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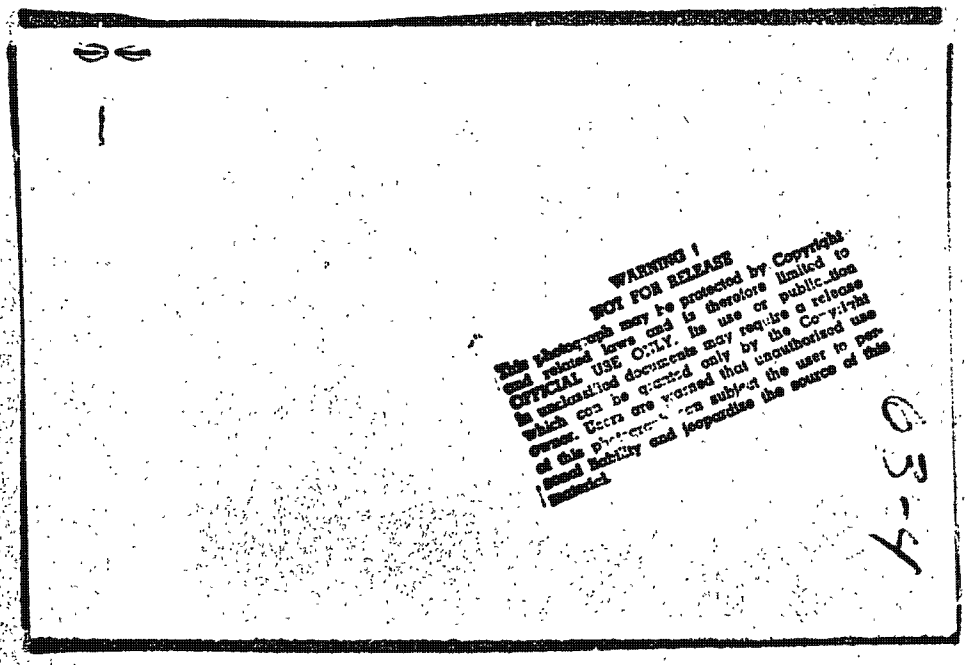
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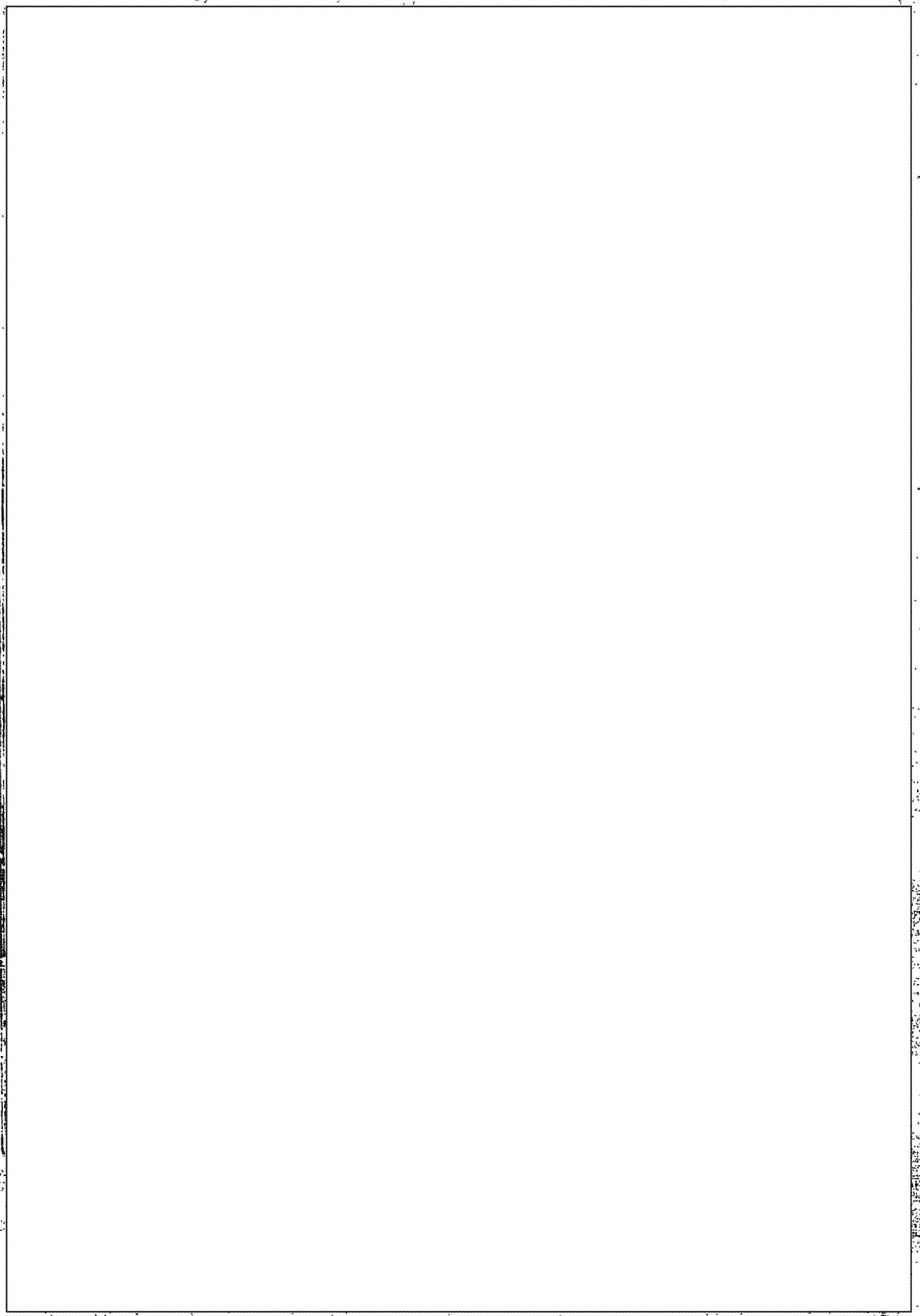
