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DDO files on WerBell

[WIZELMAN]

Reported by Irving Richard Poyle: (document dated in January 1974). Anselmito Alixgro is reportedly working for WerBell. Alixgro and one "Jerry Patrick" are reportedly carrying CIA identification and telling Cubans in Miami that they and WerBell are CIA. Reportedly had a business on 8th Street and sold ~~ga~~ guns.

Letter from Edwin Marger re: clarification of WerBell's 201 request, dated 30 Dec 1975 says that MW was in "Cuba at the time of the Castro Military Operation", Dominican Republic during military operation, Thailand and Vietnam.

FOIA request routing slip, dated 17 April, 1975 says that WerBell's POA was granted so as to use him as a source ~~for~~ on revolutionary matters in "the Caribbean area, specifically Cuba and the Dominican Republic." POA granted 4 August 1959. POA was cancelled in Oct 1959 ~~when~~ at the request of WHD "as use of the Subject was no longer contemplated." 0002319

Dispatch from Chief of JMWAVE to Chief of WH dated 13 Jun 1966:

"According to his file WerBell appears to be a low level, would-be con man who has a history of being involved in Castro assassination schemes and of professing to be connected, or at least in contact with KUBARK. According to AMRAZZ/1, ~~Livingston~~ 'Livingston' was involved with Antonio Veciana's alleged assassination ploy and he was masquerading as a KUBARK officer.... 2. 'Livingston' has as yet failed to call on AMRAZZ/1 as he had promised Cogswell in New York City." signed by Philip G. Elmard.

Dispatch no date, j by Elmard:

James Cogswell ~~is~~ a NY attorney ~~involved~~ mentioned in connection with raising funds for Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo.

- " b. Antonio Veciana Blanch (201-312966) - Born 18 October 1928 in Havana. He is a public accountant by profession. He is titular head of Alpha 66 and a member of MRP and SFNE. He lives in Puerto Rico. He has a cryptonym and is of marginal operational interest to JMWAVE CI Branch as a source of information obtained by AMKnob/1 for the CUIS." date is probably around same time as previous as has same subject heading and concerns same people operation, etc.

Contact report dated 25 April 1966:

"Cogswell told (am)Razz that he was expecting Antonio Veciana at that moment. Veciana, Cogswell saidn, was in a plan to assassinate Fidel Castro. Details of the plan were lacking. Veciana wanted Cogswell to introduce him to a man known andly as FNU Livingston, form 'Wintson, Massachusetts.' Cogswell's sister, name unknown, who works in Washington, DC-presented Livingston to Cogswell about a month ago. Veciana showed up while Cogswell and Razz were talking. Veciana surprise at seeing Razz was astounding. In private, VecianaCogswell told Razz that on Sunday night, 17 April, he had introduced Veciana to Livingston. The latter two had spoken in private after which veciana came away very pleased but did not disclose anything except that he had a plan to assassinate Castro." Cogswell "will be remembered as being involved in fund raising for the 'Prince-Pelaez' plot to kill Castro."

MW requested CIA permission for an attempt of Fidel in January, 1966. The permission was requested in December 1965.

MW reported he was taking a group of about 6 Cubans in to get Fidel and Raul at a big rally in Havana.'

MW also discussed plan with one Richard Phillips, Public Affairs Officer, Department of State. His boat was equipped with mortars.

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MW contacted "occasionally at headquarters" before his POA revoked. It was revoked because "it was determined that he had no worthwhile information to offer nor was he able to develop any. He was assessed by Headquarters as a 'wheller dealer' type with considerable intelligence but unable to realize much success in promotion work and that his approaches to KUBARK were designed primarily to obtain financial support." Dispatch UFGW-5572 dated 28 Sept 1965. also says that in May of 62 was in Managua as vice president of Communications International Ltd attempting to sell surplus arms. Was also attempting to sell an "International Investigation Service". Attempts were unsuccessful. In December of 64 was reported in Dominican Republic in association with Finca/Frutas intercontinentales, C&P A.

