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MAX LESNICK MENENDEZ

SECRET

201-209258

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11110930

VOLUME I

6/22/49 - 12/31/73

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*as redacted*

THIRD AGENCY DOCUMENTS:

FBI--

12/31/73	Miami	Max Lesnick,	105-3492
9/27/73	Miami	Directorio Revoluc.	105-20202
11/8/73	Miami	" "	105-20202
6/26/73	Miami	Orlando Bosch	105-2856
4/26/73	Miami	" "	"
4/27/73	Miami	" "	"
9/25/69	Miami	Rolando Masferrer Rojas	2-156
10/15/68	Miami	Unk. Subj.-Cmte of Cubans for the defense...	105-16515
1/29/65	Miami	Second Natl Front of Escambray	105-6243
9/21/61	Miami	Max Lesnick	105-3492
3/30/61	San Antonio	Max Lesnick	105-2124
11/23/55	-	Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Rodriguez	-

STATE DEPARTMENT

6/22/49	Havana	Proposed Cub. Natl Congress for Peace and Democracy	#486
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FILE:  
Synopsis:

File consists mainly of information from the period 1949-1961, indicating Lesnick has been active in politics for most of his adult life. During the fifties he was a prominent leader of Juventud Ortodoxa, which was considered to have strong leftist leanings. He engaged in propoganda efforts to large extent with this group and was vocally anti-Batista. By 1959 he was involved with SFNE, a leftist-oriented group which originally backed the Castro-Urrutia government. In 1961, however, he left for the United States and was kept in detention for some weeks because of suspected

*FBZ info*  
REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE  
ON 1/14/98 *clad*  
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 RELEASE IN PART  
 TOTAL DENIAL

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Communist leanings. In the fifties he had had some contact with CIA operatives or cut-outs.

-- Doc X ref - 201-0733547 [LX] 03890 12/12/73

[AMFREE] considered good source, claimed Lesnick was an officer with Fidel. Described Lesnick as "red as a beet"

-- INS - Agency name check 10/1/68

Max Edgardo Lesnick Menendez, PD0B: Las Villas, Cuba 9/8/30

Organizations: Federacion Estudiantil Univ. Havana, 1948-55  
 Ortodoxo Party, Director, Juventud Ortodoxo, 1951,  
 1947-60  
 SFNE, Natl Secy 1959-1960

Residence: Miami from June 1961 to present; Havana until Jan 1961.

Employment: 2/1959 - Cadena Oriental de Radio, Diario Nacional,  
 9/60 Havana

2/65-4/67 - Self-employed, WMIE Radio Station  
 to present - Unemployed

Last admission to U.S. 1/26/61

-- [UFG 21845/33] Bio data report -

Pre law student, Havan, 3 years/

ran small cigar and coffee shop in Havana 1955-8

Radio Commentator, 1959-60

Member executive board of Ortodoxo Party Youth section.  
 In charge of propaganda for anti-Batista group, SNFE, 1957-58,  
 and for anti-Castro groups, People's Revolutionary Movement, MRP,  
 and Montecristi group (AM, 1960.

Arrived in small boat in U.S in early 1961. Held in INS  
 detention center for several months because of suspected pro-  
 Communist connecitons.

Taped daily program, "Cuba Awakens" in Miami and broadcast from  
 the Dominican Republic, 1962-63.

Publisher of a small exile newspaper in Miami, "Replica", since  
 1963, and commnetator for daily news program, "Radio Replica",  
 since 1964.

Father, Samuel Lesnick, born in Poland, operated cothing store  
 in Havana, and now lives in the Dominican Republic. He is  
 divorced from Lesnick's mother, Maria Teresa Menendez, a retired  
 teacher. Max Lesnick is married to Miriam Alvarez, a ballet teacher.

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Lesnick: small, stock, sloppy, brash, aggressive, and excitable. Highly partisan and argumentative. Effective public speaker and writer, and a keen, bright political observer and analyst. Unreliable and not very trustworthy. Does not have political leadership talents.

Reported as pro-Communist and as an active Communist propagandist while at the University of Havana. Rumored to originator of Cuba Si, Yankee No slogan, which he denies. Says relationships with Communists stems solely from opposition to Prio and Batista.

-- Doc X ref - [019-300-004 UFG03590] 9/10/63

Lesnick committed himself officially to JURE. Would broadcast weekly on behalf of JURE in Dominican Republic.

-- INS Name check 1/29/61

Indicates :

5'6", 150 lbs., brn eyes, brn hair; dark complexion.

-- Cable IN 43772 1/2/59

Indicates, Lesnick rear guard of SFNE, of which Menoyo and Fleites, at front. SNFE accepting Castro, Urrutia, urgently seeking contact with Camilio Cienfeugos, coordinate use troops

Remainder of file regarding pre-Castro activities.

-- Dispatch - [HKH -A-4002] 10/31/57

Indicates listed as [JMKEEL] target in 1957. Contact was established with him in about August 1957 as a consequence of his non-immigrant visa application, and about six meetings have been held with him since that time, ostensibly for the purpose of fully clarifying his visa status. When and if he obtains visa, PRQ Part I will be forwarded according to [JMKEEL] procedure.

