

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),(b)(3):10 USC 424

FEB 15 1977
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Ext. Affairs	_____
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Ident.	_____
Intell.	<i>7/1/77</i>
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~~FEDERAL GOVERNMENT~~

POLITICAL MATTERS - Cuba

BT

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FROM

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ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/05 BY 6090AUB/TCG/ELH

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 46-2A (AS OF: 1315 EST 15 FEB 77)

CUBA: POLITICAL PRISONERS. (U)

1. ~~6~~ RESPONDING TO US GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN THE
 AREA OF WORLWIDE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, VICE PRESIDENT
 OF COUNCILS OF STATES AND MINISTERS OF CUBA CARLOS
 RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ TOLD THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
 THAT SINCE HAVANA IMPRISONED NO ONE FOR THEIR BELIEFS,
 THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA. THIS STATEMENT

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APPEARS TO CONTRADICT THE CURRENT POLITICAL PRISONER SITUATION IN CUBA, WHERE RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF NUMBERS HELD RUN AS HIGH AS 5,000.

2. ~~(C)~~ PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO'S LAST PUBLIC SPEECH ON THIS MATTER WAS IN JULY 1975. AT THAT TIME, CASTRO INDICATED THAT SOME 5,000 PRISONERS WERE BEING HELD -- 3,000 IN EDUCATION CAMPS AND 2,000 IN PRISONS. CUBAN OFFICIALS REPEATED THE 2,000 FIGURE IN AUGUST 1976 TO VISITING US CITIZENS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, A PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP WITH WORLDWIDE INTERESTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN 4,000 AND 5,000 PRISONERS BEING HELD BY THE CASTRO REGIME, THE SAME NUMBER THE ORGANIZATION HOLDS FOR CHILE. CUBAN EXILE GROUPS, ON THE OTHER HAND, FEEL THAT IN EXCESS OF 100,000 PERSONS ARE BEING HELD, AN UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY.

3. ~~(C)~~ PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE DETAINEES IS THE FORMER COMRADE OF CASTRO, ~~HUBER MATOS~~. HE HAS BECOME A "CAUSE CELEBRE" IN RECENT MONTHS AS HIS SON

Cuba

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

ATTEMPTED TO GAIN MATOS' RELEASE IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT
OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER LUIS CORVALAN. IN POOR CHILE
HEALTH, MAIDS' DEFIANCE AND REFUSAL TO BECOME "RE-
HABILITATED" ARE THE BASIS FOR THE WIDESPREAD INTERNA-
TIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIS RELEASE.

4. ~~(C)~~ CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE
AN ISSUE IN THE WAY OF ANY RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN HAVANA
AND WASHINGTON. CUBA HAS STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THAT
IT HAS NO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, A STANCE THAT MAY HAVE
TO BE SUBSTANTIATED IN THE EYES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES
AROUND THE WORLD.

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