Cable from JMBARR ~~xx~~ (Wave Cite Barr 2232) dated 28 Sept 65: AMSWIRL/1 said that WerBell was a crew member on Venus and worked with "JURE Group".

Dispatch UFGA-23126 dated 2;0 Sept 1965 reports MW's connection with AMLEO/3 and his group.

AMLEO-3's sister contacting her uncle, Emilio Nunez Portuondo to help since AMLEO-3 has been captured by GOC.

Cable to Mana from DIR (12828) dated 16/8/62 says "Relationship ~~xx~~ (with MW) terminated on friendly basis October 1959. ~~xx~~ KUBARK opinion ~~xx~~ WerBell wished use KUBARK funds to promote his personal interests. His intel not highly regarded." Cabled released by J.C.King, Authenticated by William K. Harvey.

Cross reference to a document (Guat-02709?) that sez MW back in Guatamala and is presing GOC to make "United Organizations for Liberation of Cuba the basis for Exile government in Dec. 1962. Pressure being applied through Ydigoras son.

Memo for file, Dated 18 February 1963 reports WerBell and Arthur L. Smith were attempting to Get Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador to recognize a de facto Cuban government in exile called "United Organization ~~xx~~ for the Liberation of Cuba:" head of organization was Mario Garcia Kohly (provisional president) WerBell reportedly offered \$100,000 to Nic Govt. Also associated with group were Frank M. Austin, Marshall R. Diggs, Manuel Fuego (aka Firestone) and Col. John F. Kieffer.

Unless subsequently noted this is the only document for 1963.

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Guat 2441 dated 1 Sept 1962:

Mayor of Miami Robert King also involved in trying to unite Cuban exiles, was meeting with Ydigoras and was backing group called Consejo Reolucionario Cdbana

Salv 4225 dated 24 Aug 1962:

Tony Verona visits President Rivera on 21st. Reports Kohly has been a rival of Miro Cardona and Varona elements. Admits Kohly Anti-Castro but says he is probably trying to sabotage Varona's efforts or "gain ascendancy".

Guat 2426 dated Aug 22, 62 reports WerBells arrival and that he is accompanied by on Lucy Luchien.

Wave 7169 dated 17 Aug 1962 says:

"files reflect Mario Garcia Kohly previous maneuvers over long period to obtain financial support from Kubark and Odoath. Overtures turned down basis unfounded claims. Detailed investigation made by Mr. Robert Andrews."

NAVY

DIR 30730637 dated 17 August 1962:

"Garcia Kohly, WerBell, and Smith are well known Kubark Hqs and considered to be wheelers and dealers, peddlers of grandiose schemes, and unscrupulous. Garcia Kohly is well aware of Odyoke opposition to Cuban Govt in exile as result his persistent tho unsuccessful efforts sell self and Govt in exile concept to Odyoke and private Pbprime businessmen past two years."

Gua t 2423 dated 21 Aug 1962:

reports rWerBell involved in an earlier effort to sell arms and provide anti-commie mercenaries to Guat.

16 Aug 62, Mana 4029 reports tha t group planning invasion for mid-august. Organization in Cuba called Junta Civica Militiar Cristiano(JCMC) and the exile chief is one Colonel Jose Pinexiro Paz. Thsi cable reports that Nic wants to sign the protocal. (they eventually of course don't)

Guat 2412 dated 15 Aug 62:

Smith has cards showing him as Vice President of Faraday Technical Corp., 228A SW 2nd Ave., Miami. Reports that on E J.A. Kane and Josi Euleterio Pedraza Cabrega. WerBell and Kane were in Guat in May 62 offering to sell small arms and mercenaries.