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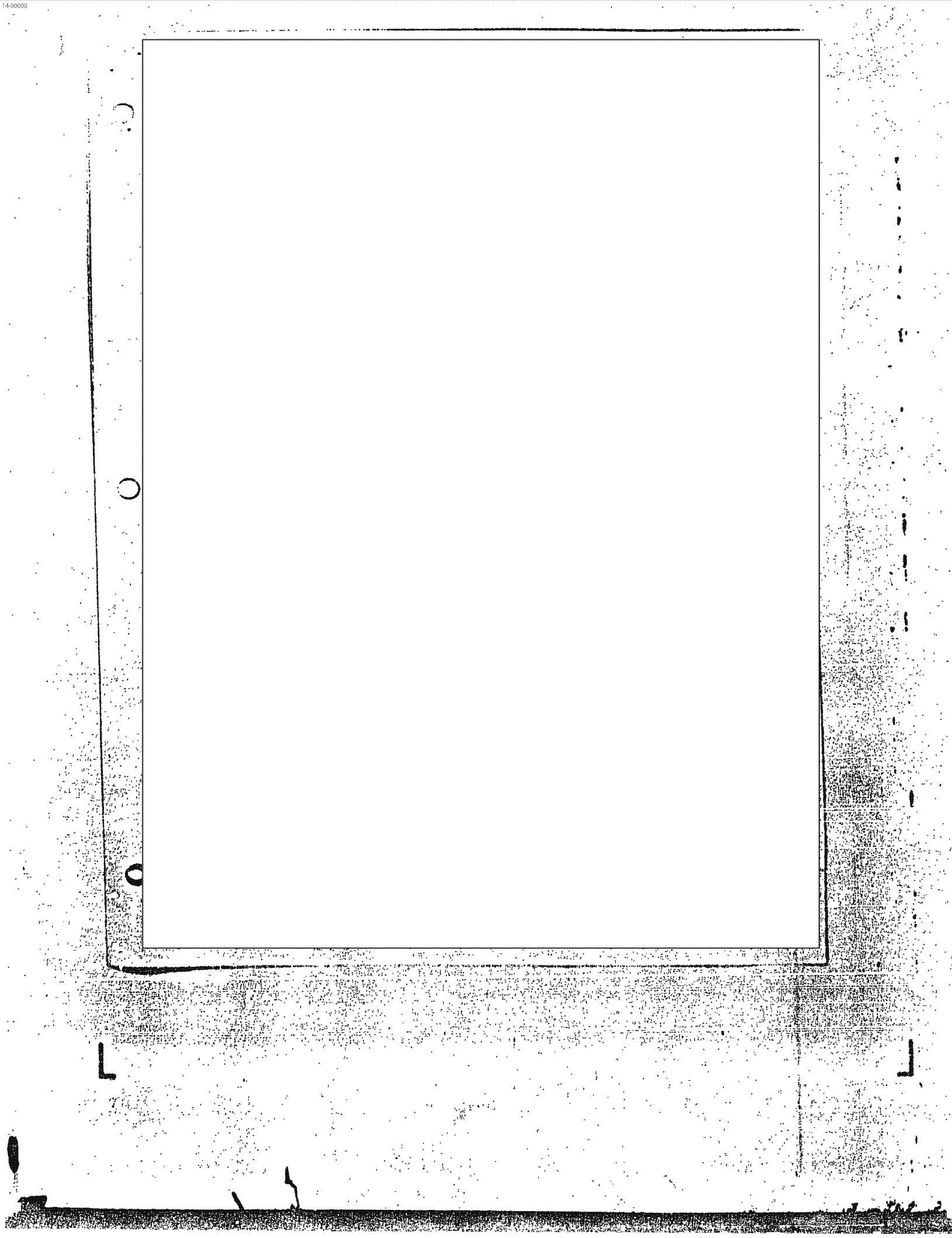
CHARLES, CLEMARD JOSEPH. BANKER,
PORT-AU-PRINCE.
OFFICIAL USE ONLY CIA-P-162573

