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15 November 1960

Memorandum for the President

1. One of our confidential informants recently paid our San
Francisco Bureau Agent a telephone call on the part of Paul Philip
Margaret Sharkey. The source advised that she has received
a series of requests from the FBI regarding copying of the Bureau's
activities and public programs since she arrived in the
US. The Bureau in question also requested that she be placed in the
FBI's custody and reportedly visited her twice in March
1940, which has never been reported for them, according to
our records' confidentially and of which Marguerite has the
personal papers. The source reported in a covering letter
that he had been publishing Marguerite's activities without fee
for a period of two weeks.
2. The source in question has been engaged in the public relations
business, and was asked for more details concerning the Marguerite
business and publicity campaign, and stated particularly how it
was that he had worked for Marguerite for no fee without fee.
3. The source advised that early in 1940 an unidentified
individual set up a special account in The Radio Trust Company,
New York City. The purpose of this fund was to finance the
above-mentioned Marguerite business and publicity campaign. The
source was then approached by a man named C. L. Rice. Rice is an
oil and natural gas driller and geologist and has an office at
the following address: 111 West Street, New York, New York
(Room 1111). Rice's role throughout has been to
administer the special account mentioned above. The account,
which is in the name of the Radio Trust Company, New York, has
all been in the name of the Radio Trust Company, New York. When
the source was first approached by Rice, he was told that the
Radio Trust Company was a subsidiary of Marguerite's
business.

100-6470

08850

CHIEF, NY/622
 NY 622

4. During the Spring of 1964, the Cuban and other persons set up an organization called "Pueblo Libre de Cuba, Inc." The purpose of this organization is to raise money to finance a revolution against Castro. The following individuals are identified as being involved with "Pueblo Libre":

a. Douglas P. Hall.--Hall is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Levy, Golems, Goldberg, and Hall. This firm has its principal office at 44 South Street, P.O. Box 1000, New York (New York), and a branch office in Manhattan (300 Broadway Avenue) (Hall: CH 4-6670).

b. Mrs. Kate Taffo.--Our source did not further identify Mrs. Taffo. She is, according to another source, a lady who has been involved in running arms to Cuba and other such activities. The other source volunteered this information during the course of a conversation regarding other matters.

5. At about the time that "Pueblo Libre" made its appearance there also appeared on the scene an individual named Dan Wax, who represents himself as a "retired New England shoe manufacturer now living in Florida". Wax interested himself vociferously in "Pueblo Libre" and at the same time alienated Hall, Taffo and our source. In consequence, the "Pueblo Libre" people have never done anything with that corporation, but have let it remain inactive. Their reason for so doing is that they don't trust Wax and do not wish to get involved with him. In answer to the inquiry as to the reason for their mistrust of Wax, the source stated simply that they have no specific reason, but that they just don't wish to work with him. They don't trust him. Consequently, "Pueblo Libre" has remained a paper organization; no money has been raised through it.

6. Our source stated that Hall and Mrs. Taffo both know William Douglas Brown and Arthur H. Brown. They are our source's best friends and are very active in the "Pueblo Libre" movement. They want the new corporation to be dedicated to the halting of the spread of Communism throughout the Western Hemisphere and they want it to have various subcommittees. The

END

HH-6495

Chief, FBI/CSA
 100-100000

information would be provided to the press. This, too, surprisingly, there would be a press release for Cuba. Our source and his two colleagues said that a newspaper directed solely at Cuba is too far off and that a newspaper will attract more readers. Establishing the newspaper, of course, the great purpose of the new distribution is to overthrow Castro. Operating in the manner of the Western Hemisphere is at the heart of our strategy for success in their eyes. This newspaper is the main reason for the decision to target about "Prensa Libre", which is directed only towards Cuba.

7. Our source and his friends have everything ready to go, but need money. The source wished to make a start by getting Sanchez, Varona, and Negrer to sign a political alliance and to publicize the said alliance by means of a press conference and subsequent publicity devices. The money, of course, would be used to finance the revolution against Castro.

8. Our source also stated that an individual whom he identified as Charles B. Reeves is putting up the money to make a political movie starring Noel Chidag, Bina Lora, and others. The source told that Reeves is affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company.

9. Finally, our source told him that from the outset of the entire affair he has discussed it in detail with Mr. Frank (?) O'Brien, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City. Mr. O'Brien may be reached at LE 5-7700, Extension 202.

10. We would appreciate KJ Division comments regarding any interest in the above proposal. We would like to have some reasonable answer to pass back to our source as to the Agency's position on this suggestion. Please contact Mr. Robert S. Travis, CE/CS, Support Branch, Extension 2640, for further information on this matter.

11. Thanks very much.

RSTravis/js

cc: Index

SOURCE: (per request to R. H. by Index)

E. M. ABBEY

HA-6495

TO : Chief, Postcard Division
FROM : Support Branch
SUBJECT: Chief, New York Office
New Haven Resident Agency--John M. Rife, Head
Possible Political Operation in Cuba

[illegible]

Michael feels that what follows could be one of two things. First, it could be part of a political operation which the experts have already launched. Michael has a hunch it sounds a bit like this. If it is indeed an operation, there is a moral, evil and good. The only comment which Michael will make in this case is that some people talk too much. Second, it may be a genuine proposition. Michael feels that this, too, could be the case, because he thinks that the source would not have broached the subject, unless he (the source), at least, were unwilling. In any case, the story follows.

