

Memorandum

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

DATE: 8/5/66

1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Wick _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GROUPS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE FOR
PUERTO RICO
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
(SUBVERSIVE CONTROL SECTION)

As part of our continuing program to disrupt the militant subversive groups seeking independence for Puerto Rico, the New York Office prepared a letter attacking one of the leaders of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico. The letter was written as though it were from a member of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR) and was mailed anonymously on 7/12/66 from New York City to selected nationalists in both Puerto Rico and New York City. These two organizations are the largest and most dangerous of the proindependence groups.

The effect of the letter was immediate. A San Juan informant reported on 7/18/66 that members of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico were outraged by the letter and considered it a "character assassination" of one of their leaders perpetrated by the MPIPR. The acting Secretary General of the MPIPR, in the absence of Juan Mari Bras who was in New York at the time, directed a letter to the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico in which he denounced the anonymous letter as another trick of the Central Intelligence Agency. That denial was then published in the two MPIPR publications thereby giving the anonymous letter much greater publicity. In the meantime, Mari Bras in a speech in New York City, referred to the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico as "so called Nationalists" who are "behind the times, confused and in error." This, coming on the heels of the denial of authorship of the anonymous letter, has further confused the rank and file nationalists as to the true state of affairs within the independence movement.

OBSERVATIONS:

REC-13

It appears that the anonymous letter has achieved its purpose of confusing the independentists leaders, exploiting group rivalry and jealousy and inflaming personality conflicts. This will undoubtedly thwart any unified action by the two principal independence groups within the near future.

ACTION:

For information.

14 AUG 22 1966

TWK:sjs

6:11 AUG 25 1966

3

PAGE 1

75. USUN NEW YORK 5471

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL
with excisions as shown

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PAGE 01 USUN N 05471 302022Z.
with excisions as shown

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/063 W

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R 301846Z OCT 75
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3428
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5471
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, SL
SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP)
SECRETARY-GENERAL MARI BRAS ADDRESS THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

GONZALEZ GONZALEZ (A PUERTO RICAN CLOSE ASSO-
CIATE OF PSP SECRETARY-GENERAL MARI BRAS) APPROACHED FOURTH
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON JOKA-BANGURA TO SUGGEST THAT MARI
BRAS BE PERMITTED TO ADDRESS THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO
JOKA-BANGURA'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE, SUGGESTED
THAT SHE TELL GONZALEZ GONZLEZ TO TALK TO GA PRESIDENT
THORN ABOUT THE MATTER, AND SHE DID SO.
COMMENT: ALTHOUGHT WE BELIEVE THAT THORN WILL DENY THE REQUEST
WE CAN'T BE SURE THAT THAT WILL END THE MATTER. USUN WILL
BRING ITS VIEWS TO RHORN'S ATTENTION.

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL
with excisions as shown
NNN

Memorandum

TO : (6) DIRECTOR, FBI (105-66754) DATE: 11/15/60

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (105-32872)

SUBJECT:

GROUPS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE
FOR PUERTO RICO (COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM)
SUBVERSIVE CONTROL
(OO: San Juan)

Re Bureau letter dated 9/13/60.

A review of the files of the NYO has been made concerning the activities of Puerto Rican pro-independence groups which seek independence by other than peaceful means, as well as the files on the counterintelligence program as it relates to the Communist Party. It is believed that upon instituting a counterintelligence program in this field, efforts should be directed with the following aims in mind:

- I. Disruption and discord.
- II. Creating doubts as to the wisdom of remaining in the independence movement.
- III. Causing defections from the independence movement.

The suggested means of obtaining these desired ends are as follows:

- 1) Exploiting factionalism within an organization.

Factionalism is a common fault within pro-independence groups and it is believed that this existing element can be developed, enlarged and exploited. As an example, after the demise of the Accion Patriotica

- P -

- 2 - Bureau (105-66754) (RM)
- 2 - San Juan (105-3353) (RM)
- 1 - New York (105-32872) (#413)

JJT:vcb
(5)

105-93124-5
15 NOV 17 1960

EXP. PROC.

N.Y.
P.R.
X
revolucionaria and the subsequent formation of the Movimiento 27 de Marzo, there existed [redacted] with his APR following, and [redacted] within the Marzo 21. Friction, such as existed between these two at that time, can be exploited through the use of an informant to point out to one, the inefficiency of the other and in general conversation "fan the fire" of existing friction thereby helping to bring about a factional split.

Secondly, the use of handwritten, anonymous letters directed to one group in which the seed of suspicion is planted concerning the real motivation and goal of the other group.

2) Promoting friction between various pro-independence groups.

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico considers itself the true and only pro-independence group capable of carrying forth an effective program for obtaining Puerto Rican independence. It looks upon other pro-independence groups as something that is inferior and in some instances has a definite hatred for another pro-independence group. For example, at the time [redacted] was organizing his APR members for departure to Puerto Rico to conduct a revolution (late 1959) the NPPR and other pro-independence groups were extremely critical of [redacted] and his organization.

In this instance the use of informants and anonymous letters could be used, as set forth in number 1 above, and in addition a mimeographed flyer could be utilized in conjunction with the anonymous letters, criticizing the leadership of the organization and giving the impression that it had been prepared by another pro-independence group.

7
NY 105-32872

3) Questioning the indiscriminate use of an organization's money.

Puerto Rican pro-independence group members are required to pay money into the organizations' treasuries but, as far as can be determined, some of this money is used for the personal convenience of the leaders. An example of this occurred in January, 1960, when [redacted] was arrested as a scofflaw in NYC, and he used money from the APR treasury to pay his fine, which was to be used to promote the revolution in Puerto Rico, where APR members were waiting for [redacted]. As a result [redacted] never did go to Puerto Rico.

In instances such as this, friction between the members and the leaders can be developed through the use of informants and anonymous letters.

4) Questioning the wisdom of allowing non-Puerto Rican groups to be influential in the independence movement.

In this respect it is noted that for the most part the Puerto Rican movement has been made up of individuals of Puerto Rican ancestry.

NY In NYC at present, however, [redacted] and his followers are associating with, and using the facilities of, the Workers World Party. The WWP is a splinter group of the Socialist Workers Party and are known as Marcyites. In an instance such as this, it is felt that an opportunity is presented whereby mimeographed flyers could be directed to various individuals of the different pro-independence groups pointing out the "intrusion" of the WWP and worded in such a way as to indicate that the SWP was the originator of the flyer.

The above items are submitted as suggestions as a beginning. They in no way cover the vast field of possibilities in the counterintelligence program as numerous instances will undoubtedly arise from time to time whereby new ideas can be formulated which can further promote such a program.

(8)
NY 105-32872

In an initial effort in this program the NYO suggests the preparation of the following: in a Spanish language mimeographed flyer concerning [redacted] and his followers. The actual preparation of this flyer will be held in abeyance pending receipt of the observations of the Bureau concerning this suggestion.

Attention Those of You Who Love the Fatherland

For years we have struggled to bring freedom to Puerto Rico. Our struggles are immortalized in such as JOSE de DIEGO, carried on by [redacted] and in the great efforts displayed by the martyrs who gladly gave their lives at Ponce.

Now in our midst rises one who constantly claims that the future of Puerto Rico is in his hands. He looks upon himself as the "Great Liberator", but whose actions reveal his true colors. His immature, unintelligent and selfish actions are setting the independence movement back 20 years.

We call upon all true followers of the principles laid down by our great predecessors to ignore [redacted] Movimiento 21 de Marzo. Show by your actions that a far greater, more experienced and mature group of patriots is ready to show the way WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

A limited number of individuals in the various pro-independence groups in NYC, exclusive of the NPPR, will be selected to receive this flyer which will be printed on unmarked paper and enclosed in a plain white envelope.

In regard to the preparation of a timely article as requested in reBureau letter, the review of the files of the NYO reflects that little public source material is available which can be classified as timely and which reflects that the pro-independence groups are actually anti Puerto Rico. However, efforts to obtain the necessary information for the preparation of desired article are continuing.

Laura + Juanbe

Letter to New York
Re: Groups Seeking Independence
For Puerto Rico
(Counterintelligence Program)
Subversive Control
105-93124

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Relet contains New York suggestion that the information concerning ~~Laura~~ and ~~Juanbe~~ cohabitation be furnished to a national syndicated columnist to show such a relationship existing between two members of the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations. New York believes that if the information was made known through such wide publicity the hypocritical nature of these two individuals would serve to bring ridicule not only upon themselves but upon the government of Fidel Castro.

SAC, New York (105-32872)

October 10, 1961

Director, FBI (105-93124) - 41

REC- 30

GROUPS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE
FOR PUERTO RICO
(COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM)
SUBVERSIVE CONTROL

Reurlet 9-27-61.

The Bureau appreciates the careful consideration given to this particular phase of our counterintelligence program.

After reflection, the Bureau believes that because [redacted] and [redacted] have not received any publicity in the United Nations and very little newspaper publicity in connection with their appointments to the Cuban Delegation, we should not initiate any publicity which might tend to give them notoriety which would possibly benefit them.

You have indicated that the cohabitation of [redacted] and [redacted] for many years had no effect upon the average Puerto Rican nationalist. You should keep in mind, however, that [redacted] has solicited the sympathy of audiences not connected with Puerto Rican independence by hypocritically stating that United States imperialism has kept her separated from her beloved husband, [redacted].

New York should be alert to determine if and when [redacted] expects to appear before the United Nations to plead the cause of Puerto Rico's independence. If she should state that "United States imperialism" has kept her separated from her beloved husband, Bureau will consider furnishing information concerning her cohabitation with [redacted] to the Department of State for the possible use by United States representatives at the United Nations. Any information concerning her possible appearance before the United Nations should be promptly furnished to the Bureau.

MAILED 10
OCT 10 1961
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

1 - San Juan (105-3353 Sub 1)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW, PAGE 2.

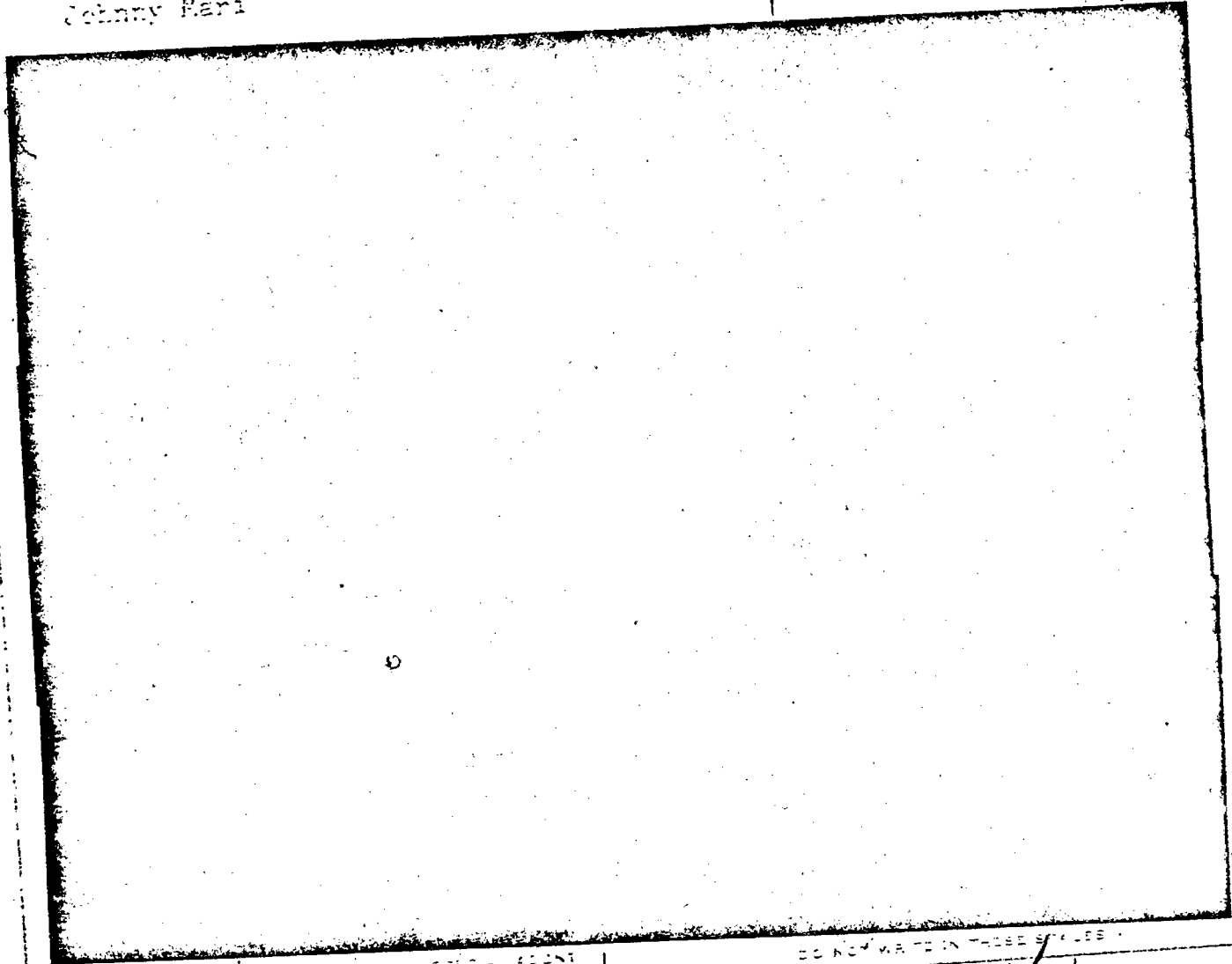
TC:bmt;mtb

(5)

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE MAY 12 1954	FILE NO. [REDACTED]	CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - R
TITLE JOHN MARI-IRAS, was. Juan Mari, Johnny Mari			



APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 105-292-14	RECORDED - 23 INDEXED - 23
[REDACTED]		20 MAY 14 1954	
[REDACTED]			

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NOTES DESTROYED

88 MAY 9 1960

The files of T-6, another government agency which conducts security investigations, reflect that subject was a speaker at an NRP celebration held August 26, 1945, at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. In addition, the files of T-6 indicate that MARI-BRIS attended a NRP meeting at Stor 37, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, on April 6, 1946, and in a speech stated that freedom and democracy did not exist in Puerto Rico, as innocent people were massacred in the street and that persecution, tyranny and censorship existed.

The files of Confidential Informant W-6 reflect that on May 1, 1945, the subject, the former President of the Independentist Youth Action had been elected Vice-President of the Puerto Rican Independentist Youth.

