

DATE: September 19, 1958
TO: Thomas J. Kelly, Metropolitan Sheriff
FROM: W. D. McKee, Criminal Intelligence
SUBJECT: ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

On September 12, 1958, Agents Longbottom and Tarabochia were assigned to investigate information received from Mr. M. W. Gerhardt who is the director of M. W. Gerhardt's Funeral Home at 1313 S. W. 1st Street, phone FR 4-4177. Mr. Gerhardt had information concerning some Cubans living near his place of business. Mr. Gerhardt could offer nothing concrete in the way of information, but was suspicious of the group living around the corner, and northeast from his place. Mr. Gerhardt stated that on weekends, forty to fifty Cubans would congregate at the place. He further offered that he thought there was some connection with this house and the Interamerican Importers, which is in back, and north of his place on Flagler Street.

A cursory examination of the premises at this time revealed a single story, single family, faded, soiled frame house. Outside in the alley are stored two motor blocks that appeared to be for deisel motors such as the ones on bulldozers. There was a small printing machine on the front porch which is on the east end of the house facing on 13th Avenue. The address of the place is 28 S. W. 13 Avenue. The owner of the house is listed as Thomas Lipe, this is Captain Lipe, Chief of Detectives of the Miami Police Department.

Since the place is in the City of Miami limits, Sgt. Charles Sapp of City Intelligence was contacted at once. Sgt. Sapp contacted Captain Lipe with an effort to obtain additional information about the place. Captain Lipe informed the Sgt. that the place is rented through an agent and that he did not even know the name of his tenants. Captain Lipe was anxious that we pursue the investigation to an immediate conclusion and requested that it be searched as soon as possible for contraband.

Mr. Lesser who is the manager of Sherwin Williams Paint Store on the southwest corner of 13th Avenue and Flagler Street expressed anxiety about the possible storage of explosives at the location. This is due to the combustibles stored at his place. He is practically next door to the suspects house.

At this time we examined the outside of the Interamerican Exporting Company and found no unusual activity.

The truck pointed out to us was a 1956 GMC green panel truck. It bore a 1958 Florida license plate, number 1 GK 3819. This tag is issued to Jerry's Service Center of 11070 N.W. 17 Avenue.

On Monday, September 15, 1958, Agent Longbottom and Sgt. Sapp returned to the suspect's house. Our knock was answered by a Cuban woman who stated that she did not speak English. She was unwilling or unable to answer questions about her connections with the Cuban Revolutionists, but understood enough English to give us her permission to search the premises for explosives, and/or other contraband.

On the front porch was an electric duplicating machine such as has been seen in the other revolutionary gathering points. It is the type used to print the propoganda being passed around. In the living room was a new radio with many frequencies and bands, including short wave. When the set was turned on a male voice speaking Spanish issued from it. In answer to a question the woman agreed that it was tuned to Oriente Province in Cuba.

On the back porch was large, heavy, radio transmitting and receiving equipment, fairly new. Heavy cables came out of the bottom, but we could not find out the power source. On the sets was a U.S. Navy handbook for radios. This could be used to monitor federal government broadcast such as Coast Guard.

A loaded clip from a .45 Calibre automatic pistol was found in the house. We were unable to find the gun.

In the southwest bedroom, under a crib in which an infant was sleeping was found a large carton. In the carton were a very great number, estimated as several thousand, of the plastic caps which are used to manufacture their home made incendiary bombs. The bottom half was not found, neither was any trace of the phosphorus found. These caps were hidden in the carton under two blankets forced down over them.

The occupant of the house could not speak English when asked about these articles.

Stored in one corner of the room were a great number of packages of Cuban Crackers resembling hard-tact. There were enough to feed about fifty men for a couple of days. The woman of the house stated she bought these for her own use.

In the dining room on the wall was a flag bearing the inscription O/A which is the "Authentic Party of Revolutionists" banner.

The closets in the place were jammed to the roof with miscellaneous junk. It was filthy, and crawling with cockroaches. We considered it unwise to thoroughly search the place which would almost be considered ransacking, until further investigation is conducted by Spanish speaking investigators. Sgt. Sapp stated he will assign two Spanish speaking Agents to keep the place under surveillance. Agent Tarabochia will carry on for our Department.

With reference to Interamerican Exporters, Sgt. Sapp and Agent Longbottom went to 1328 Flagler Street and interviewed the President of the corporation whose name is Oscar Abasola. Mr. Abasola lives at 649 W. 33 Street, Hialeah, phone TU 8-8057. He denied any knowledge of the Cuban political situation. He denied knowing or having any contact with the cubans on the corner. He stated that he has only one customer in Cuba, and stated that most of his business is with Maracibo, Venezuela. He invited us to search his storehouse and offices. He invited us to examine his books. Our examination revealed nothing of interest to this investigation.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to the FCC for possible violation with the radios. It is also suggested that a copy of this report be sent to Customs Agent Fortier, also a copy to Agent Dwyer of the FBI and the Coast Guard.

Investigation Continuing.

Respectfully submitted,



W. D. McKee, Supervisor
Criminal Intelligence



Roy Longbottom
Intelligence Agent

cc: Sgt. Sapp