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FBI

Date: JUN 18 1962

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Via (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (109-471) (P)
RE: ROLANDO L. CUBELA Y SECADES
FPM - CUBA

CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KCL
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X(U)

Classified by SP6BJA/KCL
Declassify on: OADR 4/10/86

Re Miami letter to Bureau, 6/7/62.

(S) 211,326
(S) 211,326
(S) 211,326

Enclosed for the Bureau are 12 copies of letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination containing info obtained from MM 761-S, who is MM T-1, and from CARLOS TEPEDINO, 98-19-64 Ave., Rego Park, Queens, L. I., N. Y., who is MM T-2, in letterhead memo.

60(U)

The info was furnished on 6/11/62, to SA THOMAS HERRION at Miami, Fla. MM 761-S is a long-time acquaintance of TEPEDINO and both are friends of CUBELA.

MM 761-S advised that the mother of deceased JOSE ANTONIO ECHEVARRIA (former head of the Revolutionary Directory (DR), anti-BATISTA rebel organization) came from

- 6 - Bureau (Enc-12) (AM) (RM)
 - (1 - Legat, Paris)
 - (1 - Legat, Bern (105-7))
 - (1 - Legat, Madrid (109-20))
- 1 - New York (Info) (RM) (Enc-1)
- 1 - Washington Field (Info) (RM) (Enc-1)
- 1 - San Juan (Info) (RM) (Enc-1)
- 3 - Miami
 - (2 - 109-471)
 - (1 - 134-379 Sub A)

Enc of acael & memo to Bern & Madrid by n/s. 6/11/62

REC-6 105-7766

JUN 21 1962

THE:mbs (12)

CC - Wick

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Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

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MM 109-471

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Cuba 6/9/62, and brought a message from CUBELA (who was a very close friend of JOSE ANTONIO ECHEVARRIA and associated with him in the original Directorio Revolucionario - DR). The message was for [CARLOS TEPEDINO]. CUBELA sent info that he was leaving on 6/10/62, to go to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and from there to Helsinki, Finland, where he is to attend a Socialist (Youth) Congress which he expects will last until the end of 7/62. After the congress terminates, CUBELA plans to go to Paris, France, where he wants [TEPEDINO] to meet him. CUBELA said that if it is possible to arrange matters so that he can do so, he will not return to Cuba, and will defect from Cuban Government.

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[TEPEDINO] stated that prior to the receipt of this info, he had made plans to go to Europe, leaving 6/22/62. His family has an interest in [a jewelry factory in Milan, Italy (Corletto, Inc.)] and some interest in [a jewelry business in Paris].

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[TEPEDINO] stated that if he can be of any service to the U. S. Government or help CUBELA, he will arrange to be in Paris whenever it is necessary. He said that while there or elsewhere in Europe he can be contacted through [B. ROSENBLATT, 20 Chetrevise, Paris, telephone TA 1-17438].

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[TEPEDINO] further advised that he had been in close contact with [redacted] whom he described as formerly being assigned to [the U. S. Embassy in Havana]. Subsequent to [redacted] transfer to [U. S. Embassy, Mexico City, TEPEDINO] was in contact with [ARTHUR AVIGNON] at the Embassy in Havana.

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For the Bureau's info, former Legats, Havana, now in Miami, advised that [redacted] AVIGNON were CIA employees. Also from the physical description, [AVIGNON] appears identical with [former SA AVIGNON].

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[TEPEDINO] recalled that he was in Mexico when CUBELA talked with [redacted] there shortly prior to the arrival of Soviet official MIKOYAN. [TEPEDINO] also remarked that he had

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MM 109=471

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made a trip to "Closter", Switzerland, for [AVIGNON] in 8/60, to obtain info about some student conference, but [TEPEDINO] was delayed in leaving and due to a mixup the person he was supposed to contact upon arrival there did not show up, so the trip was not a success.

[TEPEDINO] stated that, as mentioned above he will cooperate in any way he can, but he does not want to think he is doing something behind [redacted] back in the event [redacted] should learn of any proposed plan. He was told that the info that he furnished would be made available to the proper Federal Government agencies and his request concerning [redacted] would also be furnished at the same time and that he would be advised should additional info be needed.

He stated that any additional info coming to his attention would be immediately furnished.

[TEPEDINO] stated that he and MM 761-S had known each other a long time and that since MM 761-S lived in Miami and [TEPEDINO] was returning to New York City he would furnish any info to MM 761-S who would, in turn, notify the FBI.

(MM 761-S advised that when previously discussing CUBELA, he told [TEPEDINO] that he had been questioned by the FBI in connection with his own previous activities on several occasions in the past and would be able to make contact with the FBI in such a manner that the info could be passed to the proper U. S. Government agency with the precaution taken to protect [TEPEDINO] and not risk jeopardizing CUBELA's chances for escaping Cuba).

[TEPEDINO] furnished a business card of "Tishman and Lipp, Inc., New York City and Corletto, Inc., Milano (Italy), showing a business address of [31 West 47th St., New York 36, N. Y.] phone [Judson 6-4622] on which he wrote his home phone of [TW 7-9843] and his home address - [98-19-64 Ave., Rego Park, Queens, L. I., N.Y.]

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MM 109=471

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Info copies are designated for New York, Washington Field and San Juan Offices because of their interest in current Cuban matters. Three extra copies are designated for the Bureau for transmittal to the Legats, Paris, Bern and Madrid.

For the additional info of the Bureau and Legat, Paris, [TEPEDINO] asked whom he should contact in the event of the receipt of emergency info while he was in Paris. He was advised that it would be best to go to the American Embassy and talk to someone in the Legal Attache's Office. [TEPEDINO] was not given any info indicating any connection between the Bureau and the Legal Attache.

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Prior to his departure for Europe, 6/22/62, [TEPEDINO] can be contacted through the above home telephone [TW 7-9843]. Subsequent to that date, he can be reached through the address ["B. ROSENBLATT, 20, Chetrevise, Paris, phone TA 1-17438."]

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Miami indices are negative re [TEPEDINO] however, CIA, by letter classified SECRET, dated 10/27/59, furnished info under the title "Cuban Government Agents Operating in the United States" (forwarded by Bureau letter 11/10/59, captioned, Report of Cuban Intelligence Agents in the United States, IS - CUBA). This communication from CIA alleged that a "fairly reliable source" in Cuba reported that MM 761-S had the reputation of being [a jewel] smuggler with an outlet in Havana in the [Diadema Jewelry Store]. His Havana representative described as having a store in the [Habana Hilton] was named as ["CARLOS TOPEDINO."] MM 761-S in 1/60 explained that [CARLOS TEPEDINO] operated the [LaDiadema] wholesale [jewelry house] in Havana and they had been friends until MM 761-S was imprisoned by the BATISTA Government as a result of his participation in 1957 attack on Cuban Presidential Palace. [TEPEDINO] refused to help the wife of MM 761-S. As a result, MM 761-S severed all contact with [TEPEDINO] and became very angry with him. Although angry, MM 761-S emphatically stated [TEPEDINO] was a legitimate wholesale [jeweler] and was not engaged in illegal activities. (Miami report of SA THOMAS H. ERRION, 3/4/60, captioned RICARDO MADAN RIVAS, IS - CUBA, Bufile 97-3993).

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