Bamblea

ANSI

The files of T-6 indicate that MARI-ERAS presided at the second annual Congress of the Independentist Youth Action (Accion Juvenil Independentista), which was held on April 15, 1945. At this meeting numerous resolutions were sponsored including one which favored the full pardon for political prisoners in the United States and another for the erecting of a monument to the heroes of the 1937 "Fonce Massacre".

The files of T-6 further reflected that the annual assembly of the University Independentist Association (AUI), was held on May 1, 1945, at which time the subject was elected the new second Vice-President. This source further indicated that in 1945 the subject planned a summer visit to Mexico to continue his studies and to visit people there with a view toward organizing a new association called Consejo Interantillano de Puerto Rico, which organization would work for Puerto Rican independence.

The above source further indicated that the subject who was formerly editor of Patria, organ of the

[REDACTED]

Independentist Youth Action, attempted, during 1945, to contact VINCENTE LOMBARDO TOLEDANO, President of the Confederation of Workers of Latin America (Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina), in order to discuss political problems of Puerto Rico. LOMBARDO was not in Mexico at that time, however, T-6 noted.

[REDACTED]

The files of T-6 further reflect that the subject, as President, presided over a meeting of the Independentist Society of the University of Puerto Rico, held April 8, 1946, in honor of RAYMON EMETERIO BETANCES, described as a Puerto Rican patriot. This source further reflected that on April 15, 1946, the subject, as President of the Independentist Society of the University of Puerto Rico, stated that independence was necessary and indispensable in order to bring happiness, education, morality and means of decent living to Puerto Ricans. According to T-6, MARI-BRAS strongly attacked the United States good neighbor policy on this occasion.

The above source further reflected that MARI-BRAS spoke at a meeting at the University Independentist Society, held on August 28, 1946, at the University of Puerto Rico. In late 1947 the files of T-6 indicated that the subject was a staff member of the paper "Vanguardia", which was described as violently anti-American. This source has also indicated that the subject was one of those individuals who picketed President TRUMAN on a visit to Puerto Rico during February, 1948.

An article appearing in the September 5, 1945, issue of the San Juan newspaper "La Torre", reflects a statement by MARI-BRAS indicating he had made efforts to form a confederation of Latin-American students while in Mexico during the summer of that year. The November 7, 1945, issue of this same newspaper contained an article which stated that MARI-BRAS was the newly elected President of the University Independentist Society and in that capacity gave some of the plans of that organization.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE



P-6,
C-2,
USARPANT,
San Juan,
Puerto Rico

Subject's speech 4/19/45 San Juan 100-4014-272
at 2nd annual
Congress, 4/15/45 Division

Subject's election 5/10/45 San Juan 100-4153-85
as 2nd Vice-
President, University
Independentist
Association; merger
of two organizations
5/1/45 Division

Subject's planned 6/14/45 San Juan 100-4153-90
trip to Mexico,
1945 Division

Subject's efforts 7/16/45 San Juan 100-4153-94
to contact
VINCENTE LOMBARDO
(OTAL) 7/45 Division

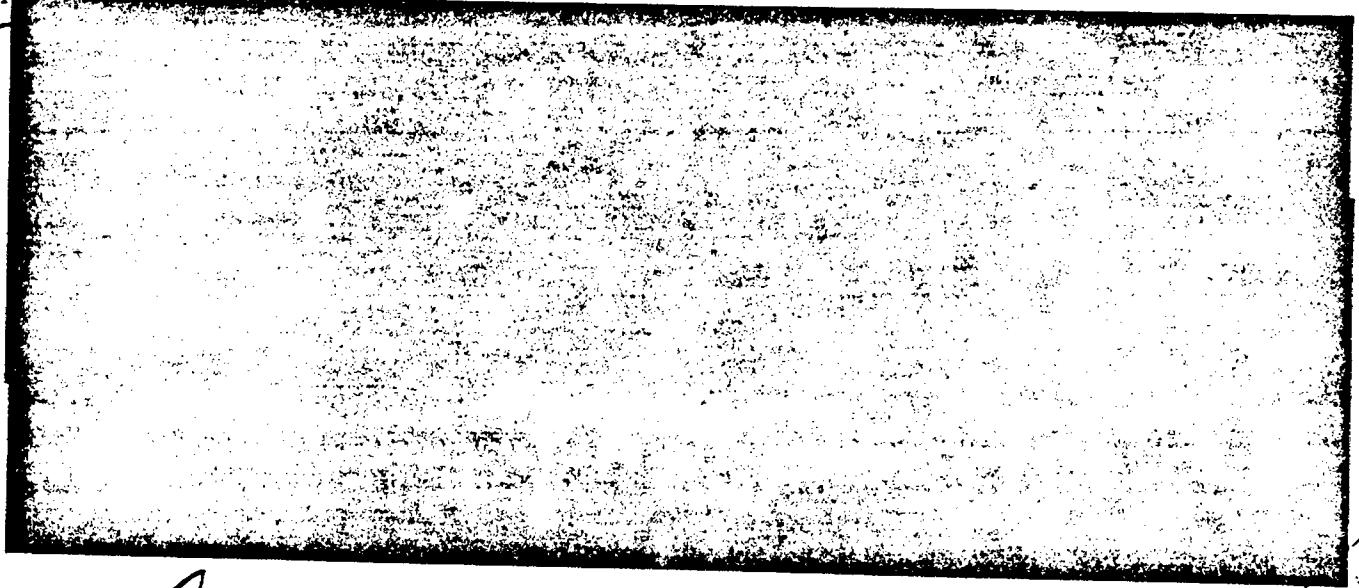
8/26/45 9/10/45 San Juan 100-3-12-5
(NPPR) Division

4/8/46 4/17/46 San Juan 100-4014-
Division 405

4/25/46 4/19/46 San Juan 100-4014-
Division 407

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office SAN JUAN	Office of Origin SAN JUAN	Date JAN 27 1960	Investigative Period 12/22/59 - 1/15/60
TITLE OF CASE JUAN MARI BRAS		Report made by SA J. CORTEZ BALL	Typed By: gjk
		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - N	



Approved _____ Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 5 - Bureau (105-292) (RM) 1 - ONI, 10th. ND, San Juan (By Hand) 1 - 471st. CIC Detachment, San Juan (By Hand) 1 - OSI, Ramey AFB (RM) 1 - San Juan (100-4785)	105 - 292 -	2	REC-82
	5 JAN 29 1960		
Copy to <u>RAB - ONE</u> by routing slip for <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> info <input type="checkbox"/> action date <u>2-8-60</u> by <u>TC</u>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 58 FEB 9 1960 934 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> FEB 3 1960 SUBV. CONTROL </div> <div> Copy to <u>State, Interior</u> by routing slip for <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> info <input type="checkbox"/> action date <u>1-12-61</u> by <u>TC - LP</u> </div> </div>			
CONFIDENTIAL			

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By Summary of Information dated November 24, 1959, the 471st CIC Detachment, Fort Brooke, San Juan, Puerto Rico, furnished information reflecting that JUAN MARI BRAS, Secretary General of the MPIPR, opened the above convention at Ponce on November 22, 1959, and delivered the main address of the meeting. According to the CIC Summary, in his speech, MARI BRAS made a historical resume of the independence seeking movements of the Island, ending with the split in the PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIQUENO (Independence Party of Puerto Rico) (PIP), from which the MPIPR was formed. He continuously attacked the United States for its military, political and economic intervention in Puerto Rico, and drew a picture of the blessings and advantages of independence. He stressed the fact that the MPIPR is not a political group and that independence cannot be obtained through methods other than force or direct suffrage. He said the MPIPR is a dogmatic, non-political group movement in which there is room for all independence seeking party groups and individuals.

A characterization of the PIP appears in the appendix.

Guanica Demonstration, July 25, 1959

By Summary of Information dated July 28, 1959, the 471st CIC Detachment, Fort Brooke, furnished information regarding the annual July 25th demonstration at Guanica, Puerto Rico, on July 25, 1959. According to the Summary, following the daytime activities, a public meeting was held, at which the speakers were NORMAN PIETRI CASTELLON, President of the FEDERACION UNIVERSITARIA PRO INDEPENDENCIA (University Pro Independence Federation) (FUPI), JUAN ANTONIO CORRETJER, Nationalist-Communist and JUAN MARI BRAS, leader of the MPIPR. In PIETRI's speech, he condemned the United States for its "imperialistic policies" in Puerto Rico, and urged Puerto Rican youth to defend Puerto Rico's sovereignty with the weapons in their hands." In CORRETJER's speech, he bitterly attacked the United States, and stated that Puerto Ricans should achieve independence, or die with honor trying to gain it. JUAN MARI BRAS, the third and last speaker, solidarized himself and the MPIPR with the two previous speakers. He praised the demonstrations that had taken place during the course of the day. He stated that the supermarkets were draining Puerto Rico's economy and he attacked the big sugar corporations because they had forced the small Puerto Rican farmers to become hired hands of the sugar empires, which he stated is the original aim of the imperialistic drive of the United States. He said it was in the hands of the Puerto Rican youth to achieve independence for Puerto Rico, and that this was the right time to start with whatever means they had in hand. He said he hoped that

SUPPLEMENTAL CORRELATION SUMMARY
(See Correlation Summary dated 7/12/66 filed as 105-292-180)

Main File No: 105-292
See also: 65-68323

Date: 6/11/68

Subject: Juan Mari Bras

Date Searched: 7/27/67

On 10/19/62 G-2, ANTCOMD, advised that Juan Mari Bras and MPIPR member Lorenzo Pimeiro Rivera had been in close contact with Marcio Mejia Ricart and were his attorneys in his lawsuit against Pan American World Airways which, he claimed, illegally transported him from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to San Juan, Puerto Rico against his will.

(continued) Pg. 4

G-2 Comment: The continued close association between Mari Bras, Pimeiro Rivera and Dominican Republic exile Mejia Ricart, plus the support of known Castro-communist organizations, such as the Federation of University Students for Independence and the MPIPR, strongly substantiated the report of a growing alliance between radical Puerto Rican independentists and Dominican leftists.

105-77731-535 p.2
(12,48)

Pg. 5

Files of the 471st INTC* Detachment revealed that [redacted] a member of the Puerto Rican National Guard under consideration for officer training, gave a sworn statement to members of that detachment on 3/30/66. In this statement he stated he did not know Juan Mari Bras and had never participated in any activity connected with the MPIPR. (C)

Pg. 21

105-292-331

RECORDED

CORRELATION SUMMARY

Main File No: 105-292
See Also: 65-68323

~~SECRET~~

Date: 7-12-66

7H Subject: Juan Mari Bras
One Mari*

Date Searched: 7/1/65

A Department of the Army Intelligence Report dated 12/15/59, from PR, captioned, "House Committee on Un American Activities Hearings" (61-7582) revealed that "The San Juan Star," an English language newspaper published in San Juan, PR, on 11/17/59, carried an article which revealed that plans were made to conduct picket lines in front of the San Juan Post Office building, where the HCUA would hold its public hearings, on November 18-19, 1959. Demonstrators would include Attorney Juan Mari Bras, head of MPIPR.

On 11/19/59, Mari Bras was observed in the picket line in front of the US Post Office building in San Juan.

61-7582-4443 p.4,11
(4,67)

pg-17

105-292-180

RECORDED

17 JUL 12 1966

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

SUPPLEMENTAL CORRELATION SUMMARY

(See Correlation Summaries dated 7/12/66 and 6/11/68 filed as 105-292-180 and 331 respectively)

Main File No: 105-292
See Also: 65-68323
9-50180
25-564820

Date: 12/23/70

Subject: Juan Mari[©] Bras

Date Searched: 6/30/70

dh All logical variations of subject's name and aliases were searched and identical references were found as set out on page 2:

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed on page 2. All references under these names containing data identical with the subject have been included except any indicated at the end of this summary under the heading REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SUMMARY. References indicated in the block as SI contain the same information as the foregoing serial although the information may have been received from a different source.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION. IT IS DESIGNED TO FURNISH A SYNOPSIS OF THE INFORMATION SET OUT IN EACH REFERENCE AND IN MANY CASES THE ORIGINAL SERIAL WILL CONTAIN THE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL.

dh LSM:mlj

1-ENCLOSURE

REC-44/105-292-438
K66

Classified by 6080
Exempt from GDS Category 2, 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

53 APR 1 1971

3-8-77

1/1/11/11

Filberto Jeda

(continued)

SECRET

This reference is a Department of Defense Intelligence Information report and contains information concerning Filiberto Ojeda Rios, alleged leader of a group calling itself the Movement of Armed Independent Revolutionaries. This report revealed that an FBI source reported in September, 1968 that Ojeda was the acting Representative of the MPIPR in Havana, Cuba, and that Ojeda had been in contact with Juan Mari Bras several times during the spring of 1967. Ojeda reportedly indicated to Mari Bras that he was fulfilling his duties

(continued)

-5-

SECRET

105-292-438

False

(continued)

SECRET

for the MPIPR in Cuba and that he was dedicated to the ideal of PR independence no matter what had to be done.

The above information appeared in the file captioned "Armed Revolutionary Independence Movement".

(U)

105-292-438

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25,590363-3
(2,35)

(u)
This reference is a Department of Defense Intelligence Information Report dated 3/26/69. This report indicated that Juan Mari Bras organized the Alvelo Committee for the Defense of Puerto Rican Youth. (Date, locality not given) The purpose of this committee was to defend Puerto Rican youths who refused to be inducted into the US armed forces.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DEC 85

(LA) 105-292

399

1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Kelly

Date: January 6, 1970

To: Director
Naval Investigative Service
Naval Intelligence Command
Hoffman Building
2461 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: PUERTO RICO/USA EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
INFORMATION CONCERNING (U)

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 22, 1969, in the captioned matter, your reference IS-41/ceg 3850 Ser 02917, addressed to this Bureau and the Department of State.

The enclosure to your memorandum contains information indicating Juan Mari Bras, Puerto Rican independence leader, had advised a newspaper that the North Vietnamese were demanding the release of five Puerto Rican political prisoners now confined in the U. S. as part of a proposed prisoner of war exchange with the U. S.

Enclosure

CONFIDENTIAL

RAM: pag
(6)

~~GROUP 1~~
~~Excluded from automatic~~
~~downgrading and~~
~~declassification~~

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

59 JAN 12 1970

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FIG 2

MAILED 22

JAN 6 - 1970

COMM-FBI

717667

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Naval Investigative Service

NOTE:

Classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~", since information referred to herein originated with the Naval Investigative Service and was so classified by that agency.

