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## Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

February 19, 2016

Subject: FILE NUMBER 65-HQ-68323

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Information Policy's advised you by letter dated September 7, 2011 that your appeal was referred to the DOJ's Department Review Committee (DRC). The DRC reviewed the classified information withheld by the FBI from your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to determine whether the information should remain properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 13526.

As a result of our review of the appealed classified information and/or a determination by the DRC:

| 7                           | Portions of previously withheld classified FBI information have been declassified.   |           |              |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|--|--|--|
|                             | All the previously withheld classified FBI information may be disclosed.   |           |              |  |  |  |
| 100                         | All the previously withheld classified FBI information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to subsection(s) of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a.   |           |              |  |  |  |
| 7                           | Portions of the declassified information are exempt from disclosure pursuant to subsection of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. When appropriate, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions. |           |              |  |  |  |
|                             | Section 552  |           | Section 552a |  |  |  |
| Π                           | (b)(1)   | (b)(7)(A) | (d)(5)       |  |  |  |
|                             | (b)(2)   | (b)(7)(B) | (j)(2)       |  |  |  |
| <b>▽</b> (b)(3)             |  | (b)(7)(C) | ☐ (k)(1)     |  |  |  |
| 50 USC, Section 3024 (i)(1) |  | (b)(7)(D) | (k)(2)       |  |  |  |
|                             |  | (b)(7)(E) | (k)(3)       |  |  |  |
|                             |  | (b)(7)(F) | (k)(4)       |  |  |  |
|                             | (b)(4)   | (b)(8)    | (k)(5)       |  |  |  |
| (b)(5)                      |  | (b)(9)    | (k)(6)       |  |  |  |
| (b)(6)                      |  |           | (k)(7)       |  |  |  |
|                             |  |           |              |  |  |  |

<sup>17</sup> pages were reviewed and 17 pages are being released.

Sincerely,

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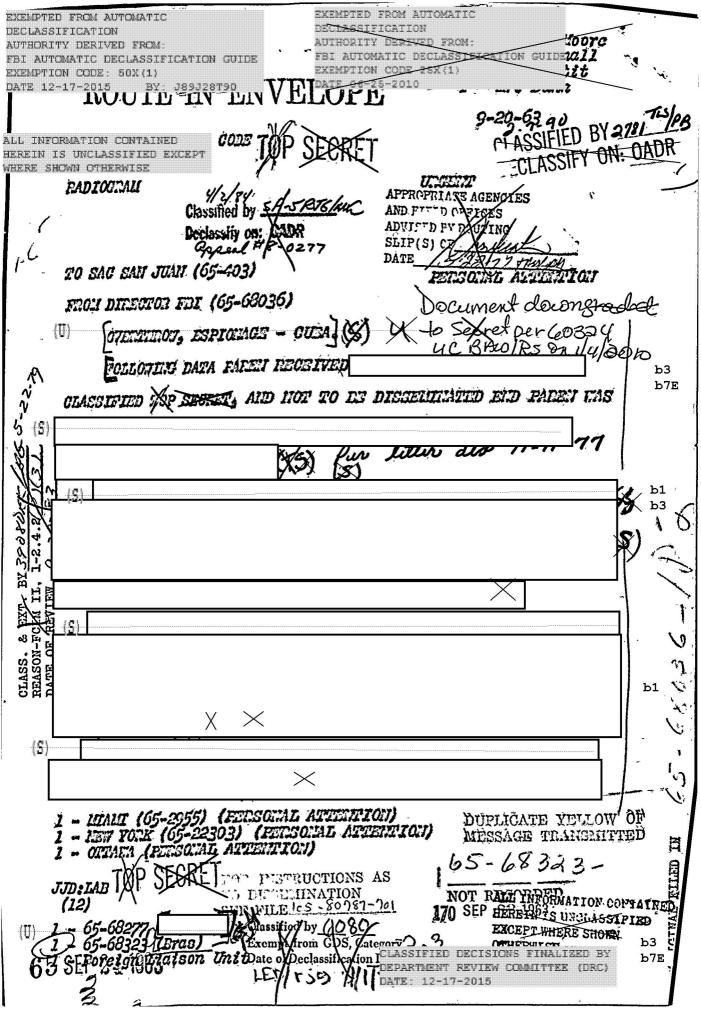
David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure

FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE DATE 05-04-2015 By: J89J28T90 Pettit KOLLON Dunn CIVERIEICVLION ETDE BOR SAC, San Juan CEE BEAEBRE Classified by Souck /m/m Declassify on: CAR12-17-8 Director, FBX Doeunent (65-New) to Secret APPRAL 8-02X7 REC- 100 JUAN MART BRAS Classified by SP-5/8JG/M ESPIONAGE - CUBA Declassiiy on: CA appeal #8/0277 You should open a separate 65 case on the subject which should be utilized to follow his activities in connection with the Cuban agent cases Overthrow Continue b3 to follow the subject's Puerto Rican independence activities in your file 100-4785. Bureau realizes that there may be some b7E overlapping when you are furnishing data under different characters and also is aware that much of the subject's activities and contacts in the Cuban field may actually be included in data prepared for dissemination. Any information, however, which might compromise r our current investigations of Overthrow should not be included in reports or letterhead memoranda prepared under the IS - PRN character ( If there is any question as to dissemination or nondissemination of certain data developed regarding subject, APPROPRIATE AGENCIES present facts to Bureau. AND FIELD DEFICES 1 - New York ADVISED BY 1 - 105-292 (Juan Mari Bras) THEORNATION CONSATRED Classified by 68 JJD:klw Exempt from GDS, Categor HEREIN IS WHET IS SEPTED Date of Dec Assistation Industrie EXCEPT WHERE SHOW E WOTE: OTHERWISE Subject is key Puerto Rican independence leader. has recently come up in the cases on Overthrow (Cuban agents in Puerto Rico). LHe has been mentioned under a code name in messages sent to them from Cuba & For reporting b3 purposes it is believed that we should have a separate 65 file b7E Tolson on subject. Data regarding our Overthrow investigations Relmont is not being submitted in reports or memoranaa. Mohr Casper CLASS17

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM: FBI AUTOMATIS DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE EXEMPTION CODE 25X(1 EXEMPTION CODE: 50X(1) DATE 06-30-2010 DATE 12-17-2015 BY: J89J28T90 1 - Pettit 1 - Dunn: 9/5/63 SAC, San Juan Downent do crameraded Director, FBI 40 Dec vet part, 0324 46180/RS in 114/22 ALL INFORMATION COPSAIRED ESPIONAGE - CUBA HEREIN IS UNCLASSIPIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOW OTHERWISE ReBuairtel to New York and San Juan 8/29/63 captioned |Juan Mari Bras, IS - PRN. 'Da (5) In connection with reference to reairtel./Bufiles contain numerous references to individuals b1 with that name in Puerto Rico. b3 indicated that the father of ,b7D 1 - New York 1 - 105-292 (Juan Mari Bras) APPROPRIATE AGENCIES JJD: klv Rlu AND FIELD OF (7)ADVISED BY SLIP(S) % MOTE: Subject is Puerto Rican independence leader Zand our knowledge of other cuban agent cases. A SP-SRJ6/W Classified by Exempt from GDS, Categ Apres # 820277 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE MALLED 4 Tolson Belmont Mohr \_ SEP 4 - 1963 SEP 4 1963 Casper Callahan COMM-FBI Conrad DeLoach DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE DATE: 12-17-2015 IAIZROOMED TELETYPE UNIT

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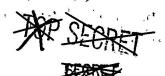


RADIOGRAM TO SAC SAN JUAN (II) RE: [07ERTIZEOT ]\$\(\si\)
65-68035 (S) **b**3 S (S) TOU SHOULD BE MOST ALERT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT'S TRAVEL AND RECIPIENTS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY INSTRUCTIONS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED, PARTICULARLY AS SET FORTH IN BUREAU ATRIEL JULY THIRTY. LAST. HEST YORK, LITALIT AND OFTANA ADVISED BY LAZEN NOTE: (S) Overthrow is code name for Cuban agent in Puerto Rico.

