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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Report of: LEMAN L. STAFFORD, JR. Office: Miami, Florida
Date: AUG 17 1961

Field Office File #: 2-192 Bureau File #: 2-1499

Title: 1 FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS
Ref-242256

Character: ~~REGISTRATION - COMMUNIST~~
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

Synopsis:

On 7/2/61, MM T-1 informed that about 75 Cubans gathered at Davie Airport, Davie, Fla., where newsmen were waiting. Two airplanes were rented from Howe Aviation, Tamiami Airport, Miami. Planes were flown to Davie Airport where a group was to make parachute jump. Subject was in attendance with 3 or 4 of his men from his organization known as International Anti-Communist Brigade. Neither subject nor his men participated in parachute jumps, but were interviewed by press representatives. "Miami Herald" article 7/3/61 said International Brigade had billed exercise as a mass drop by some 70 parachutists of one of its member groups, the Intercontinental Penetration Forces (INTERPEN). During press interview, subject claimed that his organization had 5,000 members of which 700 were in active training to combat Communism. Source said newspaper article had greatly exaggerated truth and that subject had no more than 10 individuals in his organization at that time and INTERPEN had a maximum of 20 members. On 7/17/61 Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., directed letter to FBI stating it was opinion of Internal Security Division there is sufficient indication of possible violations of Title 18, USC, Section 960 to warrant investigation. On 8/9/61, MM T-1 reported subject had returned from Washington, D. C., several days

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Synopsis Continued:

ago and indicated he had had many conferences of importance with high military officials. MM T-1 said subject's organization actually consists of himself only, and the organization is nothing except a "paper" organization. Subject reported to have no following, is not attempting to recruit anyone.

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DETAILS:

On April 20, 1961, WILLIAM JOHN JOHNSON, 1271 Northwest 180th Terrace, Miami, and WILLIE MARVIN WALL, 69 West 58th Terrace, Miami, came to the Office of the FBI and informed SA JAMES M. COADY that subject was recruiting for a Cuban invasion. These individuals had seen subject with applications for the International Anti-Communist Brigade. They said they knew of four Cubans who had signed with subject, however, they were unable to furnish identities of these individuals.

Subject, with ALEXANDER I. RORKE, a free-lance photographer and reporter, were supposed to come by JOHNSON's residence at 10 PM on April 20, 1961, and subject allegedly would present his backer at that time. JOHNSON and WALL stated they would advise the FBI of further activities of subject.

The "Parade" magazine supplement of the "Miami Herald", Miami, Florida, dated May 14, 1961, contains an article by FRANK FIORINI as told to JACK ANDERSON, captioned "An American soldier of fortune in Cuba says 'WE WILL FINISH THE JOB'". The following is this article in its entirety:

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"Cuba is one of the biggest stories of 1961. It is a matter of grave concern to the whole world, and it is a major problem for the world's leaders. But also swept up in it are countless lesser men. Regardless of the final outcome, these men--Cuban exiles and fellow freedom fighters--are truly making history.

"One of these little men is Frank Fiorini. American-born, a Castro supporter who split with Castro, he played a prominent role in the April landings in Cuba. 'Parade' readers first met Fiorini in an article, Soldiers of Fortune (June 12, 1960). After the Castro revolution, Fiorini lost his U. S. citizenship. When he turned against Castro, however, Sen. George Smathers of Florida, on 'Parade's' appeal, helped Fiorini win a hearing before the State Department. On March 14 the citizenship of this dedicated freedom fighter was restored.

"Here Fiorini reveals the inside story of the April landings and what preceded them--and tells why he and his companeros will be victorious, in spite of the ups and downs.

"As you read this, the fight for Cuban freedom is continuing. My companeros on that embattled island possess the indomitable will of men who know that one setback or one victory does not decide the cause of liberty. It is this fiery spirit that has enabled them to strike back, again and again, against the Castro tyranny.

"Today it is popular to consider the April landings an attempted large-scale invasion which

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"Castro crushed. In truth, they were only a small raid, not a landing in force, as Castro would have the world now believe.

"Now I am free to reveal, for the first time, the truth of how the recent historic landings were plotted, and how, on April 17, they finally were carried out.

