

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

MM 2-192

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMUNIST EMIGRADE (IACS)

The October 21, 1968, edition of the "Diario de Yucatan", a Merida, Yucatan daily newspaper, carried a dispatch datelined at Progreso, on October 20, 1968, which was devoted to the disappearance of the Americans aboard the ship "El Avigo". The article stated that one of the passengers, MAX GORMAN, JR., had bought supplies for the trip in a grocery store called "Villa del Mar" for which he paid with a \$50 travelers check drawn on the American Express Company, 66 Broadway, New York, New York. The check was reportedly invalid and bore the number N-A-63-070-080.

On October 30, 1968, the American Consul, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, advised that a photograph of FRANK ANTHONY STURGIO, also known as FRANK FIORINI, had been identified by Mr. EMERGO ESCOBAR, who observed the group before they left Yucatan, as the member of the group who called himself "MAX GORMAN" and wore a beret.

The Consul further advised that Mr. LAYMOND CLAYTON, Director of the Benjamin Franklin Institute in Merida, reported on October 29, 1968, that a tour guide named GARCIA had been approached by "GORMAN" who requested him to lead a group to the Guatemalan frontier area, ostensibly to go hunting. GARCIA refused, pointing out that the hunting season was not yet open and the authorities would certainly detain anyone in the area bearing arms.

On November 5, 1968, MM T-1, a Confidential source abroad, advised that the Mexican Federal Attorney General's Office has not prepared formal charges against the 13 American citizens who were taken into custody at Belize, British Honduras on October 23, 1968, after forcing a Mexican ship captain to take them there from Progreso, Yucatan. Neither did the Mexican Government request their extradition from British Honduras. The Mexican Government expects the 13 men to be released to the United States Government and is still studying the matter of possible prosecution. However, it is doubtful that any action will be taken against these men unless they return to Mexico.

MM 2-152

On November 4, 1968, MM T-2, a second confidential source abroad, furnished the following undated list of items, all of which presumably were among effects seized by British Honduras authorities from the subjects subsequent to their arrest at and near Belize, British Honduras.

LIST OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER ITEMS

1 - 303 Rifle #18790
1 - Point 22 Glenfield Rifle Model #10
1 - Point 22 Glenfield Rifle Model #70
1 - 22 Marlin Rifle Model #57
1 - 30 Carbine Service Rifle #2234870
1 - 30 Rifle with Tel Sight #129912
1 - 30 Remington Rifle Model 03443 #3977526
1 - Point 22 Universal Rifle SLA Rifle #123913
1 - 30 U. S. Service Rifle Carbine #1037003
1 - 30 Carbine Service Rifle #101539
1 - 30 Machine Carbine Rifle SLA #2561539
1 - 30 Machine Carbine Rifle SLA #116233
1 - 30 Machine Carbine Rifle SLA #116233
1 - 45 Winchester U. S. Army Automatic Model 1911 with Magazine and Leather Holster #1051913
1 - 32 Browning Automatic Pistol #319833 with magazine and leather holster - 6 rounds
1 - 45 Colt U. S. Army Automatic Model 1911 with Magazine and leather holster #39565
1 - 38 Revolver #403539 and holster
1,435 - 7.62 rounds
148 - 360 rounds in clips and loose
195 - 38 rounds special
125 - 45 rounds
269 - 22 rounds
8 - 30 - 30 rounds
1 - 45 Colt Revolver E. E. O. & holster 2 magazine pouches
13 - 38 automatic rounds
3 - 38 empty shells
24 magazines
2 bayonets
17 knives (assorted)
1 leather cartridge belt with Italian Kukri and sheath with cutting knife attached
2 Genral 10 Walkie-Talkies
1 pair handcuffs
1 Cutter rifle cleaning rod
1 rifle pull through
3 revolver pouches
2 Army bolts
1 camera with film
1 ammunition belt
1 barrel only Sears and Roebuck Point 22
1 wooden rifle butt
1 wooden rifle butt and casing
1 wooden hand piece for rifle
1 Breech Block & Trigger machine
1 revolver cleaning rod
1 screwdriver
1 player

MM 2-192

On November 26, 1963, MM T-3, a third confidential source abroad, furnished a copy of the following report made by the British Honduras police concerning the arrest and deportation of FRANK FIORINI and others from British Honduras:

**REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
ARREST AND DEPORTATION FROM BRITISH HONDURAS OF
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES NATIONALS**

About 1330 hours on Wednesday, 23rd October 1968 a 34 foot cabin cruiser, the 'AMIGO' registered at Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico arrived in Belize City harbour with a crew of two Mexican nationals, Alonso CAMPOS Escalante and Roman MAGANA Estrella, and carrying five United States nationals as passengers. The object of the visit was stated to be refuel and re-provision. As a result of information given by CAMPOS to the Customs authorities, the matter was referred to Police, and Special Branch officers interrogated the two Mexicans. From the information received, the five United States nationals were arrested and charged under the British Honduras Immigration Ordinance. The boat was searched and, besides a number of suitcases containing personal clothing, medical supplies, anti-Castro literature, maps, documents and United States Armed Forces training manuals, a pistol loaded with 6 rounds was found hidden in the cabin.

2. The five U.S. nationals gave names and addresses to Police, but several of the names given were later found to be false. The Mexican and United States Consulate authorities were notified of the circumstances known at that time.

3. The two Mexican nationals were questioned separately, and both told the same story.

4. The 'AMIGO', owned by Alfonso Martin VASQUEZ of Progreso, Yucatan, was hired by the five United States citizens, with CAMPOS and MAGANA as crew, for a five-day fishing and sightseeing trip from Progreso to Isles Mujeres, Yucatan, at a cost of 3,000 pesos. Having obtained port clearance, the party left Progreso on the 'AMIGO' at about 2200 hrs. on Friday, 18th October. About 2330 hrs. three of the Americans threatened the Mexican crew with pistols, and forced them to take the boat inshore opposite the abandoned hotel 'Tropical Riviera'. Eight further men, with a considerable quantity of equipment, were then ferried on board by the boat's dinghy. This operation was completed about 0300 hrs. on Saturday, 19th October. The 'AMIGO' was then sailed eastwards along the northern coast of Yucatan, both the Mexican crewmen having been tied up, but released one at a time to steer the boat. They passed Isles Mujeres about 0400 hrs. on 20th October and turned south. About this time, according to CAMPOS, he learned that their destination was Belize

5. When the boat arrived off Xcalak, Quintana Roo, CAMPOS was told to head for Turneffe. The lighthouse at the northern end of Turneffe was sighted at about 1830 hrs. on Monday, 21st October. CAMPOS was told to steer to the east of Turneffe, where they would meet another boat which the Americans would board, leaving the 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crew to return to Progreso.

6. About 2100 hrs. on 21st October the 'AMIGO' went aground on a reef, remaining fast until 0500 hrs. on 22nd October, when the crew and the Americans got it free. They remained at anchor for about 24 hours in the same area, but saw nothing of another boat. On the morning of 23rd October CAMPOS pointed out that he only had fuel for about 5 hours sailing, and was then told to make for Belize. The eight men, who were not included on the Progresso Port clearance certificate, were landed at Shag Caye Lague, about 12 miles south east of Belize City, with the major part of the equipment, by means of the dinghy, which they kept with them. The 'AMIGO' then came into Belize City harbour.

7. The following morning a Police/Military party, guided by CAMPOS, went to Shag Caye Lague and collected the eight men and their equipment without resistance. All were brought into Belize City, and all were charged under the Immigration Ordinance, the Mexican and United States Consulate authorities again being advised of the situation. On the 24th October the five U.S. nationals taken from the 'AMIGO' appeared before the Belize City Magistrate on a charge of being prohibited immigrants. They were remanded in custody until 31st October 1968. On 25th October the eight men, all of whom claimed U.S. nationality, were similarly charged and remained until 31st October.

8. When the thirteen men appeared on 31st October, a deportation order to the United States was made in respect of each. Arrangements were made by the United States Consul for them to leave on scheduled airline flights in four groups on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd November, for Miami. Each group was escorted from Belize Central Prison, and their departure was witnessed by Police. All the property recovered was confiscated by Court Order.