Juan Mari Bras, Puerto Rican independence leader who recently returned from trip to Cuba A appears to be Julio Vives b1 (5) who is under investigation b7D Subject was previously instructed to return to Cuba b7E via Canada land pursuant to approval of memorandum 7-17-63 memorandum also recommended we take no action to approach subject prior to his departure from Puerto Rico. (1881)

THP SLUMET

FD:36 (Rev. 12-13-56) UTHORITY DERIVED FROM: FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE EXEMPTION CODE: 50X(1) Date: , ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Transmit the following in (Type in plain text or code) HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEL AIRMAIL AIRTEL (Priority or Method of Mailing) DIRECTOR, FBI (105-292) TO: ADVISED SAC, SAN JUAN (100-4785) FROM: SUBJECT: JUAN MARI-BRAS IS - PRN Classiff Exempt from GDS, Cat gory Re Bureau airtel 8/29/63 Day of Dalassification Indefinito The San Juan Office has some reservati sent from Cuba on August 4, 1963 as set forth in referenced airtel./%)(%) A check of subject's home at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico on August 31, 1963 failed to disclose any evidence of the dipole antenna that would normally be used for short wave reception from Cuba. We note that "Overthrow" both have such antennas: and the prime suspect in mounted on their homes. (3) ORIGINAL FILED While our radio staff has explained that such an antenna is not essential they nevertheless felt that reception from Cuba would be difficult at best without such equipment. More important, we feel that subject is placed at too high a level to engage in listening to clandestine broadcast and taking the time to copy coded messages. The subject is, today, without doubt, the maximum leader in the Puerto Rican independence field and in line with his high position it would be undignified and unseemly for him to engage in this common activity. 3-Bureau (RM) 2-New York (105-3002) 1-Miami (Info) (RM) 1-San Juan (100-4785 RIW: Zho ALL INFORMATION COMPAND HEREIN IS U. WISSIPIED REEPT WHERE SHOWN CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZ DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)



SJ 100-4785

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The questioned message of August 4 indicates that "Everything has been arranged with the Algerians". We know, of course, that MARI BRAS is planning contact with the Algerians, probably BEN BELLA himself. We note further that has reported that Algeria has been invited to participate in the national youth conference of the Movimiento Pro Independencia (Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR) to be held at San Juan September 7 and 8, 1963, although there is no assurance that these invitees will appear (A)

The 14 de Julio location in the aforementioned message would certainly have something to do with a place that is either French or Algerian since July 14 is celebrated as Bastille Day in France and until recently in Algeria, since it was a department of France. There are no known streets or places in Puerto Rico named 14 de Julio, however, it is possible and probable that there are streets or plazas in France and Algeria so designated (\*\*)

At the present time, we feel that MANOLO must be a person in New York, probably someone in the Cuban UN Delegation, although earlier we had stated that the subject could be MANOLO in view of one of the earliest messages "We know MANOLO pseudonym for MARI."

At this time we are unable to suggest any possibilities identifiable with we do not rule out the possibility that is in Puerto Rico

Our further observations concerning

Our further observations concerning

made available to the Bureau when lacts bearing on them come to our attention.