One of Marshall's cleared sources recently sent him a brochure written by Dr. Carlos Marquez Berling, who was not to be further identified here. The source enclosed with the brochure a series of reprints from US newspapers dealing with Marquez's activities and public pronouncements since his arrival in the US. The brochure in question demonstrated the ways in which Fidel Castro has attempted to obliterate the Cuban Constitution of 1940, which has never been revealed (likely, according to Marshall's understanding) and of which Marquez was the first author. The source reported in a covering letter that he had been engaged to last year's activities without fee for a period of the month, and that he was now unemployed. He ended the letter by saying that he would be glad to provide further information regarding the 1940 Constitution and the activities of the author of the brochure.

1. The following information was obtained from the files of the FBI:

08851

SUBJECT: Possible Political Operations in Cuba

3. The source told Mitchell that early in 1960 an unidentified individual set up a special account in the Bank of America, New York City. The purpose of this fund was to finance the efforts concerned with the defense and publicity campaign. Mitchell's source was then approached by a man named C. L. Rice. Rice is an oil and natural gas driller and geologist who has an office at the following address: 20 Broad Street, New York, New York (Tel.: DL-4-1410). Rice's role throughout has been to administer the special account mentioned above. The account, incidentally, amounted to US\$5,000. Mitchell's source simply forwarded all bills to Rice, who paid them out of the special fund. When the money ran out, the source's activities on behalf of Marquez came to a halt.

4. During the Spring of 1960, the source and some friends set up an organization called "Puebla Libre de Cuba, Inc.". The purpose of this organization is to raise money to finance a revolution against Castro. The following individuals are identified as being involved with "Puebla Libre".

a. Douglas P. Null. Null is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Levy, Gutzman, Goldberg, and Null. This firm has its principal office at 45 North Station Plaza, Great Neck (Long Island), New York (Tel.: HU-7-6010) and a branch office in Manhattan (363 Seventh Avenue (Tel.: CH-4-6670)).

b. Mrs. Kate Taffe. Mitchell's source did not further identify Mrs. Taffe. She is, according to another source of Mitchell's, a lady who has been involved in running arms to Cuba and other such activities. The other source volunteered this information during the course of a conversation regarding other matters.

5. At about the time that "Puebla Libre" made its appearance there also appeared on the scene an individual named Dan Wax, who represents himself as a "retired New England shoe manufacturer now living in Florida". Wax interested himself vociferously in "Puebla Libre" and at the same time alienated Null, Taffe, and Mitchell's source. In consequence, the "Puebla Libre" people have never done anything with that corporation, but have let it remain inactive. Their reason for so doing is that they don't trust Wax and do not wish to get involved with him. ~~Wax has stated~~ the reason for their mistrust of Wax, the source stated simply that they have no specific reason, but that they just don't wish to work with him. They don't trust him. Consequently, "Puebla Libre" has remained a paper organization; no money has been raised through it.

6. Mitchell's source stated that Null and Mrs. Taffe both know Aureliano Sanchez Arango and Antonio Varona. They and Mitchell's source want to set up a new corporation, forgetting about "Puebla Libre" and Wax, with a wider ostensible aim than that of "Puebla Libre". They want the new corporation to be dedicated to the halting of the spread of Communism throughout the Western Hemisphere and they want it to have various subcommittees. The subcommittees would be geographical in nature. Thus, not surprisingly, there would be a subcommittee for Cuba.

HH-6495

STREET: Rockledge Boulevard

[illegible]

Stomach's source and his allies have, not only failed to do, but have wanted. The source wished to have a stand by getting Castro, Figue, and himself to sign a political alliance and to publicize the said alliance by means of a press conference and subsequent radio unity drives. The money, of course, would be used to finance the revolution against Castro.

15. ~~His~~ source also stated that an individual whom he identified as Charles S. Reeves is putting up the money to make a political movie starring Paul Robeson, Rian Lane, and others. The source told Mitchell that Reeves is affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company.

10. Finally, Mitchell's source told him that from the outset of the entire affair he has discussed it in detail with Mr. Frank (?) O'Brien, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City. Mr. O'Brien may be reached at LE-5-7700, Extension 232.

12. Mitchell told his source the he would submit the information and the proposition for funds and let him know the reaction. Please inquire of WH Division, 120A, (a) whether or not they are interested in financing the proposed corporation, or (b) whether or not the mysterious US\$5,000 came from them in the first place or that, consequently, the whole thing is their property. If alternative (a) is the case, Mitchell's source is clearly unwitting. Please advise Mitchell whether or not to tell his source that CIA is not interested in his proposition or that he should reveal the first place without letting him in on the secret, or what. If the source is not involved in this whole thing and wishes to discuss it with Mitchell, please so advise John H. Mitchell, of the New Haven Resident Office, so that he can make the arrangements, subject to request for his usual clearance. Thank you very much.

J.J. Goss
July 2, 1906

ALL 6/20/50