"For a long time, we had been working in stealth to establish our underground. We came and went under cover of the dark. Sometimes we slipped through the Sugar-Cane Curtain by boat, playing a deadly game of hide-and-seek with Castro's gunboats among the offshore atolls and coral reefs. Sometimes we swooped over the treetops by plane and looked down upon Castro's bright orange patrol cars. We kept secret trysts with underground leaders, dumped supplies from the air into guerrilla hideouts. We returned to Florida for more arms.

"Using a secret code taken from the Bible, we kept in daily radio contact with shopkeepers, students, workers, peasants, even militiamen. At night they blew up bridges, sabotaged factories, attacked small outposts.

"Many of us once fought for Castro and the democracy he promised. Now we fight against him who turned our dream of democracy into a Communist nightmare.

"A Fight for Freedom

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"Because I am an American, some call me a soldier of fortune. But my fight is for freedom. In my own way, I am fighting for my country, which cannot tolerate a Communist colony upon its back doorstep.

"From the first our fight against Castro was complicated by his own revolutionary experience. He recognized the strategic importance of the mountains, which he used as a base to batter Batista. Whereas Batista's troops stuck to the roads, Castro's militiamen swarmed over the mountains.

"He also knew that a successful revolt must have the support of the people. To hold the loyalty of the campesinos, the dirty-necks who inhabit the countryside, Castro put shirts on their backs and food in their bellies.

"Of no small help to Castro has been our own disunity. The Cuban exiles have been divided into a hundred movimientos preoccupied with their own rivalries. For over two years, they dissipated their funds and energies in internecine quarrels. Most have been mere debating societies whose members talked and dreamed big but have little support inside Cuba. I finally became fed up with all of them and formed my own International Brigade, training in the Florida Everglades.

"In helping to set up an anti-Castro force inside Cuba, I collaborated with Victor Emmanuel Paneque, the legendary 'Diago' who directed the Havana underground for Castro. Diago is a short, stocky daredevil who wears a cigar in his mouth as a permanent article of dress. He fears nothing.

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"One of our most important moves in preparing for the April landings was to open a guerrilla pocket inside Las Villas Province where Diago had been raised. He prepared to activate his underground in Cuba, and I alerted my International Brigade. But first, we had to scout the scene in Las Villas.

"Shortly before Christmas, we arranged to meet the underground chiefs at a secret spot on Cuba's northern coast. We communicated by radio, using the Bible code. We headed for a tiny atoll in the Bahamas.

"Diago had cached arms on the atoll with all the secrecy of the notorious pirate Captain Kidd, who, according to legend, used these same atolls for burying his treasure. We loaded a 45-foot cabin cruiser with arms, mounted a 20 mm. cannon in the stern and plowed across the Caribbean.

"After dark we anchored in a cove off the north coast of Las Villas. The silence was complete. Not a light, not a sound from shore; only the gentle, soothing lapping of the water against the cruiser's hull. But in Castro's Cuba by night, you never knew when machine guns would start to chatter and tracers cut their strange patterns like fireflies about your ears.

"Short of Ammunition

"We waited tensely. Then from the shore came the wink of a flashlight. We returned the

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"signal. After another wait, there was a faint drip-drip of muffled oars.

"As a rowboat with four men aboard pulled alongside, Diago and I cocked our Tommy guns. But our visitors spoke the right password. Two were commanders in Castro's militia; the others were civilians. All were members of Diago's underground.

"We hid on an atoll for a few days while we transferred our lethal cargo to the mainland and received reports of what was happening in Cuba. The patriotic leaders who visited us, always by rowboat after dark, told of growing anger against Castro. His alliance with communism had disillusioned most thinking men. But even the masses were muttering over the hardships he produced by purchasing Communist arms instead of food and putting guns before butter.

"The underground chiefs revealed a chink in Castro's armor: his militia bristled with weapons that were short of ammunition. By rationing ammunition, Castro unwittingly showed how little he trusted his own men. Apparently he took no chances that they would defect and turn their arms against him.