9. The correct names of the thirteen men were ascertained by Police, and subsequently admitted by the accused in court, to be as follows:-

- | 1st Group | 2nd Group |
|---|---|
| <p>201-24-22-76
 101-201
 102-201
 103-201</p> <p>Francisco Quintero
 Juan Quintero
 Manuel Quintero
 Robert Quintero</p> | <p>Charles Quintero
 Richard Quintero
 Frank Quintero
 Joseph Quintero
 Aldey Quintero
 Charles Quintero
 James Quintero</p> |

All claim to be members of an anti-Castro organization, based in Florida, U.S.A., known as the Secret Army Group (Grupo Secreto de la Brigada Internacional Anticomunista Estados Unidos). The leader was FIGUEROA, who is well known to the U.S. authorities for his anti-Castro activities during the past few years. *Residence in Florida, Jacksonville, Fla. Nov. 65*

10. The 'MIRAGE' and the two Mexican crewmen were not arrested or detained, and left for Progreso on 2nd November.

11. The arms recovered consisted of 10 rifles (1 x .22 calibre, 5 x .30 calibre (1 with telescopic sight) and 4 x .303 calibre), 3 machine carbines (all .30 calibre), 2 automatic pistols (2 x .45 calibre).

12. The ammunition, the majority of which was not designed for the weapons recovered, consisted of 1,435 rounds x 7.62 m/m, 148 rounds x .303, 196 rounds x .38 special, 13 rounds x .38 auto, 129 rounds x .45, 257 rounds x .22 cal. & 6 rounds x .30/30.

13. In addition, there was also recovered an assortment of knives, 2 bayonets, two walkie talkies, radio sets, a pair of handcuffs, a small quantity of spare parts and tools for firework, and weapon cleaning equipment.

14. Although the thirteen arrested men would give very little information other than personal details (many of which were subsequently changed when found to be false), there appears no doubt that the object of this group was to land on the south coast of Cuba, possibly in conjunction with others with whom a rendezvous had been planned east of Turkey. An air search of the sea area surrounding Turkey was carried out on 26th October, but no suspicious vessel was sighted. Due to the failure of the rendezvous, the boat was forced to come into Belize City for fuel, the Americans relying on the port clearance from Progreso to get them past the Customs and Police/Immigration authorities. There is no evidence whatsoever that the objective of this group was anywhere on the Central American mainland.

MM 2-192

On November 6, 1938, MM T-3 advised that on October 29, 1938, several of the subjects had been interviewed by authorities at Belize, British Honduras, and the following information had resulted from these interviews:

a) That FIORINI had been named FRANK FIORINI at birth and had changed his name legally some years ago in Norfolk, Virginia, to FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS following the remarriage of his mother.

FIORINI was the leader of the expedition and may have been the only one who knew precisely where the group was headed. He gave the impression of being a professional "con-man" who was prepared to tell whatever story suits him.

b) That FIORINI and GONZALEZ are long-time members of the Secret Army Organization of the IACB, and that HULEBERT claims to have acted as a recruiter for FIORINI.

c) That recruiting was carried out by newspaper advertisements in the Florida area and by personal contacts.

d) That the subjects, apart from FIORINI, GONZALEZ, and possibly HULEBERT, appear to be of fairly low caliber. They were probably attracted by the prospects of money and adventure. Some of them would probably have been equally attracted to a criminal venture.

3) That the subjects had been promised substantial payments in return for their services by FIORINI but, in fact, had been paid nothing to date, according to those interviewed.

f) That some of the arms belonging to group members were their personal property and had been carried with them from Florida.

MM 2- 192

g) That some of the subjects crossed the U. S. - Mexican border carrying these firearms.

h) That all the subjects crossed the U. S. - Mexican border at Brownsville, Texas.

i) That the IACB undoubtedly has some funds but that FIORINI's claim to have fifteen million U. S. dollars in Switzerland for aid of political prisoners in Cuba is more likely to be false than true.

j) That FIORINI and GONZALEZ apparently intended to continue their anti-CASTRO activities.

The November 13, 1958, edition of the "Miami News", a daily newspaper published at Miami, Florida, carried on page one the following article:

Arrests Nip Floridians' Invasion Of Cuba

By MILY SOSIN
Miami News Service

The British Honduras arrest of 13 men from South Florida nipped a planned commando raid on Cuba, according to a Miami man who was one of the "invaders."

Frank Fiorini, 33-year-old veteran of similar forays and adventures, told the story here today. Fiorini and the other 12 were released by the authorities at Belize, capital of British Honduras, after 11 days of detention and investigation, Fiorini said.

Eight of the party were arrested Oct. 23 at Stag Bogue Cay, a tiny island southeast of Belize. Fiorini and four companions were arrested the next day in Belize.

All were charged with illegal entry into the British possession.

At the time the story was first reported by the wire services, the apparent leader of the expedition was identified as "Frank Bonnell." But in Miami cable circles it was freely rumored that "Bonnell" was really Frank Fiorini.

Another name given by two members of the party was Charles Connell. One "Connell" gave his age as 27 and the other as 53. However, it developed that there was only one Connell, and that there had been a mixup in identities as reported by the Honduras authorities.

As Fiorini today recounted what happened the 50-year-old Connell stood by. Fiorini said that he and his 12 companions were members of an anti-Wildet Castro movement

"We get our financial support from contributors in Central and South America. We are based in Mexico about a mile from the Guatemalan border and we also have a training camp in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico," he said.

"On Oct. 19, we hired a 37-foot cabin cruiser at Progreso, Mexico, on the tip of Yucatan and loaded it with guns, ammunition, medical

supplies and other equipment. We made a drop on the Cuban coast -- I don't want to say where -- and then we put to sea again to rendezvous with another boat.

"The other boat had Cubans aboard who were members of our organization and we planned to make a commando raid on the Cuban coast."

Fiorini said that the skipper of the craft misjudged his position and ran to a reef during the night. At daylight they had to throw overboard much of their equipment and jettison most of the fuel to lighten the craft. Even then they had to jump into the waist high water to get the cruiser off the reef.

They also found that the rudder had been damaged, so they decided to go into Belize for fuel and to have the damage repaired if possible.

They dropped eight men on the caye with some of the supplies. They took on gas at a dock in Belize and were on their way out to pick up their companions when two patrol boats intercepted them. It developed that the eight on the caye had already been arrested.

Wire services reported that the captain of the chartered cruiser had complained to police he had been hijacked by "Bonnell" and his companions.

Fiorini said today that he didn't want to dispute what the captain said "because

Fiorini continued: "They put us in a jail because you can't imagine how pretty bad. For 11 days we had us one meal a day -- rice, beans and rice. That's all we had. We had only real food but they were us bread and hot chocolate in the morning and bread and coffee at night. We slept on the floor."

After four days they were brought before a magistrate. Fiorini said, and he made a plea for expatriation, claiming that they were not in Belize to do anything harmful to that country.

Fiorini said they were repatriated for a week's detention and at the end of that time were released and returned to the United States in small groups over a period of four days. They paid their own fares on commercial airlines.

Fiorini has sometimes been called a "soldier of fortune" but he said now he doesn't like that appellation. "A soldier of fortune does it for money," he said. "I do it because I have communism and also because I have relatives in Cuba."

Fiorini is of Italian descent but he said that he has relatives living in Cuba and that some of his relatives were killed by Communists in Havana.

Fiorini claims he is a veteran of four U.S. armed services -- Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force -- and that he served with Castro in the Sierra Maestra mountains for two years before breaking with Castro after the success of the revolution.

MM 2-192

The November 14, 1963, edition of the
"Miami Herald", a daily newspaper published at Miami,
Florida, carried on page 25-A the following article:

Cuba Raid Foiled By Arrest

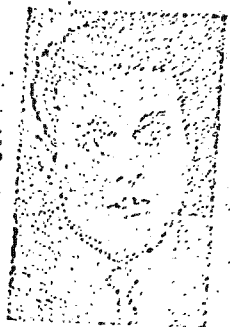
Leader of Group Tells of Hijacking

By FRANK SOLLER
of the Staff

A veteran U.S. anti-Castro activist, arrested with 12 South Florida companions while on a private cruise off British Honduras late last month, Wednesday said in Miami that arrest foiled a planned attempt to attack on Cuba.

Frank Fiorini, who led the group through a maze of Caribbean islands that featured a reported boat hijacking, told the story to reporters here after the group's release from a British Honduras jail.

Describing his men as members of an anti-Castro group known as "Secret Army Organization," Fiorini said the arrest came as they



Frank Fiorini
... commands

prepared to rendezvous with another craft for the raid.

FIORINI, sporting a gray-streaked beard and blacked one of his eyes, declined to specify the

"Let us just say it was somewhere on the Cuban coast," he said.

He said he and four other men sailed aboard the Mexican yacht "Amigo" from Progreso, on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, Oct. 10.

Following the group's arrest, the Mexican skipper of the boat told British authorities the five men had hijacked the boat after sailing from Progreso.