14-00000



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14-00000

CONTROLLED DISSEM | C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L | NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY Haiti

SUBJECT Clemard Charles Statement That He Will Attempt Duvalier Overthrow Feb-Mar 69/ Charles Comment On No. 2 and 3 Men In Duvalier Regime; Confirmation by UK Consul General/Weak Condition of Banque Commerciale d'Haiti/Background On Various Personalities and Their Present Location

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 23 DEC 1968

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES (360)

1. I recently spent approximately three days in Haiti (9-12 Dec 68) and while there had extended visits with Clemard Joseph Charles, President, Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, and also owner of a sisal plantation and mill. Present during my visits with Charles was his personal assistant and confidant, Ludovich Celestines. Charles, a devout Catholic, personally told me that he intended to attempt to overthrow Duvalier. He has made specific plans for this overthrow in late February or early March 1969. He claims that he definitely has the Army and the Catholic Church with him, and that the overthrow will be without bloodshed.

2. I had not intended to contact other officials or individuals in Haiti. However, on the last day of my stay I was invited to visit with Clovis M. Desinor, formerly Haiti's representative to the UN and currently Dr. Duvalier's Minister of Finance. He is said to be the No. 2 man in Haiti - next to Duvalier. Present at the meeting with Desinor was his assistant, Dr. Herve Boyer and reportedly the No. 3 man.

BACKGROUND

3. I first met the individuals mentioned above in 1965-66 while on an extended stay in Haiti for business purposes. I was introduced to Charles by Max Rowe, a driver assigned to me by the Haitian Government and whose wife, Raymonde, was the personal secretary for Charles. Rowe continued to drive for me on that first and subsequent visits to Haiti except on this latest visit when he was absent in the US.

4. When I first met Charles he was President of the Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, owned the Sisal plantation and mill, also owned a tannery financed by West German interests, and was the President of the Haiti Chamber of Commerce and Haitian correspondent for the First National City Bank of New York. During the period approximately one year prior to June 1967, Charles put into effect a system of Social Security (Office of National Assurance) which was working well and liked by the Haitian

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

U YES | C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L | GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification | S YES

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people. He also devised an automobile insurance system and was financing this through the Banque Commerciale d'Haiti.

5. In a period just prior to June 1967 Duvalier was convinced by Desinor and Boyer that Charles was, or at least had been, plotting Duvaliers' overthrow. Together with a large group Charles was imprisoned in Port-au-Prince from June 1967 to June 1968.

6. Just prior to the arrest of Charles, Max Rowe's wife, Raymonde, took US$200,000 out of the bank and hid it near Cap Haitien in the north and advised Charles' wife of the location. In addition, Max Rowe claims that in June 1967 he and his wife [Raymonde Rowe is in process of getting US citizenship. Max is in the US on a visitor's permit] brought papers incriminating Charles to the US and destroyed them.

