

Date of transcription 2/25/76

ARMANDO LOPEZ-ESTRADA

[redacted] voluntarily appeared at [redacted] Office of the FBI. SA [redacted] advised [redacted] that he was to be interviewed generally concerning bombings in the Miami, Florida, area and concerning the activities of ROLANDO OTERO. SA [redacted] advised [redacted] of his constitutional rights as set forth on a form entitled "Interrogation; Advice of Rights" after which [redacted] was given the form to read for himself. He read the form, stated he understood his rights, and waived these rights as indicated by the executed form. He furnished the following information:

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LOPEZ-ESTRADA

In 1961, [redacted] was [redacted] of a battalion of Cuban exiles who were training for an invasion of Cuba. One of the members of the battalion was ROLANDO OTERO. After the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion, [redacted] escaped to the United States, but OTERO was captured and spent approximately two years in a Cuban jail. [redacted] next saw OTERO in approximately 1972 when they met on a Miami street and saw him periodically after that. In approximately the middle of 1973, [redacted] lived alone at [redacted]

[redacted] OTERO took over the lease about January, 1975.

Shortly after [redacted] moved away from the apartment [redacted]

[redacted] while in Caracas, [redacted] also known as [redacted] a close friend of OTERO [redacted]

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[redacted] They told [redacted] that CASTRO was [redacted] Caracas and asked [redacted]

Interviewed on 2/13/76 at Miami, Florida

File # 174-940

by SAs [redacted] /jss

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him what he planned to do about it since he too was a Cuban exile allegedly opposed to CASTRO. [REDACTED] also pointed out to [REDACTED] that CASTRO's security forces were certainly aware of [REDACTED] presence in Venezuela and of his past connection with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and anti-CASTRO activities. [REDACTED] said that although this was true he expected no trouble with the CASTRO people and he intended to do the job for which he was paid by the Venezuelan Government which included protecting CASTRO. Upon hearing this, [REDACTED] who was acquainted with [REDACTED] in Miami and disliked him, broke off the conversation. In addition, he ordered OTERO to refrain from further contact with [REDACTED] because he believed that such further contact would jeopardize their plans against CASTRO. [REDACTED] then returned to the United States while OTERO remained in Caracas. b7c
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About one week later [REDACTED] received a call from a friend of his named [REDACTED] who asked him to come to his apartment because he was in some sort of trouble. When [REDACTED] arrived at [REDACTED] apartment, he was confronted by [REDACTED] who demanded to know the details of [REDACTED] and the names of all individuals who were involved in the proposed action. [REDACTED] refused to divulge this information and a heated argument ensued which nearly resulted in a physical confrontation. Shortly afterward, [REDACTED] learned that OTERO had gone to Colombia from Venezuela and in attempting to return to the former country, he had encountered some difficulties with Venezuelan authorities. Someone helped him to return to Venezuela and [REDACTED] believed that it was [REDACTED] and that OTERO had violated [REDACTED] instructions to refrain from further contact with [REDACTED] therefore sent another one of his associates to talk to OTERO, who had returned to Miami, and inquire concerning the identity of the individual who had helped him get back into Venezuela. OTERO refused to furnish the b7c
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name which to [redacted] constituted further proof that he had been in contact with [redacted] Because of this [redacted]

[redacted]. Since that time, [redacted] has not seen OTERO except on one brief occasion about two months later when he was approached by OTERO who said he realized he had made a mistake in violating the instructions against [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] refused and has not seen OTERO since that time. [redacted] believes that it was because of OTERO's indiscretion that [redacted] became aware of [redacted] plans to assassinate CASTRO as a result of which the plan was never carried out. B7C
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[redacted] also recalled that in 1968 and 1969 [redacted] was a member of an anti-CASTRO organization headquartered in Miami known as "Ejercito de Libertador" (Army of Liberation). This organization was formed to obtain the necessary material for an invasion of Cuba with financial support which had been pledged by another country, however, this support never materialized and the organization faded out of existence in 1969. OTERO was associated with this organization and was responsible for obtaining background information on perspective members. After obtaining the information, OTERO would prepare a handwritten form for each individual and turn it over to the leadership. [redacted] declined to furnish any information concerning other individuals associated with this organization because they are still friends of his and also said he has no idea whether any of the reports prepared by OTERO are still in existence.

OTERO is or was a member of the "Golden Falcons" Parachuting Club and is very friendly with [redacted] and [redacted] (Last Name Unknown), who are also members.

[REDACTED] (Last Name Unknown) is probably OTERO's closest friend and he is also a member of the 2506 Brigade Veteran's Organization.