The Navy had received notice of a statement made by Juan Mari Bras during the commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the revolt led by the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico in 1950, which included the attempt to assassinate President Truman and an effort to take over the Governor of Puerto Rico's residence at San Juan. Juan Mari Bras was quoted as saying the North Vietnamese were demanding the release of those jailed as result of assassination attempt on President Truman whereas the information in our memorandum clearly shows he is proposing this to the North Vietnamese as a part of prisoner of war exchanges between the U. S. and North Vietnam. (S)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 5/13/69

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-292)
FROM: SAC, SAN JUAN (100-4785) (P)
SUBJECT: JUAN MARI BRAS
IS - PRN
(OO: SJ)

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. Local dissemination of enclosed LHM being made to Naval Investigative Service Office; 771st Military Intelligence Detachment; Office of Special Investigations, Ramey Air Force Base; and U. S. Secret Service.

SJ T-1 referred to in enclosed LHM is the Naval Investigative Service Office, San Juan, Puerto Rico, who obtained information concerning subject's interview with Radio Havana from the [REDACTED]

Enclosed LHM is classified "Confidential" in order to protect the sensitive source from which it was obtained.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 9) (RM)
3 - San Juan (100-4785)
(1 - 105-3906) (Cuban Activities in Puerto Rico)
(1 - 25-21899) (Anti-Draft)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
MATERIAL ATTACHED

TBD:wtl
(5)

REC 27

105-292-316

Copy to: CIA/State/RAO
NIC/OSI/ASCI/SS
by routing slip for info.
Date 5-19-69 by AHS/bkg
ICC returned GAO DS

MAY 16 1969

LATIN AMERICAN

Approved: [Signature] 298
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

55 JUN 16 1969



C O N F I D E N T I A L
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Juan, Puerto Rico

May 13, 1969

JUAN MARI BRAS
INTERNAL SECURITY - PUERTO RICAN NATIONALIST

On May 12, 1969, SJ T-1, a Federal Agency who conducts intelligence-type investigations in the San Juan, Puerto Rico, area, advised that on May 4, 1969, Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Movimiento Pro-Independencia de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR), was interviewed live, via a telephone line between San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Havana, Cuba, by Radio Havana. The following are excerpts from that interview: ~~BY~~

QUESTION: "What could you tell us of the repression unleashed by the North American authorities in Puerto Rico, using the recent attempts on Yankee property as an excuse?"

ANSWER: "Around ten days ago, the MPIPR denounced the government order to carry out total repression against leaders of the MPIPR and other Puerto Rican pro-independence organizations. We are aware that the MPIPR's denunciation momentarily suspended the arrests that had been planned for last Wednesday, but that in general, it has not halted them altogether. The most evident proof is that this week ten independentista comrades belonging to other organizations were arrested to begin that repressive process."

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

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Date of Declassification Indefinite

GROUP I

Excluded from Automatic
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105-292-376

ENCLOSURE

JUAN MARI BRAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"The repression is based on the government's frustration at not being able to detect the Armed Commandos for Liberation (CAL) who continue carrying out the increasing armed struggle for Puerto Rican independence. Not being able to detect the members of that militant organization in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, they propose to let loose their repression against the leaders and known cadres of the independentista organizations as such.

"This coincides with an internal crisis of the Puerto Rican Police Corps, which is apparently divided by two opinions, one seeking to force a more accelerated repression and the other favoring more moderate moves. This crisis within the Police burst open yesterday when the Police Superintendent pointed out that it was impossible for the force to carry out its functions as a result of the series of situations occurring within the largest repressive body of Puerto Rico's colonial Government.

QUESTION: "We have a cable dispatch from a Yankee press agency in which assurance is given that it is the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that is directing the fight against the independentistas in Puerto Rico. I would like you to confirm that news item reported by the Yankee agency itself."

ANSWER: "Without any doubt, the FBI is the one directing all counterintelligence operations here in Puerto Rico. The agencies of the colonial government of Puerto Rico, the police as such, and the Criminal Investigation Corps, and the Police Intelligence Service are subordinated to the FBI, which has enormously increased its number of agents here in Puerto Rico during the last few months, precisely to take over the organization of the repressive process. Also, it has already been made public that 200 members of the U. S. Green Berets have been sent to train police shock troops and other repressive bodies in repressive antiguerrilla tactics and antipopular demonstrations. All is being coordinated by the North American repressive agencies operating openly here."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUAN MARI BRAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

QUESTION: "Now that you refer to the Green Berets, are the youth of Puerto Rico flatly refusing to become cannon fodder for Yankee imperialism in Vietnam? Please give us details of the recent events which have occurred in that struggle."

ANSWER: "Yes, and right now, in the U.U. Courts in Puerto Rico, the first Puerto Rican youth is being tried for having refused to enter the Yankee Army. This process has entered the stage of a court trial. Young Edwin Feliciano Grazal is a member of the MPIPR chapter in Aguadilla. As a result of the start of the trials against the patriotic youths who have refused to participate in the criminal war in Vietnam, a huge solidarity march is being mobilized for this coming Wednesday. The march is to start at noon, leaving from the front gates of the University of Puerto Rico, covering the streets of San Juan to the U. S. Courts in Old San Juan. It is being organized along with different patriotic affirmation organizations to support these youths--About 100 of them--who are being tried in the U. S. Federal Court in Puerto Rico, and together with thousands of other youths, who, although not yet accused, have already refused to participate in the U. S. Army, considering it a foreign army, an aggressive and criminal army, that is carrying out one of the most vandalic actions ever recorded in the history of humanity against the heroic people of Vietnam."

QUESTION: "Turning now to New York, where two or three days ago, you took part in a demonstration in Manhattan, during which a protest was made against exorbitant court bail imposed on Puerto Rican patriots and Negro citizens who are fighting in the United States. Could you repeat some of the proposals you made at the demonstration?"

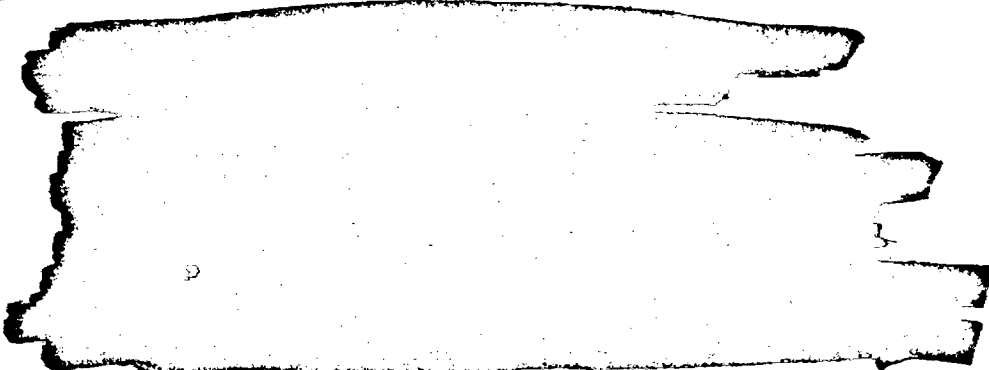
ANSWER: "That was the first time in the history of the United States that a demonstration of this kind has been held, where 350 lawyers picketed the Manhattan Criminal Court. I was invited, and I joined the pickets and the demonstration and the rally that was held later. The lawyers charged that they were being convicted the moment bail was set, as in the case of the 21 members of the Black Panthers Organization who were accused. They are being condemned without trial when they are issued revokable bail, which makes it impossible to get provisional release."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUAN MARI BRAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"Also scrutinized was a number of factors in the U. S. Judicial process that indicates a rapid turn toward fascism in judicial practice. Protests were raised against this entire situation that is being evidenced in the growing repressive wave being set off in New York as well as other points in the United States, against students, the Negro movement, the Puerto Ricans, and other over-exploited minorities and groups. It was against that that the rally was held. I participated in it at the invitation of that group of lawyers."



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 7, 1969

JUAN MARI BRAS

The following information pertaining to the subject was obtained from the files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C., on May 5, 1969:

P.R. On April 29, 1969, Juan Mari Bras, who listed his permanent residence as Parana 1604, Pariso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00925, made application for a passport at New York, New York. In this application he stated he was born December 2, 1927, at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and listed his parents as Santiago Mari, born December 22, 1902, Puerto Rico, and Mercedes Bras, born February 6, 1908, Puerto Rico. Both parents are United States citizens.

P.R. ~~X MARI~~
Under travel plans, he stated he planned to depart during May (exact date not shown), 1969, via air, for a one month "tourism" trip to Europe, countries not listed. He stated he had taken one trip abroad within the past twelve months, and indicated he expected to take another trip abroad within one year.

105-292-370

ENCLOSURE

JUAN MARI BRAS

He stated he was last married on August 12, 1951 to Paquita Pesquera de Mari, an American citizen born July 28, 1927 at Bayamon, Puerto Rico. He listed his wife, residing at Parana 1604, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, as the person to notify in the event of death or accident.

Subject was described as a white male, five feet ten inches tall, brown hair, blue eyes, wearing a mustache, occupation: lawyer.

Passport Number K-644540 was issued to Juan Mari Bras by the New York Passport Agency on April 29, 1969. This passport is valid for five years from date of issue and the bearer is restricted from travel to Cuba, mainland China, North Korea and North Vietnam.

Subject had previously been issued Passport Number 21034 PR 6278 at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on May 31, 1965, and Passport Number Z-208501 at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on October 9, 1962. This passport was renewed February 7, 1966, at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In his application for the latter passport on October 2, 1962, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, subject listed his address as 1502 Tamesis Street, Urb. El Paraiso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and stated he planned to depart via Pan American Airways on October 23, 1962, from New York, New York, for a one month pleasure trip during which he planned to visit Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

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distributed outside your agency.

105-292-370

Director, FBI (105-10000)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By telegram dated 2/21/68, the U.S. Department of State (USDS) authorized the U.S. Embassy in Mexico to issue to subject another multiple entry visa valid for three months. During the valid period of the visa issued to subject, he entered the U.S. at New York City on various occasions, the last entry known to the Bureau being 6/4/66. Of particular interest is his admission to the U.S. 5/24/66.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

65-68332

NOT

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

SECRET

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

105-10000 (18)

105-10000

105-10000

105-10000

Subject

no
see
yo

SAC, San Juan

12/1/64

Director, FBI (61-6241)

1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Aull
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Pettit

**SOVIET PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES
REGISTRATION ACT - USSR**

Attached for each recipient of this letter are copies of letter dated 11/17/64 from the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, which is self-explanatory. As requested in this letter the New York and San Juan Offices should, in connection with continuing investigations of their subjects, attempt to develop evidence as to whether they are disseminating literature under such circumstances as would require their registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Reports prepared in response to this request should in addition to the characterization normally used, carry the characterization "Registration Act - USSR." Instructions concerning the handling of American-Russian Ukrainian Fraternal Home will be issued separately to the Los Angeles Office.

61-6341-162

Enclosures - 5

2 - New York (Enclosures - 2)

① - 105-292 (Mari Bras)

BGLP:all
(16)

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105-292

This investigation is predicated upon information furnished on August 18, 1960, by _____, to the effect that Cuban propaganda material had been mailed to JUAN MARI BRAS on August 10, 1960, from the Cuban Consulate in New York City. According to _____ the material was sent in envelopes bearing the official Consulate seal, thus facilitating postage free dispatch.

DETAILS:

"El Mundo" and "El Imparcial" are daily Spanish language newspapers published in San Juan, Puerto Rico, while "La Prensa" is a Spanish language newspaper published in New York City.

"The San Juan Star" is a daily English language newspaper published in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Characterizations of organizations and commemorative events appear in the appendix hereto.

I. BACKGROUND

Unless otherwise noted, information reported under this caption was contained in a biographical sketch of the subject prepared by the 471st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment on May 1, 1959.

Birth Data

Subject was born on December 2, 1927 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to SANTIAGO MARI RAMOS and MERCEDES BRAS.

Citizenship

MARI BRAS is a United States citizen by virtue of his birth in Puerto Rico.

Education

MARI BRAS attended the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, in 1944. He transferred to the University of Mexico, Mexico, D. F., in 1945, and returned to the University of Puerto Rico in October, 1947. In December, 1947, he was one of the individuals who lowered the American flag at the University of Puerto Rico, and in January, 1948, he participated in a series of riots at that institution as a result of which he was expelled from the University of Puerto Rico in May, 1948.

He received an LLB Degree from the American University, Washington, D. C., in 1954.

Residence and Employment

On February 8, 1961, advised that the subject is employed as a public defender by the Legal Aid Society, Degetau Street, Bayamon, Puerto Rico and resides at 1502 Calle Temesis, Urbanizacion El Paraiso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Physical Description

The following physical description of the subject appears in the files of the San Juan FBI Office:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	December 2, 1927
Place of Birth	Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
Age	33
Height	5'7"
Weight	165 pounds
Complexion	Dark
Build	Chubby
Hair	Dark Brown, receding in front
Eyes	Brown
Peculiarities	Wears mustache
Marital Status	Married
Wife	FRANCISCA "Paquita" PESQUERA do MARI BRAS

SUCCINCT SUMMARY

Records of the [redacted] and of the 471st CIC Detachment, Fort Brooke, San Juan, reflect that subject has been active on behalf of Puerto Rico's independence since 1943, when he was only 16 years old, at which time he participated in and delivered speeches at NPPR gatherings. During succeeding years, he conducted radio programs advocating independence, was active and held official positions in several independentist youth organizations. He was one of the leaders of a group of students who lowered the American flag at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, in December, 1947, in protest to the denial by University authorities of the right of PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS, NPPR President, to speak at the UPR upon his return to Puerto Rico. This action led to his expulsion from the UPR and to his conviction for "inciting to riot", for which he served a jail sentence in 1950. From 1950 until 1957, he was one of the leaders of the PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIQUENO (Independence Party of Puerto Rico) (PIP), a legally constituted political party which advocates independence through peaceful means. In January, 1959, the MOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO (Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR), was formed under the leadership of the subject, and he has served as Secretary General of this organization since its inception.

In May, 1951,

an acquaintance of the subject, advised that MARI had expressed his approval of the ~~February~~ 30, 1950 NPPR uprising in Puerto Rico, and had indicated that he believed it wonderful that someone had the "spunk" to show the world that Puerto Rico wants independence and is not completely submissive. [redacted] felt the subject would favor the use of violence if it could, in fact, gain independence for Puerto Rico.

In 1951.

[redacted] advised that MARI would be in favor of the use of force and violence if there was a good chance of success in using it to secure independence for Puerto Rico.

Incl #1

105-292-30

II. CONNECTIONS WITH GROUPS SEEKING
INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO

Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico
(Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

A characterization of the MPIPR
appears in the appendix attached hereto.