"This scarcity of ammunition was discovered by Diago's men. These daredevils would creep up behind Castro militiamen, prod them with daggers and order them to drop their guns and ammunition belts. If they would agree to walk

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"straight ahead without looking back, their lives would be spared.

"Diago's contacts also supplied us with a list of chevitos, Castro informers, in Las Villas. But our plan to open a new guerrilla front received an unexpected setback. The Democratic Revolutionary Front launched a guerrilla attack in the very area we had chosen. Castro poured in his militia in tremendous numbers. Of 200 guerrillas, only 40 escaped.

"Dismayed, we abandoned our plan and pulled back to the Bahamas. We tried to deliver another boatload of weapons, but before our cabin cruiser could make contact, it was caught in the headlight of a jeep patrolling the coastal road. Then a Cuban frigate, apparently summoned by radio, bore down on us. We managed to give it the slip, however, by racing to the offshore atolls, where the water was too shallow and snagged with coral reefs for the bigger ship to follow.

"Meanwhile, Castro's agents in Miami suspected what we were up to. They had orders upon our return never to let us out of their sight. But we turned the tables on them and began spying on them. I intercepted a telegram to one Castro agent, Rudy Faneitty, who was registered at Miami Beach's Surrey Hotel. The wire, obviously in code, was addressed to 'Lieutenant' Faneitty and was signed by

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"Celia Sanchez. I remember Celia well from my service with Castro in the Sierra Maestra. She was probably closer to Fidel than any other person.

"Back at our base in the Bahamas, we rented a twin-engined plane, which we loaded with weapons and fitted with Cuban markings. We hoped these might discourage the militia from taking pot shots at us as we flew low over Cuba.

"It was 6:30 a.m. when we zoomed across the beach at tree-top level. The sun was up, and people were stirring. We spotted several bright orange patrol cars with cream-colored tops. Militiamen waved at us; our masquerade was succeeding.

"Back to the Boat

"Diago assured me that we could land on the roadway near the rendezvous spot. But the roads were either too short, too curved or too narrow to set the plane down. We circled the area for 35 anxious minutes, then decided to dump the arms. Fortunately we had prepared for this emergency. The weapons were wrapped in blankets of foam rubber to prevent damage.

"The weapons were picked up and safely hidden. On successive days, we made two more attempts to land. We circled in vain over sugar-cane fields and green hills. Each time we were forced to drop our supplies.

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"The best way to get ashore, we decided, was by boat. This time we pointed our cabin cruiser toward Oriente Province where I had once fought alongside Castro in the mountains. As we churned across the sea, we amused ourselves by listening to Castro rage over Radio Havana about our flights. Castro screamed about 'invasion planes', naming the areas over which we had flown. The phony markings, which had confused the militiamen, didn't fool him.

"A United Front

"For several days we tried to land on the Cuban shore, but Castro's gunboat patrols proved too vigilant and we had to give up the effort. Meanwhile, however, another group of men went ashore in Pinar Del Rio Province. Among them was Angus McNair, a fellow American. But five of the group, including McNair, somehow got separated from the others and were picked up by Castro's militia. Now McNair, a dedicated fighter for freedom, has been shot by Castro without trial. So have other valiant friends of our cause.

"But McNair and the others did not die in vain. And it is important to remember that, whatever our situation now, Castro himself did not win his triumph for three long years. Despite all the ups and downs, victories and defeats, those of us who believe in Cuban freedom are in the battle to the end."

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MM T-1, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities for the past four years furnished the following information on July 2, 1961:

On July 2, 1961, about seventy-five Cubans gathered at Davie Airport, Davie, Florida, where about six newsmen were waiting. These newsmen represented United Press International, Time and Life magazines, and some Spanish-language newspapers published in Miami on a weekly basis.

Two airplanes were rented from Howe Aviation, Tamiami Airport, Miami. One plane was a four-place Cessna, Registration Number 9197D. The other plane was a two-place Piper Colt. These planes were flown to Davie Airport, where GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, DICK WATLEY, FRANK LITTLE and ORLANDO GARCIA each made a parachute jump. HEMMING, WATLEY and LITTLE belong to HEMMING's organization, known as Intercontinental Penetration Forces. ORLANDO GARCIA is one of the officials of the Revolutionary Junta of National Liberation. Also making a parachute jump was LEON DANIEL, United Press International Bureau Manager from Knoxville, Tennessee. DANIEL claimed that he had made previous parachute jumps, but on landing from this jump, he fractured his ankle and was taken to Broward General Hospital, Broward County, Florida.

