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1-15AM FBI 1003 5-24-65 HFI 1965 MAY 24 05 33
TO THE PRESIDENT
FROM DIRECTOR FBI

31298

~~(SECRET)~~ DOMINICAN SITUATION

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OUR NEW YORK OFFICE HAS ADVISED THAT JOAQUIN BALAGUER LEFT HIS RESIDENCE AT ELEVEN TEN A.M., MAY TWENTY-THREE INSTANT, ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR LATIN-AMERICAN MALES IN MERCEDES BENZ, NEW YORK, LICENSE EIGHT N EIGHT FOUR THREE FOUR. THEY PROCEEDED TO ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL WHERE BALAGUER AND ONE OF THE AXX MALES ATTENDED MASS. THEY LEFT THE CATHEDRAL AND BALAGUER HAD INTERVIEW WITH A CAMERAMAN AND NEWS INTERVIEWER AT ONE P.M. IN THE VICINITY OF ROCKEFELLER CENTER. THE INTERVIEW TERMINATED ABOUT ONE THIRTY-FIVE P.M. AND BALAGUER RETURNED TO HIS RESIDENCE.

AFTER HE RETURNED TO HIS RESIDENCE, BALAGUER WAS INTERVIEWED BY AN AGENT OF OUR NEW YORK OFFICE AT WHICH TIME HE STATED HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL DURING LATE EVENING, MAY TWENTY-SECOND LAST FROM (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) HERRERA DASH MARIN. HE MET THIS INDIVIDUAL ABOUT ONE AND A HALF YEARS AGO IN NEW YORK CITY SOCIALLY AT THE HOME OF ARGENTINE FRIENDS AT WHICH TIME HERRERA SAID HE WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON AND THEN TO CUBA WHERE HE WOULD CONDUCT A SABOTAGE OPERATION AGAINST CASTRO.

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NLJ 05-78

By isl NARA, Date 8-29-06

PAGE TWO

BALAGUER NEVER HEARD FROM HERRERA AGAIN UNTIL LAST EVENING. HE DESCRIBED HERRERA AS A SPANIARD, ADVENTURER AND SOLDIER OF FORTUNE WHO DID NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE. HERRERA WISHED TO SEE BALAGUER LATE LAST EVENING BUT BALAGUER REFUSED. HERRERA THEN INFORMED BALAGUER OVER THE TELEPHONE THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHERE HE HAD BEEN WITH FRANCISCO CAAMANO. HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS FAVORABLE TO BALAGUER AND JUAN BOSCH AND THAT BALAGUER SHOULD CAPITALIZE ON THIS BY MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER CAAMANO TO BE A COMMUNIST AND THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO THE QUOTE OCCUPATION CLOSE QUOTES OF SANTO DOMINGO BY UNITED STATES TROOPS. HERRERA SAID THAT THE LATTER STATEMENT WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PRESENT MOOD IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS EXTREMELY ANTI DASH AMERICAN AND BALAGUER SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS. BALAGUER DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF BUT THANKED HERRERA FOR THE INFORMATION. BALAGUER DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT HERRERA SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

ON MAY TWENTY-THIRD, LAST, BALAGUER SAID HE WAS CALLED BY A SPANISH RADIO AND TV PERSONALITY FOR AN INTERVIEW CONCERNING THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. BALAGUER GAVE AN

PAGE THREE

INTERVIEW IN THE VICINITY OF ROCKEFELLER CENTER AT ONE P.M. TODAY, DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH HE SAID HE HOPED THAT EVERYTHING WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THAT FREE ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN A REASONABLE TIME. HE WAS ASKED IF HE THOUGHT CAAMANO WAS A COMMUNIST AND REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS CAAMANO IS NOT A COMMUNIST. BALAGUER STATED HE HAS NO PRESENT PLANS FOR GOING TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

END

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