

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: MIAMI
 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: MIAMI
 DATE: MAY 15 1974
 INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 4/12 - 5/7/74

TITLE OF CASE: "ZERO," aka. "Cero" (AN ORGANIZATION)
 CHARACTER OF CASES: IS - CUBA, EXTORTION; EXTORTION

UNSUB, aka. "Zero," "Cero": [REDACTED] (b7c)
 VICTIM: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] PRIO SOCARRAS - VICTIM

105-31706-32
105-1258

REFERENCE: Buairtel to Miami 4/22/74 entitled, "JOSE ELIAS DE LA TORRIENTE y AJURIA, IS - CUBA, NM - CUBA; Telephone call to Miami from Bureau Supervisor [REDACTED] Division 6, 5/1/74; Miami teletypes to Bureau 4/26, 5/3, and 5/7/74; Miami airtels to Bureau (2), 5/6/74.

- P -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE Class/Die 4/27/82

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP6BJA/oms
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
 DATE OF REVIEW 3/15/94

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED: [Signature]
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:
 12 - Bureau (RM)
 (10 - 105-261797)
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 4 - Miami (2 - 105-22094)
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DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

105-32258-1

SEARCHED... INDEXED...
 SERIALIZED... FILED...
 MAY 20 1974
 FBI - NEW YORK (b7c)

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR OTHER COPIES

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	Request Recd.	Date Recd.	Date Fwd.	By

Open lead

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 10/15/81 - oms

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MM 105-22094
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Copies (continued)

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- 2 - Los Angeles (RM)
- ① - Newark (info) (RM)
- 3 - New York City
(1 - 105-97746)
- 2 - San Juan (9-909) (RM)

LEADS

LOS ANGELES:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

(b7c) (b7d) | Will contact [REDACTED]

concerning letter received by the Los Angeles Cuban Chamber of Commerce from "Zero." Obtain complete details concerning receipt of this letter and if possible, obtain original letter and envelope for submission to FBI Laboratory to be compared with specimens submitted by Miami to Laboratory in this case.

NEW YORK:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1. Contact "Diario de la Prensa" for details concerning the "Zero" letter received on the weekend preceding 5/7/74 and obtain original letter and envelope if possible for latent fingerprints and documentary examination by Laboratory and for comparison with specimens submitted by Miami.

2. New York conduct appropriate investigation to determine if ORLANDO BOSCH was in New York on or before 4/16/74 when ARTURO RODRIGUEZ RIVAS was murdered.

B.

COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

55-71

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MM 105-22094
MM 9-2690

(b2)

3. Will also attempt to determine if [REDACTED] was in New York City on or before 4/16/74.

SAN JUAN:

AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Conduct appropriate investigation to identify author of the "Zero" letter sent to CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS who is well known to the San Juan Office.

MIAMI:

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. Will report results of FBI Laboratory examination in this case.

2. Will maintain close contact with informants and other logical sources for information leading to identity of "Zero," and will attempt to obtain typewriting specimens from logical suspects.

(b7d)

3. Will [REDACTED] for information leading to the identity of "Zero."

ADMINISTRATIVE

(b-1)

[REDACTED]

C.

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5572

MM 105-22094
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[REDACTED]

(b1)

[REDACTED]

It is to be noted that the NOVO brothers are well known to the New York and Newark Offices, for their past bombing activities.

(b-1)

[REDACTED]

D.
COVER PAGE

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MM 105-22094
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(b-1)

With regard to the information relating to ORLANDO BOSCH provided by informants as described above, it is to be noted that Miami is conducting a separate investigation entitled, "ACCION CUBANA, IS - CUBA," in which BOSCH is alleged to be the leader. Accion Cubana claims credit for sending package bombs to Cuban consulates in several foreign countries, including Canada, Peru, and Spain. It is also interesting to note that Accion Cubana submerged from notice almost immediately after the alleged head of the organization gave a secret interview to the Associated Press in Miami on 3/3/74. No further claims or announcements have been made by Accion Cubana. "Zero" came into being with the assassination of TORRIENTE a little more than a month later, on 4/12/74.

E.

