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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90110-10101
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 109-12-223-131

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : MM
TO : HQ
TITLE :
DATE : 04/07/1959
PAGES : 20
SUBJECTS :
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
PANAMANIAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Confidential
RESTRICTIONS : 1B
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/06/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : APPROVAL OF CIA
COMMENTS : RPT

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(S) MC CLAIN was traveling on United States Passport 2086 issued by the United States Embassy, Panama City, Panama, September 30, 1946. His date of birth was September 27, 1922, Panama City, Panama. He is a white male, 6'3", 170 pounds, red hair, grey eyes. MC CLAIN claimed he was going to visit his in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. ADAMS, Star Route 3, Pine Island, Fort Myers, Florida, and then return to Panama City.

On March 19, 1959, JOSEPH MEROLA informed that MIRO had been in contact with an intelligence man from Panama believed staying at the Columbus Hotel. This person brought MIRO word that his revolutionary plans in Panama were known and warned him that he would be shot on sight. MEROLA said that this "intelligence man" questioned MIRO concerning MEROLA. MIRO offered to introduce MEROLA to him, however, this intelligence man declined to accept.

Investigation disclosed that MC CLAIN checked out of the Columbus Hotel at 3:05 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, March 20, 1959.

At 3:35 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, JOSEPH MEROLA informed he had just received a telephone call from MIRO stating that he was at the airport departing for Cuba and did not plan to return. MIRO disclosed to MEROLA that his contact at the Columbus Hotel had been interviewed by the FBI and that both had the feeling they were being followed and activities checked.

(S) It appeared possible to the Miami Office that [redacted] might be a CIA representative. Bureau was requested to contact CIA in attempt to confirm same. (S)

By airtel dated March 22, 1959, the Bureau informed that it had been advised by CIA through liaison, that [redacted] (S)

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is a CIA representative and Bureau further instructed that no further investigation was desired relative to [REDACTED] (S)

It should be noted that on March 26, 1959, JOSEPH MEROLA contacted the Miami Office and informed that he was leaving for Havana, Cuba, at 12:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on that date. It should be noted that a true bill of indictment was returned against MEROLA by a Federal Grand Jury at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in connection with the case entitled, "STUART SUTOR, ETAL, Theft of Government Property," involving theft of arms from National Guard Armory, Canton, Ohio, October 14, 1958. Indictment was returned on March 20, 1959, and MEROLA is presently free under \$5,000.00 bond posted at Miami, Florida.

MEROLA informed that since March 20, 1959, he has had several telephonic conversations with RUBEN MIRO who was at that time in Havana, Cuba. MIRO had told him the plans of the invasion of Panama had been delayed until after the Easter holidays.

MEROLA stated his purpose in going to Havana is personal business reasons and not in any way connected with Panamanian revolutionary activities or for that matter revolutionary activities of any nature.

MEROLA stated he would contact the Miami Office of the FBI upon his return from Havana in order to furnish any pertinent information regarding the Panamanian political situation. He stated, however, he did not know specifically when he would return.

It should be noted that information furnished by MEROLA has been on a voluntary and confidential basis.

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