The newsmen photographed the parachute jumping. There were no other military maneuvers or mock attacks, as were previously planned. ELOY GUTIERREZ MENOYO, former commander in the Cuban Revolutionary Army, did not attend this demonstration. AGUSTIN CAPO, a Cuban national, was supposed to come and demonstrate radio equipment to be used in some military attack against the present Cuban Government. However, CAPO did not appear.

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FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, also known as FRANK FIORINI, appeared dressed in civilian clothes, with three or four of his men from his organization, known as the International Anti-Communist Brigade. Neither FIORINI nor his men participated in the parachute jumps, but they were interviewed by the press representatives.

About forty other Cuban nationals and members of the Revolutionary Junta of National Liberation posed for photographers, simulating hearing a lecture on the techniques of parachuting. They also did some close order drill for the benefit of the photographers. Newsmen also interviewed different individuals.

The "Miami Herald", a daily newspaper published in Miami, Florida, on July 3, 1961, contained an article stating that the International Brigade had billed the exercise as a mass drop by some seventy parachutists, of one of its member groups, the Intercontinental Penetration Forces. The article stated the drop was scheduled for 9 AM, but by noon there were only some forty anti-CASTRO recruits on hand to jump. A spokesman for the International Brigade stated they had only two parachutes and intended to borrow others to give everybody a chance to jump. The article stated that FRANK FIORINI, the head of the International Brigade, claimed that his organization had five thousand members, of which seven hundred were in active training to combat Communism, wherever it exists. He further claimed that the organization includes air and parachute groups, underwater demolition teams, and many others who will not fight, but will help in educational activities.

The article continued that JOHN PATRICK HEMMING, head of the Intercontinental Penetration Forces, claims to be an ex-Marine, with almost five years of experience in the Corps, who fought with CASTRO from 1958

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to August, 1960, and also fought with the rebel forces in Nicaragua, trying to overthrow President LUIS SOMOZA. HEMMING claimed that his organization consists of a headquarters group of about thirty persons, and others are strung out across the United States on recruiting missions.

MM T-1 advised that the above newspaper article had greatly exaggerated the truth, and that FIORINI has no more than ten individuals in his organization, and HEMMING's organization has a maximum of twenty members.

On July 3, 1961, MM T-1 reported that subject and GERALD PATRICK HEMMING were very happy and pleased after the demonstration as described above.

Subject made a statement that the United States Government had called him and had plans for him but that he should wait until the end of the fiscal year when the United States Government will have more money to give subject for his International Brigade. Subject refused to state which United States Government agency will support him.

On July 17, 1961, J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, directed a letter to the FBI. This letter in part states as follows:

"It is noted that recent information furnished to the Department concerning the subject indicates that he is identified as head of the International Anticommunist Brigade and was present with several of his men at a gathering of some 75 Cubans at Davie Airport, Davie, Florida, on July 2, 1961, at which occasion, Gerald Patrick Hemming, head of the Inter-continental Penetration Forces, and several

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"Individuals made parachute jumps. The 'Miami Herald' on July 3, 1961, reportedly contained an article indicating that approximately 70 men of Sturgis' organization were scheduled to make parachute jumps but only two parachutes were available. In this article Sturgis (Florini) claimed his organization has 5,000 men of which 700 are in training and that his organization includes paratroop groups, underwater demolition teams, and others in educational activities."

The Department concluded that in light of the above described activities on the part of the subject, as well as his past history of extensive revolutionary activity, it was the opinion of the Internal Security Division that there is sufficient indication of possible violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 960 to warrant investigation.

