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(44 USC 2107 Note)
NW 53217 6/20/17



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2-312

6-28-61

Miami, Florida

①
Re: Intercontinental Penetration Forces

Nature of Organization

MM T-1, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities for the past four years, and who has furnished reliable information in the past, is closely associated with Gerald Patrick Henning, head of the Intercontinental Penetration Forces, also known as Interpen.

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MM T-1 advised that Jerry, Henning, Hannon and Gerald Patrick Henning are names used by the press and by other individuals referring to Gerald Patrick Henning, and are all identical with Henning.

MM T-1 advised that Interpen, until recently, was known as the Anti-Communist Legionnaires, and is an organization made up of American volunteers, mercenaries, vagrants and adventurers, having a membership of fifteen to twenty individuals. The membership has a high turnover, inasmuch as newspaper publicity caused these adventurers to come to Miami, Florida to join the organization, but lack of any serious accomplishment causes them to become disillusioned and leave. At any one time, there are several members in jail in Miami for fighting, vagrancy and drunkenness. They beg food from Cuban grocery

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stores, are not employed, are usually without funds, and are dressed in army combat clothes, boots, and a number of them wear beards.

Hamming and his group are interested in adventure and are willing to go to any Latin American country to engage in any revolution, not knowing the issues, reliability of the revolutionists, or the political ideology involved. Hamming and his group are completely irresponsible, are not expected to accomplish any positive action, and are stimulated by publicity given to them in the Miami, Florida, newspapers.

On May 16, 1961, Charles Sapp, Sergeant, Intelligence Unit, Miami Police Department, advised that this group constitutes a police problem. They have been hanging out in Miami Bayfront Park. Sergeant Sapp advised that a group of Cuban women has been maintaining a sit-down strike at Bayfront Park for the purpose of influencing the Organization of American States and the United States Government to intervene in Cuba. He said the women are neat and orderly, maintain a table on which donations are received, and around which are American and Cuban flags. These women have complained to the police and the City concerning the immoral and vandalous activities of these Americans in the park, known to be members of Interpen.

The police instructed these Americans to leave the park and not return.

On May 15, 1961, the police arrested Arthur Milton Redmond, Richard Joe Roma, Phillip E. Denford, and Donald Pugh on charge of vagrancy.

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On May 17, 1961, Sergeant Sapp advised that Redmond and Rema had again been arrested for vagrancy at Bayfront Park, along with Alfred Dushane and Albert Mariner, who were also charged with vagrancy.

Sergeant Sapp advised that these members of Interpen have developed into a police problem, are rowdy and drunken, and cause considerable comment by residents of Miami and tourists visiting the city.

Contact with Frente Revolucionario Democrático

MM T-1, on June 5, 1961, advised that Tom Cain and Frank (last name unknown), Interpen members, about a month previously, went to Chicago, Illinois and contacted headquarters of the Frente Revolucionario Democrático (Revolutionary Democratic Front - FRD), an alliance group of anti-Communist Cuban revolutionary organizations. Cain and Frank were seeking aid and backing for Interpen from the FRD, and received a letter of introduction, addressed to Mr. Gamba, FRD headquarters, Miami.

MM T-1 said that at that time, Interpen consisted of about fourteen members, most of whom were staying at 1925 Southwest 4th Street, the residence of a Mrs. Hamilton, who allows them to stay there free, and frequently provides meals for them.

MM T-2, who is an official of the FRD, and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Tomas Gamba is an assistant to Manuel Antonio de Varela, Coordinator of the FRD. MM T-2

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said that it would be extremely doubtful that Gamba, or any other FRD official, would in any way help or take into membership any American group of volunteers.

MM T-1 subsequently advised that Hemming and Tom Cain contacted Gamba at FRD headquarters on June 8, 1961. They were treated courteously, but received no promises of help or offers of membership in the FRD, and were politely referred to Manuel Antonio de Varena, Coordinator of the FRD. MM T-1 explained that the FRD's policy has always been against accepting Americans, and it was extremely doubtful that Interpen would receive any aid from the FRD.

MM T-1 explained that Hemming and Interpen members have contacted many other Cuban organizations and individuals, seeking money donations, equipment and members, but they have always been refused.

