

SENSITIVE

CASE NO: 3-92

DATE: February 3, 1978

Continuing investigation into the EMILIO MILIAN bombing.

SYNOPSIS:

Grand Jury witness appearances.

DETAILS:

On Friday, 3 February 1978, the MILIAN Federal Grand Jury was convened. The following persons testified:

Det. O. Austin, MPD Homicide
Det. D. Benitez, PSD OCB
Mr. MANUEL ORTEGA
Mr. MARIO SOLANO

During the time the Grand Jury was in session, court interpreter LUIS NIGAGLIONI entered the secretary's office and requested to know if there were any Latin members to be placed before the Grand Jury and if there were any, to advise him as to who it was so that he would be able to get ready. This information was relayed to J. Sanford, Assistant U. S. Attorney. Mr. Sanford had a private conference with Mr. NIGAGLIONI, at which time he advised NIGAGLIONI that his services would not be utilized any longer. Mr. NIGAGLIONI demanded to know what reasons there were for the action. Mr. Sanford referred him to this writer.

This writer and Det. Austin met with Mr. NIGAGLIONI and the following transpired. NIGAGLIONI was extremely upset at any possible inference being made as to his involvement in terrorist activity or his integrity being questioned. Det. Austin stated that he had been observed in the company of possible suspects in the MILIAN investigation, that his department considered this to be an awkward position to be in and it wanted to exercise its privilege to keep all persons without a clear need to know out of the MILIAN case. NIGAGLIONI stated that surely he was very pro "anti-Castro Cuban movement" and that he was friendly and very vocal and emotional in this respect, but that it would not impede his professional objectivity. That the judge in open court had told him that any of his translations could be explained to the press if asked. Austin stated that neither his objectivity or professionalism was on trial but that simply too many persons had access to the Milian probe and that his department was merely eliminating all of those without an express, clear need to know.

This detective explained to NIGAGLIONI that his not being used was not a firing and that his position with the court was not jeopardized in any manner. NIGAGLIONI was visibly upset but could not say anything else.

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The meeting was concluded. No other information available.

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