

DATE: January 4, 1961  
TO: THOMAS J. KELLY, Metropolitan Sheriff  
FROM: LT. FRANK KAPPEL, Supervisor, Criminal Intelligence  
SUBJECT: M. R. P. (PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT)

On Tuesday, January 3, 1961, this Unit was contacted by Southern District Officer B. WHEAT who stated a group of Cubans had moved into a secluded area in South Dade and set up a camp.

At 3:00 PM on the same date, this information was checked out by the writer and Agent LEONARD who found the premises to be the old location of "Camp Happy", an abandoned old people's home consisting of a large frame club building and six small frame bunk buildings.

"Camp Happy" is located approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of Bauer Drive on the east side of Roberts Road. The camp is reached by an overgrown dirt road and is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile off Roberts Road and is partially obscured from view by trees and overgrowth of vegetation.

On our arrival, a group of sixteen men were being led in close order drill behind the large building which is being used as the mess hall.

RAMON CARLOS BARQUIN CANTERO emerged from one of the bunk houses and upon identifying ourselves, he stated he spoke English and volunteered the following information.

This group has occupied the camp for about one week and its present strength is 21 men, all of which are Cuban refugees whose names are as follows:

1. JOSE PEREZ ALAMO
2. CARLOS RINALDO ALVAREZ RODRIGUEZ
3. ROLANDO MORALES NAVARRETE
4. LUIS CHAVIANO REYES
5. JOSE RAMON GARCIA MACIAS
6. RAMON CARLOS BARQUIN CANTERO
7. ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ RUIZ DE LA TORRE
8. FRANCISCO MAUEL CAMARCO SAAVEDRA

9. JOSE HIPOLITO GIL Y RODRIGUEZ
10. ELVIO RIVERA LIMONTA
11. JOSE LOPEZ LE GON
12. NELSON CORDOVA LUIS
13. DIONISIO SUAREZ ESQUIVEL
14. VINCENTE RODRIGUEZ CAMEJO
15. OSMAR MORENO GONZALEZ
16. HECTOR MORENO GONZALEZ
17. FIDEL SOTOLONGO NODA
18. JOSE REICALA SAN JUAN
19. LUIS FUENTES
20. RAUL BARANDELA
21. ROBERTO COBAS ALVAREZ

DIONISIO SUAREZ ESQUIVEL and RAUL BARANDELA were among the thirteen persons who recently escaped from Morro Castle Prison in Havana, Cuba.

CANTERO, called "ROY" by the group, further stated four more men are expected to join the camp later this week making a total of twenty-five which is full strength for this camp.

"ROY" showed us through the large building and when questioned about arms, he showed us two U. S. Army 30 cal. M1 rifles, two U. S. Army 30 cal. Springfield rifles and a blue steel U. S. Army 45 cal. automatic. He advised these weapons were being used to teach the nomenclature of each to the group.

A good stock of food was observed in the mess hall as well as a large stock of cigarettes in cartons. The premises were clean as were the occupants of the camp who were dressed in new G.I. fatigue uniforms and combat boots.

The group has two cars at their disposal, one is a 1947 Ford Convertible, color red, which bears 1960 Florida License #1-158988. This vehicle is registered to F. FIKAFFY, 1776 S. W. 23rd Terrace, Miami, Florida. The other vehicle was not at the camp.

The camp property consisting of 12 acres is owned by MRS. DONALD J. HOLDEN of 10795 S. W. 95th Street, Miami, Florida. Phone # is MO1-1419. The property is rented in the name of a MR. JOHN WINTHROP who negotiated the transaction through Modern Age Realty, 6979 Coral Way, Phone CA1-1831.

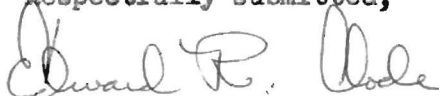
#CI2-D

The people backing this group of the M.R.P. are paying Mrs. HOLDEN \$400.00 monthly rental for the property.

CANTERO was advised to keep his people off the roads and to try not to cause any incidents that would give any of the local residents reason to complain.

Further investigation will follow with additional reports forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,



EDWARD R. CLODE  
Intelligence Agent



LT. FRANK KAPPEL, Supervisor  
Criminal Intelligence

ERC/FK/vw

*c.c. Dow Ward O.S. - 1/25/61*

The following is a report of a fire that Metro Dade County Fire Division responded to at 12:27 A.M., arriving on the scene at 12:37 A.M., Monday morning, January 23, 1961.

Name of property owner: KENNETH LINK

Name of occupant: RUTH HOLDEN

Address: NORTH OF MOODY DRIVE, WEST OF KROME AVENUE

Value: \$1,200

Damage: TOTAL LOSS

Cause: Jose<sup>l</sup> Lopez Legon, W/M, 30 years of age, refilled the kerosene tank when it exploded resulting in injuries to Jose<sup>l</sup> Legon with 60% of his body covered with 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Mr. Legon was taken to James Archer Smith Hospital and given emergency treatment, then transferred to Kendal Hospital. His condition is considered critical.

The fire resulting from the kerosene stove exploding caused a total loss to the building which was in the center of a group of buildings which formerly was called "Camp Happy", a home for the aged. This group of buildings housed 25 cuban male occupants.

Patrol and Traffic personnel were on the scene and confiscated a weapon. See their report for additional information on the weapon.