By summary of information dated November 24, 1959 the 471st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, Fort Brooke, Puerto Rico furnished information regarding the MPIPR Constituent Convention held at Ponce, Puerto Rico on November 22, 1959. According to the information furnished, JUAN MARI BRAS, Secretary General of the MPIPR,

SJ 100-4785

opened the meeting and delivered the main address of the Convention. In his speech he made a historical resume of the independence-seeking movements of the island, ending with the split in the Partido Independientista Puertorriqueno (Independence Party of Puerto Rico)(PIP), from which the MPIPR was formed. He consistently attacked the United States for its military, political and economic intervention in Puerto Rico and drew a picture of the advantages of independence for Puerto Rico. He stressed the fact that the MPIPR was not a political group and that independence could be obtained through methods other than force and direct suffrage. He added that the MPIPR is a dogmatic, non-political movement, in which there is room for all independence-seeking parties, groups and individuals.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Registration Section

DATE: April 24, 1961

FROM :

SUBJECT: JUAN MARI BRAS

In its memorandum of March 1, 1961, captioned as above, the Bureau requested to be advised whether, on the basis of the information furnished in the attached report of [redacted] dated February 15, 1961, at San Juan, the subject incurred an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The following information is set forth in pertinent part in that report:

The subject, who is a United States citizen by virtue of his birth in Puerto Rico, attended the University of Puerto Rico and following his expulsion from that school because of his participation in a series of riots received an L.L.B. degree from American University in Washington, D. C. He is presently employed as a public defender by the Legal Aid Society in Bayamon, Puerto Rico and resides at 1502 Calle Temesis, Urbanizacion El Paraiso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Mari Bras is one of the leaders of the movement for independence of Puerto Rico. He was re-elected secretary general of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR) for the year 1961. [He has also supported the Cuban Revolutionary Government of Fidel Castro. [redacted]

In public speeches that he has made, Mari Bras has urged solidarity between organizations advocating independence for Puerto Rico and the Cuban Revolutionary Government.

RECEIVED
MAY 2 1961
INTERNAL SECURITY DIVISION

100-445-910

MAY 1 1961 FBI

FILE _____

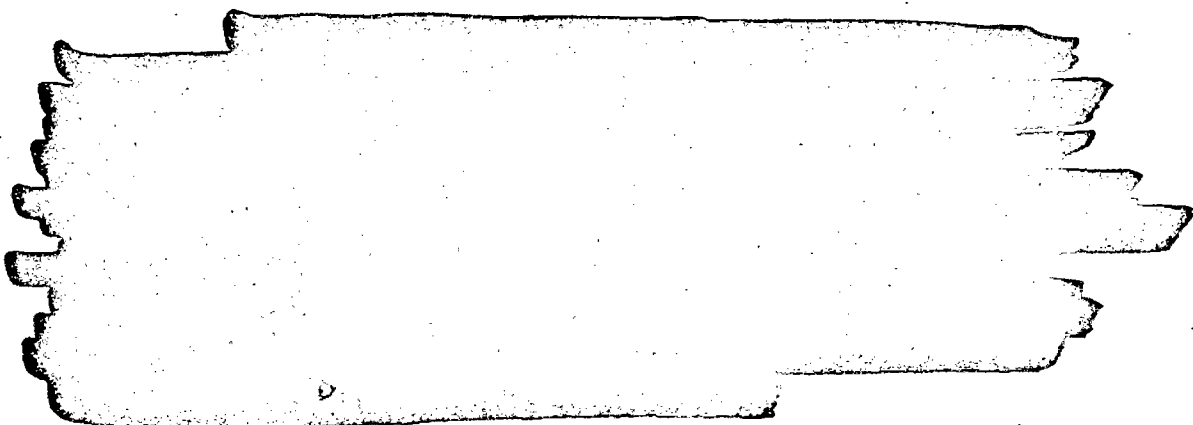
Per _____

tel. 385-9161

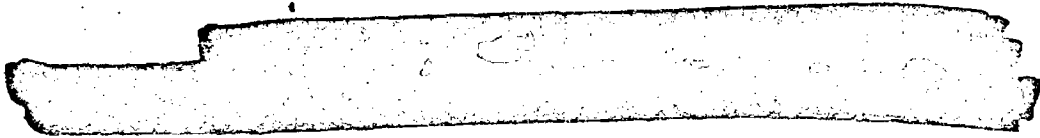
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In an article on July 11, 1960, relative to the election of officers in the SANC, "El Mundo" a daily Spanish language newspaper published in San Juan, Puerto Rico, attributed a statement to Juan Mari Bras to the effect that the SANC would intensify its propaganda in Puerto Rico in defense of the Cuban revolution.

On August 1, 1960,
U. S. Bureau of Customs, San Juan, Puerto Rico, reported that Cuban propaganda material was confiscated from Juan Mari Bras at the Isla Verde International Airport, San Juan, on July 30, 1960, when Mari Bras returned from Havana, Cuba.



In an article in "El Mundo" on December 3, 1960, Mari Bras stated he had been in contact with Raul Roa, Cuban Foreign Minister, during the time he was in New York during November, 1960, for the purpose of securing support for an MPIPR-sponsored resolution on Puerto Rico to be made before the United Nations General Assembly. "El Mundo" of December 16, 1960, contains the text of a telegram sent to Raul Roa by Juan Mari Bras and Gabriel Vincente Mayra, Secretary of Foreign Relations of the MPIPR wherein they congratulate Roa for the "valiant statement of the revolutionary government and Cuban people" on behalf of Puerto Rico's independence.



- 3 -

[REDACTED]

The question is whether this information is sufficient to warrant a determination that Mari Bras acted as an agent of a foreign principal as that term is defined in Section 1(c) of the Act so as to require him to register thereunder.

The available information shows Juan Mari Bras to be sympathetic to the aims of the Cuban Revolution, that as a Puerto Rican nationalist he urges the solidarity of the Cuban Revolutionary Government and of those people who advocate the independence of Puerto Rico.

[REDACTED]

However, there is no evidence that in receiving and distributing Cuban propaganda in Puerto Rico, Mari Bras was acting at the request or under the direction and control of officials of the Cuban Government. It is very likely that he was so acting but that is not sufficient as a basis for a determination that an agency relationship was established requiring his registration.

The Bureau is being so advised.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 7, 1969

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105-292-370

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In his application for the latter passport on October 2, 1962, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, subject listed his address as 1502 Tamesis Street, Urb. El Paraiso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and stated he planned to depart via Pan American Airways on October 23, 1962, from New York, New York, for a one month pleasure trip during which he planned to visit Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE NO. -

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 12/18/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/20, 22, 26-29; 5/3, 4/54	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] RAL
TITLE JUAN MARI-BRAS, was. Juan Mari, Johnny Mari			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - R

[REDACTED]

<p>105-292-14</p> <p>20 MAY 14 1954</p> <p>FILE</p>	<p>RECORDED - 23</p> <p>INDEXED - 23</p>
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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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T-5, Report of Intelligence Officer, Harey Air Base, dated 8/27/45	8/26/45	9/1/45	San Juan Division	100-3-1245
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105-292-14

[REDACTED]

The files of T-5, another government agency which conducts security investigations, indicate that the subject attended the NPPR celebration held August 26, 1945, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in honor of MARIANA BRACETTI, described as a Puerto Rican patriot prior to the entry of American forces into Puerto Rico. According to this source, the subject in his capacity as President of the Independentist Youth Action, spoke at this affair and stated that there was no liberty in Puerto Rico and that the Mayaguez radio station censored all Nationalist and Independentist programs.

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

MOVIMIENTO PRO-INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO
(PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT) (MPIR)

The MPIR was organized in November, 1959, at Ponce, Puerto Rico, to work for the independence of Puerto Rico. It has an estimated membership of between 1,000 and 1,300 people with missions throughout the Island of Puerto Rico and in New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; and Buffalo, New York.

At the time the MPIR was organized, it indicated that it did not advocate violence but would accept members who did. JUAN MARI BRAS, the founder and dominant leader of this organization, in a speech during March, 1964, threatened violence comparable to that in Algeria, 1964, if Puerto Rico became a state within the United States. A source reported in 1966 that a leader of the MPIR has indicated that "the Revolution" would soon begin and another source advised that another official of this organization has attempted to obtain a number of automatic pistols.

Articles praising FIDEL CASTRO and the Cuban Government regularly appear in the MPIR publications. In 1961, the MPIR adopted a resolution expressing a 100 percent approval of and solidarity with the Cuban revolution. It sent a delegation to the Tri-Continental Conference of African, Asian, and Latin American People, held in Havana, Cuba, during January, 1966, and it maintains a permanent delegate to the Secretariat located in Havana.

The press of Puerto Rico has reported that the MPIR has held numerous demonstrations protesting compulsory military service of Puerto Ricans and United States policy in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

In December, 1966, The Governor of Puerto Rico signed into law a bill calling for a plebiscite on July 23, 1967, to determine the future political status of Puerto Rico. The plebiscite, denounced vociferously by the MPIR as "an act of Yankee imperialism to maintain the colonial status of Puerto Rico," resulted in an overwhelming endorsement of the present Free Associated State status.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Resolutions adopted at the 7th National Assembly held in late April, 1968, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, included expressions of solidarity with the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and promises of material support in the form of medicine and money. Also included were a resolution of solidarity with "Black Power" in the United States, and an expression of solidarity with the "National Liberation" movement in Venezuela, Colombia, and Guatemala.

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 100-78668

[REDACTED] attempted to contact MARI-BRAS at the Hotel Bristol and left a message for him to talk with [REDACTED] again regarding information needed for the document.

JUAN MARI-BRAS is Secretary General of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico. A characterization for this organization appears in the Appendix hereto.

APPENDIX

MOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO
(Puerto Rican Independent Movement) (MPIPR)

On June 20, 1960, JUAN MARI BRAS, Secretary General of the MPIPR, advised Special Agents of the FBI that this organization was founded January 11, 1959 at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and officially came into being at the MPIPR Constituent Convention November 23, 1959, at Ponce, Puerto Rico. It was formed by a group of former leaders of the PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIQUENO (PIP), a former legally constituted political party, who dissatisfied with PIP policies, decided to form a more active organization to indoctrinate the Puerto Rican people with the ideal of Puerto Rican independence.

Although the MPIPR does not advocate violence, it will accept anyone who believes in Puerto Rican Independence regardless of his beliefs on the use of violence provided he agrees with the MPIPR Declaration of Principles. The organization contains both Nationalists and Communists within its membership, but does not assume responsibility for actions they may take not sanctioned by the group.

Speaking on behalf of himself and his organization, MARI BRAS said the MPIPR does not currently advocate violence as a means of obtaining Puerto Rican independence only because he felt that violence would be ineffective against the power of the United States Government. MARI BRAS stated he believed in the right of a people, specifically the Puerto Rican people, to use violence to obtain their freedom if and when the circumstances are such they could possibly be successful in their effort.

NY 100-78668

The MPIPR headquarters are located at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and attempts are underway to form missions throughout the island. The MPIPR General Secretariat and Directive Mission are made up of Puerto Rican independence leaders and include leaders from other groups seeking independence, including the NATIONALIST PARTY OF PUERTO RICO (NPPR).

The NPPR has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

NY 105-32485

MPIPR Effort to Contact [REDACTED]

NY T-17 advised on October 27, 1961, that on this date [REDACTED] explained that they have heard that [REDACTED] for Puerto Rico has invited [REDACTED] to visit Puerto Rico in order to observe their economic and social reforms. [REDACTED] will not be given the opportunity to talk to members of the opposition in Puerto Rico and consequently will obtain only one side of the picture. [REDACTED] to call Mr. MARI-BRAS, leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia, at the Hotel Bristol, Room 940. [REDACTED] is not a type who will only look at one side of a situation. [REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] stated that the invitation from [REDACTED] is probably the result of the released statement.

NY 105-32485

[REDACTED] attempted to contact MARI-BRAS at the Hotel Bristol and left a message for him to talk with [REDACTED] again regarding information needed for the document.

JUAN MARI-BRAS is Secretary General of the Movimiento Pro Independencia De Puerto Rico. A characterization for this organization appears in the Appendix hereto.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that the above person was considered a sympathizer of the CP of Puerto Rico.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

NY 105-32485

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(Puerto Rican Independent Movement) (MPIPR)

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Speaking on behalf of himself and his organization, MARI BRAS said the MPIPR does not currently advocate violence as a means of obtaining Puerto Rican independence only because he felt that violence would be ineffective against the power of the United States Government. MARI BRAS stated he believed in the right of a people, specifically the Puerto Rican people, to use violence to obtain their freedom if and when the circumstances are such they could possibly be successful in their effort.

The MPIPR headquarters are located at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and attempts are underway to form missions throughout the island. The MPIPR General Secretariat and Directive Mission are made up of Puerto Rican independence leaders and include leaders from other groups seeking independence, including the NATIONALIST PARTY OF PUERTO RICO (NPPR).

The NPPR has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450..

~~SECRET~~

APPENDIX

1.

MOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO (Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

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Headquarters of the MPIPR are located at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, a suburb of San Juan. During 1962 issues of the MPIPR "Carta Semanal" (Weekly Letter), self-described as a weekly bulletin from MPIPR Headquarters to its various branches, repeatedly stated that the goal for 1962 was to establish an effective branch in every municipality in Puerto Rico and also in New York City. (U)

APPENDIX

2

MPIPR (Cont'd)

Records of the Police of Puerto Rico indicate an estimated 500 persons attended the MPIPR General Assembly held in November, 1961, at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. (U)

Among the members of the MPIPR General Secretariat and National Missions are adherents of other groups seeking independence for Puerto Rico, including the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico (NPPR). (U)

The NPPR has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (U)

ANTI-VIETNAM WAR DEMONSTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCTOBER 20-22, 1967

The main activities for the Washington, D. C., demonstration will be held on October 21, 1967. Speakers at the demonstration will include Dave Dellinger, Chairman of the National Committee; Julian Bond, a Georgia State Representative; Dr. Benjamin Spock, the noted pediatrician; Clive Jenkins of the British Labor Party; Dagmar Wilson of the Women Strike for Peace, a pacifist organization; Donald Duncan of the Green Berets; Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Chaplain at Yale University; Juan Mari Bras, leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico; John Wilson of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a militant civil rights organization; Father Charles Owen Rice and Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, both supporters of the anti-Vietnam war movement; and Lincoln Lynch, a Negro civil rights leader.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING UNITED STATES
INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM

[REDACTED]

War Crimes Tribunal

[REDACTED]

Juan Mari Bras, leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico, a militant group which seeks independence for Puerto Rico, announced that he has accepted an invitation to participate in the War Crimes Tribunal.

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

A characterization of the PIP is contained
in the appendix of this letterhead memorandum.

