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*Dropped interest
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13 October 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mitchell L. WER BELL

1. Subject phoned me on 25 September to report that a super-secret meeting was to be held in Washington during the week of 28 September. The conferees would be a group of "heavy financiers of the opposition to CASTRO in Cuba." The purpose of the meeting is to decide on action to be taken against CASTRO.

2. Subject said he was invited to attend by Jorge BETHART, one of the leaders of the group. Also attending will be one SANCHEZ Nunez (fnu), who lives on his yacht in Miami. Subject said they are interested in him because of his contacts with the World-Wide International Service, the news agency with which he is affiliated. He said the Cuban opposition does not intend to let CASTRO harvest the next sugar crop.

3. Subject said he would like to attend the meeting, but has invested so much money in the Cuban matter already without any return, that he cannot do so unless we are prepared to underwrite his attendance. I told him that I would let him know.

4. In conference with C/WB/III, I recommended that we either terminate Subject or put him to work. C/WB/III and I agreed that he should be terminated for the 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.

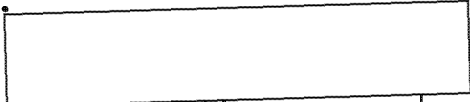
5. On 2 October I talked with Subject by phone. At that time he reported that there is a purchasing mission of the Cuban opposition in

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*104-10182-25491
Subject*

Belgium trying to buy arms for the Dominican Republic. Subject . . . said he had been phoned this information by Manuel FIRESTONE, who was there. Among the equipment wanted are six hundred walkie-talkie radios. He said that Policarpo (obviously Policarpo SOLER) was killed because he convinced PEDRIZA to cooperate with William Alexander MORGAN, who was acting as a double agent for CASTRO.

6. 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 (Subject's) access to additional information, it had been decided not to give him any operational tasks at this time. I emphasized that this was no reflection on his character, but that we felt that in the balance he could not do enough to warrant using him 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.



Thomas J. Fiores
WM/III/AO

TJF/par

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