

Date of preparation July 7, 1948

### CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Note.—Consult Diplomatic Service 220 and 220A of August 7, 1936, and July 26, 1938, and references therein. Forms are to be prepared on typewriter in triplicate, one copy for file and two for Department.

Name MASFERRER Rojas Rolando  
(Surname) (Given name)

Nationality Cuban Title, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of birth 1912(?) in Cuba

Position Representative from Oriente Date appointed June 1, 1948

Party affiliations Although elected on the Republican ticket, Masferrer is close to the Autentico Party. Formerly he was a Communist. Now he calls himself a Socialist.

Previous career: Lawyer, teacher, newspaperman, former Communist.

Languages spoken Spanish speaks English well

Attitude toward and service in the United States Basically unfriendly.

Family details Married to Lucila Montero, divorced in 1943.

REMARKS: (Should present a brief word picture of the individual, including race, religion, political affiliation, education, reputation, personality, influence, contacts, interest other nations, etc.)

Rolando Masferrer was born in Cuba and educated as a lawyer at the University of Habana where he was involved in the revolutionary activities of the last years of the Machado regime. He is therefore, in a way, a contemporary of the President-elect, Carlos Prío and his cronies. After leaving the University Masferrer taught school, worked as a newspaperman and practiced law. He joined the Communist Party in Cuba in 1933 and for some time thereafter he worked for Hoy, the Communist daily. In 1937 Masferrer went to Spain and became assistant to the Political Commissar, André Martí, well known French Communist. He returned to Cuba in 1939 and became assistant editor of Hoy, a position he held for several years until he was forced out by Anibal Escalante, with whom he could not agree. In 1945 Masferrer became involved in the Duclós incident; Masferrer attacked the leaders of the Partido Socialista Popular for siding with Browder and advocating rapprochement with capital. He was expelled from the PSP on August 22, 1945 and since that time he has claimed to be a Socialist.

Together with Carlos Montenegro, who had been expelled from the PSP at the same time, Masferrer started a Cuban weekly, patterned on Time, called Tiempo en Cuba. This weekly is very Marxist and quite anti-United States. For some time it received financial support from the local Soviet Legation, but it is understood that this has ceased. Masferrer today heads the Movimiento Socialista Revolucionario (MSR), allegedly an anti-Communist political and labor organization. During the summer of 1947 both Masferrer and the MSR were most active in the abortive expedition against the Dominican Republic. In fact, Masferrer stole the leadership of the expedition away from the Dominican exiles.

Masferrer

Date APR 1948

Prepared by W. Lansing Collins, Jr.  
William L. Collins  
Second Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

American Embassy,  
Havana, Cuba,  
July 7, 1948.

- 2 -

Masferrer is close to the Grau regime and may be expected to remain on good terms with the Prío regime. Cultured, intelligent, dangerous, intensely nationalistic and able, he is a force to be reckoned with. Just how complete is his divorce from Communism is hard to tell. After all, his LSR started as support for the anti-Browder elements. Masferrer on the record appears as a more loyal, truer Communist than the leaders of the PSP who followed Browder.

In 1946 he was awarded a sinecure - professorship of English at the Marianao High School. In 1948 Tiempo en Cuba supported the Auténtico-Republican Alliance, allegedly receiving a huge sum of money for its support, and Masferrer was elected Representative from Oriente on the Republican ticket.



VLC/dts

CONFIDENTIAL

8-6

CONFIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA REPORT

POST: American Embassy  
Habana, Cuba

DATE PREPARED: July 7, 1948

COPIES TO: HA, NA, ATT. Habana

LASPERER Rojas, Rolando  
(Name and personal titles)

Cuban  
(Nationality)

(Title of address)

Representative from Oriente  
(Position)

Elected June 1, 1948  
(Date of appointment)

V. Lansing Collins, Jr.  
Second Secretary of Embassy

To Department in triplicate.  
VLC/dts

CONFIDENTIAL