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55-74 *

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On 1968, while BOSCH headed an organization known as Cuban Power, which was involved in a series of ship bombings, BOSCH followed the technique of issuing anonymous press releases under the name of "ERNESTO," Coordinator General of Cuban Power. The style of writing employed by "Zero" as set forth in this report appears to be very similar to the style of writing employed by BOSCH when Cuban Power was operating in 1968.

F.*

COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

55-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MIAMI, FLORIDA
(Attention: Assistant U. S. Attorney LAWRENCE B. CRAIG)

Report of: [REDACTED] (b7c) Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date: [REDACTED] Bureau File #: 105-261797
9-new

Field Office: 105-22064
9-2690 Title: "ZERO"
(AN ORGANIZATION);

Character: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
[REDACTED] - VICTIM;
CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS - VICTIM

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA,
EXTORTION;

EXTORTION

Synopsis: On 4/12/74, Cuban exile leader JOSE ELIAS DE LA TORRIENTE was assassinated by an unidentified sniper in Coral Gables, Fla. A so-called "zero" note was found by investigating officers at the scene of the crime. On 4/17/74, the "Diario Las Americas," Miami, received an envelope postmarked "4/15/74 - U. S. Postal Service, FL 330," containing typed letter in the Spanish language signed "0", stating that TORRIENTE was executed as a traitor to his country and threatening additional executions. On 4/22/74, [REDACTED] received envelope postmarked "4/20/74, U. S. Postal Service, FL 330," containing a so-called "zero" note. On 5/2/74, CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, former

(b7c) 1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/30/81 BY SP6 BJA/DMS

MN 105-22094
MN 9-2690

(b7c, b7d) President of Cuba, received at his Miami Beach residence an airmail envelope postmarked "San Juan, P. R., 4/30/74," containing a so-called "Zero" note bearing the date 5/20/74, which is a Cuban holiday. [REDACTED] and PRIO had no suspects in Miami.

[REDACTED] conjectured that TORRIENTE's assassin may have been a political enemy among Cuban exile groups, such as Cuban Power and Accion Cubana, since TORRIENTE opposed terrorist tactics of such groups. A number of other Cuban exiles in California and Miami have reported receipt of threats attributed to "Zero" or suspected of emanating from "Zero." An atmosphere of terror in Miami has been created by assassination of TORRIENTE. On 5/4/74, AUSA LAWRENCE B. CRAIG expressed opinion letters mailed to PRIO and [REDACTED] may probably constitute violation Section 876, Title 18, U. S. Code, regarding Extortion, and that further investigation is warranted. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

MM 105-22094
MM 9-2690

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1.

MM 105-22094

DETAILS:

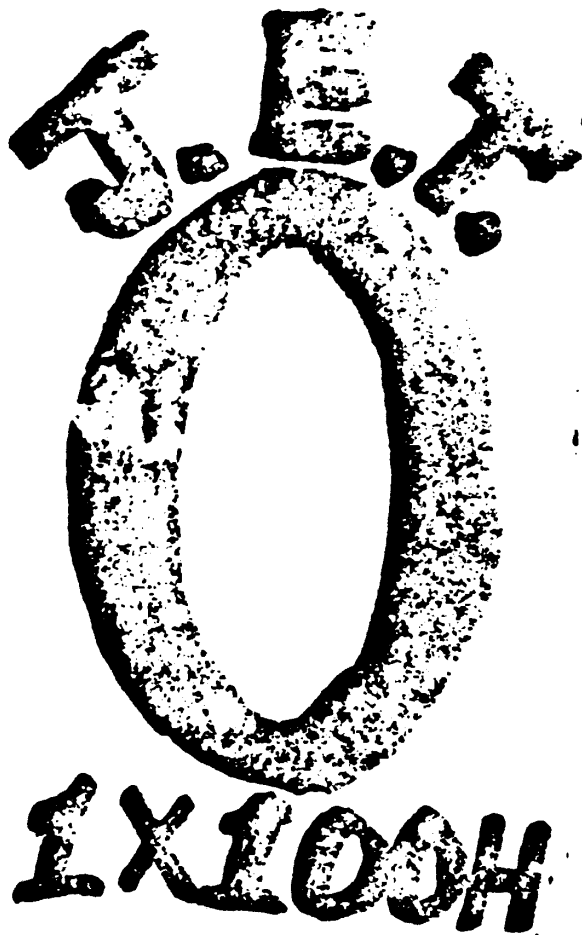
PREDICATION

At 9:00 p.m., April 12, 1974, Cuban exile leader JOSE ELIAS DE LA TORRIENTE, age 70, was assassinated at his residence, 709 Cremona Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, while watching television with his wife. He was shot in the back of his head by a sniper. He died shortly thereafter in a hospital. Investigating officers of the Dade County Public Safety Department (PSD) found a 9 mm. casing outside the house near a window through which the assassin fired.

