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BERNARD LEON BARKER

RETURN TO CIA  
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BIOGRAPHIC DATA AND CHRONOLOGY

CRYPTONYM: (AMCLATTER-1)  
PSEUDONYM: (Spencer O. Terteling)

PERSONALITY TRAITS: Howard Hunt praised Barker in his book, Give Us This Day, for his eagerness, efficiency and complete dedication. "Overall his help was invaluable." The individual who first recruited Barker in Havana lauded his enthusiasm and his "puppy-dog loyalty" to his case officers, but found he was inclined to indiscretion because of a "belligerent" pro-Americanism. Another CIA officer, (David Morales) told Chris Hopkins in a 1972 telephone conversation that Barker was a "loudmouth" who (Morales) recommended terminating in 1962. (Morales) was concerned that as a result of Barker's Watergate involvement, he would "tell the authorities everything he knows." Indeed, Barker tended to broadcast his affiliation with the CIA to the members of the Cuban exile community and anyone else who might have been interested. This was tolerable prior to the Bay of Pigs when his assignment as liaison between the FRD and the CIA was overt. However, post Bay of Pigs CIA activities in the Miami area required a more covert approach. Barker was told to strengthen his cover as prize fight manager and use "cut-outs" in his attempts to gather information about the activities of the exile groups. Gradually, he was to cease all direct contact with the exiles. For a man who had a "love of the game", and an even greater affinity for the more overt techniques of investigation and interview, it became increasingly difficult to find a niche in Miami CIA activities. By the time he was terminated from CIA employemnt in 1966, he had been involved less and less with gathering information on Cuban exile activities, and had spent the greater part of his time debriefing recent refugees from Cuba. He never seemed to adapt to the more covert requirements of his job nor was he ever able to establish the collective exile community perception that he was no longer affiliated with the Agency.

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BERNARD LEON BARKER

CHRONOLOGY:

March 17, 1917

Born in Havana, Cuba. Parents: Father - Name unknown. Born 1/2/98 in Columbia, Tenn. Sanders, W.S. - Farmingdale, NY listed as Barker's other parent, presumably his mother, who is mentioned elsewhere as Mrs. John English of New York.

1936-1938

Attended Farmingdale High School, Farmingdale, New York.

1940-1941

Attended the University of Havana.

1942-1950

Served in the United States Army Corps. Attained rank of Captain. Flew sorties over Germany until he was shot down and taken as a prisoner of war.

July 29, 1947

Barker is issued an American Foreign Service identification card. Valid until 7/28/49. Occupation listed as importer.

1950-1951

Sergeant in the Cuban Police Department in Havana. Hunt says he took the job at the request of the CIA. During this time he cooperated with Jim Spears, FBI representative at the American Embassy in Havana. He also assisted Treasury Department officials in breaking a drug-smuggling ring. Received a commendation for performance of duty for escorting Mrs. Truman on a visit to Cuba.

1951-1951

Owner of farm in Pinar del Rio Province

1951-1955

Remington Rand Corporation  
(Job unknown)

1953

Dr. Mario Lazo assisting Barker with citizenship problem. Compiled file for Barker.

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BARKER

November 25, 1953

Travelled to United States, entered at New York City. Sought legal assistance from Edward Bennett Williams in Washington.

1955-1958

Marianao Municipal government (Job unknown)

1959

(No date)

Dr. Mario Lazo told Barker his "services were needed to fight Communism."

Barker says the agency assigned [redacted] to him. Other names also noted:

April 2, 1955

POA requested by [redacted] for the use of Barker as informant in Havana. Personal associates listed as:  
Dr. Mario Lazo, atty, Havana  
Dr. Miguel Alvarez Miari, Professor, University of Havana

Also noted in one instance that Barker's recruitment originally handled by [redacted]

April 14

POA granted.

Barker's activities in Havana for the CIA not identified, other than they "organized a group to infiltrate the Cuban government", according to Barker.

August

Message sent from Marcos Diaz Lanz to Frank Fiorini, asking his help in escaping from Cuba.

September

Reichardt requesting information regarding Sanjenis, who was fired from the no. 2 spot in the Cuban DIER and now expected to arrive in Miami.

October

Pedro Diaz Lanz file routed to Hunt.

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BARKER

October-November

Marcos Diaz Lanz in contact with [redacted] and Reichardt. Known as "Bernie." Reichardt to identify himself to Marcos (as David Morale)

[redacted] reports "close and apparently unshakeable relationship with people like Frank Fiorini," despite warnings that he talks too much.