CONTINUATION SHEET

P.S.D. CASE NO. 5011-D

DEPT. CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_ REMARKS:

(4) ACCIDENTAL INJURY  
 (9) 23 JAN 61  
 (10) 1/4 MILE WEST OF KROME AVE ON BAUER DR. TURN SOUTH AT THE  
 "PRIVATE PROPERTY" SIGN.  
 (14) JOSE LOPEZ LEGON CUBAN/MALE 30  
 (33) UPON MY ARRIVAL AT THE SCENE, I FOUND THE CHARRED REMAINS OF THE  
 HOUSE. IN VIEW WAS THE HEATER WHICH ALLEGEDLY STARTED THE FLASH  
 FIRE. FROM INFORMATION WHICH I WAS ABLE TO GATHER AT THE SCENE, THERE  
 WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SMALL CALIBER AMMUNITION WHICH  
 EXPLODED DURING THE FIRE. CAR 612 (B. PITTS & R. SHEPPARD) HAD EARLIER  
 CONFISCATED A 20 MM GUN, WHICH APPEARED TO ME TO BE AN ANTI-TANK  
 WEAPON - BUT NOT FIREABLE. AN UNIDENTIFIED CUBAN STATED THAT AN  
 AMERICAN HAD DONATED THE WEAPON & PERIODICALLY CONTACTED THEM &  
 TAUGHT THEM THE CARE & SERVICE OF THE WEAPON.

THE VICTIM ARRIVED AT APPROX. 1:30 A.M. AT KENDALL HOSP. &  
 IMMEDIATE TREATMENT WAS STARTED BY DR. N. KENYON. VICTIM SUFFERED 2<sup>ND</sup> &  
 3<sup>RD</sup> DEGREE BURNS OVER 67% OF THE BODY SURFACE. HE WAS UNABLE TO BE  
 INTERVIEWED. WITNESSES AT THE SCENE INDICATE THE VICTIM TRIED TO LIGHT A  
 KEROSENE STOVE, WHICH EXPLODED. HIS CONDITION IS LISTED AS CRITICAL.

907, A. DELEON PROCESSED THE SCENE & LT. B. LAYTON, FIRE INSPECTOR  
 CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION.

REQUEST COPIES TO LT. F. KAPPEL, CRIM. INTELL.  
 (30) REQUEST THIS CASE BE MARKED "PENDING VICTIMS CONDITION"

(18) RETYPED Date _____ Dept. _____ Time _____ Clerk _____		(20) REPORTING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE: 23 JAN 61 Rank Name Badge No. 1. DET W.N. LAPETERS 80 2.	(21) PERSON REPORTING CRIME: Sig. (22) STATE TWX <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No—Msg. _____ (23) LOCAL TWX <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No—Msg. _____
(19) APPROVED BY: Signature _____		RECORD ACTION INDEXED _____ Checked _____	STATISTICS _____
DATE (24)	(26)	(28)	
BY WHOM (25)	(27)	(29)	
(30) DISPOSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Cleared by Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally Cleared <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded		Date _____	Signature _____

#CI 2-D

DATE: February 9, 1961  
TO: THOMAS J. KELLY, Metropolitan Sheriff  
FROM: LT. FRANK KAPPEL, Supervisor, Criminal Intelligence  
SUBJECT: M.R.P. - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reference is made to the report under the same case number dated January 4, 1961.

On February 1, 1961 Agent A. L. TARABOCHIA was contacted by Col. RAMON BARQUIN, military coordinator for the M.R.P. who revealed that the group had recently engaged a military instructor.

Col. BARQUIN added that the instructor was a U.S. citizen and a West Point graduate who had just left the Army because of a service disability. The instructor's name, according to BARQUIN, was ROBERT PLATT.

On February 2, 1961, Sgt. RAYMOND WOLF of the 93rd C.I.D. contacted the writer and requested assistance in locating a 2nd Lieutenant who was AWOL from Fort Benning and who was believed to have joined one of the Cuban counter-revolutionary groups.

The Sgt. added that Mr. ROBERT PLATT, Sr., the Lieutenant's father, had been contacted by the Provost Marshall of Fort Benning who advised him that Lt. ROBERT PLATT, JR. should give himself up at Fort Benning before midnight of February 5, 1961 in order to avoid being declared a deserter.

After the above information was received, Agent TARABOCHIA accompanied by Agent A. E. LEONARD, proceeded to the M.R.P. camp to contact ROBERT PLATT and make arrangements for his return to Fort Benning. After two attempts to locate PLATT were unsuccessful, the writer contacted Col. BARQUIN and advised him of Lt. R. PLATT's precedents.

Col. BARQUIN agreed to cooperate and at 7:00 PM of February 3rd, accompanied Mr. PLATT, SR. to a meeting with his son.

At about 11:00 PM of February 3rd, Col. BARQUIN contacted the writer and advised him that Lt. PLATT had left in the company of his father for Fort Benning where he was going to surrender to the Provost Marshall.

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Sgt. WOLF will advise of further developments.

Respectfully submitted,

*A. L. Tarabochia*

A. L. TARABOCHIA  
Intelligence Agent

*Lt. Frank Kappel*

LT. FRANK KAPPEL, Supervisor  
Criminal Intelligence

ALT/vw

*C.C. Army Intelligence*