

AM LASH / 1

Rolando CUBELA Secades
born 19 Jan 1933

Subject is former protege of Raul CASTRO and former President of commie-oriented Castro student organization, "Federation of University Students", in Havana. Subject was also one-time major in revolutionary army. When Subj took over FEU, a purge, commie-style, of students and faculty was commenced. FEU ultimately took over administration of Havana Univ. Subj is reported to have gradually become disaffected with Castro Govt and has contemplated defection for some time. Latest indications of Subj's attitude came from contacts of AMCONCERT/1 and an unidentified FBI source in Miami. Subj has now been relieved of his Presidency of FEU, allegedly because of booze and women, but probably because he didn't play ball with the PSP re Univ politics. Subj is considered by friends to be anti-Communist and also rather critical of the USA.

First contact with Subj by a KUBARKER was during a meeting in Mexico City on 9 March 1961. This meeting was arranged by Subj good friend, Carlos TEPEDINO, Cuban dissident now in jewelry business in NYC. The staffer was Jack Stewart, also a ~~good~~ longtime acquaintance of TEPEDINO's. The meeting was merely "to exchange views on Cuba", and Subj made certain that Stewart understood this. Subj admitted however that trouble in Cuba today was the PSP and the manner in which they were influencing Cuban govt today. Stewart made no commitments but did offer, if Subj should so desire, listen to whatever Subj had to say in the future and to offer what aid was within his power.

Subj was again the subject of interest and potential defection when he attended French National Student Union Cultural Festival in Aug 1961 at Fontier, France. Paris was given OK to approach Subj but as far as file reflects (and French Desk) no effort was ever conducted. This particularly baffling since Subj had sent a message to TEPEDINO via a girl friend who came Miami that he desired to talk with "friend of Stewart's" in Paris if possible.

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On 15 June of this year it was learned from a reliable source that Subj was going to attend the Helsinki Youth Festival in July-Aug 1962. He was to go via ~~Prague~~ Prague. Finnish Liaison sources reported on 5 July that Subj had applied for a visa to attend the festival from 20 July thru 9 August. In view of evidence, it decided that Subj was ripe for approach. AMCONCERT/1 stated that TEPEDINO person with most influence over ~~Subj~~ Subj. CA/PROP Staff felt best bet for our money would be have Subj defect during last week of Festival and give widest possible press play to defection, including statement of Subj's dissatisfaction with present Cuban govt. Due Finnish sensitivity and Soviet pressure, it felt that Subj defection ~~play~~ played low key Hels press, then take him Copenhagen for larger play via Station assets there. Then bring Miami for debriefing personality leads, Cuba conditions, etc.

Due pressing commitments Hels station, it felt necessary to have His case officer accompany TEPEDINO and guide/ support the attempt against Subj. KUBARK will pay expenses TEPEDINO and return expenses Cubelo, providing he ~~pay~~ ^{pay} ball our way.

TEPEDINO has POA, has expressed to Miami officer, his willingness go Europe to help Subj. Plan already laid on for contact and briefing TEPEDINO in NYC this week.

NOTE: On 8 July TEPEDINO informed Sloman that he had received a postcard on 30 June postmarked Vienna, ~~Subj~~ from Subj saying that TEPEDINO should not fail meet him Paris in August 62.

* TEPEDINO revealed to Sloman on 8 July that he had been in touch with FBI in Miami. Also mentioned that he was dissatisfied with previous KUBARK efforts re Cubela's planned defection in Paris in summer 61, and for this reason he approached FBI. (Can we then assume that (and I think we can) ~~Subj~~ FBI knows of TEPEDINO's

interest in defecting ~~Subj~~ Subj. Also interesting that FBI indicated no interest in TEPEDINO when we ran POA check with them week of 2 July.