FIORINI DECLINED comment on the reported hijacking.

"The owner has not pressed charges," he said.

He said they picked up another eight men after sailing from Progreso.

"Our boat plan rendezvoused with another craft manned by Cuban exiles off the coast of Mexico," he said. "We transferred medicine and equipment to this other boat and it then sailed to make a supply drop in Cuba."

HE SAID, the drop was meant for the Cuban underground, but didn't specify where.

Fiorini said his boat, meanwhile, sailed to another spot off the Mexican coast to await the return of the Cuba-bound craft.

"We planned to stage the raid with about 25 men after this second rendezvous," he claimed. "However, the boat's Mexican skipper misjudged his course and rammed the craft into some coral reefs."

The boat suffered damage to the bow and rudder and needed repair, he explained.

FIORINI SAID they decided to sail to Belize, British Honduras, because it was the closest port where repairs could be made.

En route, he said, they dropped some of the 15 men on a beach off Belize, along with 10 rifles, three machine carbines, two pistols and an unspecified amount of ammo.

"We entered Belize and unfortunately landed near the customs post," Fiorini said. "We were immediately arrested and charged with illegal entry. The next day British troops arrested the other eight men and confiscated the weapons."

FIORINI SAID they were released after 11 days of intense questioning.

The 43-year-old Fiorini, who once flew an anti-Castro leaflet raid over Havana, described the "Secret Army Organization" as an anti-Communist movement with bases in Mexico.

He said it was formed about a year and a half ago in Venezuela by Francisco Quesada, whom he described as a former doctor in Cuba.

He said Quesada recently published several advertisements in South Florida newspapers to "recruit volunteers for the American Volunteer Group — a branch of our organization."

MM 2-192

Set out below are the FBI Identification Records for the IACB members arrested by British Honduras authorities, with the exception of RICHARD GALE BROWN, CHARLES OSM CONNELL, and MICKEY ROLAND SAPP, for whom no prior arrest data was disclosed:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 11-12-68 67

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 749 447 E, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Wash DC	Robert Paul Curtis #154170	8-8-56	Inv Hold-up of Gas stations	Rel
Prince George's Co Pol Seat Pleasant Md	Robert Paul Curtis #12470	8-9-62	Not Given	
Prince George's Co Pol Seat Pleasant Md	Robert Paul Curtis #12470	8-23-62	aslt	unavailab per contr 4-22-63
USM Balto Md	Robert Paul Curtis #03310	4-5-66	ISTM	0 nos custod Atty Gen 10-7-68
Fed Ex Camp Allenwood Pa	Robert Paul Curtis #4175-AL	10-7-66	IMYTA	9 nos Rel min exp 4-21-67
PD Fort Lauderdale Fla	Robert Paul Curtis #FD-54923	7-4-68	volunteered criminal information rel immediately	
PD Fort Lauderdale Fla	Robert Paul Curtis #FD 54923	7-4-68	Voluntary Criminal Regis.	Rel Instant?
PD Belize British Honduras	Robert Curtis	Inquiry 11-12-68		

15

Information shown on this Identification No contributors. Where final disposition is not shown recontact with agency contributing this fingerprint. Notations indicated by * are NOT based on FBI copies made of fingerprint identification cards.

reprinted ed. com-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20527

11-12-68 072

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER 249 447 E
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 140

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 11-18-37 Buckhannon West Virginia

Scars and Marks: ESMS left forearm, bulldog over it

Address: Pompano Beach, Florida in 1968

Occupation: Truck driver

16

John Edgar Hoover
Director

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25

11-12-68

J. Ryan

The following FBI record, NUMBER 149 937 D

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSE
Army	Jerry Buchanan GRA 14 545 915	11-4-54		
Army	Jerry Buchanan GRA 13 553 124	5-15-56		
Post Storage FE McPherson Ga	Jesse Lee Husby	Inquiry 4-27-59		
Dept of Pub Safety Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #59-5043 32042	5-14-59	5 cts forging checks forg & Utter forg uttr forg inst	
Spr Ralford Fla	Jerry Buchanan #57039	7-21-59	was B&B in office bldg located in Dade Co Fla w/A to commit a misd to wit PL	3 yrs
Dept of Pub Safety Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #60 9500 32042	8-16-60	4 cts forg & uttr a forged instr	8-1-60 6 cts forg uttr 83-01 prob
PD Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #73343	9-1-60	vol criminal reg	vol instr
Army	Jerry Charles Buchanan GRA 13 553 124	1-14-56 18		
Dept of Pub Safety Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #61-9056-32372	7-23-61	parole violator State Warrant to follow.	

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS
 formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same o
 ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11-12-68 674

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 142 937 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON:

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ADMITTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
FD Tampa Fla	Jerry Buchanan #98196	10-30-62	VCR	not held
Pub Safety Dept Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #CR 32042	4-8-63	criminal registration	not instantly
USMS Miami Fla	Jerry Buchanan #A13 324 714	APPL FP 6-27-64		
PD Belize British Honduras	Charles Orr Connelle	Inquiry 11-12-68		

19

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, contact with agency contributing those fingerprints.
 Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints to FBI files.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

11-12-68 C

3
The following information from FBI record NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

148 937 D

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 71"

Weight: 165

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 3-11-39 Brevard, North Carolina

Scars and Marks: Scar upper left arm

Address: 479 Northwest 84th Lane Miami, Florida in 1964

Occupation: Cook

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

11-12-68

J. Edgar Hoover

The following FBI record, NUMBER **943 362 C**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE OF

CONTINUITY OF IDENTIFICATION	NAME AND NUMBER	APPROX. CR. RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSIT.
Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service Havana Cuba	Fred Frank Fiorini Attila #--	2-13-53	Inv	
USM Miami Fla	Frank Anthony Fiorini #450-M-CR	7-30-53	ill poss of arms	prosecuted Declined Dist Atty
SOS Army	Frank Angelo Fiorini #71-C.S.P.	Appl 41 7-15-42		
SOS Army	Frank Angelo Fiorini #25-MID	Appl 8-24-42		
Marine	Frank Angelo Fiorini #--	10-5-42		
PD Norfolk Va	Frank Angelo Fiorini #P.O. 224	Appl 5-13-46		
Army	Frank Angelo Fiorini #RA 13 291 561	3-31-49		
USCG	Frank A. Fiorino #2-350 994	7-24-50		
2D Miami Beach Fla	Frank Anthony Sturgis #A-39063	6-25-52	inquiry	not held

21

Notations in Record by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

See also...

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

11-12-68 67

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

948 352 C

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein noted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 209

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Date and Place of Birth: 12-9-28 Norfolk, Virginia

Scars and Marks: 1" scar on right wrist

Address: 2515 Northwest 122nd Street Miami, Florida in 1962

Occupation: Owner salvage business

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11-12-68

1-BU

J. Edgar Hoover
 Dir.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 948 362 C, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	Civil print from PD Miami Fla #50602 was identified with this record and returned to contributor 3-29-60.			
	Civil print from PD Miami Fla #67912 was identified with this record and returned to contributor 2-10-66.			
	Civil print from St Racing Comm Miami Fla was identified with this record and returned to contributor 3-22-66.			

24

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, consult with agency contributing those fingerprints.
 Relations indicated by:

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 449 216, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON information shown on this Identification Record for credit data furnished FBI by fingerprint contribution. WITH FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNIC WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	APPLIED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, Greenboro, Ky.	Charles W. Ijames, #---	12-22-37	tampering with car	
Ky. Houses of Ref., Boys' Dept., Greendale, Ky.	Charles Ijames, #10795	4-20-38	G.I.	until 21 age - 2-36 involved.
SO, Uvalde, Texas	Charles Ijames, #---	7-35-40	burg.	July, 1940, 1 yr. term, Huntsville, Tex.
SP, Huntsville Texas	Charles Ijames #95556	10-29-40	burg.	2 yrs. 8-16-42 sent to Dallas Co. Parole Board
State Para Greencastle, Ind.	Charles Ijames #90421	5-27-42	Sec. Deg. Burg.	90 days 524.6 costs
U. S. Naval Recruiting Station Indianapolis, Ind.	Charles William Ijames	applicant 9-21-42		
PD, Evansville, Ind.	Robert William Ijames, #13215	9-28-42	Fugitive	taken to Henderson Ky.
SO, Henderson, Ky.	Charles William Ijames, #302	10-1-42	M. C. and W. to kill	
PD Belize British Honduras	Charles William Ijames	Inquiry 11-12-65		

25

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI being possibly identical with subject of this record.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

11-12-68

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER 1 449 246
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 160

