

# F.B.I. ROLE TO GET A HEARING AT U.N.

Puerto Rican Independence  
Leader Makes Charges

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June 7—Juan Mari-Bras, who heads the minority Socialist party in Puerto Rico, is preparing to capitalize here on recent disclosures that the Federal Bureau of Investigation harassed Puerto Rican pro-independence organizations.

Mr. Mari-Bras said he had evidence that the F.B.I. censored his mail, tapped his telephone, checked his bank account regularly and had him followed whenever he left the island.

He said at a news conference Thursday that he intended to place his evidence before the United Nations Committee on Colonialism, which has agreed to have him testify when it takes up the issue of Puerto Rico, probably in August.

Although the General Assembly decided in 1953 that Puerto Rico had achieved autonomy and had ceased to be a United Nations concern, the colonialism committee will give Mr. Mari-Bras a hearing, mainly at the insistence of Cuba and some Americans.

### Unsuccessful Lobby

The United States unsuccessfully lobbied against the move protesting that the committee was giving a forum to "fringe elements" that polled only 4 per cent in the elections in Puerto Rico.

Until now Mr. Mari-Bras concentrated on charges that the United States had exploited Puerto Rico economically, would like to build a giant petro-chemical complex there that would pollute the island while providing few jobs, and had tried to repress the political freedom of the independence parties.

F.B.I. involvement would be more grist for the campaign to reverse the 1953 Assembly decision and have Puerto Rico put back on the list of "colonies," obliging the United States to submit annual reports.

An F.B.I. program against Puerto Rican independence groups from 1960 to 1971 was recently acknowledged by Attorney General Edward H. Levi.

Mr. Levi said 37 projects were carried out against unidentified militant groups seeking to promote Puerto Rican independence.

### Evidence Cited

Mr. Mari-Bras, who is Secretary General of the Socialist party, which he describes as Marxist-Leninist, said he had evidence to give the United Nations committee showing that several United States agencies were conspiring against the independence groups. He displayed a photostat of an affidavit that he said came from a former secretary working for the F.B.I. in San Juan who had quit her job and now was a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist party living in Hartford.

The affidavit was signed by Gloria Teresa Caldas de Blanco in December, 1974, and gave an account of F.B.I. searches of mail, penetration by agents of the independence party organization, surveillance of Mr. Mari-Bras and others when they traveled to the United States and efforts to buy information and recruit party members for the F.B.I.

Mr. Mari-Bras said his goal this year was to "develop the Puerto Rican case" before the United Nations committee. The United States is not a member, having withdrawn in 1971 after protesting that the group's resolutions were one-sided and its activities dominated by Communist and Third World members.

Mr. Mari-Bras said he had received assurances from Cuba and "friends" on the committee that his position would be received sympathetically.