The investigating officers also found on a porch table near the living room a white envelope containing a 3 x 5 card bearing a large black oval or "zero", above which were the letters "J. E. T.," and beneath which was the symbol "1X100H." (See attached a Xerox copy of this "zero" note).

Subsequently, several Miami newspapers published a copy of this "zero" note. "Zero" became a subject of wide comment and speculation among Cuban circles in Miami.

MM 105-22094



(b7c)
(b7d)

It is to be noted that TORRIENTE was the head of the so-called "Torriente Plan" to liberate Cuba. His organization several years ago publicly claimed that it was in the process of organizing a military operation against the Communist Government of FIDEL CASTRO. TORRIENTE reportedly collected funds in the United States and Latin America to carry out his plans, which finally collapsed. His efforts met with considerable criticism from rival anti-CASTRO Cuban exile leaders and organizations.

INVESTIGATION

I. "ZERO", also known as
"Cero"

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 5/1/74

On April 22, 1974, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Spanish language newspaper "Diario Las Americas," Miami, advised that on April 17, 1974, there was received through the regular mails at "Diario Las Americas" an envelope post-marked "April 15, 1974 - U. S. Postal Service, FL 330," addressed to the "Diario Las Americas, 4349 N.W. 36 St., Miami Springs, Fla.," by typewriter. There was no return address. (b7c)

This envelope contained what appears to be a carbon copy of a two-page announcement from "O". The envelope and the letter were appropriately dated and initialed by [REDACTED] and were turned over to SA [REDACTED] (b7c)

A translation of this letter from Spanish to English reads as follows:

6.

Interviewed on 4/22/74 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 105-22094

by SA [REDACTED] bgj (b7c) Date dictated 4/26/74

TO PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL

There have been many theories about the blame, not of the loss of Cuba to international Communism, but the failure to liberate Cuba. One thing is clear, so clear that even a blind man could see it: the worst allies that a man, group or nation could have are the U.S. They are to blame for the failure and frustration in the task of rescuing Cuba from a frightening tyranny. They were morally and generally obliged, for a series of historic reasons which we will not discuss here. But also, the so-called civilized nations on this planet are to blame—their egotism, cowardice and indecision contributed to the international betrayal behind the backs of the suffering Cuban people.

They will all be punished, because history does not pardon. Now, there is a third group to be blamed—in our judgment, the most disgusting and repulsive of all. Who are they?.....these Cubans who, without being Marxists, obstruct the process of liberation of the country, merely because of their own ambitions. Men and women without soul or heart, to whom the word "virtue" means something foreign to their nature, which is corrupt and materialistic. No matter how hard one tries, one can find no positive points in their nature. One who betrays his country is a completely negative, empty creature, no matter from what angle he is viewed.

What do these people deserve?.....these miserable "Cubans" who, in the most painful hour of their country have merely added shame to torment....nothing....emptiness, an infinite Zero, which will adorn their forgotten tombs, a Zero of distrust and repudiation, a Zero, not of shame for them—they are to blame to merit it—but merely a classification of their weak nature, their miserable existence, their worthless lives, which all add up to Zero.

Cuba will or will not be free, only time will tell, but these wretched creatures will only receive a Zero.

"0"

P.S. We know that unfortunately, the list is very long, but the cemeteries are very large, and we have plenty of time.

P.S. 2 JOSE MANS DE LA TORRE, EXECUTED AS A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY, HAS RECEIVED HIS ZERO.

MM 105-22094

3.

Enclosed in the letter was a white circular piece of paper cut in the form of a large "O" with a hole in the center. At the top was typed, "JOSE ELIAS DE LA TORRIENTE," and at the bottom was typed, "IX100/1."

Attached also is a duplicate copy of the envelope and its contents.

MM 105-22094
4.

ALWAYS USE
ZIP CODE



Dario Las Americas
4349 N.W. 36 St.
Miami Springs, Fla.