BANK'S FINANCIAL CONDITION

7. Although Charles has the bank, his position at present is difficult. I saw the bank balance sheet which shows assets of US$2.9 million but only US$29,000 (as of 10 Dec 68) cash on hand. With this small amount of cash he can no longer make loans. He says that he has found it necessary to make sizeable loans to Haitians who have in turn made highly speculative loans to others at exorbitant rates of interest. Very minor amounts of these loans have been repaid to the bank and thus his current financial position.

8. Charles is hopeful that when Duvalier's overthrow has been completed he will be able to get private financial assistance from the US. According to Charles, US financial organizations have almost completely stopped their assistance because of the oppressive Duvalier Government.

9. Charles says that Max Rowe is aware of his plans to overthrow Duvalier which were communicated to Rowe by a La Bonte Jean, who is also in the US. Charles says that the Army is unhappy with Duvalier because of the execution of fourteen officers after the abortive May 1968 invasion, which included Major Toma, who was popular and powerful in his position as a censor and in control of all foreigners coming into Haiti. Charles maintains that the Ton Ton Macoutes are no longer a potent force - not operational. They have no food and are receiving no pay.

10. John Pierre La Grand, UK Consul General in Haiti and Shell Oil General Manager, agrees with Charles that Desinor and Boyer are Duvalier's closest confidants. Fito Metales (alias Frito Belmont) is said by Rowe and La Grand to be Duvalier's hatchet man. He is manager of the Croupiers at the Royal Cabaret. La Grand says that the "old man", (Duvalier) is stronger than ever, both in health and power.

- end -

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

14-00000

DEPT OF STATE AIRGRAM (EXCERPT)

A-347

DATE: 3 AUGUST 1968

CLASSIFICATION: HAITIAN FINANCIAL STATESMEN, MID-1968
SUBJECT:

CLASSIFICATION: NOT KNOWN

14-00000

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Clemard Joseph Charles Has Reportedly Paid US$200 Thousand Ransom And Promised An Additional US$400 Thousand in Return for Release from Prison And Reinstatement As President of Commercial Bank of Haiti

DATE DISTR 26 JUL 1968

NO PAGES 1

REFERENCES

1. Effective 10 Jul 68, Clemard Joseph Charles was reinstated as the president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti (BCH), as announced in the Haitian public press. A stockholders' meeting is scheduled for mid-Aug 68.

2. I have heard from previously reliable sources that Charles was compelled to pay to the Government of Haiti (GOH) the sum of US$200 thousand (not Haitian gourds) as the price of reinstatement as head of the BCH. Charles has also promised, as part of the price of reinstatement, to pay an additional US$400 thousand. This total of US$600 thousand closely approximates the US$605 thousand cited earlier as the "ransom" for Charles' release from prison. I understand that the US$200 thousand has already been paid. Where Charles got this sum I do not know. He could have withdrawn the US$100 thousand which he has on deposit at the First National City Bank in New York City; I do not know whether or not he has done so. It seems clear that President Duvalier has decided that the possible long-term benefits of allowing the bank to function (and thus enabling Charles to raise the required US$400 thousand and also possibly attracting foreign investment capital to Haiti) outweigh the benefits of refusing him permission to operate until the total "ransom" should have been paid.

-end-

INFORMATION REPORT / INFORMATION REPORT

U | CONFIDENTIAL | S

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SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

24 July 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
Attention: Source Register

FROM: Interagency Source Register

SUBJECT: CLEMARD, Joseph Charles SO-11612
aka: CHARLES, Clemard Joseph

1. Reference is made to your request for registration dated 3 June 1968 concerning Subject. You are referred to OO-E-324/06340-66 dated 14 April 1966, subject: Clemard Joseph Charles Believed to be President Duvalier's Personal Financial Manager/Biographical Data on C J Charles; OO-A(S) 322/14068-68 dated May 1968, subject: Clemard Joseph-Charles Must Raise US $605 Thousand Before He Can Resume His Banking and Other Activities; and OO-A(S) 322/14367-68 dated 22 May 1968, subject: Rearrest of Clemard Joseph Charles/Charles Is Not Able to Raise US$605 Thousand Ransom/Data Concerning Charles' US Bank Accounts/President Duvalier Might Settle for US$100 Thousand Cash/Charles Has Credit of US$300 Thousand in National Bank of the Republic of Haiti and Claims an Additional US$100 Thousand. Copies are attached for your retention.