Hair: Auburn

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 3-11-42 Echols, Kentucky

Scars and Marks: Anterior Tattoo rooster mid chest; tattoo heart & ribbon
left upper forearm; tattoo dagger right upper forearm;
tattoo cross right upper forearm; tattoo horseshoe right
upper arm; Posterior: vaccination scar left arm; Ps I
scar; tattoo butterfly left upper forearm

Address: Evansville, Indiana in 1962

Occupation: Presser

26

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

11-12-68 67

The following FBI record, NUMBER 650 046 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE OF
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WITH
 FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
 WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Vero Beach Fla	Franklin Delano Hubbert #25083	7-1-67	Dr while lic susp	
PD Belize British Honduras	Franklin Delano Hubbert	Inquiry 11-12-68		

27

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

44-12-08 672

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER 650 046 G
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 145

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Date and Place of Birth: 1-4-33 Scranton, Pennsylvania

Scars and Marks: Unknown

Address: 2603 2nd Street, Southwest Vero Beach, Florida in 1967

Occupation: Paint sprayer

28

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

11-12-68 674

The following FBI record, NUMBER 650 047 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHEN
 FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
 WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Fort Pierce Fla	James Walter Wells #7568	3-12-67	1) improper chg. of lane 2) Resisting arrest.	1) \$25 or : das 2) \$25 or : das
PD Belize British Honduras	James Walter Wells	Inquiry 11-12-68		

29

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

11-12-68 071 1

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

650 047 G

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 65"

Weight: 146

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Green

Date and Place of Birth: 1-19-37 Centerhill, Florida

Scars and Marks: Unknown

Address: 2796 4th Street Vero Beach, Florida in 1967

Occupation: Labor

30

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

11-12-68 67

The following FBI record, NUMBER 650 044 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE OF
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. With
FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Fort Lauderdale Fla	Earnest Ray Manning #ID-41502	1-27-66	A&B Warr	\$25 F
PD Belize British Honduras	Earnest Ray Manning	Inquiry 11-12-68		

31

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI file
being possibly identical with subject of this record.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

11-12-68 676

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER 650 044 G
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted:

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 145

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Date and Place of Birth: 9-17-46 Atlanta, Georgia

Scars and Marks: 2" scar left side neck

Address: Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1966

Occupation: Printer

32

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-12-68 674

The following FBI record, NUMBER **650 045 G**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE
 FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
 WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Fort Lauderdale Fla	James Edward Koltshouser FD-54433	6-5-68	Serving alcoholic bev after hours No city ID card	
PD Belize British Honduras	James E. Koltshouser	Inquiry 11-12-68		

83

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in file

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

11-12-68 C7

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER 650 045 G
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 160

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 2-27-41 St. Louis, Missouri

Scars and Marks: Pock marks on face

Address: Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1968

Occupation: Maintenance man

34

John Edgar Hoover

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-12-68 G

1-DU

The following FBI record, NUMBER **650 045 G**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. A FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ANALYSED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
1-DU	Civil print from St Ed Dept Miami Fla			was identified with this record and returned to contributor 8-12-68.

35

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11-12-68 674

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER **4 145 899**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, Louisville, Ky.	Armando Sargeth Gonzalez #65357	9-27-44	G. L.	
SO, Versailles, Ky.	Armando Gonzalez	9-27-44	Grand larc.	
SO, Dallas, Texas	Armando Gonzalez #21167	5-21-45	10 \$50.	
SO, Dallas, Texas	Armando Sargeth Gonzalez #2-2456	5-21-45	theft under \$50.00	Filed and trans Co. Auth. 30 G cont 6-1-45
Army	Emilio Gonzalez, Jr. #AF 12322445	-7-49 N.Y., N.Y.		
SO Miami Fla	Max Gonzalez #204144-8502	11-29-56	WC under 50	2-25-57 guilty susp sent.
SO Miami Fla	Max Gonzalez #207392-8502	2-18-57	WC under 50	refer to #204144
Dept of Pub Safety Miami Fla	Max Gonzalez #58/1457-8502	10-30-58	2 cts W/C over \$100 1 cts W/C under \$100	Guilty 1-5-59 8 cts WC Susp sent with GL 1 yr SP 2-1-59
SE Raiford Fla	Max Gonzalez #65253	1-27-59	GL	1 yr sent to begin from date of incarceration to-wit. October 30, 1959
Metropolitan Pub Safety Dept Miami Fla	Max E. Gonzalez #8502	1-23-64	fail to deliver title cert	2-25-64, dish lack of pros

36

Information shown on this identification contributors. Where final disposition is not furnished with agency contributing these fingerprints is NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only on investigative leads as being possibly identical with contributors.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 145 899 is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON:
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished by fingerprint contributors. WITH
 FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
 WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Public Safety Dept Miami Fla	Maxim Gonzalez #8502	7-30-68	WC (over Fel) WC Under WC (over Misc)	
PD Belize British Honduras	Max German	Inquiry 11-12-68		

39

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

11-12-68 674

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

4 145 899

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 66"

Weight: 135

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 12-29-29 New York City

Scars and Marks: Scar palm right hand.

Address: 3015 Northwest 170 Street Miami, Florida in 1968

Occupation: Salesman

38

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11-12-68 67

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 508 F, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ADDRESS OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD NY NY	Larry Eugene Stoy #435770	5-7-59	burg	
PD NY NY	Lawrence Stoy #435770	2-17-67	1751 PL 1533-6Pl marij	
PD Belize British Honduras	Herbert Pender	Inquiry 11-12-68		

39

Information shown on this Identification Record represents contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further information is available, contributors should be contacted with agency contributing these fingerprints.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

11-12-68 01

2

The following information from FBI record NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

935 508 F

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 170

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: 8-3-42 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Scars and Marks: Unknown

Address: 2339 East 13th Street (as on prt #435 770) in 1967

Occupation: Freight

40

100-4-14

MM 2 - 192

II. INTERVIEWS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/20/68

HARRIET SHARRCKNS advised that she and ROBERT P. CURTIS are currently living together at 603 SE 21st Street, Apartment 3, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She added that she is currently employed at Tina's Restaurant, on 6th Avenue, just around the corner from their apartment.

She said that CURTIS is currently employed in the warehouse of the Rinker Cement Company, just off Andrews Avenue and Route 84, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She said that he works from 6 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

She recalled that she was present at a meeting at FRANK FIORINI's house in Miami several months ago. She attended the meeting with CURTIS and stayed behind with him at FIORINI's request when the meeting broke up.

At that time, FIORINI said to CURTIS that the latter would have to have a car for the trip to Mexico. He also told CURTIS not to worry about the license tag and "paper" because the group's attorney would take care of any problems that might arise from the nonreturn of a rental car.

FIORINI also told CURTIS that the rental companies were not concerned with whether or not a car was returned but only were interested in the monetary value of the car. He indicated that the group's attorney, SANDSARCH, would take care of any such payment needed, in the event a rental car was later reported stolen.

She said that to her knowledge, CURTIS was alone when he rented the 1968 Oldsmobile which he later took to Mexico in behalf of the organization headed by FRANK FIORINI.

She noted that CURTIS rented this car under orders from FIORINI and that he felt obligated to take orders from FIORINI in a military sense.

42

On 11/15/68 at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

File #

Miami 2-192
Miami 26-34892

by SAs FRANCIS E. GIBBONS and
J. P. HUFFCOB FEG/PEL

Date dictated

11/16/68

MM 2-192
MM 26-34692

She said that she knows through RUTH WADE, the girl friend of ERNIE BENNING, who went to Mexico with CURTIS, that several weapons were hidden in the Oldsmobile before it was driven to Mexico from Ft. Lauderdale.

She said that she was not present when these weapons were hidden in the automobile but believes they were placed under the rear seat or inside the rear door panels. It is her understanding that the weapons included an M-1 carbine and a cut down M-1 carbine, called an Enforcer. She was unable to furnish any further information concerning the guns concealed in the car.

She said that she felt that FRANK PICCINI was ultimately responsible for any wrong doing during the expedition to Mexico participated in by CURTIS and several other young men from the Fort Lauderdale area.

She said that CURTIS would probably furnish full details concerning his participation in the expedition and could be expected to take the blame for as much as possible, that being his nature.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/20/58

1

ROBERT PAUL CURTIS, 608 Southeast 21st Street, Apartment B, was interviewed at Rinker Cement Company by J. P. HUFFORD and FRANCIS E. GIBBONS who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. Special Agent HUFFORD advised Mr. CURTIS that the purpose of the interview was to obtain information concerning FRANK FIORINI.

