

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Haiti/Cuba REPORT NO. CS DB-312/03046

SUBJECT Activity of Rolando Masferrer Rojas and Father Jean Baptiste Georges in Preparing for Action Against Haiti DATE DISTR. 18 November 1966

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PLACE & DATE ACQ. United States, Miami (3-10 October 1966)

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE Source of Paragraphs 1 - 5: Former Latin American diplomat who maintains relations with officials of Latin American countries. Source is a trained reporter. His information has been reliable in the past.

1. On 29 September 1966 in Miami, Florida, a close associate of Rolando Masferrer Rojas, former Cuban senator, said that Father Jean Baptiste Georges, prominent Haitian emigre, was financing preparations in which Masferrer is involved for action against President Francois Duvalier of Haiti. Masferrer's associate added that any costs exceeding funds that Father Georges could provide would be met by Anselmo Alliegro, son of Anselmo Alliegro, former Cuban senator who is deceased.
2. On 24 September in Miami, Masferrer said that he had met with Father Georges on 19 September at the home of Rodolfo Masferrer Rojas, his brother. Rolando Masferrer said that Father Georges had been in Miami to make arrangements for the purchase of a vessel for transporting an expeditionary force to Haiti. Masferrer added that the vessel had already been acquired.
3. Masferrer said that Father Georges had also obtained 50 sets of arms and ammunition, including Garand M-1 rifles and automatic rifles given to him by Manolo Ray Rivero, prominent Cuban emigré for the Haitian revolution. According to Masferrer the equipment was not in Miami. Masferrer also made the following claim:
  - a. Masferrer's group had enough equipment--including 57-mm. recoilless rifles, 20-mm. cannons, machine guns, R-14 rifle and bazookas--for 500 men.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. General Antonio Imbert Barreras, of the Dominican Republic, had promised to help. Consequently, Masferrer had sent men to the Dominican Republic.<sup>3</sup>

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- c. One of Masferrer's men who went to the Dominican Republic carrying a small quantity of arms and ammunition had been apprehended by Dominican authorities despite the fact that the man had declared that the arms were for sale to the military. Santiago Rey Perna, Cuban émigré in the Dominican Republic, had been unable to intercede since he has lost influence with the government of President Joaquin Balaguer.
  - d. Father Georges will be the leader of the Haitian "insurrection."
4. Masferrer said that in view of the arrest of his emissary in the Dominican Republic he was returning to New York for a few days until all was calm again. He added that the help of Imbert and certain other friends in the Dominican Republic was being given without the approval of the Balaguer government.
  5. On 2 October 1966 Eugene L. Maximilien, Haitian Consul General in Miami, stated that the purpose of Father George's visit to Miami was to make a payment for war materiel and vessels purchased by Masferrer. According to Maximilien, Father Georges had received \$2,000 about two weeks earlier from Paul Magloire, former President of Haiti, and \$7,000 from Canada, the source of which is unknown.

Source of the information in Paragraphs 6 - 8: A member of a group of Cuban émigrés trained in the techniques of information collection. The group has provided useful reports since 1964.

6. In late September Manuel Olea, a Cuban émigré who was brought from New York by Masferrer to take part in an operation against the Haitian régime, was told by Masferrer that he (Olea) would be chief of operations. According to Olea, American newsmen were with them from the time they left New York until their arrival in Miami, filming motion pictures continuously. Since his arrival in Miami, Olea found Masferrer's activities very strange and expressed the opinion that the plans were not going to materialize. Olea decided not to take part in the proceedings.
7. Olea said that after requesting the use of some guns for practice purposes, Masferrer offered him some rifles but told him that he would have to buy his own bullets. According to Olea, the majority of Masferrer's guns are useless. Olea also stated that a man known to him only as "Papito", who worked for the Haitian Consul in Miami, was closely associated with Masferrer. Upon learning that Masferrer was thinking of transferring his group to the Dominican Republic, "Papito" immediately obtained a visa.
8. Olea complained that Masferrer had only given him \$100 in Miami, but that he had incurred expenses of about \$550 for his room and board and that of three others. He stated that he had had an argument with Masferrer because the plan was not being taken seriously. Two of Olea's party, who returned to New York, did not plan to return to Miami.

1. Field Comment. In January 1966 Masferrer told a group of Cuban émigrés in Miami that Father Georges was one of those contributing financial support to a plan for invading Haiti. See TDCSDB-315/00225-66.
2. Source Comment. Masferrer was probably exaggerating. He may have equipment for 250 men.

Field Comments

3. Masferrer has previously claimed that he had the support of the Dominican Government.
4. Another source has reported on plans for making a film purporting to show efforts of Haitians to overthrow President Duvalier. See TDCSDB-315/02687-66.

Comment: The aid [redacted] have been received as a result of the efforts of [redacted] a Haitian émigré, who has been actively engaged for many months in promoting a plan to unseat the Government of Francois Duvalier. [redacted]

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