On March 30, 1960, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised
that among the group that had assembled at the Isla Verde
Airport on March 29, 1960 with Senator PINEIRO and ANGELICA
CRUZ de HENRIQUEZ, the Cuban consul in Puerto Rico, were
the following:

[REDACTED] Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico
[REDACTED]
JUAN VARIAS

It should be noted that on October 1, 1959, SJ T-1
advised that although [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regarding JUAN MARI BRAS [REDACTED]

reflects that he took an active part in a NPPR Memorial Service at Ponce, Puerto Rico, on March 21, 1944 and during the evening session of this commemoration, MARI stated; "In the name of the Fatherland of ALBIZU CAMPOS and of all the heroes that have cried for liberty, I ask that the Yankees forget their egotism and grant Puerto Rico its liberty and not make Puerto Rico fight for it."

MARI was one of the leaders of a group of students who lowered the American flag at the University of Puerto Rico on December 15, 1947, which action subsequently led to his expulsion from the University.

MARI was one of the leaders of the PIP in 1950, until his resignation from this organization in 1957.

The January 14, 1959 edition of "El Imparcial", reflected that JUAN MARI BRAS was one of the founding members of the MPIPR.

An article in the December 21, 1959 edition of "Claridad", self described as the official organ of the MPIPR, reflected that JUAN MARI BRAS had been elected Secretary General of the MPIPR.

APPENDIX

MOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO
(Puerto Rican Pro Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

A confidential source advised on January 31, 1959, that the MPIPR was formed at a meeting of former leaders of the PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIQUENO (Puerto Rican Independence Party) (PIP), a legally constituted political party, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, on January 11, 1959, as a result of discussions by various PIP members who were dissatisfied with the PIP and who desired to form a more active organization. The announced purpose of the MPIPR was to work for the complete independence of Puerto Rico through propaganda and other peaceful means. The source advised that no information had come to his attention indicating that the MPIPR advocated the use of violence as a means of obtaining independence for Puerto Rico.

According to public statements, the MPIPR is a non-partisan organization which will accept into membership any individual who believes in independence for Puerto Rico, regardless of the group or party with which he is affiliated, and will accept as an affiliate any pro-independence organization which agrees to abide by the MPIPR Declaration of Principles.

The MPIPR General Secretariat and the MPIPR Directive Mission are composed of leaders of the independence movement in Puerto Rico and include leaders of other independence seeking organizations, including the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico (NPPR).

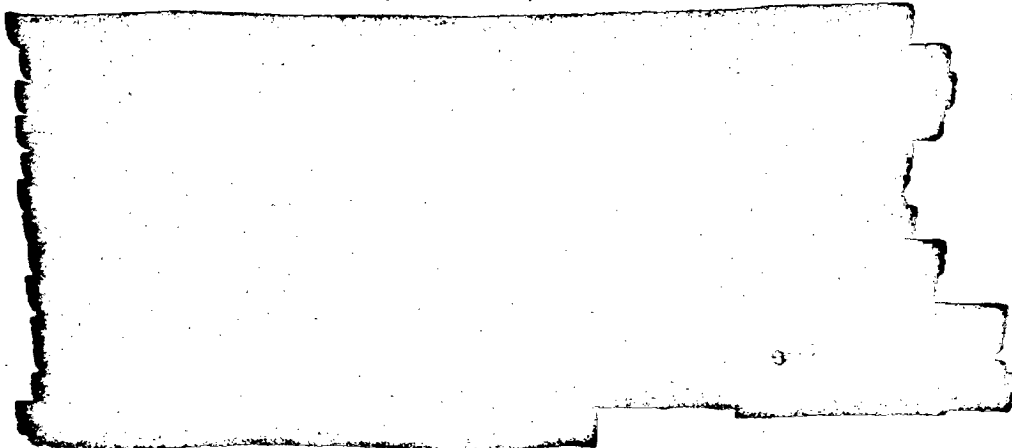
The NPPR has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The above source was in a position to furnish accurate information regarding the organization, aims and purposes of the MPIPR.

According to Issue #15 of "Claridad," self-described as the official organ of the MPIPR, subject was named to a committee to discuss a plan of basic studies which the MPIPR Political School will initiate. Included on the committee were NORMAN PIETRI, CESAR ANDREU IGLESIAS and JUAN MARI BRAS. (U)

According to an article appearing in the November 13, 1959 edition of "El Imparcial," daily Spanish language newspaper published in San Juan, Puerto Rico, NORMAN PIETRI had just been re-elected to the position of President of the Federacion de Universitarios Pro Independencia (Federation of University Students for Independence) (FUPI) for one year. (U)

A characterization of the FUPI is contained in the appendix hereto. (U)



A characterization of the PCP is contained in the appendix hereto. (U)

A [redacted] report dated March 22, 1944, reflects that JUAN MARI BRAS took an active part in the NPPR memorial service at Ponce on March 21, 1944. The report reflects that during the evening session of this commemoration, MARI stated, "In the name of the fatherland of ALBIZU CAMPOS and all the heroes that have cried for liberty, I ask that the Yankees forget their egotism and grant Puerto Rico its liberty and not make Puerto Rico fight for it." (U)

SJ 100-6332

MARI was one of the leaders of a group of students who lowered the American flag at the University of Puerto Rico on December 15, 1947, which action subsequently led to MARI's expulsion from the University. (U)

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(Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

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The above source was in a position to furnish accurate information regarding the organization, aims and purposes of the MPIPR.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING UNITED STATES
INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

War Crimes Tribunal

It was previously reported that British author-philosopher Bertrand Russell is organizing a War Crimes Tribunal to try the President and other Government officials for war crimes committed in Vietnam.

Juan Mari Bras, the leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico, a militant group which advocates independence for Puerto Rico, has accepted an invitation to travel to Vietnam with a team of lawyers to obtain evidence of American aggression. The team plans to leave for Vietnam on February 10, 1967, and has been assured that the government of North Vietnam will make its files available for examination by the team.

LT tel 1-18-67 re War Crimes Tribunal

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico

Major Threat

The major threat of violence comes from the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR), the largest and most influential of the militant subversive proindependence groups. It was organized in 1959 by a San Juan attorney, Juan Mari Bras, who continues to be its dominant leader. It has a membership of approximately 1,200 and maintains close ties with Cuba and other communist countries, from which it receives financial assistance.

The MPIPR grasps every opportunity to embarrass the United States and has engaged in numerous demonstrations protesting United States activities in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic and the drafting of Puerto Ricans. During the 1964 elections in Puerto Rico, it carried on a vigorous but unsuccessful campaign urging the people to abstain from voting in what it called colonial elections. It has signed a "pact of reciprocal solidarity" with the Viet Cong and has set up an "embassy" in Havana, Cuba, as a member of the 13-member secretariat for an Organization of Solidarity of Afro-Asian Latin American Nations. A self-styled representative to the United Nations is maintained in New York City in an effort to have the United Nations consider the "colonial" status of Puerto Rico.

Turning to Violence

Frustrated by its apparent inability to make any progress toward its goal of independence for Puerto Rico through its propaganda and diplomatic efforts, the MPIPR is turning to violence. Mari Bras has publicly stated that it plans to accelerate the crisis for the present regime to induce the United States to grant Puerto Rico its independence. To precipitate the crisis, the MPIPR is planning a sabotage campaign with the use of plastic explosives. It is attempting to send individuals to Red China for sabotage and terrorist training. In addition, it is attempting to obtain automatic pistols and reportedly is making arrangements to obtain rifles, ammunition, and explosives from Cuba.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

October 13, 1967

ANTI-VIETNAM WAR DEMONSTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCTOBER 20-22, 1967

The National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, headquartered at New York City, is organizing the anti-Vietnam war demonstration to be held in Washington, D. C., October 20-22, 1967. The primary goal of the demonstration is to confront "the warmakers" and "shut down the Pentagon." The National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam is an organization which includes Communist Party, USA, and Socialist Workers Party members within its sponsorship. Both the Communist Party, USA, and the Socialist Workers Party have been designated as subversive by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. There is set forth below a summary of current and planned activity in connection with this proposed demonstration.

Current Intelligence

62-111181-1156

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ANTI-VIETNAM WAR DEMONSTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCTOBER 20-22, 1967

Floyd McKissick, National Director of the Congress of Racial Equality, a civil rights organization; John Wilson of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a militant civil rights organization; Dagmar Wilson of the Women Strike for Peace, a pacifist organization; Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, an anti-Vietnam war activist; and Juan Mari Bras, leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico, a militant Puerto Rican independence organization, have agreed to speak at the rally on October 21, 1967. Julian Bond, the Georgia State Representative, and Dave Dellinger, Chairman of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, will be the Cochairmen of the activities on October 21, 1967.

REC-1

PLEBISCITE IN PUERTO RICO

100-422089-753

CV 113 Anti-Plebiscite ConcentrationCPUSA Contribution

One of the principal speakers at the Anti-Plebiscite Concentration was Attorney Juan Mari Bras, founder and leader of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR--Puerto Rico Independence Movement). The militant MPIPR, which has been spearheading the opposition to the plebiscite, recently received a contribution of \$500 from the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA).

JUL 19 1967

COMM-FBI

"Cancer of Colonialism"

During his remarks on July 16, Juan Mari Bras asserted that the "false plebiscite" was planned by the United States Department of State behind the backs of

JEK:stst

(4) 306

62 JUL 27 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JUL 21 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

the Puerto Rican people who are tired of having their youth sent by a "despicable Congress" to fight the wars of the United States. He claimed that the development and progress of Puerto Rico have been held back by capitalism and that Puerto Ricans are prepared to eradicate the "cancer of colonialism" from Puerto Rico. In addition, Juan Mari Bras charged that Puerto Rican "patriots" are being "repressed" by the "political police," Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

(SJ tt 7/16/67 re Groups Seeking Independence for Puerto Rico)

The Other Road

(Ibid.)

"Magna Carta of July 16, 1967"

Master of Ceremonies for the Anti-Plebiscite Concentration was Dr. Jose Milton Soltero Ramirez, a personal friend of Juan Mari Bras and Director of San Carlos Hospital in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MPIPR Plans for July 23

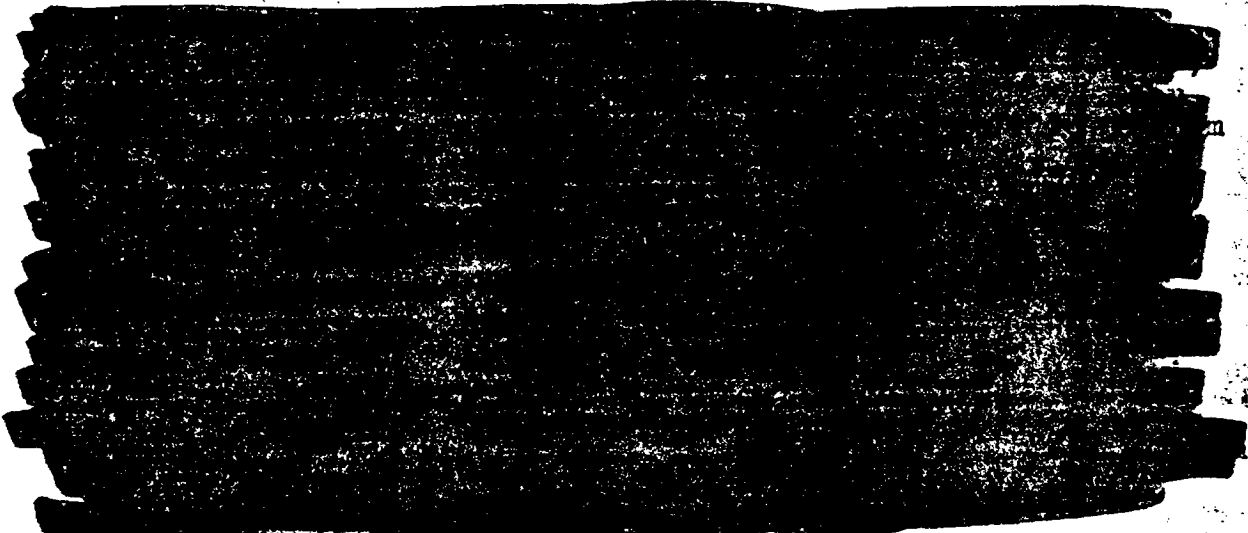
Furthermore,
Juan Mari Bras has stated that the MPIPR will attempt to incite disturbances at the polls next Sunday. If the police are called to the scene, the MPIPR will take photographs and charge police intervention in political activity. Finally, Juan Mari Bras has stated that members of a group advocating statehood will scatter nails and other sharp objects near the polling places on July 23 in an attempt to thwart normal voting processes.

(SJ tt 7/4/67 re Groups Seeking Independence for Puerto Rico; Weekly Intelligence Summary Puerto Rico, 7/12/67; SJ 665-S, SJ airtel 7/12/67 re Groups Seeking Independence for Puerto Rico)


This analysis has been classified Confidential because it contains information from sources whose disclosure could adversely affect the national defense.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

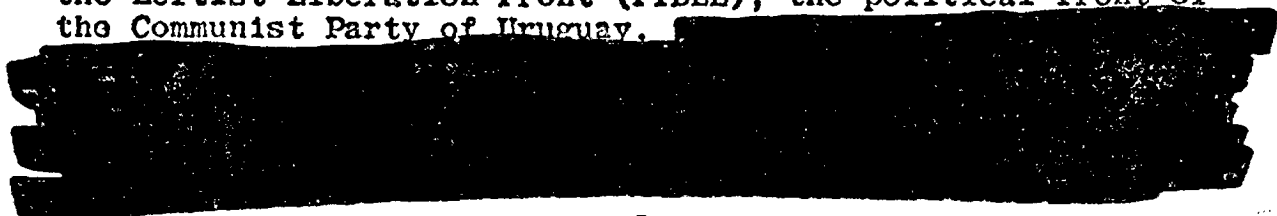


The largest of the militant organizations supporting independence is the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR--Puerto Rico Independence Movement). MPIPR leaders express sympathy for the Castro Government in Cuba and claim the United States is engaged in a war of aggression in Vietnam. The membership is estimated to be between 1,000 and 3,000, and missions are located throughout Puerto Rico and in New York City, Buffalo, and Chicago. The MPIPR is represented at the Prague, Czechoslovakia, headquarters of the International Union of Students (IUS), an international communist front group controlled by the Soviets. It also has a permanent representative in Havana, Cuba.



MPIPR Leaders

The MPIPR was established in January, 1959, by attorney Juan Mari Bras, who is its dominant leader, with the title of interim Secretary General. In 1964, Bras threatened violence comparable to that in Algeria, if Puerto Rico became a state of the United States. In December, 1966, Bras stated that the Puerto Rican Government may be risking civil war if it holds the plebiscite in July. He was in Uruguay in March, 1967, where he conferred with officials of the Leftist Liberation Front (FIDEL), the political front of the Communist Party of Uruguay.