Contact with Venezuelans

On May 25, 1961, MM T-1 advised that Hemming had made contact with a (first name unknown) Prato, an associate of Marcos Perez Jimenez, former dictator of Venezuela, presently residing in Miami Beach, Florida. Hemming had offered his services to Perez Jimenez for future revolutionary activity in Venezuela.

Prato later took Dick Watley and Robert Willis, members of Interpen and assistants to Hemming, to see Perez Jimenez. However, Perez Jimenez was unable to confer with them because he was too busy with the

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matter concerning his pending deportation hearing, to be held in the United States District Court in Miami. Prato said that Perez Jimenez wondered how it was possible for American adventurers, such as the Interpen members, to maintain a training camp, wear uniforms and practice military maneuvers in the United States, after they have publicly stated they plan to violate United States neutrality laws by proposed military attacks against Cuba. Perez Jimenez expressed some apprehension in cooperating with them, for fear they would be arrested by United States authorities. Willis and Watley planned to make an appointment to see Perez Jimenez at a later time concerning offering their services and those of Interpen to Perez Jimenez.

On June 5, 1961, MM T-1 advised that (first name unknown) Peleaz, 5733 Northwest 6th Place, Miami, representing Perez Jimenez, bought one hundred sixty dollars worth of food for a donation to Interpen. This food consisted mainly of rice, beans, and canned items.

On June 28, 1961, MM T-1 advised that representatives of Perez Jimenez were supposed to visit a camp site established at Key Largo, Florida by Interpen. At the camp site, they would be given demonstrations in military training and jungle survival by Hemming.

Interpen Unacceptable to Leading Cuban Organizations

MM T-1 advised that although Interpen had visited most of the leading Cuban revolutionary

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organizations, these organizations have refused to support, denate, take into membership, or cooperate with Interpen.

During May and June, 1961, the following individuals advised that their organizations would have nothing to do with Interpen:

Antonio Maceo, member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council

Orlando Garcia, Assistant to Aureliano Sanchez Arango, head of the Revolutionary Junta of Cuban Liberation

Ernesto Despaigne, in charge of intelligence for FRD

Rafael Diaz Balart, a leading member of the White Rose organization, and presently working with Carlos Prio Socarras, former President of Cuba.

Failure of Plans

MM T-1 explained that many of the irresponsible plans of Hemming have failed. One involved driving a car from Miami, Florida, to Guatemala, for some unknown revolutionary purpose. Hemming also was involved in another plan with Agustin Cape, a Cuban national, to go on a reconnaissance trip by boat to the Cay Sal Bank of islands, north of Cuba, and later establish a base for Interpen there for future commande raids against Cuba. This failed, inasmuch as Cape is being watched by the United States Border Patrol, and is afraid if he leaves on his boat, he will be arrested.

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Hemming had another plan to obtain a 106 foot salvage boat to take his group on a commando raid against Cuba. However, he was unable to obtain access to this boat. MM T-1 explained that Hemming has a new and different plan daily, does not follow through on any of them, and none of them ever succeed.

Press Publicity

The "Miami Herald," a daily newspaper published in Miami, Florida, on June 27, 1961, contained an article concerning Interpen, stating that most members are Americans, although the leaders claim the group includes Canadians, Venezuelans, Cubans and other anti-Communists. The article stated that the existence of this group was known by the Herald, but it became generally known to the public on June 26, 1961, after Florida Senator George A. Smathers disclosed that Cuban exiles are training in Florida. The article said that Senator Smathers' disclosure on a nation-wide radio network brought other newsmen and television cameramen to Interpen headquarters on June 26, 1961.

The article described Hemming as a "young giant, 6 feet 7 inches tall, with long wavy hair, a trimmed beard, an Australian bush hat, who looks like Errol Flynn in his earlier matinee days." The article stated that Hemming said the recruits are first housed at the headquarters, and then sent to a training site in the Everglades, accessible only by boat. The article continued, stating that Interpen holds parachute rigging classes in the middle of a street in Miami, and one elderly Miami couple stated

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they told the police, but the police said there was nothing they could do about it. The article said that the climax of Interpen training is parachute jumping at an abandoned South Florida airfield.