[REDACTED] described OTERO as a lonely quiet person who loves both the United States and Cuba. Toward the end of 1974, OTERO applied for a job as a Hialeah policeman and was very disappointed when his application was rejected. He is almost always broke and spends much of his time looking for jobs. He is divorced and his former wife and a daughter currently live in New York and [REDACTED] believes she is remarried. He has also had girlfriends periodically for various lengths of time, but [REDACTED] does not believe he has developed any serious relationships. b7c
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[REDACTED] could recall no conversations with OTERO concerning bombings either in the United States or elsewhere. Regarding anti-CASTRO activities, OTERO in the past stated his belief that a strong leader is needed to unify and coordinate activities against CASTRO and that periodic raids by small groups of exiles against the Cuban mainland or Cuban fishing boats were ineffectual. OTERO believed that CASTRO must be killed and that this would only be possible when he traveled outside of Cuba. While training for the Bay of Pigs invasion, OTERO received only basic infantry type training which would include the use of hand grenades; however, he was never afforded any training in the use of explosives or the construction of bombs and as far as he knows, OTERO had no such proficiency. To his knowledge, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that OTERO seemed to be somewhat mechanically inclined and was able to fix his own b7c
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car and stereo. He has seen OTERO in possession of some small tools such as screwdrivers and pliers, but has no idea where these tools might be kept. He has never seen anything in OTERO's possession which he could identify as explosives or bomb components. He believes that OTERO had a typewriter of his own and on at least one occasion, he saw OTERO typing, at which time he displayed no typing skill. [REDACTED] was shown a color photograph of a cassette tape recorder similar to that used in the bombing of the Miami police station on December 4, 1975. He stated that although OTERO owned a tape recorder, it was a much larger machine and did not resemble the device in the photograph. The only vehicle which he recalls OTERO owning or driving is a wine colored Toyota which as far as LOPEZ-ESTRADA knows, he still owns. He could not comment on whether or not OTERO uses gasoline cards or other credit cards when traveling. He has never known OTERO to have a girlfriend by the name of MERCEDES or MERCY. B7C
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[REDACTED] stated that "MASACRE" is a nickname for a 2506 Brigade member named FRANK (Last Name Unknown), who is a friend of [REDACTED] and presently lives in the Dominican Republic; however, this individual is not [REDACTED]. The nickname "GALLEGO" is applied to anyone who was born in Spain or to persons whose parents were born in Spain. He does not recall any friend of OTERO's with the nickname "GALLEGO". [REDACTED] is a nickname which he has heard applied to [REDACTED]. He has never heard of OTERO using the nickname "EL CONDOR". Regarding a "telefono de disco", [REDACTED] suggested that this probably refers to a tape-recording. B7C
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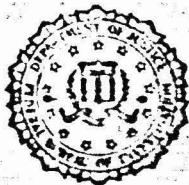
At the conclusion of the interview, [REDACTED] stated that he was extremely surprised when he heard of OTERO's alleged involvement of bombings in the Miami area. Immediately upon hearing of it, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that
[REDACTED] had left the country two days previously. [REDACTED]

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At the conclusion of the interview, major case fingerprints of [REDACTED] were obtained with his consent.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 174-940
FBI FILE NO. 174-6570
LATENT CASE NO. E-22084

March 26, 1976

TO: SAC, Miami

circled pg 3

RE: MIBOM
EID

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

174-6570
NOT RECORDED
44 APR 2 1976

REFERENCE: Airtel 3-2-76
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Miami
SPECIMENS: Major case prints of Armando Pablo Lopez-Estrada,
FBI #539423D

Previously reported latent prints in captioned case and in following cases mentioned in airtels of 2-11-76 and 2-17-76 not identical major case prints of Lopez-Estrada:

(Continued on next page)

- 12 - Miami (185-66) (1 - 174-914) (1 - 174-953) (1 - 185-43)
(1 - 185-65) (1 - 149-1054) (1 - 174-773) (1 - 174-912)
(1 - 174-939) (1 - 45-1740) (1 - 185-62) (1 - 92-4646)
- 1 - Bufile (185-815) 1 - Bufile (174-6607) 1 - Bufile (185-470)
- 1 - Bufile (185-641) 1 - Bufile (174-6554) 1 - Bufile (185-427)
- 1 - Bufile (185-354) 1 - Bufile (45-11426) 1 - Bufile (149-12149)
- 1 - Bufile (174-6670) 1 - Bufile (174-6720) 1 - Bufile (185-609)
- 1 - Bufile (185-514) 1 - Bufile (174-6550) 1 - Bufile (185-586)
- 1 - Bufile (92-17600)

DUPLICATE YELLOW

MLJ:pmw
(33)

Clarence M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley, Director

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____

ORIGINAL FILED IN 174-6570-155

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