- 2 -
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-422089-741p92

MOVIMIENTO PRO*INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO
(PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT) (MPIPR)

The MPIPR was organized in November, 1959, at Ponce, Puerto Rico, to work for the independence of Puerto Rico. It has an estimated membership of between 1,000 and 1,300 people with missions throughout the island of Puerto Rico, and in New York, New York; Chicago, Illinois; and Buffalo, New York.

At the time the MPIPR was organized it was indicated that it did not advocate violence but would accept members who did. Juan Mari Bras, the founder and dominant leader of this organization, in a speech during March, 1964, threatened violence comparable to that in Algeria if Puerto Rico became a state within the United States. A source reported in 1966 that a leader of the MPIPR indicated that "the Revolution would soon begin" and another source advised that another official of this organization had attempted to obtain a number of automatic pistols.

Articles praising Fidel Castro and the Cuban Government regularly appear in MPIPR publications. In 1961, the MPIPR adopted a resolution expressing 100 percent approval of and solidarity with the Cuban revolution. It sent a delegation to the Tri-Continental Conference of African, Asian, and Latin American people, held in Havana, Cuba, during January, 1966, and it maintains a permanent delegate to the Secretariat located in Havana.

The press of Puerto Rico has reported that the MPIPR has held numerous demonstrations protesting compulsory military service for Puerto Ricans and United States policy in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

In December, 1966, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed into law a bill calling for a plebiscite on July 23, 1967, to determine the future political status of Puerto Rico. The press reported that this plebiscite has been denounced vociferously by the MPIPR as "an act of Yankee imperialism to maintain the colonial status of Puerto Rico." Juan Mari Bras stated that the MPIPR had asked the Cuban government for "militant solidarity with our struggle, in all international forums to which Red Cuba has access."

CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

17 MAY 1976

Juan M. Bras, Esquire
Calle Padre Colon 256, Capetillo
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Bras:

This is in further response to your letter of February 25, 1976, and our letter of April 19, 1976.

The Department of the Army Classification Review Committee has completed their review of those documents which have been denied to you because they were classified in the interests of national defense and determined that further classification is not warranted. These documents are, therefore, attached. I regret that these documents are not more legible, but these are the best copies we have available.

This letter completes the final action on your appeal which has been granted completely. I hope the information we have released is of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles D. Ablard
General Counsel

Attachment
As stated



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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles D. Ablard,

Attachment
As stated

Charles D. Ablard
General Counsel

DATE PREPARED: 13 December 1960

PREPARED BY: 083213/ c1c

SUBJECT: - - -

ALSO KNOWN AS: - - -

ID MARI-Arias, Juan

(C) Born 2 December 1927 at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Attended University of Puerto Rico for three and a half years. Graduated from Florida State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree on 12 August 1949. Academically dropped from George Washington University in 1950. Graduated from American University Law School on 13 June 1954 with a Bachelor of Law degree, and was admitted to the bar at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 23 September 1954. Active in Youth Independence Association in 1944 and director of radio program, "Gry of the Country." Closely associated with the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico since 1944 and a frequent speaker at Nationalist Party meetings. Strong advocate of independence for Puerto Rico. President of the National Independence Youth Association in 1945. Participated in lowering of US flag at the University of Puerto Rico in 1947 and raising the Nationalist flag. Expelled from the University in 1948 for participating in the "Student Strike." Attended Latin American Youth Congress at Mexico City in 1948. Supported the Puerto Rican Independence Party in the 1948 elections. Since return from New York in 1954, active in Puerto Rican Independence Party affairs. Assigned from Executive Committee of the Puerto Rican Independence Party in 1957. Affiliated himself with the National Liberation Front, a nationalist-revolutionary movement, in 1958. Motivating force behind establishment of the Movement for Independence of Puerto Rico, in 1959. Went to US to present Movement for Independence of Puerto Rico demands to the US Senate in June 1959.

ORIGIN OF REPORT: Army

SERIAL NUMBER: ID 2156333

SUBJECT OF REPORT: Puerto Rican Independence Party

DATE OF REPORT: 19 October 1960

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

ONI ROUTING SLIP NO. - - -

EVENTUAL FILING: FF: Puerto Rican Independence Party

021838

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

(When filled in)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(When filled in)

CROSS-REFERENCE

DATE 27 May 1948

TO: C-242 (CASE HISTORY UNIT)

FROM: D4 J. F. Baron
(SECTION) (BY)

NAME OR SUBJECT: Juan MARI Bras

ADDRESS: Puerto Rico

IDENTIFYING DATA:

Puerto Rican delegate for the LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS
in Mexico was Juan MARI BRAS.

ORIGIN OF REPORT: Hq. US Army forces, Antilles

ORIGINATOR'S SERIAL NO: No. 17

SUBJECT OF REPORT: Weekly Intell. Summary No. 17

DATE OF REPORT: 29 Apr. 1948

CLASSIFICATION: Confidential

ONI ROUTING SLIP NO:

F-45 DISSEMINATION NO: AA 73478

ROUTING IN ONI: F45, F13, D4, 32Y

EVENTUAL FILING IN: 8242

15 JUN 1949

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

81 ENDD

Jaw c.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(When filled in)

CROSS- REFERENCE

DATE 29 June 1948

TO: C-242 (Case HISTORY UNIT)

FROM: Op32D4 D.P.WALT
(SECTION) (BY)

NAME OR SUBJECT: ~~JUAN~~ JUAN MARI Bras

ADDRESS: Puerto Rico JUAN MARI BRAS

IDENTIFYING DATA:

rabid anti-American and outstanding nationalist
leader from Puerto Rico.

ORIGIN OF REPORT: Hq. USAFA San, Juna Puerto Rico

ORIGINATOR'S SERIAL NO: Hq. 21

SUBJECT OF REPORT: Weekly Intell. Summary

DATE OF REPORT: 27 May 1948

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

ONI ROUTING SLIP NO: NONE

F-45 DISSEMINATION NO: AA 74341

ROUTING IN ONI: F45, #213, D4, F17, 32Y, 300, C242

EVENTUAL FILING IN: C242, SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

February 12, 1976

Jean Mari Bras
Abogado y Notario
Calle Padre Colon 256 Castillo
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Bras:

Reference is made to your letter received January 26, 1976 appealing a decision of Mr. Robert O. Goff, Freedom of Information Officer, United States Secret Service, denying you certain information under the Freedom of Information Act. Treasury regulations regarding administrative appeals of initial denials by the United States Secret Service vest the review authority in the Deputy Director of the Secret Service (40 FR 7439, dated February 20, 1975, as amended at 40 FR 29290, dated July 11, 1975, and 40 FR 49089, dated October 21, 1975).

The records and correspondence pertinent to your appeal have been reviewed. I have determined the exemptions claimed by Mr. Goff in his letter of December 31, 1975 were proper. The Secret Service records contain investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes. Pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, Subsection (b)(7)(C), (D), and (E), they are being withheld since disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, disclose the identity of a confidential source and/or information furnished by a confidential source, or disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or a combination of the above. Also, pursuant to Subsection (b)(5), the Secret Service document is being withheld since it is an inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the Secret Service. The citation of these exemptions is not to be construed as the only exemptions which may be applicable to these documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

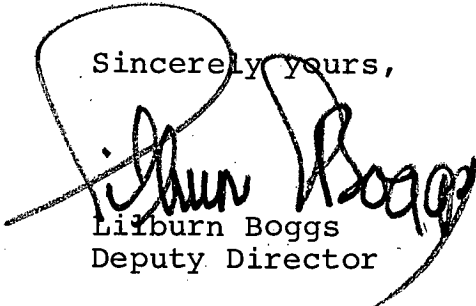
As Mr. Goff informed you in his letter to you, the Secret Service files contain Federal Bureau of Investigation reports. Your Freedom of Information Act request has been forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their response to you.

You requested in your appeal letter that the Secret Service waive fees for you. For there to be a waiver of fees, there has to be a demonstration of public interest. In your case, there is a lack of demonstration that the public interest would be served by a waiver of fees. Therefore, it is requested that you send a certified check or money order in the amount of \$4.80 , payable to United States Secret Service, Financial Management, 1800 "G" Street, N. W., Room 905, Washington, D. C. 20223.

Any denial on appeal is subject to judicial review in the District Court in the district where the complainant resides, has a principal place of business, or in which the agency records are situated, or in the District of Columbia.

For the purpose of appeals of initial denials under the Freedom of Information Act, the undersigned is the official making this determination for the United States Secret Service.

Sincerely yours,



Lilburn Boggs
Deputy Director

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NOTE: This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

(Classification)

COUNTRY Puerto Rico
SUBJECT MPIPR Political Thesis (U)
DATE OF INFO September/October 1962
PLACE & DATE ACQ. San Juan, Puerto Rico October 19, 2
EVALUATION
SOURCE
SUMMARY

REPORT NO. ID 2219692
DATE OF REPORT 1 November 1962
NO. OF PAGES 6
REFERENCES NONE
FROM G2, AITCOMD
PREPARED BY
R-SERIES NO.

1. This report transmits summarized translations of articles written by MPIPR (Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico) (Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico) Secretary-General Juan MARI Bras and published in recent weekly newsletters of the MPIPR. The articles deal with two topics: a) The Role of the MPIPR as a Patriotic Vanguard, and b) The MPIPR and the Cuban Revolution.
2. (U) Information derived from other than Army sources is contained in this report. This information will not be passed to any agency outside the Department of Defense or the FBI.

DISSEMINATION BY ORIGINATOR: G2, USMCARIB; DIO, 10MD; OSI, Ramey AFB

APPROVED:

Henry E. Kelly Jr.
Henry E. Kelly, Jr.
Lt Colonel, GS
AC of S, G2

(Classification)

Following are summarized translations of articles written by MPIPR (Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico) (Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico) Secretary-General Juan MARI Bras and published in recent weekly newsletters of the MPIPR:

"THE MPIPR'S FUNCTION AS A VANGUARD"

"The MPIPR must consolidate itself as the vanguard of Puerto Rican independence, oriented with common ideals, strategy, purpose and directed by leadership which has intensive political training and a tenacious grasp of reality. A vanguard is described as an organization which leads the masses. In order to maintain effective leadership, the vanguard must maintain a proper distance from the masses, but not so great a distance as to lose touch with them.

"The MPIPR, as a patriotic vanguard, must learn the lessons of effective leadership by profiting from the mistakes of former independentist movements. One common mistake is the compromise of true independentist ideas in an attempt to gain popular support. The true function of a vanguard is to lead. To court popular favor by espousing mistaken ideals, however popular, is not leadership. The ultimate result of such 'grand-standing' is the ruination of the vanguard. For example, one mistaken ideal is the desire for independence 'in peace and friendship with the United States.' Just because the people appear to admire the democratic institutions of the United States, it is wrong for a vanguard to do likewise in order to gain popular support. By the same token, it is wrong to state that the economic welfare of Puerto Rico is linked to close association with the U. S., which is another popular misconception. These fallacies of the masses must be denounced in order to lead the people to reality. This is the role of the vanguard, i.e., to open a 'breach' between popular conceptions and reality. Historically, the people will close the breach by rising to the level of the vanguard.

"The MPIPR acted as a true vanguard in the clarification of the exact meaning of 'free determination.' This term, used so frequently by JUAN MARI to justify the status plebiscite, has been clarified by the MPIPR, and now independentists realize that free determination is inalienable without prior sovereignty. Our campaign was victorious when the Puerto Rican Bar Association publicly supported our interpretation. An earlier instance two years ago, we acted in the true role of a vanguard when we initiated our campaign against the Catholic Church for attempts to 'Americanize' Puerto Rico by teaching in English in the schools. Our campaign resulted in the Commonwealth Secretary of Education's condemnation of the use of English in private schools. During such campaigns, many called us rash subversives, but this is not of importance; what is important is that the masses rose to the breach which the MPIPR had opened.

"In order to maintain leadership, the vanguard must not lose touch with the masses by becoming absorbed in vague, perfectionist ideology divorced from reality. In so doing, the breach is opened too widely, the people fall away from the vanguard, and it degenerates into a sect. We are the pioneers of liberation, but we cannot achieve our goal alone. We are only the leaders; liberation must be a popular movement to be successful. If we are not successful, then we must admit that we have failed and review our strategy, actions and tactics.

"Up to now, we have not failed in our role as vanguard. However, we are not alone. All forces for independence in Puerto Rico constitute patriotic vanguards. For this reason, the MPIPR supports the formation of la Mesa de Lucha (ML). The ML is a united front of all independentist organizations and unaffiliated individuals, and we are dedicated to the

(Classification)

uniting of all independentist forces.

"With regards to this unification, the MPRR is travelling two paths. We are working to unite all independentist leaders in the IRL. Simultaneously, we are uniting the pro-independence masses on a lower level by means of an island-wide campaign for membership in local MPRR Missions.

"If we cannot gain IRL acceptance of MPRR goals and strategy, then we will continue alone in the role of vanguard. By either path, we expect ultimate success in our task of 'pushing' our people to liberty."

"THE MPRR AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION: RECAPITULATION"

"The Cuban Revolution has a double significance for Latin America in that it is the first successful instance of a struggle for national liberation in America and it is the first Socialist revolution in Latin America. National liberation is more than the struggle for independence, it signifies the reattainment of the people's heritage. Such a struggle acquires different forms in different situations. In already independent countries it becomes a struggle to 'give real content to that independence, freeing our people from the neo-colonialism which the United States has over us.' In countries, like Puerto Rico, still subject to classical colonialism the 'struggle for political independence is the first step towards total liberation.'

"The MPRR is a national liberation movement and strives for political independence as the first necessary step towards regaining the Puerto Rican heritage, now alienated in the hands of foreigners. In this struggle, the people of Puerto Rico are natural allies of all the peoples who strive to free themselves from colonial or neo-colonial bonds, especially in Latin America. In Cuba, national liberation obtained its first great victory in America, and therefore the Cuban Revolution is the natural ally of all Latin nations striving for the same goal. As the result, the MPRR considers it its duty to back Cuba's right to autodetermination and to declare solidarity with the Cuban efforts to free themselves from North American imperialism.

"This does not mean that a member of the MPRR must align himself with the socialistic character of the Cuban Revolution, because the MPRR is not based upon Socialism or Marxist-Leninism. The MPRR principles do not agree with all the practices of the Cuban Revolution such as the death penalty and Marxism, however it is also true that the MPRR does not agree with all the details of the national liberation movements in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. But, in spite of these discrepancies, the MPRR strongly aligns itself with the Cuban Revolution because their objectives are identical, although they differ in detail.