MM 105-22094

5.

1/20/57

RECEIVED
FEB 1 1957

A LA OPINION PUBLICA EN GENERAL

Mucho se ha teorizado sobre la culpabilidad, no de la parte de Cuba a manos del comunismo internacional, sino del fracaso del proceso libertario cubano. Una cosa si es a clara, tan diáfana hasta un ciego seria capaz de verlo: los peores aliados que hoy el grupo o nacion pueden tener son los E.E.U.U. ellos son culpables del fracaso y la frustracion de la tarea de rescatar a Cuba de tirania espantosa, a lo que estaban obligados, moral y materialmente por una serie de razones de indole historica que no viene al caso discutir aqui. Pero tambien culpables son las llamadas naciones civilizadas de este planeta, cuyo egoismo, cobardia e indecencia contribuyeron a hundir aun mas el final de la traicion interna en las espaldas del sufrido pueblo cubano.

Unos y otros tendran su castigo, pues la historia no perdona ahora bien, queda un tercer grupo de culpables, a nuestro juicio los mas execrables representantes de todos. ¿Quiénes son?..... pues nada mas ni nada menos que aquellos cubanos que sin ser libertarios, obstaculizan sin embargo este proceso de libertar a su patria en aras solo de sus bastardas ambiciones. Hombres y mujeres sin alma ni corazon, para quienes la palabra virtud significa un epiteto extraño a su naturaleza, corrupta y materialista. Naturalmente a la que por muchas vueltas y revueltas que se le de en el proceso de tratar de encontrarlos un punto positivo nada se les encontrara en ese sentido, pues aquel que traiciona a su patria es un ser totalmente negativo y vacio, donde cualquier angulo se lo mira.

?Que se merecan entonces estos ultimos.....? estos miserables "Cubanos" que en la hora mas dolorosa de su PATRIA, su unica contri-
cion ha sido añadir verguenza al tormento.....NADA....EL VACIO, Y
AL VACIO, LA NADA, A LA NADA UN "CERO", "UN CERO INFINITO" que ador-
nara su tumba olvidada, un "CERO" de asco y repudio, un "CERO"; no
de venganza pues ellos son muy pequenos para merecarlo, sino solo
de clasificacion a su infima naturaleza, a su infima existencia,
a su infima vida, que solo suma eso: "CERO".

Cuba sera o no sera libre, el tiempo solo podra contestar esto
ultimo, pero ser de una forma o de otra, ellos, estos miserables,
no importa la posicion que busquen, grandes o pequenas, iran cada
uno y a su tiempo, en forma fria y desapasionada, recibiendo su
"CERO".

"0"

p.d. Sabemos que desgraciadamente la lista es muy larga, pero
tambien los carantorios son muy grandes, y para llevarlos nos
sobra el tiempo.

p.d. 2 JOSE ELIAS DE LA TORRIENTE, EJECUTADO POR TRAIIDOR A LA PATRIA
RECIBIO SU "CERO"

(b7c) MM 105-22094

neb

The Miami press carried a number of articles almost immediately after the assassination of TORRIENTE, reflecting that other individuals were allegedly on a list to be assassinated by "ZERO," and it was speculated that ARTURO RODRIGUEZ VIVES, age 31, of New York City, who was murdered on April 16, 1974, may also have been slain by "ZERO." Another article also reflected that a number of Cuban leaders were allegedly carrying guns in order to protect themselves as a result of the "ZERO" assassination of TORRIENTE.

II. Letter Received Through the
Mails by [REDACTED] (b7c)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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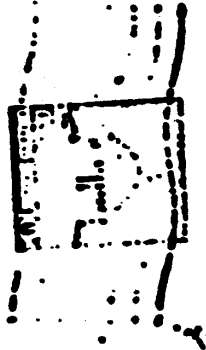
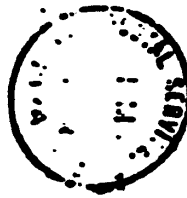
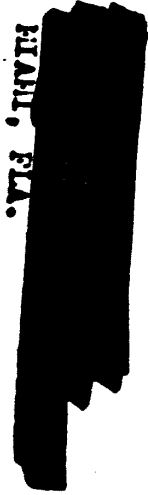
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(b)(7)

MAIL, EIA.