November 15 to 25

Barker travel from Havana to Caracas, activities unknown.

1960

January 15

[redacted] acting as Barker's channel to headquarters.

January 18

Evacuated to the United States by Air Attache transport plane. Evacuation completely covert. Later said he used Cuban passport as documentation at urging of [redacted] that it would not effect citizenship.

(No documentation in file to substantiate use of Cuban passport or that Barker was ever issued one.)

In another instance, Barker said he left Cuba too quickly to obtain any documentation.

Met in U.S. by Bernie Reichardt. Obtained Special Entry status from INS. Turned over to [redacted] who remained his case officer until May. Shortly after Barker's arrival, Reichardt requests assignment of Barker to Puerto Rico as his assistant.

April

Indications that Barker became Frank Bender's representative in Miami at this time.

May

POA requested for use of Barker in U.S. as an independent contract agent in political operations. Joe Piccolo's name noted as case officer. Barker to

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BARKER, 1960

maintain continuity of contact with Varona's group, et al.

May

Martha Tharpe listed as case officer for [redacted] Salary \$300 per month. "Will act in capacity of local representative of cover group working with numerous contacts ... under direction of Senior Case officer Project (JMARC)"

(No date)

Meeting between, Barker, Varona, and "Douglas." Varona complaining that Barker "spoiling" Arttime; also objects to Barker's attitude of treating all FRD leaders alike since it makes it difficult for Varona to take lead.

September

Barker "restless." Proposed to Bender that he might be utilized at one of the training camps, but believe Barker's best use is as assistant to Hunt.

November

\$5000 from "private" source passed to Pedro Diaz Lanz to repair B-25. Frank Fiorini listed as one of Diaz Lanz' pilots. (Note: Hunt had requested that amount from CIA headquarters for Diaz Lanz.)

November

Barker talked with Sanjenis who accused (fnu) Goudie of sabotaging the military effort and putting loyalty to Justo Carillo above FRD interests.

December

"Hamilton" impressed with Pedro Diaz Lanz' sincerity. Proposes propaganda tour thru Latin America.

1961

January

Barker's wife, Clara Elena, obtaining POA for use as translator with her husband. Case officer named - Joe Piccolo

Hunt investigating report from Customs that Frank Fiorini told them in December 1960 that \$2800 furnished by the CIA

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BARKER, 1961

was paid to Customs to retrieve the B-25 confiscated earlier from Diaz Lanz. Fiorini mentioned the CIA agent involved as "Barker." Also said Pedro Diaz Lanz preparing for goodwill tour.

Hunt's investigation disclosed that the \$2800 came from a personal loan to Pedro Diaz Lanz by Saralegui. Barker said he met Fiorini on only one occasion with a group of people, and did not see him before or since.

(From Pedro Diaz Lanz file)

May 1961

Barker reporting on meetings in New York City of CRC leaders.

June 1961

Barker contacts Hunt as "last resort" to straighten citizenship status. Barker no longer case officered, but handled administratively by [redacted] formerly Hunt's administrative assistant.

July

Barker travels to Washington to see Hunt; work on citizenship problem. Hunt introduces Barker to his next case officer, [redacted] of JMWAVE.

July 17

Barker reporting re: Brigade prisoners sent to negotiate ransom. (Reinaldo Pico one of the two in the ten-man negotiating group who refused to return to Cuba as promised. His defection from the group caused some animosity from other exiles. Originally cleared for Approval in September 1960. Reported to Barker (on JGCE in 1963 and JURE in 1964.) In 1969 reported to be working in Venezuela for Minister of the Interior, where Luis Posada employed.)

Barker reports that the prisoners are fed well and morale is high, but they are bitter toward the United States. Barker reported to have had difficulties

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BARKER, 1961

Cuban exile who are venting their wrath about the Bay of Pigs fiasco to Barker.

August 4

[redacted] and Hunt confer with the General Counsel, CIA, about Barker's citizenship

August 17

Barker's contract extended. Pay = \$400/m

September 21

Hunt requests \$500 per month retroactively to November 1, 1960 for Barker.

October

Barker meets with Jose Miro Cardona at Miro's request. Miro yearns for "good old days with Bender and Hamilton." Miro's friendly attitude toward Barker deemed suspicious.

October 21

Overflight over Cuba with Bill Johnson, Robert Swanner, Frank Fiorini and Alexander Rorke as participants.