"The U. S. does not oppose Cuba because of principles such as the Cuban denial of Christianity and Cuban execution wall, or because of the socialistic character of its Revolution. The Yankee imperialists invade, blockade and fight Cuba because the Cubans have achieved national liberation and have regained their heritage at the expense of the North American concerns.

"Independent of the alliance of the MPRR with other national liberation movements in Latin America, including Cuba, the MPRR must also seek alliance with the forces in Puerto Rico fighting for national independence

(Classification)

regardless of whether or not these forces are national liberation movements. These elements are our allies in that they agree with the first step of national liberation, namely independence. At present, we also agree with these elements, as well as with the Statehooders, insofar as we all are opposed to the spurious plebiscite which the Governor of the colony has announced. For this same reason, the MPR has joined the Mesa de Laros, as it is a united front of all the organizations and individuals who aspire for political independence. This over-all alliance of the MPR, in combination with the Statehooders, is possible due to common objective of defeating the plebiscite.

"In order to maintain its function as a united front of independentists, the MPR must remain above the various differences between the organizations and individuals which constitute it. Therefore we must not expect the MPR to support the Cuban Revolution since some of the members are not in accord with this backing.

The MPR, patriotic vanguard of the Puerto Rican people must adhere to this double alliance with: (1) the forces fighting for Puerto Rican independence, and (2) the forces, throughout Latin America fighting for national liberation."

BACKGROUND DATA:

The completed MPR Political Thesis draft will be submitted to the MPR General Assembly in November 1962. Press reports have carried items with regard to the Thesis stating that the commission which is drafting the Thesis is composed of Ramon MERMUDEZ, Cesar AMERU Iglesias, Pedro CRANE, Roman PEREZ, Rafael ENRIQUE Cadea, Gabriel VICENTE Maura, Jose Ramon RIOS and Francisco Manrique CRANE. The findings of this commission will be thoroughly reviewed by the Rules and By-laws Committee of the Fourth General Assembly on 17 November 1962, and the final draft will be presented to the Assembly on 18 November 1962. Everyone in the MPR will have a chance to discuss the Thesis, and when it is formally adopted, it will be printed and circulated over the entire island.

210679

1. During recent weeks, the simmering discord within the ranks of the PIP (Partido Independientista Puertorriqueño) (Independence Party of Puerto Rico) has again emerged to public view and become the subject of extensive press coverage, provided primarily by the independence-oriented and anti-U. S. tabloid, EL MANUEL. Highlighting the events which caused attention to be focused on the PIP, were the return of Juan Negró and other dissidents to posts on PIP Board of Directors and a local general assembly meeting of party leaders in Mayaguez demanding the resignation of PIP President, Gilberto COMBES de Grecia, to be replaced by a Board of Governors with a revolving presidency.
2. Intra-party reaction to the developments and comments on their significance are also included.

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Ind 4

1. In the course of recent weeks, several relatives reflecting the well-known high-spirited internal differences existing in the PIP (Partido Independiente Teorizante) (Independent Party of Teorized Ideas) have appeared in the local press and have involved some surprising and left-on-surprising developments in various internal party affairs. As was previously reported (USAMMEX E-17-56) the PIP, since early 1952, has been attempting to carry out a program of municipal committee reorganization to conform with resolutions adopted at the September 1951 General Assembly meeting calling for a party-wide reorganization. A number of these municipal reorganizations, a necessary prelude to the holding of a party General Assembly, have been carried out. However, considerable difficulty was encountered when a petition for reorganization of the Mayaguez Municipal Committee was submitted by local leaders, prominent among whom is Santiago MARI Bares, father of Juan MARI Bares. A resulting exchange of accusations and counter-accusations as to intentions of PIP leaders occurred then, and reorganization of that committee finally postponed indefinitely (USAMMEX E-31-56).

2. Thereafter, except for very sporadic verbal pot-shots, usually by Juan MARI Bares, at Party President GUERRERO de Gracia and PIP leadership in general, the dissident sector remained aloof from party affairs. Ultimately, however, as reported, came the surprising news that Juan MARI Bares, spearhead of the dissidents, along with fellow dissidents Gabriel VIGIL Maura and Jose Maria GARCIA, had been elected as members to the PIP Board of Directors for the precinct of Rio Piedras at that Municipal Committee's reorganizational meeting.

3. That their reasons for return to posts in the PIP hierarchy a year after resigning therefrom, was not based on a change of opinion regarding party affairs was evident in statements attributed to MARI Bares and VIGIL Maura, both reiterating the need for "purifying" and "revamping" the party; i.e., removal of present leadership.

4. Shortly thereafter (13 November), there appeared an article in EL DIARIO concerning a meeting of the Mayaguez Municipal Committee, attended by party Vice-President Baltasar GUERRERO Milla and Lorenzo FERRER, PIP Secretary-General, ostensibly in the capacity of counselors, to look into the reorganization of the Mayaguez Municipal Committee. There was apparently considerable talk of reorganization of party on all levels with the reported suggestion that a Board of Governors, of at least three nor more than five leaders and a revolving presidency, should replace the office of President.

5. This was followed a few days later by press notice of a resolution adopted by the recently re-formed Rio Piedras Municipal Committee (see 2 above), calling for the resignation of party leaders and total party reorganization. Following, on 23 November, the Mayaguez Municipal Committee held a general assembly meeting of local committees at which it was agreed that the proposal for eliminating the office of President from the party organizational structure should be studied and recommendations for such a change presented at the next party-wide general assembly. Present and supporting the substance, if not the letter of the resolution, was Francisco M. FERRER, PIP gubernatorial candidate in 1956. Secretary-General of the PIP, FERRER, also in attendance, was suspected less sympathetic and agreed that "tough" leaders should make their own decisions as to their usefulness to the party.

6. The chief irritation of the Mayaguez leaders, however, was apparently the PIP Executive Committee's decision, after much deliberation, to keep in effect the decree to postpone indefinitely reorganization of the Mayaguez Municipal Committee. Juan MARI Bares, also in attendance, reportedly said at this decision that "what the leaders of the PIP respond on assembly in a town, that leadership rejects that town and means it does not wish to adjust the divergences which exist and consequently does not wish to push forward the general program for the party." MARI Bares then went on to charge this leadership with intentionally attempting to sabotage the holding of the meeting. It was finally agreed to appeal the Executive Committee

indefinite postponement decision at the next PIP General Assembly.

7. Subsequent to these developments a number of press articles treating of expressions of confidence in CONCEPCION de Gracia were apparently made to appear, as did others suggesting the expulsion from the party of the dissidents. For their part, the dissidents reiterated their stand that a top-to-bottom reorganization of the PIP was necessary, but attempted to dispel the impression that the attack on CONCEPCION was of a personal nature or an imputation of the sincerity of his devotion to the party's independence goal.

COMMENT: (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) These most recent developments concerning the PIP's internal difficulties indicate quite clearly the various divisions into which the party now appears to be split; i.e., (1) the hard core dissidents figuring prominently among them Santiago RAMI and especially the latter's son, Juan Raul Bras; (2) the so-called moderates who would prefer a compromise solution, but seem to be leaning toward the former and, (3) the present party hierarchy nominally headed by Gilberto CONCEPCION de Gracia. These events also serve further to point out that working out a compromise between the first and last groups will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, and full capitulation by one or the other, the only alternative. The intransigence of the first group is, in fact, only likely to be heightened if it emerges, as is being suggested, that the PIP under CONCEPCION now intends to reverse its previous refusal to accept funds made available under the Commonwealth's political party subsidy bill which provides for disbursements up to \$75,000 in non-election, and \$150,000 in election years to registered political parties.

The latter was not so pressing matter a year ago since under the law as then written, the subsidy funds were being set aside on a cumulative basis. At the last session of the Commonwealth Legislature, however, an amendment to the legislation was passed making subsidy funds non-cumulative, if not drawn upon in any given year. Thus, whereas a year ago the PIP had \$75,000 on account, and would now have \$150,000, it has nothing. Meanwhile, the other parties, the PPR (Partido Popular Democrático) (Popular Democratic Party) and the RRP (Partido Republicano Puertorriqueño) (Republican (Statehood) Party of Puerto Rico), are drawing on the subsidy and thus accumulating funds. PIP finances, long reported as bad, are not known to be improving.

The government subsidy as a source of funds will doubtlessly be increasingly looked upon as a panacea for all PIP ills - there is no doubt, in fact, that said funds could be an important aid. The chief problem here, however, is that the most outspoken and dedicated opposition to accepting such funds comes from Juan Raul Bras, primarily because he is suspect, or claims to be suspect of the scrupulosity of CONCEPCION de Gracia where the matter of handling funds is concerned (USAMANT 10-67-58). This, in turn, suggests the possibility that the removal of CONCEPCION may be Juan Raul's and the other dissidents' condition for agreement to accept the much needed subsidy and may help win their supporters, especially from "moderates" in pressing the case. By the same token, CONCEPCION de Gracia may well be aware of these implications and quite possibly had hoped to carry out local reorganization and hold a general assembly meeting where the decision on the subsidy funds could be reversed. Fighting the dissidents - and the support they would receive in the EL INDIO - after the fund question had been favorably (for CONCEPCION de Gracia) resolved, would certainly be less arduous than without it.

Much of the foregoing is necessarily conjecture, but the central theme of the subsidy, either an bargaining or compromise device, has now become and will doubtlessly assume greater importance and urgency in coming months. PIP fortunes are as low as they have ever been and the determination to resolve the internal difficulties is, as a result, also likely to increase. At the same time, access to greater financial resources is bound to become more appealing as a remedy to the PIP's ills. Together, these conditions are likely to produce more internal skirmishing within the

THE act shall be effective until such time as the interest therein can be resolved
or the act is destined to break up and dissolve the act or existing until the
parties and groups.

EXHIBITION BY CHAIRMAN: DE, 10/1/53; 10/1, 10/1

10/1/53:

W. J. King, 10/1/53

GEORGE L. BARNES
Lt Colonel, 65
AS of 1, 12/53

OP-923MS 8 5 AUG 18 1953

Following are summaries of press articles concerning developments within the PIP (Partido Independiente Puertorriqueño) (Independence Party of Puerto Rico) produced by the series of events which took place in 1958, 1959 and 1960, which reported the return of classified records, including the PIP Board, to posts on the PIP Board of Directors and a Board general assembly meeting of party leaders in Mayaguez demanding the resignation of PIP President Gilberto GONZALEZ de Garcia to be replaced by a Board of Directors with a revolving presidency.

1. 1958, 1959, 1960

a. According to a press campaign of the PIP in its meeting of 13 December 1958, the party gave a vote of confidence to Mr. Gilberto GONZALEZ de Garcia, President of the party, and agreed also to dissolve the municipal committees of Mayaguez and Rio Piedras. At the same time it was ordered that party affiliates be put into the hands of provisional committees in the aforementioned municipalities until reorganization assemblies are held.

b. The Board of Directors also ordered until the election of Juan PEREZ Grau, Gabriel Vicente MUÑOZ and Jose Maria GARCIA, as members of the Board for the municipality of Rio Piedras.

c. As indicated by the Campaign and Propaganda Office, which is directed by Manuel Gualberto MORALES, the Board of Directors started its agenda at 1100 hours under the presidency of Mr. GONZALEZ de Garcia, and it proceeded to install new members. It was noted that the election of PEREZ Grau, MUÑOZ and GARCIA had been contested, and, for that reason, they were not installed. Estelino MUÑOZ presented a motion that the Board give a vote of confidence to the Party President, Mr. GONZALEZ de Garcia. This motion was discussed first because of its privileged character. After a wide discussion, the motion was approved with 46 votes in favor and six against it.

d. While the vote of confidence was being discussed, Mr. GONZALEZ de Garcia was absent from the room and Manuel MORALES was presiding. When the motion was approved, a committee was appointed from within the Board of Directors, which proceeded to inform GONZALEZ de Garcia of the results and escorted him to the presidential table.

e. When GONZALEZ de Garcia returned to the presidential table, work was resumed with the discussion of the motion presented by Attorney Francisco H. SANCHEZ, Jr., that the Board of Directors abstain from interfering in the Mayaguez case. The motion was defeated.

f. Attorney ARTHUR Gualillo presented a motion that the municipal committees of Mayaguez and Rio Piedras be dissolved. After the President of the party had been informed of the nature of said committees, the Board of Directors agreed to dissolve them and have them substituted by temporary committees until the new committees are elected. That it was resolved to postpone until the elections to the Board of Directors of Juan PEREZ Grau, Gabriel Vicente MUÑOZ, and Jose Maria GARCIA.

g. Finally, the Board of Directors also read that a public proclamation be made to all citizens of the PIP as the only independent instrument of Puerto Rico, and to all citizens of the PIP as the only independent instrument of Puerto Rico, and to all citizens of the PIP as the only independent instrument of Puerto Rico.

h. The Board of Directors also read that a public proclamation be made to all citizens of the PIP as the only independent instrument of Puerto Rico, and to all citizens of the PIP as the only independent instrument of Puerto Rico.

Dr. A. K. K. K.,
Vernon

(S) (C) COMMENT: Little change is envisioned in the near future for the present state of affairs among TIF leaders. The conflict of personalities rather than diverging ideologies lies at the root of the internal dissent evidenced by above press reports. In spite of all the efforts of WHIP since at all, it appears that CONGRESSMAN de Baccio will be able to hold on as TIF President simply for want of a better leader. Harassment by his opponents will continue at about the same level, probably without much success, since they are not firmly held together in an organized group capable of effective action to oust CONGRESSMAN de Baccio.

02-92315 85 AUG 19 1959

APPROVED:

CHARLES H. SPENCER
Lt Colonel, Inf
Chief, Guns & Tubes

January 16, 1975

Mr. Robert O. Goff
Department of the Treasury
United States Secret Service
Washington, D. C. 20223

Dear Mr. Goff:

This is an appeal from the answer provided by your agency on December 31, to my request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Your answer did not fully comply with my request which asked for a complete index of the title of all documents retrievable under my name. Furthermore, the reasons set forth in your letter do not justify the withholding of any part of any record nor the entirety of any record. In addition, you have not made a sufficient denial that your agency does not have other records that must be released under the Act.

We renew the totality of our request and appeal any part of it that was denied. We also affirm the section on financial responsibility for the records. However, we request that all fees be waived.

Sincerely yours,

JUAN MARI BRAS

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

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Jean Mari Bras
Abogado y Notario
Calle Padre Colon 256 Castillo
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PERSONNEL REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. BOX 4688

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30302

30 December 1981

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Natal:

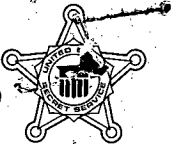
The records of this office indicate that you have not yet submitted your application papers for employment in the Central Intelligence Agency. I would like to think you are still interested in applying for a position with the Agency.