At the outset of the interview, it immediately became apparent Mr. CURTIS could furnish very little information without incriminating himself. Special Agent HUFFORD brought this to Mr. CURTIS' attention and immediately advised Mr. CURTIS of his rights.

Mr. CURTIS stated he was aware he was incriminating himself, understood his rights and desired to continue the interview. He furnished the following oral information:

He advised that prior to the time he left for Mexico in September 1955, FRANK FIORINI told him he would have to have "wheels." FIORINI instructed Mr. CURTIS to rent a car and Mr. CURTIS objected because the car would not be returned. FIORINI told Mr. CURTIS not to worry about a thing, that his attorney would take care of everything and the organization would pay the rental company for the loss of the car so that no one could be prosecuted. FIORINI made a point of assuring Mr. CURTIS that the rental company would never prosecute if the car was paid for. FIORINI also advised Mr. CURTIS to change plates on the car.

44

On 11/18/58 at Fort Lauderdale, Florida File # Miami 56-34894
by SAs FRANCIS E. GIBBONS and J. P. HUFFORD:sl JPH:sl Date dictated 11/20/58

MM 25-34602

2

After he rented a 1968 Oldsmobile in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, he attended a meeting at FIORINI's house. Present at the house were Mr. CURTIS and his girlfriend, HARRIET; ERNIE HANNING and his girlfriend, RUTH; and RICK BROWN and his mother; and FIORINI. After the meeting, FIORINI asked Mr. CURTIS to stay for a few minutes longer.

FIORINI then gave Mr. CURTIS a blank Florida Motor Vehicle Title Certificate and blank auto registration. He told Mr. CURTIS to fill in the blanks on the documents with the proper numbers from the rented Oldsmobile and with Mr. CURTIS' name. FIORINI had a typewriter for Mr. CURTIS to use and furnished him with a filled-in title certificate to use as a guide. The blank title certificate was marked "duplicates."

After Mr. CURTIS filled in the documents, FIORINI gave him some guns to put in the Oldsmobile. As best he could recall, there was a .308 or .306 rifle with a magazine or clip beneath it, a .30 caliber carbine or two, and one or two sticks for rifles.

Mr. CURTIS then went home, dropped his girl off, picked up his gun gear and weapons and went to RICK BROWN's house in Fort Lauderdale. RICK, ERNIE and RUTH were already there and all the gear was stacked in the carport. All the guns, including RICK's "Enforcer," were put under the rear seat. He thought ERNIE might possibly have had a pistol, nothing more. He, ERNIE and RICK then left for Mexico in the Oldsmobile.

After they got to Mexico, they continued to use the Oldsmobile for transportation. JERRY BUCHANON also drove it on one or two occasions. One day, Mr. CURTIS reported to FIORINI and BUCHANON in a Cuernavaca, Mexico, hotel room. FIORINI and BUCHANON instructed Mr. CURTIS to leave the Oldsmobile keys and papers in the room. He assumes BUCHANON and/or FIORINI then disposed of the Oldsmobile as he never saw it again.

One or two weeks later, RICK BROWN and Mr. CURTIS reported to BUCHANON and FIORINI and were advised they would have to go for another car. The plan was to go to the

MI 26-34683

3

United States and rent another car. After some discussion, Mr. CURTIS stated they could save on expenses if only one man went and he volunteered. The suggestion was accepted and FIORINI and BUCHANON gave him another blank title, a Florida tag to put on the car after he got it, and expense money. He

When he got back to Guadalajara from San Antonio, Texas, with a rented 1966 Mustang, he joined FIORINI, BUCHANON and RICE at a restaurant. He gave the car keys and title to FIORINI and BUCHANON who then left the table and joined BUCHANON's wife, who had just come in. He never saw the Mustang again.

Shortly after that, Mr. CURTIS and some others were standing around outside the Gaterio Hotel in Guadalajara when BUCHANON ran across the street with a little, thin, white male American who was driving a blue Dodge or Plymouth Station Wagon. Also in the area was a stocky Mexican National dressed in khaki wearing a .45 automatic. Someone mentioned that the Mexican, possibly a local official, was in on the car dealings, but he was not identified.

CURTIS was shown clippings from two Miami daily newspapers setting out results of a November 18, 1963, press conference by FIORINI concerning the IACB operation. One of the clippings set out that FIORINI claimed the "Amigo" had made a rendezvous with another craft manned by Cuban exiles and had transferred "medicine and equipment" to the second boat, which then proceeded to make a supply drop in Cuba to the underground there. According to this account, the "Amigo" ran aground while en route to a second rendezvous with the Cuban exile boat, purpose of this being a joint commando raid "somewhere on the Cuban coast." The second newspaper account of the press conference set out that FIORINI claimed to have made a supply drop on the Cuban coast from the "Amigo" and that the craft was grounded on a reef while en route to a rendezvous with a boat manned by Cubans who were members of the organization and with whom a commando raid on the Cuban coast would be made.

000
Ad 26-34592

4

CUMMIS said that the "Amigo" made no supply drop anywhere and that no rendezvous had been effected with any second craft. He felt that FLOTOP was obviously attempted to exaggerate the operation's accomplishments for publicity purposes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 2, 1963

1
 ERNEST RAY FURNING, 717 S. E. 5th Court, phone 526-2480, presently employed by Beaver Amigos, 845 N. W. 9th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was interviewed by J. P. HENNING and WILLIAM E. GIBSON who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. SA GIBSON advised Mr. FURNING of his rights, which he waived orally and in writing as shown on an attached waiver of rights form, and furnished the following information:

He advised he had read newspaper accounts of his extradition against Cuba under the direction of ERNEST FURNING. Regarding the newspaper reports, he stated he was thoroughly convinced that they had had much to do with Cuba or had rendered his help with another ship as alleged by FURNING.

He stated his first close contact with FURNING through a newspaper ad directed at advertisers. Several meetings were held at the Executive Club in early or middle August. FURNING did the majority of the talking and seemed to be in charge.

FURNING stated in general terms that a loan would be established in South America and later in Cuba for military training to be followed by guerrilla action against the Castro government. He spoke in terms of a "loan" of the 107th of Cuba and unspecified tons of military. He also mentioned a contract which called for \$1,000,000 a month plus a \$20,000,000 bonus. None of the money would be paid until the successful culmination of the action - the complete overthrow of the Castro government.

There were meetings at the Club car lot on N. W. 23rd Street as well as at FURNING's home. At one meeting FURNING asked JEB GIBSON what kind of "vehicle" he had. GIBSON replied he owned a 1957 Pontiac and FURNING examined his

218

On 11/20/63 at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

File # Miami 25-1462

by S. J. P. HENNING

WILLIAM E. GIBSON/AM

Date dictated 11/22/63

ME 26-34602

2

discontentment and said the car was too old. He added a newer car was needed - 1963-64 or newer. He then suggested some of the volunteers were renting cars to make the trip. FIGURE added the rented cars would either be abandoned in Mexico or turned over to the organization to use as the organization saw fit.

FIGURE stated the organization had a financial backing in excess of 75 million dollars but refused to turn any of the funds over until the mission had been completed. In the past money had been disbursed only to be squandered without any results. For this reason it was a C.O.D. operation and money would be given until the mission was completed.

FIGURE said the cars should be rented for a week. This would enable everyone to get out of the country before the cars were reported to him. If there was any trouble, the organization would pay for the cars and that would be the rental companies were instructed in and no one would get into trouble.

Prior to the last meeting BOB CURTIS told FIGURE he had wanted a car but was forced to use his green name because he had been unable to get phony identification. FIGURE told him not to worry, the organization would take care of everything later.

Mr. HENNING went to a last meeting at FIGURE's house on the day they left. Mr. HENNING and his girlfriend and BOB CURTIS and his girlfriend were at FIGURE's house along with FIGURE and his mother. The girls were not included in the mission and FIGURE had BOB CURTIS get some guns out of the closet. CURTIS carried the guns out to the rented Oldsmobile and Mr. HENNING opened the trunk for him. As best he can recall FIGURE had a 1966 Springfield, a .308 British Bulldog and one or two .22 caliber rifles and a stock.

171 26-34393

Mr. HENRI and RICH HENRI and their girlfriends left and went to see BOB CURTIS at RICK HENRI's house. FICOMI told BOB CURTIS to stay quiet and handle the paper work on the Olinobilia. By paper work, he meant the black title.