2. The Interagency Source Register has no record of a current operational interest in Subject. DCS reserves the right to contact Subject under the provisions of DCID 2/3.

MRM-28,910

Encl. 3 attachments as stated above
RID/CE: JMA/JD/bdt
BASED ON: 201-357029
FILE IN: 201-357029*

FILE IN 201-357029

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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SECRET (When Filled In)

PRIORITY

ISR LOG

IMMEDIATE

FROM			SERVICE NO.
INDEX		SECURITY	DATE
TO:	FROM:		
TO OO:	RESULTS	COVER	DO NOT USE THIS SPACE
			ISRM NO. 28,910 / DATE 7 JUN 68
AREA DESK	TOI 1361 - 13 NOVEMBER 68		SOI:
COMMENTS	No Present Contact No objection to registration. DCS reserves the right to contact subject under provisions of DCID 2, DCID 2-3 and 2-8/USM/6		

FORM 11-68 1797 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(20-86)

SECRET WH
(When Filled In)

VINCENT A. DI BENEDETTO
FI/ISR
2-E-03
Ext. 5045

REGISTRATION REQUEST

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE
ISRM NO. 28,910
DATE 3 Jan 68
201 NO 357029

NAME
CLEMARD, Joseph Charles

ALIASES AND/OR SPELLING VARIATIONS

DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP
21 April 1923	Gonavives, Haiti	

PRESENT ADDRESS

OCCUPATION
Sole representative of

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT
General Electric Co., Ltd, London

TRAVEL
US, UK, France, Italy, and West Germany

ADDITIONAL PERTINENT IDENTIFYING DATA

201 held by FI/ISR.

SD 11612

PRIORITY

RECEIVED
RID/IN
11 JUL 68 AM

MEMORANDUM COORDINATION

Date 18 Jul 68	INITIALS
RI ANALYST CBT	JHD
DIV. BRANCH	
ISR	
WH/3/HT	
RI EDITOR	
RI TYPIST	

SD-11612 Recheck

24 Jul 68

1. Subject is being carried under FILE IN 201-357029
SD-11612. SD-19022 is hereby cancelled.

JDM

22 JUN 1968

GROUP 1
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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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INDEX: ☐ YES ☐ NO

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. _____

X-REF TO FILE NO. _____

FILE RID ☐ RET. TO _____ BRANCH ☐ DESTROY ☐ SIG.

TING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

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SECRET 191640Z JUL 68 CITE [redacted]

DIRECTOR INFO [redacted]

19 JUL 68 IN 53746

HENRI SICLAIT DIRECTOR OF TOBACCO MONOPLY AND INTRIGUER AGAINST CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, AND WHO IS NOW RUMORED IN DIFFICULTIES SINCE CHARLES RELEASE, LEFT PORT AU PRINCE 17 JULY ON PANAM 234 PRESS STATED PURPOSE TO VISIT WIFE'S SICK MOTHER.

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SECRET

16 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Domestic Contact Service
Operational Support Staff

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT :

1. Reference is made to our memorandum of 12 April 1966 and subsequent communications on the subject of WH/7 interest in the contact which had been established by DCS representatives in [redacted] This contact served to monitor the activities of Chamard Joseph Charles, the Haitian banker, who was plotting to overthrow the Duvalier regime in Haiti.

2. In June 1967, Charles was arrested in Port-au-Prince and has spent the majority of the time since then in jail. He is released at various intervals by Duvalier apparently to give him the opportunity to locate more money for the regime. Since Charles fell from grace, it has become apparent that any hopes or plans he may have had to overthrow Duvalier have long since past. Accordingly, we wish to advise that WH/7 has no special interest in DCS maintaining contact [redacted] to cover Charles' activities. Likewise, we do not feel that there are any special requirements at this time which Brun could service regarding Haitian matters.

SECRET

Classified
Excluded
Downgrading and
Declassification

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3. We do not, however, wish to interpose any objection to DCS maintaining contact with Brun for its own purposes and we would appreciate being advised of any information of significance on Haiti which may be produced through this contact.