1962

January 17

Parole expired.

March 16

INS has file on Barker as of this date. Reports nothing derogatory.

March 18-28

Travelled to Caracas, Venezuela, ostensibly for fight of Doug Vaillant, prize fighter who Barker manages, but went to apply for immigrant visa to U.S.

April

Contract extended one year, over signature of William Harvey.

August

Regular progress reports for Barker's activities begin.

Contacted Aldo Vera Serafin.

August-December

Investigating Alpha 66. Contacting Santiago Alvarez, Jr.

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BARKER, 1962

October

Investigating Orlando Bosch and Alpha 66. Gave verbal report regarding Vecia

November

First report with Fiorini as source. Fiorini source of reports almost every month from this point on.

November 11

Investigating Rorke's activities through leads from Frank Fiorini.

December

Very tense month. Return of Brigade prisoners. Orange Bowl speech by Kennedy. Kennedy's statements accepted in general by exile community, according to Barker report, except with right reactionary elements known as the "Palm Beach crowd" who are developing a plan of attack against administration policy.

1963

January

Barker told not to associate with Varona and must deal with exiles through cut-outs.

Barker reports re: operations by Rorke and Fiorini; rift in Brigade 2506 caused by Enrique Llaca.

February

Report from Carlos Hernandez that he was invited to join a new Brigade organization. Barker also reports on operations by Rorke from information given by Bill Johnson and Frank Fiorini.

April

Barker takes a "Cover" trip to Puerto Rico, involving two weeks vacation and a prize fight. Met Bernard Reichardt who was surprised to learn Barker's citizenship problem had not been taken care of.

Barker reports on the arrest of Evelio Duque in Rorke's boat, VIOLYN III, from information given by Fiorini.

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BARKER, 1963

May

Barker reports Fiorini to participate in air strike over Cuba with Diaz Lanz brothers; a tempest is created in Miami over the withdrawal of monetary support for Jose Miro Cardona and the CRC.

May 24

Barker planned to use the good offices of Manuel "Cuco" de Leon or Luis Somoza to see Manuel Artime in Nicaragua.

(Miguel de Leon Rojas was interviewed by the FBI on May 25, 1964, in connection with the investigation into allegations that Quentin Pino Machado was to have rescued Oswald after the assassination and arranged for his transport to Cuba. Miguel de Leon was named as a source of this information. Miguel de Leon is a former Congressman from Cuba, living in Coral Gables at the time of his FBI interview. He told the FBI that he heard the story at the home of Sixto Mesa, although he could not remember who had related the episode. He said he was aware of the fact that Machado, during 1959, had been appointed by Fidel Castro as Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua, that he subsequently was declared persona non grata, and that he had served in Mexico on a Cuban assignment to investigate activities directed against the Castro regime.)

May 24

Marcos Diaz Lanz trying to patch up differences between Fiorini and Pedro Diaz Lanz.

June

Barker reports Frank Fiorini information to the effect that Fiorini received two phone calls from General Clare Chenault in California, regarding participation in anti-Castro activities. Chenault suggested the exiles contact the Chinese nationalists to request aid. Barker also reported on the Diaz Lanz brothers. He also reported that Pedro Martinez Fraga, an officer in the CRC, would provide him with information on that group.

June

Marcos invites Fiorini to join raid against Cuba on 6/15.

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BARKER, 1963

July

Barker reports on information from Fiorini regarding the Diaz Lanz brothers' raid.

July

Fiorini, Marcos, and Pedro involved in plans to drop anti-U.S., anti-CIA and anti-Arttime leaflets over Cuba. Fiorini to act as co-pilot and unidentified person was assigned task of making press release from Mexico City.

July 28

Pedro Diaz Lanz intercepted on his way to Weir Williams ranch in preparation for raid. Raid rescheduled.

August 22

Barker contract extended one year.

August 21

Hunt requests reimbursement for \$500 not previously claimed. Given to [redacted] by Hunt's administrative assistant, [redacted] in May 1961.

August

With the cooperation of Fiorini, Barker able to keep the Station informed on Diaz Lanz activities in time to thwart plans. Also turned up possible lead toward penetration Julio Lobo activities Reported on creation of the JGCE, with Reinaldo Pico as Secretary of Labor. The report by Barker lists all the group's officers with red underlining the names of Felipe Rivero Diaz, former Brigade member, and Pico.

September 12

[Johnson] informs Barker on plans for strike against Cuba using napalm bombs.