BOB CURTIS arrived at RICH HENRI's house at about 6:30 and all the guys were loaded in the car. Yoda which seemed to be a truck, then was in the car with the pants and under the seat seat. As best he can recall, BOB CURTIS had a 1962 Cadillac with a coupe, an Infiniti engine and a 1961 Buick Wildcat. RICH HENRI had a 1961 Buick Wildcat. Mr. HENRI had a 1962 Cadillac coupe. All the guys were told later to a gas station near the Casino Hotel in Guadalajara for money for food.

When the guys got to the 2nd in the Olinobilia, the car had a rented license tag on it. As they left the State of Mexico they put on a 02 tag. They drove straight through to Toluca, Mexico, where they crossed into Mexico after buying their passports. They then proceeded directly to Guadalajara. No one paid attention for any BOB CURTIS showed the title he had gotten from WILLIAM and BILL in as proof of ownership of the Olinobilia.

They were supposed to stay at the De Valley Hotel in Guadalajara, but found out it had been torn down. They stayed one night at the American Hotel, about a mile at the Los Angeles Hotel and the rest of the time at the Casino Hotel. They had trouble checking up with YODA until one day they saw WILLIAM HENRI on the street. As he arrived one FICOMI had the camera where he was supposed to take them. The Olinobilia was used for transportation during this time.

One night they all went to JERRY HENRI's where they sorted out clothes and gear. On the following day Mr. HENRI, GIBBY HENRI, GUYON HENRI and JIM HENRI left by bus for El Paso. FICOMI and HENRI said they were

LA 26-34302

6

going to the research camp. RICH BROWN and BOB GUNTS had already left for Lima to get the Mustang.

In Huzia they stayed in a hotel directly across the street from the bus station for two nights. BROWN and some others arrived the following day still in the Old Bulo. FICHERL and BOB GUNT did not stay at the hotel, but it was within a block they did stay.

FICHERL had a car which he had picked up a camp site, yet, so they drove through Iquitos to a remote spot on the beach about 6-8 miles past Iquitos. They set up a camp which consisted of a lean-to shelter.

BROWN and FICHERL indicated the weapons had to be buried so they were put in canvas bags and buried in the sand. The second or third day when the sand was becoming low they decided to dig up the guns and try to shoot some game for food.

When the guns were dug up they were badly rusted and clogged with sand. They were then cleaned up and not buried again. They stayed on the beach about 8 days. BROWN carried a pistol all the time and he had a carbine with a cut down stock. FICHERL had a .45 automatic pistol and BOB GUNTS had a .45 automatic.

FICHERL and BROWN did not stay on the beach and RICH and BOB GUNTS did not stay up for about 5 days. RICH stayed then BOB GUNTS did not. FICHERL did bring them some food occasionally.

BOB GUNTS, BOB GUNTS, FICHERL and BROWN rented a ship and told the others they would be picked up off the beach at midnight. They were to leave a fire burning so the ship could find them. The gear was then transferred to the ship by dinghy. Once aboard, they learned the name of the ship was the "Indigo."

121 26-34002

5

FIGUINI didn't reveal much about the rendezvous and he was careful not to lose sight of the shoreline too often. BUSHNICK and FIGUINI seemed to direct the Captain. They were on the boat 5 or 6 days before they finally hit a reef near British Honduras. They were running low on fuel and would have had to put two down anyway.

BUSHNICK and FIGUINI held a meeting between the two of them and decided they should give up. They claimed the ship was too badly damaged to stay afloat even if they got it off the reef. Lt. HARRIS got the impression FIGUINI wanted to get caught and abort the mission.

FIGUINI instructed anyone who had fictitious papers to destroy them as well as a lot of propaganda material. When they tried to get help by flashing SOS on the spotlight but no one answered. In the morning they managed to get off the reef and dropped most of the men off on an island while the ship got into port. FIGUINI ordered the Mexican flag struck as they entered the harbor, automatically attracting the attention of the officials. Without a flag flying the ship was bound to be stopped.

FIGUINI told the men to tell the British authorities the truth and no effort was to be made to fool them. FIGUINI also told them that the proper information would be fed to the news media to win the approval of the public. When the FBI would not be able to do more than slap their wrists,

During the time on the boat, GUYER remarked FIGUINI and BUSHNICK had sent him after a car and he had brought back a Mustang. GUYER had also remarked that one of the border guards was driving one of the cars brought to Mexico.

While in prison, BUSHNICK told them that it was too hot now for him to keep running cars to Mexico. He told the others he would dispose of any cars brought down by the others, after they were released, for 10% of the sale price. He told them to let him know right away because he wouldn't go back to work if they were going to bring him stolen cars to sell. There was no doubt in his mind that BUSHNICK disposed of

121 25-31122

Q

the case brought down by other members.

Although he had only seen the Oldsmobile brought down by BOB G. BEE, he had heard talk of a Buick belonging to GUYTON GIBSON, a Marine, and possibly a Buick rented at Vero Beach by W. J. W. or his group. He also thought that GUYTON GIBSON and "BOB", first name unknown, had brought 2 or 3 cars down.

He again stated that the whole campaign had been so poorly handled and organized that he didn't believe WICKHAM ever intended to launch a campaign against Galt. Giving up so easily on the ship and entering the harbor without a flag tended to confirm his suspicions along these lines.

NW 2-182

On November 16, 1968, MM T-4 advised that subjects SAPP, WELLS, and HULBERT expected to receive, around Christmas, a total of five thousand dollars from the leader of their recent expedition which terminated at British Honduras.

According to the source, the subjects planned to participate in another expedition with their former companions if they receive this money.

On November 18, 1968, Deputy JOHN KEYS, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Vero Beach, Florida, advised that he had arrested FRANK HULBERT the previous week as a result of a complaint from HULBERT's ex-wife, who had placed HULBERT on a peace bond, that he was bothering her. KEYS said that he is well acquainted with HULBERT and as a result of this acquaintanceship he learned from HULBERT that the latter expected to receive, around Christmas, about one thousand dollars in payment for his services during a recently completed Central American expedition. HULBERT indicated to KEYS that if the payment were made, he planned to participate in any future expeditions. HULBERT also indicated to KEYS that the objective of the last expedition had been to release some political prisoners held in a camp on the west coast of Cuba. He said that the expedition was forced to return to British Honduras when its boat sprang a leak.

On November 19, 1968, JAMES HOLTSCHUSSER, 3516 Southwest 12th Place, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, advised that his complete name is JAMES EDWARD HOLTSCHUSSER. He said that he has resumed employment at the Sugar Shack Bar, 656 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He said that en route to Fort Lauderdale on the evening of his return to Florida from British Honduras, he had visited briefly, along with the IACB members who had returned on the same flight, the residence of FRANK FIORINI in Miami, but had not seen FIORINI since, although he had once

MM 2-103

telephoned FIORINI regarding a right wing Fort Lauderdale publication in which FIORINI had previously expressed an interest. He added that he had not been in contact with other members of the IACB expedition and consequently had no more information now than what he had during the interview upon his arrival in Florida from British Honduras. He did say that the "Albatross" definitely made no landing or rendezvous from the time it picked up eight IACB members a short distance from Progreso, Mexico, until it ran aground near Belize, British Honduras. He said that any talk by FIORINI of a landing on the Cuban coast or a successful rendezvous was false.

On November 19, 1968, RICHARD GALE BROWN, 1317 Southeast 23rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, advised that he did not wish to add anything to the information which he had furnished during interview on November 2, 1968, upon his arrival at the Miami, Florida International Airport from British Honduras.

Date 12/2/68

Mr. JOSEPH H. STRICKER, Owner, Boca Beach Shop, 451 East Delmarco Park Road, advised that on September 11, 1968, he sold the following-described guns to a DOMESTIC CURTIS, then residing in Room 118, Panama Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida:

1. Universal .20 caliber carbine, Serial Number 138518, sale price \$100.00 in cash, Model 1-4B.

2. Universal .20 caliber pistol, Serial Number 138518, called "The Inferno", sale price \$220.00, in cash, Model B.

Mr. STRICKER stated that both guns were ordered from the Universal Company, 17-16th, Florida, Sea Beach, CURTIS the client appeared in his store about one week prior to the actual delivery and payment. Initially, CURTIS came in inquiring for a carbine and a pistol which would use the same ammunition, and these guns were the only type fitting the request. CURTIS also purchased one 30-round clip and three 16 round clips which would fit either weapon, plus a zippered plastic case for the pistol.

In conversation with CURTIS, Mr. STRICKER recalls no mention of why he wanted these weapons and recalls nothing further during this discussion. He saw CURTIS on two occasions, recalls he had what appeared to be dyed blond hair, and in each instance was accompanied by a very attractive female, about 5 feet tall, dark and appeared to be Spanish or Cuban, who never entered into the conversation. Mr. CURTIS phoned him several times from Ft. Lauderdale inquiring about the weapons which were delayed in delivery from Universal Company.