[redacted]

DDP/WH/7/Haiti/[redacted] (16 Jul 68)
Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addee
1 - WH/7/Ht
1 - Subj file

14-00000

NY-529-68

Director, Domestic Contact Service

15 July 1968

ATTN : Operational Support Staff [redacted]

Chief [redacted]

Letter from Louis A. Brun to Clemard Joseph Charles (to be Forwarded Via Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti)

REFERENCES: (A) [redacted]; (B) CONTACTS/WASHINGTON 80548; (C) Case 47,540

1. Reference "A" forwarded to you a letter from Louis A. Brun, BAB International Corporation, 134 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, to Clemard Joseph Charles, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This letter was to be sent by State Department diplomatic pouch to Mr. Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and given by him to Charles. Brun had told us that Felder had agreed to act as intermediary for correspondence between himself and Charles and added that he and Charles had already used the system. The letter in Reference "A" was the first time we had been approached in the matter.

2. Reference "B" stated that the letter had been dispatched via Message Center Courier to the State Department on 24 June 1968.

3. On or about 27 June 1968 Brun telephoned us and stated that Charles had not received the letter. We telephoned Mr. Musulin, who double-checked and assured us that the letter had gone to the State Department and that it should go out in the next pouch.

4. On 10 July 1968, Brun telephoned us and stated that on 9 July 1968 he had received a telephone call from a Ray Alvarez. Alvarez identified himself as a State Department employee in Washington and told Brun that he had the letter destined for Charles. Alvarez then told Brun that he would return the letter if Brun would tell him how it had reached the State Department. Brun refused to give Alvarez any information. He then telephoned Mr. Musulin and relayed the foregoing information. Mr. Musulin inquired into the matter and learned that the letter had gone to Haiti in the State Department pouch, had not been delivered to Felder and had been returned to Washington. He and we surmised that the State Department did

[redacted]-68
15 July 1968

not wish to lay itself open to the charge of becoming embroiled in local Haitian politics and so had refused to deliver the letter to Felder. We reported this information to Brun.

5. On 11 July 1968 Brun telephoned us and told us that he had received a letter from Charles via the Felder channel. This letter bore a New York City postmark. We gave this information to Mr. Musulin. We told Brun that it is quite probable that Felder has a personal arrangement with unknown parties which permits him to use the diplomatic pouch facilities. Since we do not, letters can go only from Charles to Brun and not from Brun to Charles. Brun and we agreed that he will not henceforth attempt to use Felder to send letters to Charles.

6. Mr. Musulin agreed to retrieve the letter from the State Department and to send it to us. We shall return it forthwith to Brun.

[redacted]

JMMitchell:eh

FILE: Louis A. Brun
B&B Int'l Corp.
13h Fifth Ave.
New York, NY

and Case h7,3h0

B. & B. INTERNATIONAL CORP.
134 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

Mme. Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

SECRET BACKGROUND USE ONLY

14-00000

Mme Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Ma chère Sophie,

Cette lettre est pour t'accuser réception des tiennes des 17 et 26 mai écoulés et du 4 juin en cours.

Si tu n'as pas eu de mes nouvelles depuis mon départ d'Haiti le 7 mai dernier, c'est que premièrement, je me proposais de retourner voir Clémard la semaine suivante. Le voyage a dû être différé lorsque j'ai su que Clémard avait, à nouveau, été arrêté le 11 mai. J'ai même eu à faire un câble à un ami pour lui annoncer mon arrivée et je suis sûr qu'il a dû t'en informer.

Deuièmement, l'arrestation de Clémard ainsi que les nouvelles des derniers événements en Haiti on eu des effets négatifs sur les négociations en cours que j'avais entamées pour Clémard et qui semblaient vouloir aboutir. Je n'ai pas besoin de te dire combien j'en ai été bouleversé. Alors que nos amis d'ici et moi pensions pouvoir aider Clémard que nous estimons comme un frère, sa nouvelle arrestation est venue nous assommer avec une rigueur dont nous nous remettons à peine.

Avant d'aller plus loin, je dois te dire que tu ne dois point douter de notre dévouement pour Clémard. Il sait, et tu dois aussi le savoir, que nous ne saurions jamais marchander notre concours à un ami pour qui nous avons la plus grande affection et pour qui nous sommes prêts à consentir tous les sacrifices personnels que les circonstances peuvent exiger. Je crois devoir te dire que si, en dehors d'Haiti, je n'arrive à le tirer de l'impasse dans laquelle il se trouve, je doute fort, sans fausse modestie, que quelqu'un d'autre puisse réussir à le faire.

