

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Letelier's 'Havana Connection'

Secret papers found in Chilean exile Orlando Letelier's attache case after his assassination show he had been collecting a mysterious \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection."

The papers also reveal that Letelier's office had been in close contact, perhaps innocently, with a top Cuban intelligence agent named Julian Torres Rizo.

The respected Letelier, a former Chilean foreign minister, was killed Sept. 21 as he was driving down Washington's Embassy Row. Accompanying him in his blue Chevrolet were Mike Moffit and his wife, Ronni. The bomb blast also killed Ronni Moffit, but her husband survived.

He telephoned us afterward in anguish and pleaded with us to investigate the assassination. Our preliminary findings indicated that Chile's dread secret police, known as DINA, probably had been behind the bombing. Now our investigation has turned up some unexpected developments.

The blast, we have learned, revealed that Letelier had been leading a strange double life. The evidence was locked in a Samsonite attache case, which investigators salvaged from the wreckage of his car.

The briefcase was returned to his family. But first, intelligence agents copied the contents for possible clues that might lead to the assassins.

They found some unexpected clues that were even more fascinating. The briefcase contained papers so sensitive that Letelier probably carried them to prevent their theft by the Central Intelligence Agency. We have seen some of these hush-hush papers.

They show that Letelier received \$1,

000 a month through a "Havana connection." His contact was Beatrice (Tati) Allende, daughter of Salvador Allende, the Chilean President slain in 1973 by a military junta. The woman now lives in Havana with her husband, a Cuban official.

In a May 8, 1975, letter to Letelier, she notified him that he would receive \$5,000 as an advance payment "para apoyar tu trabajo"—"to support your work." This was to be followed by the monthly \$1,000 payments. The money would come, she said, from the Chilean Socialist party in exile. The disbursement had been approved, she explained, by the party's leader, Carlos Altamirano, who is reported to be living in exile in East Berlin.

The Chilean Socialist party has offices in East Berlin, Havana and Rome. Intelligence sources contend that money couldn't have been transmitted to Letelier without the Cuban government's approval.

Another letter in Letelier's briefcase was written on Sept. 14, 1976, by one of his young colleagues. It tells of a meeting in Havana with Emilio Brito, a Communist Central Committee functionary. According to our intelligence sources, Brito is affiliated with the Cuban planning group that directs the subversion of Puerto Rico and the United States.

The letter thanks Brito for some scholarly material "received from the hands of Julian Rizo." The writer promises to send other academic information to Brito through "la Mision," meaning the Cuban mission at the United Nations.

Officially, Rizo was listed as the first secretary of the Cuban mission. But as

early as March 1, 1976, we identified him as a spy in diplomatic disguise. "His mission at the United Nations," we wrote, "is to develop contacts with radicals in this country."

We have omitted the name of Letelier's young colleague, because he has received an assassination threat. But we questioned him for an hour. He contended persuasively that he was totally unaware of the intelligence roles of Brito and Rizo.

Letelier at the time of his death was affiliated with the Institute for Policy Studies, whose director, Marcus Raskin, said he had no knowledge of Letelier's secret payments. "What he did for his Chilean concerns was totally outside his institute work," Raskin told us. "As a fellow at the institute, he was a total success who performed with brilliance and skill."

Letelier's widow, Isabel, told us she was aware of payments, but speculated that they must have come from the exiled political party, not from the Cuban government.

We reached Tati Allende in Havana by telephone, but she declined to reveal the source of the payments. Her letter to Letelier, she said, was "personal," and she couldn't understand why it would be made public "unless it was to hurt" Letelier's cause.

Despite our effort to persuade her to clear up the mystery, she finally said: "I can't comment."

Footnote: Letelier had planned to visit Cuba on Sept. 21, the day he was killed. Also in the attache case was a letter he had written to a longtime friend, Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa, introducing a Dutch sympathizer.

Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-go-round

FP Post 12/20/76

WASHINGTON — Secret papers found in Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier's attache case after his assassination show he had been collecting a mysterious \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection."

The papers also reveal that Letelier's office had been in close contact, perhaps innocently, with a top Cuban intelligence agent named Julian Torres Rizo.

The respected Letelier, a former Chilean foreign minister, was blown to oblivion on September 21 as he was driving down Washington's tranquil, tree-shaded Embassy Row. Accompanying him in his blue Chevrolet were two passengers, Mike Moffit and his wife, Ronni. The bomb blast also killed Ronni, but Mike miraculously survived.

He telephoned us afterward in anguish and pleaded with us to investigate the assassination. Our preliminary findings

indicated that Chile's dread secret police, known as DINA, probably had been behind the bombing. Now our investigation has turned up some unexpected developments.

The blast that killed Letelier, we have learned, revealed that he had been leading a strang double life. The evidence was locked in a Samsonite attache case, which investigators salvaged from the wreckage.

The briefcase was returned to the murdered man's family. But first, intelligence agents copied the contents for possible clues that might lead to the assassins.

They found some unexpected clues that were even more fascinating. The briefcase contained papers so sensitive that Letelier probably carried them to prevent their theft by CIA housebreakers. We have now seen some of these hush-hush papers.

The show that Letelier received \$1,000 a month through a "Havana connection." His contact was none other than Beatrice "Tati" Allende, daughter of Salvador Allende, the Chilean president who was slain in 1973 by a military junta. Tati now lives in Havana with her husband, who is a Cuban official.

In a May 8, 1975, letter to Letelier, she notified him that he will receive \$5,000 as an advance payment "para apoyar tu trabajo" — "to support your work." This was to be followed by the monthly \$1,000 payments. The money would come, she said, from the Chilean Socialist party in exile. The disbursement had been approved, she explained, by the party's leader, Carlos Altamierano, who is reported to be living in exile in East Berlin.

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BY JACK ANDERSON
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CANCER THREAT: The Environmental Protection Agency has discovered potent, cancer-causing chemicals being dumped into a river at the Eli Lilly pesticide plant in Indiana.

The dangerous chemicals, known as nitrosamines, are considered unsafe for human consumption. "All three of the nitrosamines found in your discharges have been shown to be powerful carcinogens (cancer causers)," the EPA wrote Lilly.

Yet, incredibly, the agency is allowing Lilly to keep discharging the chemicals into the river. "There is a problem," an EPA spokesman conceded. "But the present level of discharge is not an imminent hazard to human health."

A Lilly spokesman agreed that there is no danger.