56.

On 11/20/68 at Boca Raton, Florida File # Miami 8-190

by SA ROBERT W. WISNIAK/rop Date dictated 11/25/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MM 2-192

It is noted that the serial numbers of the two weapons purchased by CURTIS from the Boef Tackle Shop are identical with those of two of the weapons included in the above "list of arms, ammunition and other items" furnished by LHM T-2 on November 3, 1968.

On November 21, 1968, DOLORES COLON, 327 Hillmore Street, Staten Island, New York, was interviewed under a suitable pretext and advised that she is the daughter of MAX GONZALEZ, who, as far as she knows, is in a Miami, Florida, jail, having been arrested by the FBI as the result of a plot against Cuban Prime Minister FIDEL CASTRO.

It is noted that a telephone call to G. H. Used Cars, 2400 Northwest 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on December 18, 1968, disclosed that GONZALEZ, who had been a salesman for that firm prior to his departure on the IACH expedition, continued to be incarcerated in the Dade County Jail, as of this date, awaiting trial on bad check charges. GONZALEZ was arrested on these local charges immediately after his arrival from British Honduras. He has not been arrested by the FBI.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 26, 1968

CERYL SCHLECKER was interviewed in the vicinity of her employment, Hialeah Springs Motors, Inc., 980 Hialeah Drive. She was advised of her rights, signed a waiver of rights form and furnished the following information:

She and MAX GONZALEZ left Miami for Mexico approximately August 19, 1968, in a red Chevrolet, model and year unknown, although the car was probably not more than two years old. She first saw the car two days previously when GONZALEZ had her pick it up in front of the Army-Navy Store at 25th Avenue and NW 36th Street, Miami. The car was a full-size Chevrolet, definitely not a sports model like the Camaro. GONZALEZ indicated to her that the car belonged to a friend of his, name not disclosed to her. They drove directly from Miami to Mexico entering Mexico at Matamoros on approximately August 22, 1968.

Traveling with them in a two door, white Chevrolet, same model and apparently same year as that driven by GONZALEZ, were RAY and LYNN BARNISTER, husband and wife as far as known to her. LYNN BARNISTER indicated during the trip that she was from Hollywood, Florida. She is from 25 to 30 years of age, very thin, dyed black hair and freckles. RAY BARNISTER is about 33 years old; 6'2"; thin; thick wavy dark hair, long sideburns; long protruding eye teeth; may have had a tattoo on forearm, description of which not recalled. Conversations with LYNN BARNISTER during the trip disclosed that RAY BARNISTER is employed as a cook, perhaps at one of the Luma's Restaurant in Miami.

Both cars proceeded from the Mexican Border to Vera Cruz, Mexico, then, on approximately September 2, 1968, to Guadalajara, after a side trip to Villa Hermosa. En route, outside Cordova, which is close to Vera Cruz, GONZALEZ skidded into a ditch. Although there were no injuries and no apparent damage to the car, a tow truck

-56-

On 11/22/68 at Hialeah, Florida File # Miami 2-192

by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS/egc Date dictated 11/22/68

NW 2-192

2

had to be sent out from the town of Orizaba to pull the car from the ditch. As a result of the incident, GONZALEZ was required to proceed to Orizaba for some type of hearing, presumably before the chief of police there. She remained at the scene of the accident with the BANNISTERS but GONZALEZ later indicated to her that he had to go to the home of the chief of police because the latter's office was closed that day.

After the above incident, they resumed their trip to Guadalajara but had to leave the car which GONZALEZ was driving in the town of Morelia when it ran low on gas. The two couples had only sufficient funds in cash to drive one car the remaining distance to Guadalajara so GONZALEZ left the car in a Morelia garage. This garage, name unrecalled, is on the main highway through Morelia and is possibly near a church as she recalled hearing nearby church bells while there. She assumed that the car would be picked up later but she never did see it again.

The two couples arrived in Guadalajara in the BANNISTERS' car during the early afternoon of approximately September 9, 1968. On about September 16, 1968, the BANNISTERS departed. She presumed that they left by bus because she had not seen their car since two days after the couples arrived in Guadalajara. This presumption was strengthened by the fact that they had moved, several days prior to the departure of the BANNISTERS, from the first Guadalajara hotel, name unrecalled, where both couples stayed, to a second hotel, name also unrecalled, within two blocks of the Guadalajara Bus Station. She further recalled that RAY BANNISTER indicated at that time that he would accompany his wife to the United States - Mexican border, from which she would proceed to their Florida home by plane while he would rejoin GONZALEZ and herself in Guadalajara. In fact, neither ever returned. After waiting four days

MM 2-102

3

for BANNISTER to return; GONZALEZ called FRANK FIORINI in Miami and learned that BANNISTER was at that moment visiting FIORINI. BANNISTER then explained that he had been picked up by "Immigration", and for that reason had returned to Florida. He did not indicate whether he had been picked up by United States Immigration authorities or Mexican Immigration authorities. It was felt that BANNISTER had possibly decided not to participate in FIORINI's operation and may have concocted the "Immigration" story as an excuse for non-participation.

She said that GONZALEZ had telephoned FIORINI several times while they were in Vera Cruz and had been wired \$125 by FIORINI there. During that same period she had wired her mother for \$100. Most of this money was spent for hotels and meals for both couples during their stay in Vera Cruz. The BANNISTERS apparently had very little funds, although BANNISTER talked of wiring a former girl friend for money. She does not know whether he actually did this but feels that this may have been the source of the funds used by the BANNISTERS to return to Florida.

While in Guadalajara, she was at the home there of JERRY BUCHANAN about three times. BUCHANAN, his wife TERESA and children apparently arrived in Guadalajara from Florida about three days after her own arrival with GONZALEZ and the BANNISTERS. She could not recall the location of the BUCHANAN home in Guadalajara except that it appeared to be out of town. The only person seen at the BUCHANAN home besides those already mentioned was BUCHANAN's mother-in-law, name unrecalled. BUCHANAN, RAY BANNISTER and GONZALEZ spent a great deal of time together but she was unaware of their activities. From the time they entered Mexico, GONZALEZ often left her alone for long periods of time and never discussed his whereabouts during these times.

MM 2- 192

4

On approximately September 21, 1968, she and GONZALEZ left Guadalajara for Mexico City by bus, arriving there that same date. The next day they took a bus to Oaxaca, arriving there on September 23, 1968. They "touristed" in Oaxaca until October 3, 1968, when she left for Florida by commercial airline and the following day departed Mexico for Miami aboard a Pan American flight. She had obtained funds for these flights by wire from her mother on October 2, 1968. She gave GONZALEZ approximately \$40, this being the amount remaining from the money sent by her mother. She does not know how much money GONZALEZ had at that time but is certain that it was not much as he would have returned to Miami with her had he been able to purchase the necessary tickets.

While in Oaxaca, BUCHANAN showed up again for one day. During this time, she also met JIM WEISS, who had checked into the hotel, the "Margarita". She met no other Americans during her stay in Mexico.

Prior to her departure from GONZALEZ in Mexico, he indicated that he would proceed by bus to Comitán, Mexico, where he was to meet three or four others. She said that he called her, in Miami, from Comitán on October 4 and October 6, 1968, and asked her to determine if FRANK FIORINI had left Miami yet. If not, he wanted her to send him passage money home.

She said that she returned GONZALEZ's call on October 7, 1968, but the hotel manager at Comitán told her that GONZALEZ had gone "to the mountains" for four days. She took this to mean that GONZALEZ had met whomever he had planned to meet.

She did not hear from GONZALEZ again until he telephoned her on approximately November 2, 1968, and told her that he was in the Dade County Jail and that she should not answer any questions concerning their trip. She said that he called her again last Tuesday night and that they have corresponded by letter since his return to Miami. She said that GONZALEZ has retained a lawyer to defend him against bad check charges which he will face in a Dade County Court on December 13, 1968.

MM 2-192

5

She said that GONZALEZ told her at the beginning of their trip that the less she knew about the operation the better. She said that she knew only that GONZALEZ, FIORINI and other Americans were to participate in an anti-communist operation somewhere in South America. GONZALEZ also indicated to her that there was a great deal of money involved but that the money was not payable until the completion of the operation.

She explained that she had advised during a previous interview that she had traveled with GONZALEZ last August to Pennsylvania because GONZALEZ had told her not to disclose that she had traveled with him to Mexico. She was also anxious not to "get involved" and felt that the best way to do this was to say nothing at all about the trip to Mexico.