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XEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC D.E. Moore DECLASSIFICATION Fannall. AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM: r. Pettit -FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE EXEMPTION CODE: 50X(1) Dunn DATE 12-17-2015 9-30-63 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEP WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE LIFT. - DADIOGRALI Document downsraded to Sepret per 60324 uc BARIES 8×1/4/2010 PPT TO THE ATTENTION TO SAC SAIT JUAN (65-412) FROM DIRECTOR FOR (205-92333) especiaci – otali, 🛰 🚫 FOLLOWING DATA PARTH LIGHTYED PROTE CLASSIFIED THE CLOCKET AND HOT TO ES DESELUCITED END PARSA LAS CENT TO SULVER FROM GUDA GEPTELLIN TREATY-EIGH MST. residen per lered for older. Copiel 48.0277 END OF INTENDED FIVE. TO UTAGE AND EST YOUR ADVISED OF LAIL NOT THEORDED W170 OCT 1 1093 LITALIT (EFFEDIVA ATTITUET) JJD:LAB Date of Declassification Indefinite 65-68323 (Lari) CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) HELL IS UNCLUSED IND EXCEPT WHERE SHOW OPHSKY I SE

RADI<u>OGRÁM TO S</u>AC SAN JUAN RE: 105-92333

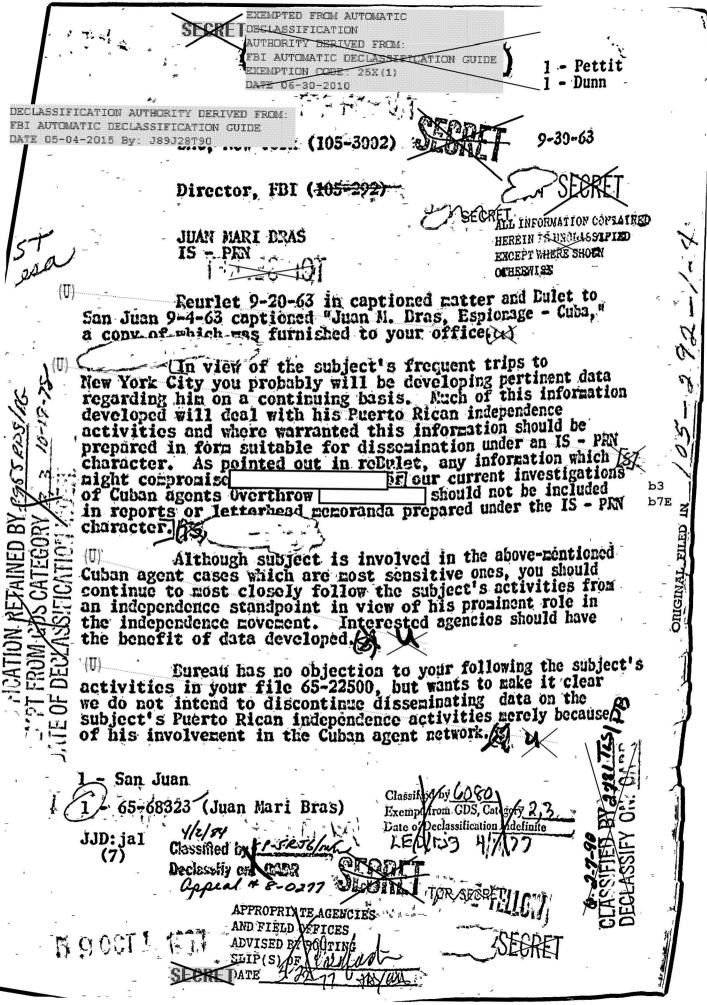
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NOTE:

Subject is Cuban agent in Puerto Rico.

Bras, Puerto Rican independence leader. New rorn is aware of his presence there and is conducting investigation of him, Tuan Lari bi

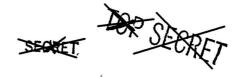


NY 67-1777

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The recommendations referred to above are being made on the basis of the highly successful results achieved in effectuating the development of NY 4102-S\*. In order to have realized the end result, considerable obstacles had to be overcome, and the results achieved were, in no small measure, directly attributable to the teamwork of all the agents assigned.

## BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

As the Bureau is aware, JUAN MARI ERAS is the Secretary General of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR), a resident of Puerto Rico, vehemently anti-United States and pro-CASTRO, highly intelligent and well educated, the combination of which factors made him an excellent subject for recruitment by the Cuban Intelligence Service (CIS).

Through the development of several highly confidential sources, the intelligence agencies of this Government were made aware of the fact that the CIS was operating several obviously highly trained espionage agents in Puerto Rico Two of the agents known to have operated in Puerto Rico were assigned the arbitrary code names of "OVERTHROW" and in both of these cases, an unknown subject assigned the Cuban code name appeared in a principal role, with both agent and courser

appeared in a principal role, with both agent and courier assignments. As a result of investigation in the above cases, one of the possible suspects developed as possibly identical with was JUAN MARI BRAS.

On 7/31/63, JUAN MARI BRAS arrived in NYC from Puerto Rico on a trip, the specific purpose of which was unknown, but, by virtue of the above circumstances, was suspected to be on behalf of the CIS and the MPIPR. MARI BRAS was placed under discreet surveillance and was found to have registered at the Hotel Bristol, located in the midtown area of New York City, a high proportion of the clientele of this hotel being of Latin origin



- 2 -

SECKET



access to the personal papers in the possession of JUAN MARI ERAS, in an effort to develop any information which might tend to substantiate the suspicion that this individual was identical with the unknown Cuban intelligence agent and any other activities that JUAN MARI ERAS could be engaged in on behalf of the Cuban Government and the MPIPR. SA DONALD E. HALTER was assigned the task, assisted by SA J. WILLIAM LOVE, of developing a highly confidential source who could furnish the desired information. In order to effectuate the successful realization of this task, the following problems and obstacles had to be overcome:

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FA: plan was carefully formulated to gain

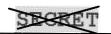
In order that the operation, or development of this source, could be afforded maximum security, MARI BRAS, upon leaving his temporary residence at the hotel, had to be discreetly placed under surveillance from the time he left the general area until the time the operation would be concluded.

A secure location in the close proximity of MARI BRAS! room had to be secured, where the personal papers could be closely examined and photographed.

Access to MARI BRAS! room itself had to be secured under the most secure conditions possible, but still, with a high degree of personal risk of discovery.

On the morning of 8/1/63, MARI BRAS was placed under discreet surveillance and when he left the general area of his hotel, SAS and checked into the Bristol Hotel, and under a pretext, were able to secure a room on the same floor as his. MARI BRAS' room, fortunately, was located in a corner removed from the principal corridor, but immediately next to the elevator shafts servicing the floor. These elevators had to be placed in operation under control of other agents assigned, in order to insure security during the time access to MARI BRAS' room was attempted.

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A plan was carefully formulated to develop any information which might tend to substantiate the suspicion that this individual was identical with the unknown Cuban intelligence agent, and any other activities that JUAN MARI BRAS could be engaged in on behalf of the Cuban Government and the MPIPR. SA DONALD E. HALTER was assigned the task, assisted by SA J. WILLIAM LOVE, of developing a highly confidential source who could furnish the desired information. In order to effectuate the successful realization of this task, a number of delicate problems and obstacles had to be overcome

On 8/1, 2 and 8/63, successful operations were accomplished. In all, 280 separate photographs were furnished by the anonymous source and the material was carefully sifted, coordinated and evaluated. In the end, it well documented that MARI BRAS was, in fact, the Cuban intelligence agent who was then clandestinely en route to Cuba via Czecnosiovakia, and surreptitiously planned a visit to Algeria, where the Cuban Government had arranged an audience with Premier AHMED BEN BELLA for him on behalf of the Cuban Government and the MPIPR.

The development of this highly sensitive source furnished extremely important information which was available from no other sources, and the successful culmination of all aspects of the above-described operation serves as a tribute to the resourcefulness, tenacity and the willingness to assume considerable personal risk on the part of the agents assigned. The overall sensitivity of the operation demanded a superior performance in all phases.