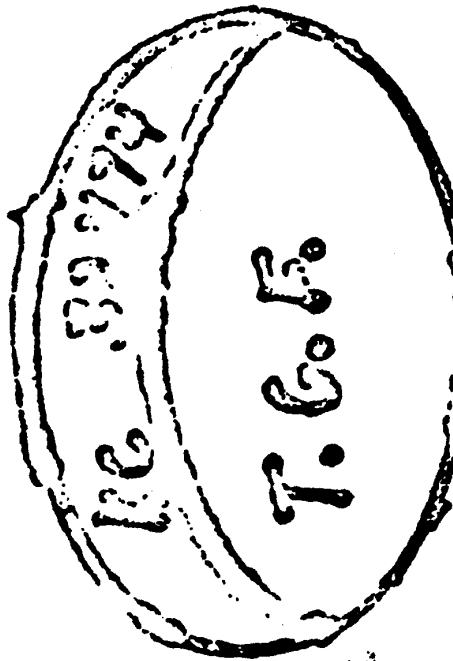
15.

4/22/74
C. G. G.

35
20/20/3

MM 105-22094
4.

TU SERAS EL TERCERO.



MEXICO

ZERO

MM 105-22094

**III. Letter Received by
CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS
Former President of Cuba**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription May 8, 1974

1.

On May 2, 1974, at 4:30 p.m., Dr. CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, 5070 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida, telephonically advised SA [REDACTED], that he had received a "zero" letter that day. Dr. PRIO is a former President of Cuba, and headed a political party known as the Partido Revolucionario Cubano (PRC), also known as the Autentico Party. (b7c)

At 5:00 p.m. SA [REDACTED] called on Dr. PRIO at his residence. [REDACTED] was present. (b7c)

Dr. PRIO turned over to SA [REDACTED] an airmail envelope postmarked San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 30, 1974, p.m., addressed to CARLOS PRIO "SOCARRAZ," 5070 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida. This address was typewritten. There was no return address. Contained in the envelope was a sheet of white paper approximately 8 1/2 x 11 in size bearing the outline of a large black oval or "zero." Inside the oval were typewritten letters reading, "Paga" (translated into English as "pay"). Beneath the oval there was "C. P. S., 1X100-Justicia" in black type, followed by the date "May 20, 1974," stamped in red color. (b7c)

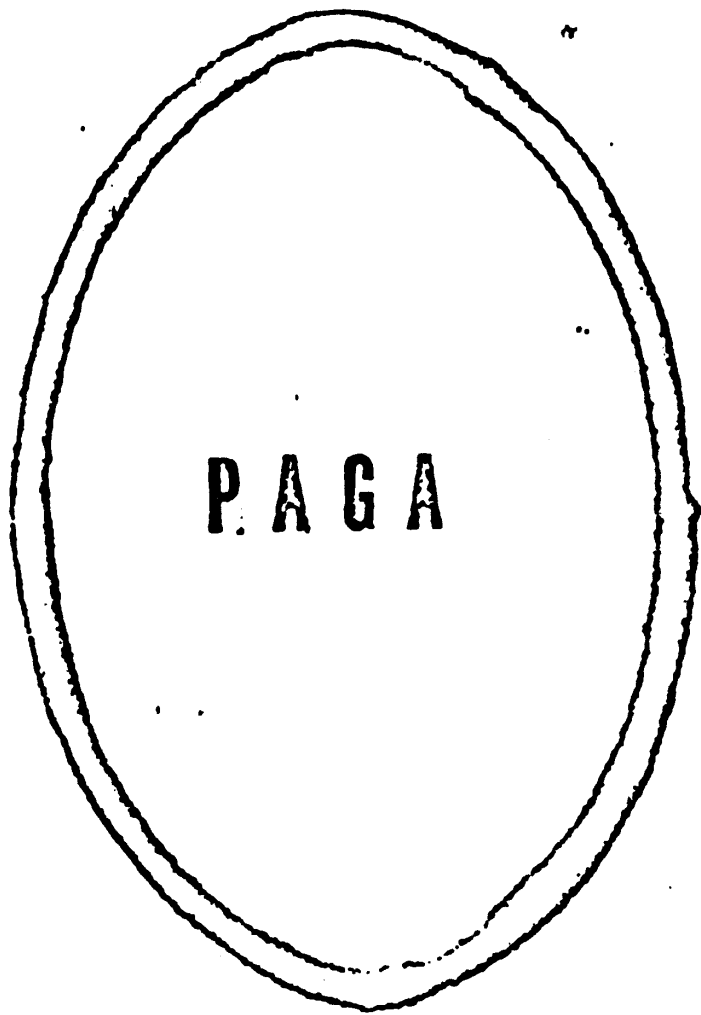
Dr. PRIO said that May 20 is a Cuban national holiday. He is scheduled to appear at a celebration on May 19 in memory of the death of Cuban patriot JOSE MARTI. The celebration has not been publicly announced. Dr. PRIO advised that he knew of no logical suspects and advised that he had not personally received any threats during the recent past.