She said that she received no indication before or during the trip to Mexico that the cars in which they traveled were rented or stolen. She said that she was not present when GONZALEZ presented to Mexican Border Officials whatever papers were necessary to drive the Chevrolet into Mexico. She explained that she and LYNN BARNISTER were in a type of waiting room at the border while GONZALEZ and BARNISTER made the necessary arrangements.

She said that FIORINI telephoned her several days after he arrived from British Honduras. He asked her if she could raise the necessary funds to obtain bail for GONZALEZ on the bad check charges. He indicated that he had tried to obtain a loan for this purpose but was unable to because of a bad credit record. FIORINI telephoned her several other times regarding GONZALEZ but told her nothing pertinent about the operation in Mexico and did not mention the cars used during this operation.

MM 2-192

6

She said that she would furnish any pertinent information obtained from CONZALEZ on FIGINI concerning the use of rented or stolen cars during the recently completed operation in which they had been involved during their expedition in Mexico.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/24/68

GERALDINE SIMENIA advised that she resides at the interview site, 2401 Wilson Avenue. She said that she is a native born U. S. citizen and furnished the following information:

She and her husband, JOSE M. SUAREZ, documented since 1951, began residence in Cuba in 1946. Her father-in-law, Spanish by birth, owned the Suarez Tobacco Company and other successful business enterprises in Cuba.

Following the accession to power of FIDEL CASTRO, she cooperated with U. S. Military officials in Cuba by furnishing information concerning the CASTRO Regime. She was arrested by Cuban authorities on November 4, 1953, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment for "counterrevolutionary activities". She was released on March 19, 1953, and allowed to proceed to the United States. Her release was not secured by New York City Attorney JAMES DEHOVAN, although he spoke to CASTRO in her behalf. Her release, rather, was secured through the efforts of numerous friends, some of whom retained influence with the Government at that time. No ransom was paid for her release.

She was first associated with the IACB in about 1964 and was named vice president of the organization at that time. She considered this organization, whose founder and leader is FRANK FIORINI, to be a vehicle for the work to which she dedicated herself exclusively, the exchange or ransom of political prisoners in Cuba. She insisted to FIORINI from the beginning that the IACB not solicit funds, and that any unsolicited contributions be returned to donors. She felt this was necessary in order to distinguish IACB efforts from those of the numerous Cuban exile organizations whose leaders convert to their personal use the contributions of the members and of any non-leaders who can be browbeaten, or worse, into giving money to these organizations.

She felt that the IACB should concentrate on attempts to establish negotiations, directly or indirectly,

64

On 12/13/68 at Hollywood, Florida File # Miami 2-192

by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS/vgl

Date dictated 12/18/68

MM 2-192

2

with the CASTRO Government for the ransom or exchange of prisoners.

The CASTRO Government had indicated to a Mexican contact of hers that it would not deal with any Cuban exile group in this matter and would terminate any negotiations in the event of publicity given to ransom or exchange efforts. The DCH, being composed of Americans, thus seemed an ideal organization for her purposes.

It was felt that ransom funds could easily be raised from Cuban exiles if an agreement could be reached with the Cuban Government. She had compiled a list of 200 male and 20 female prisoners who were to be the first released under any such agreement by virtue of age, infirmities, and length of time imprisoned. If FICINI is in possession of a list of 200 male and 20 female prisoners in Cuba, it is undoubtedly a copy of her list.

An effort was made to persuade President RAUL LEONE of Venezuela to exchange Cuban prisoners seized by Venezuela in infiltration attempts for political prisoners held by Cuba. She and FICINI proceeded to Caracas, Venezuela in March of this year and an audience was arranged with President LEONE. This effort was not made under U. S. State Department auspices but was arranged by syndicated newspaper columnist DREW PEARSON.

President LEONE was sympathetic but indicated that any prisoner exchange negotiations would have to be initiated by the Venezuelan Congress, which undoubtedly would not do so at the present time. FICINI did not participate in any activity at this meeting with the President LEONE, merely sat and listened as she and President LEONE conversed.

They also met in Venezuela with Dr. AURELIO ALVAREZ BONESHARELA, leader of the Jose Marti Organization, which includes the bulk of Cuban exiles in Venezuela among its members.

MH 2-192

3

She recalled that FIORINI described himself to ALVAREZ as an "action man", out of his element in prisoner exchange negotiations. FIORINI had private discussions with ALVAREZ but she doubts that he could have established a working relationship with ALVAREZ.

They did not visit Costa Rica and had no contact with the former president of Costa Rica, JOSE FIGUEROA.

She and FIORINI returned directly to Miami, Florida, after their short visit to Venezuela. FIORINI wanted to publish an account of the trip but she refused authorization.

After their return, FIORINI began indicating that he was dissatisfied and discouraged with their exchange-ransom efforts and wanted "action". She emphasized to him that she considered small scale, amateur military actions against Cuba to be futile and that she wanted no part of plans for such. She and FIORINI broke off their relationship at that time and she has had no contact with him of any kind since last April or early May.

During her relationship with the IACB, it was never called the Secret Army Organization. This designation must have been acquired during planning for the expedition which ended abortively in British Honduras. The IACB has always been a "paper" organization whose membership, outside of herself, included only a few henchmen of FIORINI's, such as MAX GONZALEZ, CHARLES CORNELL, an old man who was an errand boy of sorts for FIORINI, and, when he was in the Miami area, JERRY NICHOLSON. The IACB had no funds, nor did FIORINI personally. There was no meeting place and, in the formal sense, no meetings known to her outside of those between herself and FIORINI regarding the exchange and/or ransom of political prisoners.

She knows from her association with FIORINI that he has no contacts in Mexico or, for that matter, in any Central or South American country.

MM 2-102

4

FRANK FIORINI is well aware that a small force of invaders or commandos would almost certainly be wiped out in any action against the Cuban mainland. It is probable that he got as close to Cuba as he intended to when he and the other Americans were arrested in British Honduras and that his real objective was to gain a great deal of publicity which could later be used as a basis for fund raising among Cuban exiles.

FIORINI's image is that of a great military leader and he detests the reality of his life as a used car salesman.

She has never heard of FRANCISCO QUESADA and it is a virtual certainty that there is not such person. FIORINI indicated to her previously that in the event he involved himself in any military operations against Cuba he would use a war name of "FRANCISCO" in order to avoid problems with Federal agencies. When CASTRO was finally overthrown he would reveal his true identity.

She was shown a biography of QUESADA which had been issued to applicants for the MACH expedition. She noted several points of similarity in the backgrounds of FIORINI and QUESADA. It was her opinion that FIORINI adopted FRANCISCO QUESADA as his war name and that the background shown for QUESADA was a glamorized version of FIORINI's.

She never knew FIORINI to be involved in any criminal activities. He never indicated that he was in possession of blank birth certificates, military service discharge papers, passports or motor vehicle title certificates.

MM 2-192
FEG/rgl/bab

1

III. MISCELLANEOUS

On November 4, 1968, the records of the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D. C., were caused to be searched and no record identifiable with FRANCISCO QUESADA was located on the basis of information furnished.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MM 2-102

FIG/rsl

1

On December 9, 1968, MM T-5 was furnished the description of RAY EMMISTER and advised that EMMISTER is undoubtedly identical with RAY BRUCE, who is currently part of a stereo opening team for a new Lou's Restaurant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but should return to this area shortly.

He said that BRUCE resides in the Hollywood, Florida, area with his presumed wife, first name believed to be LENA, who, like BRUCE, is thin and has black hair.

Source continued that FRANK FIGIARI uses BRUCE and others to sell black birth certificates, motor vehicle title certificates, Selective Service Cards and passports. These are not authentic but are copies.

MM T-5 said that FIGIARI had previously mentioned a camp which his organization has in Guatemala. It is reportedly near a Guatemalan Government-operated gold mine and vault in mountainous terrain.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
January 6, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 2-162

Title: INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST
BRIGADE (IACB), ANA ORGANIZACION
EJERCITO SECRETO DE LA BRIGADA
INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA
(SECRET ARMY ORGANIZATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST
BRIGADE); ET AL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA;
NEUTRALITY MATTER

Reference: Report of Special Agent
FRANCIS B. GIBBONS, dated
and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose
identities are concealed in referenced communication
have furnished reliable information in the past.

Contact with IACB T-4 has been insufficient to
determine reliability. However, this source is closely
associated with several of the subjects and is therefore
in a position to furnish reliable information concerning
them.

This document contains neither recommendations
nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI
and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not
to be distributed outside your agency.

40362