DIR 29811 dated 14 Aug 62 reports tht MW travelled to Dominican Republic in 1959 and became involved with Anti Castro plotters. Smith, as of June 60 was a member of Jones and Handy Marine Architect Firm, Miami. Smith travelled to Cuba several times between January 1959 and March 1960. Firm was working on a steel mill in Oriente province. One "Piner" "Pineiro" is allegedly involved in plot. HQ can't ID an exile with that name who may be travelling to Guat. Reports that "Major Manuel Pineiro Losada is Assistant Chief Cuban G-2 and well nown member Castro's entourage" but unlikely that this is the one involved because the difficulties he would have in traveling to Guat.

Wave 6830 dated Aug 11, 62 reports thta MW was involved in Plan to ship arms to Ecuador "for attempted overthrow there by CP." this according to one Patrick J. Karnley, At time COS in San Jaun.

Guat 2406 reports that MW and Simth are in Guat awaiting the arival of one "Colonel Piniero, aka Commandante Barbarosa." dated 9 Aug 1962

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Mana 3949 dated 21 May 1962 says that MW and Manual Firesotne trying to sell Mato Surpluss weapons.

[] Memo for Record dated 13 October 1959: MW called him on 9/25 to report a big meeting of "heavy financiers of the opposition to Castro" to be held in DC during week of 9/28. involved: Jorge Bethart and FNU Sanchez Nunez. MW asks that CIA underwrite his attendance of meeting. [] recommends to C/WH/III that "we either terminate Subject or put him to work" terminated for following reasons:

"a. his motivation is obviously to use the Agency as a source of financing for his personal business schemes.

b. As an American his access to full information on Cuban revolutionary activities will always be limited. This is borne out by the fact that his information, while indicating some access, has been incomplete and obviously second or third hand."

[] again talked to MW on 10/2:

"I told Subject that after due consideration of the risks to him, the cost in time and effort to him, and the risks and expenses involved for the Agency, balanced against assets generally available throughout the intelligence community and his access to additional information, it had been decided not to give him any operational tasks at this time,. I suggested that since the bulk of the matters which come to his attention in connection with the Cuban matter take place in the United States, he should report such information to the FBI. Subject appeared to understand that we would not use him and expressed his regret. The conversation ended on a friendly note."

[] memo for the record dated 23 Sept 1959: Werbell reports that "Joe Merola and a number of others have been discussing the counterfeiting of United States dollars and Cuban pesos for use in connection with Cuban revolutionary activities." F suggests he tell FBI and MW says he will. MW reported back that FBI referred him to SS. ~~Klaxax~~

[] memo for record dated 5 Aug 59:

"Although he has been evasive and obviously not completely frank with us, it appears that WerBell does have access to information of interest on Cuban and Dominican Revolutionary activities aimed against the Castro Government, and that he is well connected with the underworld elements operating in the Miami area."

Memo also notes that Flores has learned of POA.

[] memo for the Record dated 5 August 1959:

Report from AMBOAR that William Morgan is involved in a plot to assassinate Castro. (Subject is telephone conversations with "Reichhardt".) also has this paragraph: "Reichhardt said that he was out of touch also with Nunez Portuondo. He said he had tried to phone Nunez on a number of occasions but the phone was not answered. Discreet inquires in Miami also indicated that Nunez' location is unknown at this time. Reichhardt said he is still holding the letter from Col. King to Nunez."

Documents also indicate that WerBell was providing information on A "General Pedraza who was in the Dominican Republic in 1959 trying to organize anti-Castro activities. Involved with Pedraza was Rolondo Masferrer.

MW was reporting that Masferrer was one of Pedraza's contacts in the US.

Undated memo for ~~the files from~~ WH/C/OPS: on "call from Mr. Dick Phillips (State) regarding the Arrest of JAMLEO-3. :

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"The three Cubans that WerBell reported arrested are Jose Ricardo Rabel Nunez (Amleo-3), Gilberto Fondora and Miguel Ramos. These men were crew members of the JURE mother vessel Venus. From JMWAVE reports it appears that AMLEO-3 was attempting to exfiltrate his family, using the Venus, when he was caught by Cuban security forces on 3 September 1965.

Various memos show that MW reporting on Joe Marola.

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