The Miami Beach Police Department was notified concerning this "zero" letter received by Dr. PRIO after Dr. PRIO was informed that this would be done.

Attached to this FD 302 are Xerox copies of the envelope and its contents.

Interviewed on 5/2/74 at Miami Beach, Florida File # Miami 105-22094
 by Special Agent [REDACTED] Date dictated 5/7/74
 [REDACTED] neb (b7c)

MM 105-22094
.2.



C. P. S. IXIOO = JUSTICIA MAY 20 1874.

MM 105-22094

3.



CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAZ
5070 ALTON RD.
MIAMI BEACH FLA.

20.

Handwritten signature or initials

NM 105-22094

(b7c
b7d)

Prior to receipt of this letter by

Dr. PRIO, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he had received information from a confidential source that former President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, is alleged to be on an assassination list of "Zero." SA [REDACTED] immediately alerted Dr. PRIO, as well as Miami Beach Police Department.

(b7c)

On May 24, 1974, Dr. PRIO advised that he had received information that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had received a threatening letter naming the following individuals as the next victims:

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b7c
b7d)

[REDACTED]

4. Miscellaneous

a. Concerning [REDACTED]

(b7c)

(b7c
b7d)

[REDACTED]

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XXXXXX

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b7c)
(b7d)

j. Letter Received May 7, 1974, by
"Miami Herald"

It is to be noted that the assassination of TORRIENTE created an atmosphere of terror among Cuban exiles and especially Cuban exile leaders in the Miami area. It appears that some of the "zero" letters and telephonic threats mentioned in this report may have been made by individuals unrelated to the TORRIENTE assassination who are trying to capitalize on the

atmosphere of terror for reasons of extortion, revenge, amusement, or otherwise.

(b7c, b7d)

On May 7, 1974, [REDACTED] "Miami Herald," telephonically advised that that newspaper had just received a letter from "Zero" stating that "Zero" was not responsible for the death of ARTURO RODRIGUEZ VIVES of New York City. It is to be noted that ARTURO RODRIGUEZ VIVES was murdered at his residence in New York on April 16, 1974, four days after the assassination of TORRIENTE RODRIGUEZ is alleged to have been a former member of Cuban Power in the New York area, and it was speculated among Cuban exiles in Miami that his murder was related to the assassination; however, no "Zero" communications have been received or reported claiming credit for the RODRIGUEZ murder, and no evidence has been developed reflecting any connection between "Zero" and RODRIGUEZ. "Zero" also said it has not made out any list of persons to be killed, and warned persons making any such lists to discontinue that practice.

(b7c, b7d)

"Zero" also warned that persons using the name "Zero" without authorization and that persons marked for assassination would not be given advance notification. [REDACTED] this letter had been published in the Diario de la Prensa in New York over the past weekend.

(b7c)

The so-called "zero" letters received from [REDACTED] CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, and from [REDACTED] have been transmitted to the FBI Laboratory for latent fingerprint and document examination and comparison with related cases involving Cuban exile terrorists.

MM 105-22094

5. OPINION OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

On May 4, 1974, Assistant U. S. Attorney LAWRENCE B. CRAIG, Miami, was consulted concerning this case. He expressed the opinion that although the case has not been completely developed at this time, there is a probability of a violation under Section 876, Title 18, United States Code, relating to extortion, and he felt that further investigation was warranted. Mr. CRAIG also suggested that the letters which were received by PRIO and by [REDACTED] (b7c) be treated as a single investigation, since both are ostensibly "Zero" letters prepared by the same individual.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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