Nos puissants amis communs tant à New York, Washington, Miami et ailleurs ont tous manifesté un désir sérieux de lui venir en aide dans les limites de leurs possibilités respectives.

Depuis mon retour d'Haiti je me suis mis en action à cette fin et ai personnellement vu plusieurs personnalités du monde financier qui n'ont pas hésité à consacrer une grande partie de leur temps précieux à la concrétisation des plans que j'ai eu à envisager avec Clémard en vue de le tirer d'embarras le plus rapidement possible.

/...

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Mes espoirs de réussite ainsi que ceux de tous les amis contactés se sont heurtés aux effets négatifs inévitables provenant tant de la nouvelle arrestation de Clémard que des derniers événements survenus en Haiti depuis le 20 mai écoulé. Je t'envoie, pour preuve, copie d'une lettre d'un de ces grands amis, Mr. Howard Burris de Washington, D.C. Je te demande de garder cette lettre strictement confidentielle car je n'aurais pas aimé que le nom de Mr. Burris soit mentionné à quiconque en Haiti. Si cela arrivait, nous pourrions perdre un très bon ami.

Pour ton information, je te dirai que Mr. Burris est un colonel retraité du Corps de Génie de l'armée américaine, ami personnel et conseiller du Président Johnson et extrêmement influent à Washington tant dans le monde politique que financier. J'ai eu à faire deux voyages à Washington entre le 8 et 11 mai au cours desquels lui et moi envisagions les moyens d'aider Clémard selon le "modus" envisagé. La copie de sa lettre du 7 juin en cours saura te confirmer ce qui précède.

J'ai aussi vu personnellement et lui ai causé maintes fois au téléphone, Joseph Dryer, qui devait se rendre en Haiti le 24 mai pour te voir mais qui a dû renvoyer son voyage après les nouvelles de la dernière tentative d'invasion. Je lui ai encore causé récemment au téléphone et il a eu à me faire part des résultats négatifs de ses efforts, toujours en fonction des mêmes circonstances.

Le lettres adressées aux autres amis de l'étranger, dont Dabinovick, par example, sont restées jusqu'ici sans réponses. Je vais une nouvelle fois écrire longuement à Dabinovick pour lui transmettre ta dernière communication avec l'espoir d'avoir un mot encourageant de lui.

Comme tu dois le comprendre, ma chère Sophie, nos efforts, malgré toute notre bonne volonté, ne sauraient se concrétiser à brève échéance, car les valeurs en question qu'il nous faut trouver ne sont pas insignifiantes. Je te signalerai en passant un point qui a été soulevé au cours des négociations et qui fait ressortir que même si nos amis seraient en mesure d'avancer à Clémard les valeurs nécessaires, ils ont des doutes sérieux non pas sur la sincérité de Clémard à faire face aux obligations qui devront être contractées, mais à la possibilité matérielle de rapatrier, en dollars américains, les valeurs avancées. J'ai personnellement assisté à des contacts avec des banquiers d'ici qui affirment qu'avant longtemps, Haiti n'aura presque plus de devises-dollars pour solder ses comptes à l'étranger. Autant d'obstacles que je suis malheureusement obligé de te signaler pour que tu saches à quoi t'en tenir.

Concernant maintenant le grand banquier noir dont j'ai eu moi-même à dire à Clémard que je croyais pouvoir nous aider, celui-ci a eu à me faire comprendre qu'il ne pouvait en l'occurrence intéresser son institution à une affaire de ce genre qui comporte trop de risques. De ce côté là il n'y a donc pas grand espoir.

/...

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Ceci dit, malgré tous ces obstacles qui sembleraient insurmontables, je n'ai pas totalement perdu l'espoir de pouvoir t'aider à sortir Clémard, sain et sauf, de la prison où sa santé se détériore rapidement, je le sais. L'essentiel est que le Chef lui-même soit persuadé que l'inhabilité que nous éprouvons à satisfaire les exigences du moment, ne sont en aucune façon imputables à Clémard mais plutôt à des circonstances totalement indépendantes de notre volonté.