SA was assigned this matter and was responsible for the careful preparation of the overall plan of operation for development of this highly confidential source. SA was the impetus behind the operation and

handled all phases of his responsibilities in a highly commendable manner. SA personally participated in

three contacts with the anonymous source

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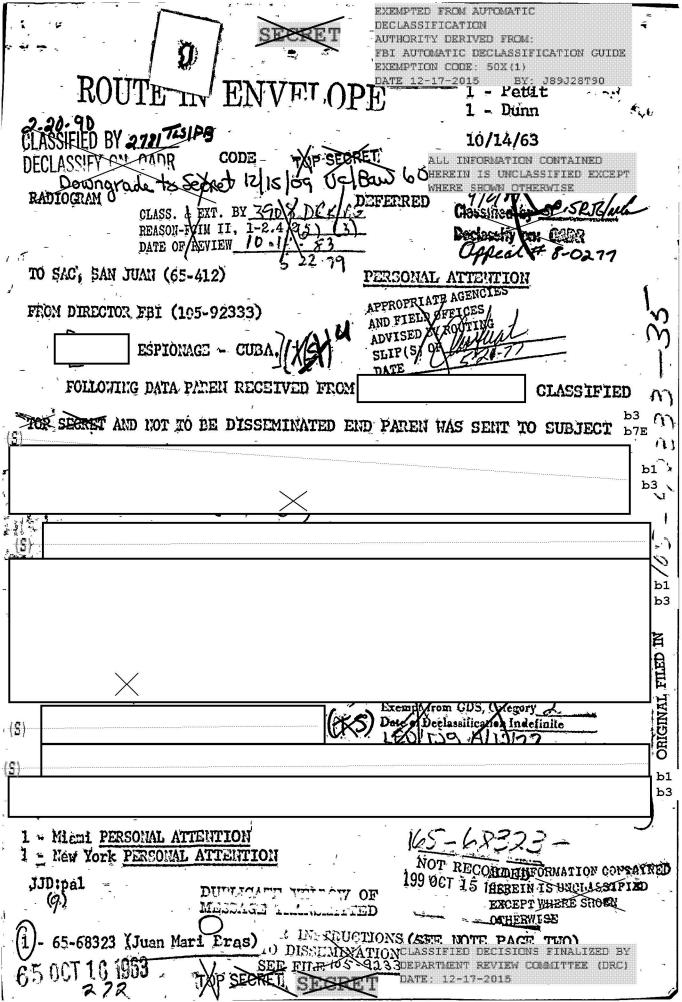
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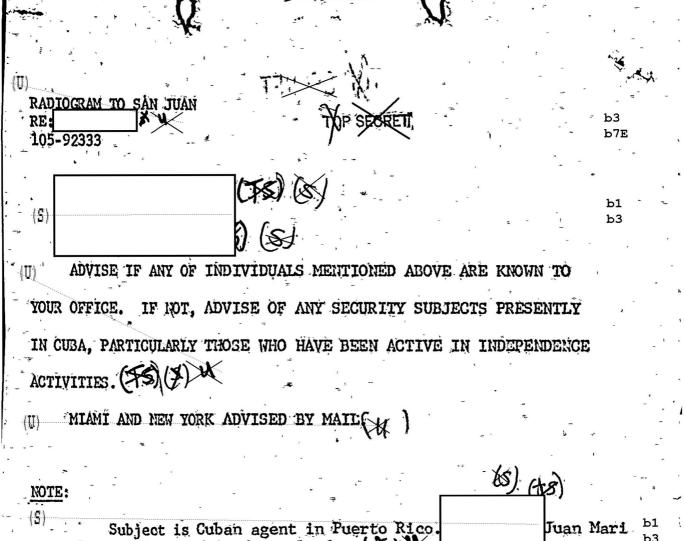
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Bras, Puerto Rican independence leader.

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