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18 DEC 1967

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S.J. Tropic

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Alleged Plot to Invade Haiti

1. On 7 November 1967, a usually reliable source reported the following information which was received from one John BIRDS, well-known British mercenary residing in London, England:

a. On 10 November 1967, PETERS received a telephone call from George TATHEAKIS of Cogswell and Harrison Ltd., 108 Piccadilly S.1, London, requesting PETERS to proceed to his office immediately to discuss a matter of extreme importance. Upon arrival, PETERS met TATHEAKIS and two of his partners, one Ted TOLSON, Managing Director, and one CHICKMAN, Director, who asked PETERS if he was interested in participating as military leader in an invasion to overthrow and replace the government of a South American country.

b. When PETERS professed an interest, two Negroes joined the meeting -- one identified as a fellow of JULIAN, aka "the Black Eagle", a U.S. citizen from New York City whom BIRDS had met previously in Lagos, Nigeria, where JULIAN was unsuccessful in his attempts to sell U.S. stock markets to the Nigerian Government. PETERS assessed JULIAN as a loud-mouthed braggart, a con man, and a poor liar who constantly contradicts himself. The second Negro, who spoke fluent French, was referred to as "the President" by JULIAN and TATHEAKIS and was later identified to PETERS by his calling card as "THOMAS VIVIAN, Conseiller Prive of Juridique a la Presidence de la Republique du Togo." BIRDS described VIVIAN as

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a man approximately 5'6" in height, slim with graying hair, who occasionally wears glasses, dresses well and sports a gold watch and heavy gold identification bracelet. HENNES stated he speaks French fluently as well as some English and HENNES concluded that VIGNER was probably born in Haiti.

c. According to source, the group briefed HENNES along the following lines: Haiti was identified as the South American country to be invaded and the present government overthrown; VIGNER was the individual slated to become the new President of Haiti; the operation was to be a packaged deal, with Cozzoli and Harrison supplying the material and logistical support and HENNES the manpower and plan of attack. The estimated cost of the operation was given as U.S. \$2,000,000. HENNES further informed source that the invasion was scheduled for 24 December 1967 but, at HENNES' insistence, was postponed until such time as HENNES was ready -- presumably into January or early February 1968.

d. According to HENNES, VIGNER alleges to have the support of the U.S. Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency and intimated that the financial backing for the operation would be supplied by prosperous U.S. businessmen, the principal one being a son of a U.S. Admiral BLESITT (fnv) or BLESITT. The latter individual was not further identified.

e. HENNES informed source that JULIAN and VIGNER departed London for the United States the afternoon of 16 November and on 17 November, HENNES reportedly received a cable from New York City from JULIAN which confirmed their agreement and alleged that the sum of \$2,000,000 would be deposited immediately in a Swiss bank.

f. On 30 November 1967, JULIAN returned to London and instructed HENNES to write a letter to Mr. Irving LAMICON, Public Relations Counsellor, 1012 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. setting forth the agreed terms of payment of monies. The letter, a copy of which was

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shown to source, was signed by Lt. Col. J. PETERS, 100, Park West, Park West Place, Marble Arch, London W.2. According to source, the letter advised that the operation would be similar to that employed by PETERS in the Congo when he worked for the Central Congolese Government. Additionally, PETERS agreed to the \$2,000,000 cost of the operation, payable as follows: immediate payment of U.S. \$750,000 to purchase material, with 50 percent of the balance due upon the arrival of H. VINDNER at his destination, and the final balance due 30 days later. PETERS concluded his letter by an offer to curtail references concerning his activities in the Congo to DAVIDSON upon request.

g. According to source, the above letter was attached to a covering letter from Cogswell and Harrison, Ltd., which agreed to the terms and plans and which requested DAVIDSON deposit the money immediately with the caveat that withdrawal would require two signatures--those of PETERS and one of the Cogswell and Harrison directors.

h. PETERS informed source that JULIAN returned to New York the same day, and on 1 December 1967, DAVIDSON cabled Cogswell and Harrison, Ltd. confirming JULIAN's request for PETERS' plans. As of 2 December 1967, PETERS informed source that he has refused to give anyone his plan of attack "for obvious security reasons" and that there had been no actual confirmation that the money had been deposited in a Swiss bank.

i. According to source, PETERS also stated that during his last meeting with JULIAN on 30 November, PETERS was informed that DAVIDSON was the man who placed President Jeanin BENEBOU in power in the Dominican Republic and that the Dominican Republic had agreed to the overthrow of the present Haitian Government. JULIAN also alleged that the Central Intelligence Agency, in a recent interview, had promised to give moral support to VINDNER if he would agree to allow free elections in Haiti when he assumed power and "to allow VINDNER to participate." PETERS was informed that VINDNER agreed.

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JULIAN also claimed that the majority of the \$2,000,000 was allegedly coming from U.S. business interests which had been promised land and flour concessions in Haiti.

1. In conclusion, source stated that on 2 December 1967, FORTES expressed the opinion that JULIAN's visits to London were allegedly to obtain a portion of the money deposited in a Swiss bank by VIGNAR for his (JULIAN's) part in the Haitian operation. According to FORTES, the Swiss bank notified JULIAN that VIGNAR's check was not good, at which time JULIAN reportedly showed FORTES a letter from DAVIDSON and JULIAN claimed was the real financial backer. JULIAN stated DAVIDSON had guaranteed money which VIGNAR would not handle. According to source, FORTES is inclined to believe that DAVIDSON can actually arrange the money payment, but indicated to source that he is skeptical of the entire plot.

2. It is believed that Henri VIGNAR, referred to above, is identical with the Henry VIGNAR reported by your Bureau in memoranda from New York City dated 13 November 1967 and 27 June 1967, entitled, "Henry VIGNAR, Internal Security - Haiti" as well as the subject of this Agency's Information Report, OS-311/12913-67, dated 19 October 1967, entitled, "Activity of Henry VIGNAR, Mission Haiti, in French Guiana and Departure for Surinam", and our TDCALB-318/43683-67, dated 31 July 1967, which contains background information on VIGNAR.

3. It is believed that Colonel JULIAN referred to above, is identical to Robert Emile Raymond JULIAN, known as "The Black Eagle", who is the subject of a memorandum from your Bureau dated 22 September 1968 and entitled, "Robert Emile Raymond JULIAN". For additional information, you are referred to a brief summary of JULIAN's activities in this Agency's OSOT-3/733,317, dated 11 May 1961, entitled "JULIAN, Robert (Col.)". It is believed that the Department of State may have additional information on JULIAN.

4. It is believed that Irving DAVIDSON referred to above is identical to the I. Irving DAVIDSON who is the subject of an FBI Washington Field Office report, dated 14 March 1967, Bureau File 42-1283.

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5. Any additional information received by this Agency will be forwarded promptly.

6. The above information has been made available to the U.S. Ambassador to Port au Prince.

OSCI-315/03378-67

cc: Department of State
Defense Intelligence Agency
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Bureau of Customs
Immigration and Naturalization Service

WH/7/Haiti/R. Lehman:beg

(7 December 1967)

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