The article continued that Hemming hires a sky diving instructor and rents a light plane for the exercises, and during the jumping drills on the previous Saturday, the Sheriff's patrol officers looked on and made no attempt to interfere. The article went on that Interpen has about one hundred members, including some at bases in California and in the North, and its purpose was to fight Communism, look for adventure, or "because they just like soldiering." Joe Gorman, a member from Kentucky, was quoted as saying: "I would rather be shot to death than bored to death."

MM T-1, on June 27, 1961, advised that the above-mentioned article was out of proportion to the true situation, and served no other purpose than to obtain publicity for Hemming and attract more adventurers to the Miami area.

MM T-1 explained that on June 27, 1961, a plane was rented at Howe Aviation, Tamiami Airport, Miami, and flown to an abandoned field at Davie, Florida, where the plane was met by Hemming, Joe Gorman, Larry Worley, Frank Little and one other individual, name unknown, all Interpen members. Also there were Frank Fiorini, a notorious would-be soldier of fortune, a fourteen year old Cuban boy, and a news photographer from the "Miami Herald" newspaper.

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Joe Gorman and Larry Werley got in the airplane, and each made a parachute jump. When these two only available parachutes were repacked, Frank Little and Hemming boarded the airplane and made a parachute jump. The photographer took photographs, which appeared in a later issue of the "Miami Herald."

HM T-1 said that these were the first and only parachute jumps made by Interpen members. They were practice jumps, and fortunately, nobody was injured, inasmuch as none of these individuals has had any training or experience, and they are not in adequate physical condition.

On June 28, 1961, the "Miami Herald" contained an article stating that Interpen's Commander is the "biggest, strongest and most handsome member of the lot, and in his marine camouflage suit, Australian bush hat, wavy hair and beard, he has the look of an old-time French musketeer." The article continues by stating that Hemming is convinced that the pro-Communist Government of Cuba will be overthrown only by infiltration of guerrilla fighters; that he and his men live in a rooming house, and when they are not on training exercises in the Everglades Swamps, or parachuting at an abandoned airfield, they practice rigging parachutes in the street. The article continues that neighbors have complained, but the police contend there is nothing they can do. Hemming claims he does not try to hide the fact that Interpen is part of the International Anti-Communist Brigade, which is associated with the Revolutionary Junta of National Liberation, led by Aureliano Sanchez Arango.

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MM T-1, on June 27, 1961, advised that on that day, Hemming and three of his men went to Key Largo, Florida, later returned, and brought six others with them to establish a survival training camp somewhere in Key Largo in the Florida Keys.

MM T-1 explained that Hemming met someone who knew an individual owning property in Key Largo, and allowed them to use this property. MM T-1 explained that on June 28, 1961, representatives of Marcos Perez Jimenez are going to visit the camp site at Key Largo, and observe Hemming and his eight companions in their training maneuvers. MM T-1 said that Hemming will tell the Venezuelans that this is just one of the many combat squads of Interpen, and that many other squads are standing by at other places. Hemming hopes to fool the Venezuelans into giving him large donations of arms, equipment and food.

On June 27, 1961, the United States Border Patrol, Miami, advised that Inspector Harry Rhodes, of the United States Border Patrol at Homestead, Florida, received a call from fishermen off Julia Island in the Florida Keys that some shooting was going on. Upon arrival, Inspector Rhodes discovered that Hemming and his group were conducting a jungle survey training class, and Hemming had in his possession only one .22 caliber rifle, a small amount of ammunition and some equipment. The rifle shot apparently ricocheted and barely missed hitting a nearby fisherman. Those with Hemming were identified as Wynn Bollinger, born at Buffalo, New York, on April 27, 1943; Larry Worley, born at Mansfield, Ohio,

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on July 21, 1939; Thomas Nesiti, born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 25, 1937; Andrew Cherensak, born at Wilkeborough, Pennsylvania on December 4, 1932; J. C. Garza, born at Bowling Green, Kentucky on February 3, 1930; and Frank B. Little, born at Wasco, California on October 23, 1923. This group listed their residence as with a Mrs. Hamilton, 1925 Southwest 4th Street, Miami, Florida.

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