Consolidated" for OS the entire country. (In April 1962 Subject's wife escaped from the Momens' Prison at Guanajay, Pinar del Rio. She also was safehoused at house). Subject claims that the Mis a "good man" who also has a home located at Tavenida de los OCUJES #221 Jin Santa Catalina O Subject spent approximately one month in the above house (Aug.-Sept. 61).

6. In late Novembor, 1961 Subject moved into a "guest house" where several other MRR members resided. House is called "House of Maria de 1a (*GALLEGA" and is located on "J" Street between 21st and 23rd Streets, jo Vedado. Subject met "Fernando", the Security Chief of the MRR at the guest house. Fernando continues to work in, the underground. He also met there. He met the security of the hills of Las Villas but

The underground in the model of the fills of Las Villas but returned to Havana. Another MRR man residing there was Arturo(*MUGARRA and #AMSALON/1 visited the house on occasion. Subject Was once picked up at the house by AMSALON/1. During this period FNU

Ake Lucas was arrested and Subject began to work with MUGARRA. M The December 1961 [took asylum. There was much conflict In the MRR during this period between AMHOOK/1 and AMBRONC/5. (Subject has many letters pertaining to this conflict but they were left in Mexico. AMBIDDY/1 is having someone pick up the letters. Case Officer will attempt to obtain these letters and review them. Subject claims he did not hand carry them to the U.S., as he thought our officials would seize them).

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7. In January 1962, Arturo MUGARRAJ and were preparing to depart from Cuba. When AMJAVA/4 and AMBROXC/5 arrived in Havana they (C/O Comment: A woman named was OU were preparing changed their minds. (C/O Comment: A woman named was (living with MUGARRA) This girl later came to the USA via the Brazilian Embassy) (HIMUGARRA) group consisted of who "is bad, likes money, women, etc"., and subject.

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called Subject here in Miami on 28 August and wants to talk with

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8. MUGARRA informed AMBRONC/5 that he had doubts about Juan *BUSTAMENTE Aka "Roly", as he had asked too many questions re what AMBRONC/5 had brought to Cuba. AMBRONC/5 decided to call a "false meeting" of the chicfs of the movement to test BUSTAMENTE but "someone objected to this". In February 1962, a meeting of the leaders of the MRR took place and AMBRONC/5 reorganized the movement of Subject met AMBRONC/5 only twice -once in February 1962 at the house of ______ and another time in March, 1962 whon the assassination of Juan' *MARINELLO failed. The Operation failed as the automobile to be used in the assassination attempt was stolen on the day of the proposed Operation. The driver of the was to be Orlando [*CRUZ, brother of Ester CRUZ. The WRR suspected The driver of the car Orlando CRUZ after this incident as he is a person who "likes money" and the theft was"quite a coincidence". (Orlando CRUZ is presently in Miami. He called Subject on 28 August and wants to see him). AMBRONC/5 informed the group in March to suspend all operations until he returned from a trip he was taking to the USA with MUGARRA and AMBRONC/5 placed in charge of the Fadio sets. AMBRONC/5 placed was 04 AMDRONC/S placed in the only person in direct contact with the RADOP in place of Juan BUSTAMENTE, Aka "Roly" (MUCARRA) gave subject two radio sets; one was placed in the apartment of a sister-in-law of subject located of at 23rd and I Sts., Vedado, Apt. #11) The other set was located at *A ON Street between 3rd and 5th Sts., Vedado, it he home of The only persons who knew the locations of the sets were the Radop, the MRR Chief and USA 100 MER Chief and

USA 17 April, 1962, Juan BUSTAMENTE, Aka "Roly" discovered where the during April. radios were hidden. Subject had contact with and

19. On 2 May 1962 AMBRONC/5 and MUGARRA returned from the USA. Enriquer*CEPERO and MUGARRA's common law-wife waited for them in the Blue Studebaker Lark. AMBRONC/5 and MUGARRA were late in arriving, however, and the group had departed from the area. A

Subject later discovered that the G-2, had captured a "large radio" 10. in the apartment of a radio technician named FTROVADIUS. TROVADIUS, when captured, fired at the G-2 and was himself wounded in the shoulder. Later TROVADIUS reported that he had seen Juan FALCON in prison and that FALCON had said "people in the G-2 had told me that no one would be wounded or killed".

The Radop *(ANBUNP/A) informed subject on Wednesday (9 May 1962) 11. to take the radio set, put of the house. Rumors were already circulating were captured. Owners of the house where the that the Radop and radio was cached had <u>moved to Santa Clara</u> for Mothers' Day. As Subject was in contact with pick-up the radio until Thursday (10 May) at 0700 hrs. Subject entered the apartment building (12 stories high) by the rear. Upon arrival he discovered that the glass doors on the terrace were opened (apartment was located on the eleventh floor). These windows are seldom opened.