VOLUME II:

THIRD AGENCY DOCUMENTS:

FBI--

11/16/77	Director	Cuban Intell. Activities in U.S.
8/6/77	"	Wild Stallion, IS-Cuba, Panama
1/1/76	"	Anti-castro Activities

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9/25/74	Miami	Max Lesnick	105-3492
9/20/74	Miami	Union Mundial Anticomunista	105-22159
8/20/74	Miami	Ruben Dario Mascunana Correa	105-21878
7/31/74	Miami	Accion Cubana	105-21947
7/29/74	Miami	Orlando Garcia Benitez	105-21901
7/23/74	Miami	Union Mundial Anticomunista	105-22159
6/28/74	Miami	Max Lesnick	105-3492
6/25/74	Miami	"ZERO"	105-22094
3/27/74	Miami	Anti-Castro activities	105-1742
3/14/74	Miami	Rev. Medical Union; Dr. Humberto Luis Fontana Menendez	105-71604
3/14/74	Miami	Accion Cubana	105-21947
2/28/74	Miami	Max Lesnick	105-3492
2/20/74	Miami	Alfredo Santiago Soler Alvarez	
2/13/74	Miami	Directorio Revolucionario	105-20202
2/11/74	Miami	Jose Antonio Calatayud Rivero	105-21599
2/16/74		Orlando Bosch Avila	105-2856
1/15/74		Frente Cubana de Liberacion	105-21892

FILE:

Synopsis: Indicates Lesnick still involved with "Replica" from 1963 to present. Known as pro-Castro leftist. Increasingly more involved with known terrorists, such as Orlando Bosch, Aldo Vera Serafin, and others, Suspected of being agent for Panamanian government, possibly engaged in anti-US. propaganda in the Canal Zone.

-- Doc X ref - 200-006-495/18 DTR-01686 1/18/78

Attended meeting for purpose of organizing secret anti-Castro group.

-- Cable 936139 012017Z 11/1/76

Traces re: Lesnick--indicates Lesnick involved with Orlando

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Bosch and was involved in and supported a number of Cuban exile Revolutionary groups' terrorist activities/ Lesnick recvd money from Panama (allegedly) in connection with narcotics traffic and allegedly was responsible for the arrest in Panama of Gabriel Gregorio Rodriguez, who was suspected of plotting against the Torrijos government in Panama. As of 9/74 Lesnick and Bosch reportedly no longer cooperating because of an argument over money. (Cable also has traces on Aldo Vera Serafin, DPOB 7/28/28, Las Villas, Cuba. Held several positions in Castro govt including that of Chief of Technical investigations Dept, main intelligence organ of Cuban Natl Police. Arr. in U.S 3/13/61. Issued permanent Alien reg. # A 12-486-223 June 1965. In 1972 moved to Puerto Rico. Very active in Cuban exile groups until killed 10/25/76 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Vera involved with Bosch's Accion Cubana. [BKHERALD] had had contact with Vera on and off since 1964. Considered in 1964 for [AMWORLD] program. Registered with Army ISR for period 1/64-7/64 and 8/64-4/66, both times dropped without prejudice.

-- Message - IN 080362 262132Z Oct 76

Indicates Bosch under arrest in Venezuela with Luis Posada Carriles alias "El Bambi." Bosch traveling on Costa Rican passport and also had Nicaraguan, Dominican and Chilean passports.

Bosch's contacts: Manuel Porro in Nicaragua; Orlando Nunez in Costa Rica; Mario Rivadilla in Santo Domingo. Posada described as ex US Army ranger, who worked for Nenez. DIGEPOL for 8 years and then organized private detective agency which employs over 1000 men. Posada directed all violent actions in Venezuela against the Communists. His alias, "Inspector Basilio" and also "El Caliche." The recent operation against the Cubana plane was mounted by Posada assisted by Aldo Vera. Bosch's recent trip to Venezuela was an attempt to settle the differences between "Aldo's group" and CORU. Bosch's mission was successful as it appears CORU and Aldo's group will unite. Aldo Vera reportedly in Puerto Rico.

Joe Merola and Rolando Martinez to introduce reporting writer to Arnulfo Arias in Panama. Merola and Martinez described as having contact with CIA.

-- Message - OM 076237 211217Z Oct 76

Max Lesnick implicated in Cubana Airliner operation.

-- Trace [UFG -0179] 10/20/62

Planned a shortwave broadcast of recent Alpha attack from Santo Domingo on 10/12/62

-- Trace [UFG 04843] 3/27/64

Believed to be liason between Ray ?

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-- Trace [UFGA 17410 A01] 8/24/64

Contact of Jorge Volsky

-- 201-209258 REF [UFGA 12336,] 11/3/63

Arr USA Key West, FL, 1/26/61 requesting political asylum.  
Date of info 11/63

-- Message IN 314921 231916Z July 74

Newsarticle indicates Pedro Martinez filing charges against  
Lesnick, claiming Lesnick threatened him with guns ordering him  
out of Dade County.

-- Message 570490 031611Z 7/3/74

Lesnick involved in court case in Washington as defense witness.  
Possibly CUIS agent. possibly unregistered panamanian agent.

-- Doc Extract - [ ]<sup>22</sup>28924 } 6/26/74

Subject of security investigation by FBI. In contact with  
Ruben Dario Mascunana.