If I can assist you in any way in this matter please let me know. If you are no longer considering strategic intelligence as a career, I would appreciate a short note to this effect in order that I may clear our records. We will close out your file within the next two or three weeks unless you advise us to the contrary.

Sincerely yours,

Norman E. Hill
Norman E. Hill

NEH:pn



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

December 31, 1975

Juan Mari Bras
Abogado y Notario
Calle Padre Colon 256 Casetillo
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Bras:

Reference is made to your letter dated December 8, 1975, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

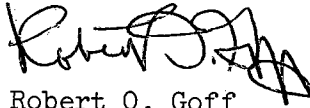
Enclosed are copies of Secret Service documents which pertain to you. Some documents have been withheld from disclosure and others have had information deleted from them because they contain investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes. Pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(b)(7)(C), (D) and (E) they are being exempted since disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy to other persons mentioned in the requested file; disclose the identity of a confidential source and/or information furnished by a confidential source; and disclose investigative techniques and procedures. Some deletions are being made pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(b)(5) as matters that are inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda. The citations of the above exemptions are not to be construed as the only exemptions which may be available under the Freedom of Information Act.

Our file contains Federal Bureau of Investigation Reports. We have forwarded your Freedom of Information request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their response to you.

Fees are charged in accordance with Title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1A, Section 1.6(g). For your file, retrieval time was one hour at \$3.50 per hour and 13 xerox pages at \$.10 per page. Please send a certified check or money order in the amount of \$4.80 payable to U.S. Secret Service, Financial Management Division, 1800 G Street, N.W., Room 905, Washington, D.C. 20223.

If you disagree with our determinations you have the right of administrative appeal within 35 days by writing to Freedom of Information Appeal, Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service, 1800 G Street, N.W., Room 944, Washington, D.C. 20223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert O. Goff", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert O. Goff
Freedom of Information &
Privacy Acts Officer
Office of Administration

Enclosure

10/21/52
October 21, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: Juan Mari-Bras - NPPR Member.

[REDACTED] called PRS on October 21, 1952, advising that Juan Maris-Bras, alleged member of the NPPR, had been observed in attendance at a meeting of the local Progressive Party at 9th and "T" Sts., NW, Washington, D. C., the evening of October 16, 1952. Mari-Bras was accompanied by an unidentified white woman, described as young, early twenties, dark complexion, well dressed.

[REDACTED] stated that this is the first occasion that Mari-Bras has been seen in the District of Columbia since he departed last June after the termination of George Washington University classes. It is not known whether he has again matriculated at this school.

[REDACTED] associate of Mari-Bras, has not been seen in Washington, D. C., [REDACTED] is endeavoring to ascertain whether he has returned from Puerto Rico.

PRS will be kept advised [REDACTED] to any information developed on either of these subjects.

[REDACTED]
Special Agent

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ORIGIN White House

OFFICE Chief

FILE NO. [REDACTED]

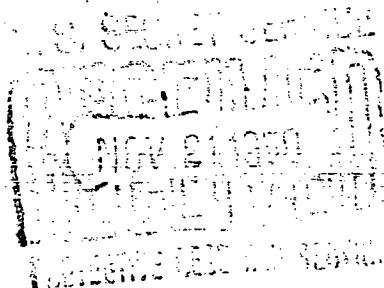
TYPE OF CASE	STATUS	TITLE OR CAPTION
Protective Research	Pending	Field Report
INVESTIGATION MADE AT	PERIOD COVERED	
Wash., D. C.	11-20-50	[REDACTED] et al
INVESTIGATION MADE BY		
[REDACTED]		

DETAILS

Submitted to the FBI this date.

Report dated 11-18-50, PRS to [REDACTED] listing associations of names passenger manifest, address books and other material.

Report dated 11-17-50 by [REDACTED] re Juan Mari Bras with particular reference to one [REDACTED]



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		[Signature] 11/21/50	
		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	

(CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER)



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

cc [redacted]
11/17/50

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

ORIGIN White House	OFFICE Chief	FILE NO. [redacted]
TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Pending	TITLE OR CAPTION Field Report
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Wash., D. C.	PERIOD COVERED 11-14-50	[redacted] et al.
INVESTIGATION MADE BY [redacted]		

DETAILS

On 11-14-50, Sp. [redacted] advised that his office is actively engaged investigating [redacted] ally known by the name [redacted] and Juan Mari Bras both of whom reside at 821 21st Street, N.W., and who are attending George Washington law school.

[redacted] requested that the Secret Service withhold any investigation of these individuals so far as it would pertain to any personal contact or interview with them. It was explained that [redacted] has indicated that any attempt to interview [redacted] Bras would result unfavorably and probably be a deterrent factor in developing information.

[redacted] stated that both students were involved in the incidents at the University in San Juan, P.R. in 1948, when Nationalist students created disturbances and terror and tore down the American flag. It is believed both served time as a result of the difficulty and probably came to the U. S. last September when they enrolled at George Washington University.

As the history and results of the [redacted] will be of interest to us we will be provided with a report immediately when available. In the meantime it was agreed that this Service would avoid personal contact with the persons named [redacted]

NOV 14 1950
[Handwritten initials and stamps]

DISTRIBUTION Wash. Field PRS [redacted]	COPIES 1 cc 2 cc ✓	REPORT MADE [redacted]	DATE 11-14-50
		SPECIAL AGENT	
		APPROVED [redacted]	DATE
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			

Nationalist Party members in the struggle for independence of Puerto Rico. [REDACTED] expressed his willingness to assassinate Hon. [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] spoke against Puerto Rican independence on July 4, 1940.

[REDACTED]

JUAN MARI ERAS

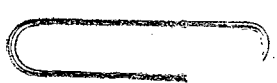
Attends George Washington University, Washington, D. C., as Law Student.

Born December 2, 1927, at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Resides at 809 - 21 Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

In 1944 ERAS was active in the organization and direction of the Youth Independentist Association, Director of the Radio Program known as "Gritos de la Patria" over Station WPRA, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in the interest of independence. ERAS was reportedly associated closely with Nationalists, spoke at their meetings and admittedly is ardently in favor of independence for Puerto Rico. In 1945 ERAS was President of the National Independentist Youth Association. He was elected President of the University Independentist Society newspaper in 1945 and participated in the student march protesting against activities of LUIS MUNOZ MARRIN, President of the Puerto Rican Senate and Popular Party. ERAS continued Independentist activities in 1946 and 1947. ERAS was expelled as a student from the University of Puerto Rico for having actively participated in lowering

the American flag and replacing it with the Nationalist flag of Puerto Rico on December 15, 1947. On that same date [REDACTED] ES, President NPPR, returned to San Juan from New York City. ERAS and others, during and in connection with the April 14, 1948 strike at the said University, held impromptu meeting on the campus. The University administration at this time concluded the crowd participating in said strike was being directed by expelled students including ERAS. ERAS attended the Latin American Youth Congress in Mexico City in April, 1948 and made the opening speech. It was advised that ERAS was released from jail in Guayama on September 27, 1950, having been sentenced for activities during the strike at the University of Puerto Rico in 1948. No known information received concerning [REDACTED] ERAS' possible association with [REDACTED] their families.



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Good
11/16/50

ORIGIN White House

OFFICE Chief

FILE NO. [REDACTED]

TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Pending	TITLE OR CAPTION Field Report
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Washington, D. C.	PERIOD COVERED 11-15-50	[REDACTED] et al (JUAN MARI BRAS and [REDACTED])
INVESTIGATION MADE BY [REDACTED]		[REDACTED]

DETAILS

The following information regarding JUAN MARI BRAS and [REDACTED] was submitted to us 11-15-50 by [REDACTED]

Review of the records of George Washington University -

JUAN MARI BRAS ✓

GWU file # 131417.

Presently residing at 809 21st Street, N. W.

Former Washington addresses: 1841 16th St., N. W., 1231 Sheppard St., N. W.

Permanent home address - #13 San Rafael St., Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Born 12-2-27 Puerto Rico.

Education: University of Puerto Rico, 1944-1947.

University of Mexico, Mexico City DF, Mexico, Summer 1945.

Florida Southern, Lakeland, Florida, Jan.-Aug. 1949 (AB degree).

Presently enrolled in GWU Law School.

Occupation: Production Manager, WECW, January 1948 - December 1948.

NOTE: According to [REDACTED] JUAN MARI BRAS was suspended from the University for a disciplinary measure on December 16, 1947. Later expelled permanently, which action was retroactive to 12-16-47.

Father - Santiago Mari

References: 1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

Description: Fair complexion, black hair, black eyes, 5'10", 164 lbs.

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	APPROVED [REDACTED]		DATE

44-38861-1000

OFFICE

FILE

STATUS

TITLE OR CAPTION	DATE	AUTHOR	SUBJECT	LOCATION	REMARKS
1. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
13. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
14. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
15. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
16. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
18. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
19. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
21. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
22. [illegible]					

INVESTIGATION MADE AT

PERIOD COVERED

10-16-51

INVESTIGATION MADE BY

ASAIC

DETAILS

On this date, the Washington Field Office was notified by

hat Juan Mariñaras and

have returned to Washington and resumed their studies at the George Washington School of Law. They reside at 1312 - 21st Street, N. W., and 2107 K Street, N. W., Washington D. C. respectively.

TJK:mk

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Address Reply to the
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CWB:DJM:kda

July 2, 1975 JUL 5 PM 12 03

OFFICE OF ASST DIRECTOR
INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Burrill A. Peterson
Assistant Director
Investigations
United States Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Re: Electronic Surveillance - United States v.
Delfin Ramos Colon, Crim. No. 74-213,
District of Puerto Rico

OVER →

Dear Mr. Peterson:

There is pending in the District Court for the District of Puerto Rico a criminal case against Delfin Ramos Colon for violations of the Federal explosives statutes, 18 U.S.C. 842(h) and (j).

In connection with the motion for disclosure of electronic surveillance filed by the above defendant, it is requested that you advise whether any of the individuals on the attached list, or any premises on that list, including those known to be owned, leased or licensed by such persons have been monitored during the course of electronic surveillance conducted by your agency, including surveillance where one of the parties may have consented thereto, as well as any surveillance conducted pursuant to Title III of Public Law 90-351.

If no surveillance has been undertaken it is requested that you so state in your letter to this office, making separate reference to the individuals and any premises owned, leased or licensed by them. An answer is requested by July 18, 1975, in order to respond to the motion in this case.

Please address your reply to Mr. David Muchow, General
Crimes Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

CARL W. BELCHER
Chief, General Crimes Section
Criminal Division


By:

David J. Muchow *gpc*

DAVID J. MUCHOW
Attorney

Encl

- 0 Lic. Jose Diaz Asencio
 0 P.O. Box 151
Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico 00760
 0 769-1313 (w)
 0 Montebello Condominium
 0 Apt. #416
Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico
 0 761-7834 (h)
 0 Graciany Miranda Marchand
Le Mans Condominium
 0 Suite 507
Munoz Rivera Ave.
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918
 0 765-1100 (w) and 766-3126
 0 Las Marias 860
 0 Hyde Park
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
 0 767-3858 (h)
 0 Lic. Juan Mari Bras
 0 Padre Colon 250
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
 0 764-1595
 0 766-0320
 0 Lic. Fermin Arraiza
 0 Calle 29
 0 Bloque R. #3 0
Urb. Jardines de Caparra
Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 0 787-3457 (h)
 0 Central Committee
 0 Padre Colon 256
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
764-1595 (w)
766-0320
 0 Lic. Ludmilia Rivera Burgos
 0 Padre Colon 256
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
 0 764-1595 (w)
 0 766-0320 (w)
 0 Cond. Jardines de Guayama
 0 Edificio Apto. 803
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico
 0 787-3457 (h)

Juan A. Bras -  - 6/3

July 15, 1975

CWB:DJM:kda
703.1

Mr. Carl W. Belcher
Chief, General Crimes Section
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Attn: Mr. David J. Muchow
Attorney

Re: Electronic Surveillance - United States v.
Delfin Ramos Colon, Crim. No. 74-213
District of Puerto Rico

Dear Mr. Belcher:

Reference is made to your letter dated July 2, 1975, requesting electronic surveillance information on the individuals named on the attached list.

The United States Secret Service has no prior record or knowledge of any electronic surveillance regarding the individuals named on the attached list; nor have any premises or telephones known to be owned, leased, used or licensed by them, been the subject of electronic surveillance of any type, lawful or unlawful.

Sincerely,

Burrill A. Peterson
Assistant Director
Investigations

BAP:JSG:KKJ:11p

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0 Graciany Miranda Marchand

0 Le Mans Condominium

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0 764-1595 (w)

0 766-0320 (w)

0 Cond. Jardines de Guayama

0 Edificio Apto. 803

0 Hato Rey, Puerto Rico

0 787-3457 (h)

Juan A. Bras

- 6/5/50

- 3/26/71

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Mr. Juan Mari Bras
Abogado y Notario
Calle Padre Colon 256 Casetillo
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name : Juan Mari Bras

Date and place of birth: Mayaguez, Puerto Rico,
December 2, 1927

Social Security Number: 577-46- 0356

Address: Ed. A, Apt. 705, Green Village, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

Previous address: Paraná 1604, El Paraíso , Río Piedras, P.R.
Montgomery 301, San Gerardo, Río Piedras, P.R.

Military record : N/A

Public Political positions held:

1943- President Asociación Nacional de Juventud Independentista

1944- President, Juventud Independentista Puertorriqueña

1945- Presidente Sociedad Independentista Universitaria

1946- 1957. Miembro de la Junta de Directores del Partido
Independentista Puertorriqueño.

1954-1957 - Miembro de la Comisión Ejecutiva del Partido
Independentista Puertorriqueño

1959 - Secretario General del Movimiento Pro Independencia
to 1971

1971 to present : Secretario General
Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño

dentro Porque despues que le dicen a uno que no, uno ni se acuerda en todo el resto de su vida hasta ahora. o sea, el sistema socioeconomico , el departamento de instruccion, la familia, que son las Primeras instituciones que mas serca estan de uno en la niñes, la familia no tanto. Pues ella, inculta madre con una educacion de nivel elemental, un departamento de instruccion sin una filosofia correcta y responsable dan al muchacho las armas Para ir Por este Rumbo. Se ve que este Gobierno Para lo que sirbe es Para hacer de uno un ser degradado. Pues quita los medios de Educacion, no da trabajos a los desafortunados que Caemos en las Garras del monstruo de barrotes y nos mantiene como Esclavos modernos y sin derecho a que un Patrón que nos de trabajo y que nos reibindique, ni a eso tenemos derecho hasta que no cumplamos y hay veces que acabando de cumplir nos formulan cargos Para que jamas y nunca salgamos.