September 24

Cancellation date on letter from Mariou Coubi to Bernard Barker, British Embassy Moscow, USSR.  
Coubi reutrn address is Apt. 3208 West Marina Tower, 300 North State St., Chicago, Ill, Photo attached dated 8/6  
"It seems ages since we last met, and as a matter of fact it is, but I hope you won't have to read this twice to find out where it came from."

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BARKER, 1963

September

Barker receives information (from Pico) regarding the JGCE and Paulino Sierra.

Jack Griffin said to have been working with Bosch this month, making two strikes over Cuba.

November 3

Pedro Diaz Lanz makes a speech criticizing President Kennedy.

November 5

Pico is approached by Ray who is seeking unification of JURE with Sierra's group.

November 14

Barker reports regarding persistent rumors that Ray produced the defection of Carlos Franqui, a Cuban who fled to France and reportedly received \$200,000 to \$300,000. This considered to be consistent with an alleged plot of a deal worked out between the United States and the USSR to overthrow Castro and establish a Tito-type government acceptable to both super powers.

November 25

Barker's name appears on CIS censorship list. Barker under investigation as a possible CIS agent. His mail will be intercepted and he will be under surveillance.

November 14

Barker receives information that Mrs. Eusebio Mujal had been approached by a U.S. agency with a request that she send her relative, Regino Boti, a member of Castro's cabinet, a memo offering him the provisional Presidency of Cuba if he would act against Cuba.

November-December

(Pico) reporting to Barker re: JURE.

1964

February

Barker's contract extended one year.

[Johnson] arranging support aspects for

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BARKER, 1964

strikes against Cuba by Bosch of the MIRR, who is planning a strike over Havana. The plane to be used was purchased in Arizona.

May 26

(Pico) reports he was asked to join JURE.

Barker is polygraphed in connection with the investigation of possible CIS ties. Nothing derogatory found. Shows he still feels great affection for Tony Varona. He knows the following CIA personnel by true name: [redacted]

[redacted] Art Avignone, Howard Hunt

July 20 - August 21

Barker in New York City receiving basic tradecraft training at the request of Desmond Fitzgerald.

August 7

State Department reaches the decision that Barker lost his U.S. citizenship, must wait five years then apply for naturalization.

POA granted.

October 1

Notation in Pedro Diaz Lanz file (by Droller): "Bender never met Lanz."

November 24

Reported by INS that Barker file has either been lost or misplaced.

November 18

Marcos Diaz Lanz reportedly engaged in arms smuggling operation using alias "Pedro Garcia." Marcos a member of Minuteman in Florida. Made anti-Johnson statements that is Johnson elected "they", meaning the Minutemen, would have to make armed revolt.

December

Richard Zaragosi tells Barker he would assassinate Castro 12/20/64. Zaragosi reportedly affiliated with Rolando Masferrer and the anti-Duvalier Haitians.

1965

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BARKER, 1965

1965

February

Contract extended one year.

Receives information regarding a raid  
by the MIRR from Fiorini and Johnson.

Receives information regarding the  
ransacking of Varona's house.

Barker reportedly has theory that Castro  
using the bolita racket to fund agents  
in the U.S. CO expresses concern that  
Barker may becoming too involved with  
underworld elements.

April

Barker recieved 4 threatening phone calls  
from an individual identifying himself  
as "Jerry Walker."  
Pico also recently received threatening  
phone calls.

1966

January

Barker reportedly has a large number of  
contacts in the community. He is now  
used primarily as a refugee debreifer.  
Some of Barker's contacts are (suspected  
underworld characters.

April

Barker's contract to be extended thru  
7/31/66 and terminated 7/31/66.

July 31

Terminal bonus \$1500.

August 8

Barker to move to Chicago to work with  
Rauland Corporation, a subsidiary of  
Zenith Radio Corp.

1972

(No date)

(David Morales) talking about Barker  
says Barker with tell authorities every  
thing he knows.

1974

Memo in DCD - instructions not to talk to  
Barker if contacted.

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BARKER, 1976

1976

Barker sent a letter to the agency 3/31/76 for which Chris Hopkins does a name trace on 3 individuals, presumably mentioned in Barker's letter:

Father Jose Leonardo Vazquez  
Father O'Farrill  
Marcos Diaz Lanz

1977

Marita Lorenz alleges that Pedro Diaz Lanz and Frank Sturgis were involved in the Kennedy assassination.

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