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Subject entered the building with his briefcase containing a pistol. He noticed two nen "loitering in the lobby". He took the elevator to the 9th floor, departed, and walked to the eleventh floor. Subject was wearing soft shoes. He walked quietly to the apartment and heard a voice say "don't talk so loud as no one will come in: Subject then proceeded to the next apartment occupied by a friend of the movement. The friend said she had heard noises since the preceding night in the apartment. Subject then took the stairs to the 9th floor and entered the elevator. He got off on the ground floor and proceed in the house on Carlos (Tercero Ave.) where the other radio was cached (Owner's name is Upon arrival at the house he discovered that the woman who owned the house was outside in her housecoat talking to a stranger. Subject then tried to pass this information to Arturo MUGARRA but (MUGARRA) had disappeared He later discovered that the Tadios were discovered and that TROVADIUS had been shot

12. On 9 May the radio operator (A) UMP/I) Atal Estar CRUZ and were arrested. When subject heard of these developments he hid in the Guanabo area. During this period 9th to 28th of May, he saw MUGARRA approximately eight times. He later heard that the G-2 had taken over a house in Guanabo; located 3 blocks from where he was hiding. Subject heard that the G-2 had taken a "blond thin man there" (Possibly AMBRONC/5). G-2 remained at the house for four days.

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13. Subject then departed from Guanabo for a few days. When he returned in June 1962 he met Sylvia LNU; the person who resided at the house where the "blond thin man named CARLOS! was taken". Sylvia and subject met in the water in front of their houses. Sylvia is the wife of a BATISTA Naval Captain who liss in Miami. She has two "little girls". Sylvia said that "CARLOS" used to live at her house and after being captured he was returned there with the G-2. The G-2 was searching for a "plastic case and envelopes" (pads and crystals) Sylvia told subject that she had seen the envelope and that when Enrique CEPERO's family informed her that he was captured she hid everything in the house that could incriminate "Carlos" under the dog house in the back yard" "Carlos" talked as if he had been drugged when he returned to the house with the G-2. They searched the entire house bringing "Carlos" back and forth several times for four days. Sylvia was forced to open the door whenever anyone arrived and the caller was arrested. Sylvia was interrogated and the house was under surveillance for approximately a month. A friend of Sylvia's from outside Cuba visited her during this period and was arrested and held for a week. Sylvia said the items she buried looked like "pads and maps wrapped in plastic". Although she claimed the material was turned over to the WRR subject has doubts that this was done. Page 5 -

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14. During September 1962 Subject and his wife entered the Uruguayan Embassy to remain in asylum until 19 June 1963 when they arrived in Mexico City via Safe Conduct.

15. Attachment "B" is a report on Angel BENCOMO who subject believes was responsible for the MRR "roll-up".

Allore Clarence E. SMERYAGE

ATTACHMENT "A"

***TALLAPIEDRA** - (Power Plant)

 Ing. Manolito #FERNANDEZ - Superintendente
Ing. Luis F. de (*LEON - Superintendente Auxiliar (Bomb Thrower)
3.

REGLA - (Power Plant)

DESPACHO NARANJITO - (Sub-Station)

1. Jaimer*GUIU

OFICINA PRINCIPAL DE DESPACHO

1. Carlos *MANUEL Pena - Auxiliar of Superintendent (May be throw a bomb)- He can give good information.

DESPACHO SANTA CLARA (Santa Clara Dispatching Office) 1. Pedro V*LUCAS Galvez (Jefe Despacho) - Dispatch Chief 2. Agustin (*GARCIA Cabalet - Despachador - (Dispatcher)

Vladimir S. *KLITTING.

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All. A to UFCA-11653

ATTACHMENT "B"

Debriefing of Santiago' SANCHEZ de la Torre

SUBJECT: Angel BENCONO (DENCOMO reportedly was responsible for the MRR roll-up per SANCHEZ - See MEXI-5507)

1. Angel BENCOMO is approximately 19 years old, has brown skin, short, stocky, approximately 150 lbs. BENCOMO was formerly a miliciaman in Camaguey and a friend of Arturo *MUGARRAD BENCOMO entered the MRR via ______ Quring March 1962; when he was employed by the Abras Publicas in Camaguey. BENCOMO had trouble with his superiors; quit the militia, etc. ______ brought BENCOMO to Havana where BENCOMO began working in resistance with

and Santiago SANCHEZ (BENCOMO did not meet Arturo MUCARRA in Havana) SANCHEZ "tested BENCOMO" and he appeared to be OK 1.0., disciplined, quiet, etc., SANCHEZ then began using BENCOMO to pick-up radios. minox camoras, etc. This activity took place between March and May 1962.

2. [Arturo MUGARRA was arrested in May 1962 in a cafeteria in Havana where he went to dispose of an automobile. was to 0 meet [MUGARRA] at the cafeteria. [MUGARRA] and his brother, arrived at the cafeteria, turned the car (Cadillac) over to the prospective buyer and sat down. A mechanic drove the car to test it and returned with two G-2 cars. Although was present and was questioned he was not arrested.

Ficm May to September 1962, SANCHEZ saw BENCONO often. In September SANCHEZ went into an Embassy but "heard that BENCOMO was arrested and held until November". In January 1963 SANCHEZ heard from BENCOMO via SANCHEZ' sister, BENCOMO wrote a letter (which SANCHEZ still has) saying that he was working for the MRR in the streets. BENCOMO said he did not want to seek asylum but was. considering going to the house of In Oriente formerly was operating in the hills of Yayuajay but went to Havana? to hide out in Jan.-Feb. 1962). In February 1963, SANCHEZ received another letter from his sister saying that UBENCONO was a G-2 man. BENCOMO identified himself as a G-2 man te in December 1962, to cooperate with him() 0 and asked told SANCHEZ' sister of BENCOMO's proposition in January 1963 Since that time has disappeared.

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"B" le UFCA-III

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