On July 18, 1961, MM T-1 informed that JERRY BUCHANAN, known to him as "BUCKY", had escaped arrest by the Miami Police Department in connection with the theft of the tug boat "Gil Rokie" on February 4, 1961. MM T-1 identified the photograph of BUCHANAN which had appeared in the "Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch-The Portsmouth Star", dated May 16, 1961.

MM T-1 advised that BUCHANAN was formerly associated with a group of individuals who trained at No Name Key, Florida, under the auspices of ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS. BUCHANAN lived for a period of time at 1651 West Flagler Street, Miami, a barracks-type boarding and rooming house which was furnished by MASFERRER.

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After the Miami City Police Department arrested most of the individuals living at this location for vagrancy, the group disbanded and several of them, including BUCHANAN, joined with KENNETH JOSEPH PROCTOR and his group at the Cuba Hotel, 35 Northwest 17th Court, Miami. BUCHANAN was associated with PROCTOR from approximately October, 1960, when they were both with MASFERRER, until February 4, 1961, at which time PROCTOR was one of those arrested by the Miami Police Department for the theft of the "Gil Rokie".

MM T-1 has no information that BUCHANAN is currently recruiting for FIORINI. BUCHANAN is believed to be in the Norfolk area and is known to have been associated with FRANK FIORINI in the Miami area; however, there is no indication he is associating with FIORINI at the present time.

On July 18, 1961, Detective Sergeant CHARLES SAPP, Intelligence Unit, Miami Police Department, advised that his department had information relating to BUCHANAN alleging he had participated in the theft of the tug boat "Gil Rokie" February 4, 1961. Detective Sergeant SAPP explained that his office was no longer interested in this matter. The four individuals arrested at this time in connection with the theft served approximately 30 days and have since been released. There is no process outstanding for BUCHANAN and he is not wanted by the Miami Police Department.

On July 21, 1961, the Counter Intelligence Corps of the United States Army, Columbia, South Carolina, informed that on July 20, 1961, a confidential source had furnished the following information to Counter Intelligence Corps at Fort Jackson, South Carolina:

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On an unknown date, believed to be between July 20, 1961, and August 1, 1961, a commando-type raid was to be made by the International Brigade against two Russian ships in either Matanzas Harbor or Mariel Harbor, Cuba. This source was of the belief the action would take place in Mariel Harbor because there the commandos can maneuver better and this is the harbor where the largest of the Russian ships are unloading. The raid was to be led by VICTOR PENECHÉ (probably VICTOR PANEQUE) also known as Commander Diego, and would consist of a total of eight men utilizing an old American-type PT boat. The last time the source knew of the location of this boat was that it was in Florida.

On August 9, 1961, MM T-1 furnished the following information:

Subject returned from Washington, D. C., several days ago and indicated he had had many conferences of importance with high military officials of the United States Government. He did not identify any of these individuals. He said that insofar as the Cuban anti-CASTRO effort is concerned, no one will receive any support from the United States Government other than JOSE MIRO CARDONA.

MM T-1 said that as of this moment, subject's International Brigade consists of one member only, that of the subject himself. MM T-1 said subject's organization is nothing but a "paper" organization, that he has no following and is not attempting to recruit anyone into his International Anti-Communist Brigade. Subject stays out late most every evening and claims to be attending many important meetings otherwise unexplained by him.

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MM T-1 said GERALD PATRICK HEMMING now has no use whatever for subject and does not regard him as being of any potential importance in any anti-CASTRO movement.

Subject said he was told by a United States Naval official in Washington, D. C., that if he really wanted to do something constructive to assist the United States Government, he should join the United States Army. Subject said this he will positively not do.

Subject presently resides at an address in the 1300 block of Northwest 133rd Street, Miami, Florida, and his telephone number is MU 1-5864.

MM T-1 also said JERRY BUCHANAN, who formerly lived in the Miami area and was associated with subject, is no longer in this area and it is believed he has returned to the northeastern section of the United States, though his exact location is not known.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBF 56463

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2-192

Miami, Florida

AUG 17 1961

RE: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS
~~REGISTRATION ACT - CURA~~
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent LEMAN L. STAFFORD, JR., dated and captioned as above at Miami, Florida.

MM T-1, mentioned in this report, has furnished reliable information in the past.

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