Je prie Dieu Tout-puissant pour que l'on finisse par réaliser que Clémard, en bon patriote haïtien, a eu foi en son pays et n'a pas cru bon d'expatrier, comme plus d'un l'a fait, le fruit de ses durs labeurs et de son intelligence productive.

Je me proposais d'écrire personnellement à Son Excellence le Président à Vie d'Haiti, pour implorer sa clémence et sa générosité pour un ami qui nous est cher. Je me suis alors demandé si c'était là un geste sage qui pourrait avoir la vertu de l'épargner et, dans le doute, j'ai préférer m'abstenir.

Pour revenir maintenant aux possibilités de féaliser au moins partiellement, la valeur exigée, je dois te dire que je suis heureux de savoir que tu détiens une procuration générale en bonne et due forme t'habilitant à ratifier tout ce que nous pourrions entreprendre à cette fin.

Séparément, par cette même voie, je te communiquerai toutes les formalités à remplir pour nous mettre en mesure de réaliser dans un délai raisonable au moins le tiers de la somme réclamée. Il serait souhaitable que tu sois mise en mesure de venir ici à New York, ce qui faciliterait beaucoup les choses, mais dans l'impossibilité d'une pareille alternative, tu devras donc agréer aux conditions stipulées. Il faudra donc agir avec dilligence pour nous permettre d'aller au plus vite.

Ma chère Sophie, je terminerai cette lettre déjà longue et ardue en te renouvelant mon dévouement le plus entier à la cause de notre ami Clémard et en te priant une nouvelle fois de ne jamais douter de mes sentiments propres et ceux de ma famille pour Clémard, toi et les tiens.

Affections à Gros-Miche, Marie-Claudine, Toto, Eddie et sa femme.

Bon courage!

Inviolablement,

Louis A. Brun

LAB/jvb
encl. 1

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14-00000

HOWARD L. BORRIS

SUITE 101, R.C.A. BUILDING
1725 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 7, 1968

Mr. Louis A. Brun
R. [illegible] International Corp.
154 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011

Dear Mr. Brun

I apologize for the delay in responding to your suggestion concerning the commercial bank in Haiti. My activities here have been such that I have been unable until the past day or so to give your proposal adequate thought and consideration.

First I must admit that the recent abortive invasion attempt caused certain reflection and it is this kind of activity, successful or unsuccessful, that could cre[illegible] serious dislocations for those established in business. However I must assure you that this was only a reflection and the reason that I will be unable to accep[illegible] your offer is the extent and nature of my activities here in Washington. I believe I alluded to some of them during your visit. The occasions when I would find it possible to visit Port-au-Prince or to devo[illegible] any significant amount of time to the bank's activities here would be rare indeed. I shall confess to you that I declined a similar position on a bank board here in the states for the same reason.

I regret that this decision is necessary but I hope that in future relationships we may be able to do something useful and successful in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Borris

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FORMALITES A REMPLIR PAR SOPHIE:

1) Envoyer, signe par Sophie, un mandat original notarie et legalise par le Consul Americain, a une personne amie ou parent habitant New York, donnant a cette personne les memes pouvoirs donnes par Clemard a Sophie. Ce mandat devra etre accompagne d'une copie authentifiee de celui de Clemard a Sophie.

2) Envoyer les clefs des deux "safe deposit box" qui se trouvent a la First National City Bank avec les formes attacheed qui doivent aussi etre legalisees par le consul americain.

3) Indiquer le nom et la fonction de la personne autorisee par le gouvernement haitien a regler la transaction avec Clemard pour communication eventuelle relative a la transaction.

Ma chere Sophie:

Cette communication te parviendra par une voie que Clemard a eu a m'indiquer et que je crois etre sure. Fais bien attention a ce qu'il n'y ait pas d'indiscretion.

Je voudrais suggerer que tu habilites Paulette selon le paragraphe 1 ci-dessus.

Je t'envoie aussi par cette meme voie une lettre qui saura te renseigner sur l'etat de nos demarches et possibilites.

Encore une fois, Bon Courage et bonjour a tous.

Invariablement,

Lozon

SECRET BACKGROUND USE ONLY

14-00000

du duplicate

DATE_____

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT

_____BRANCH

_____
SIGNATURE OF DEPUTY

_____
ADDRESS OF DEPUTY

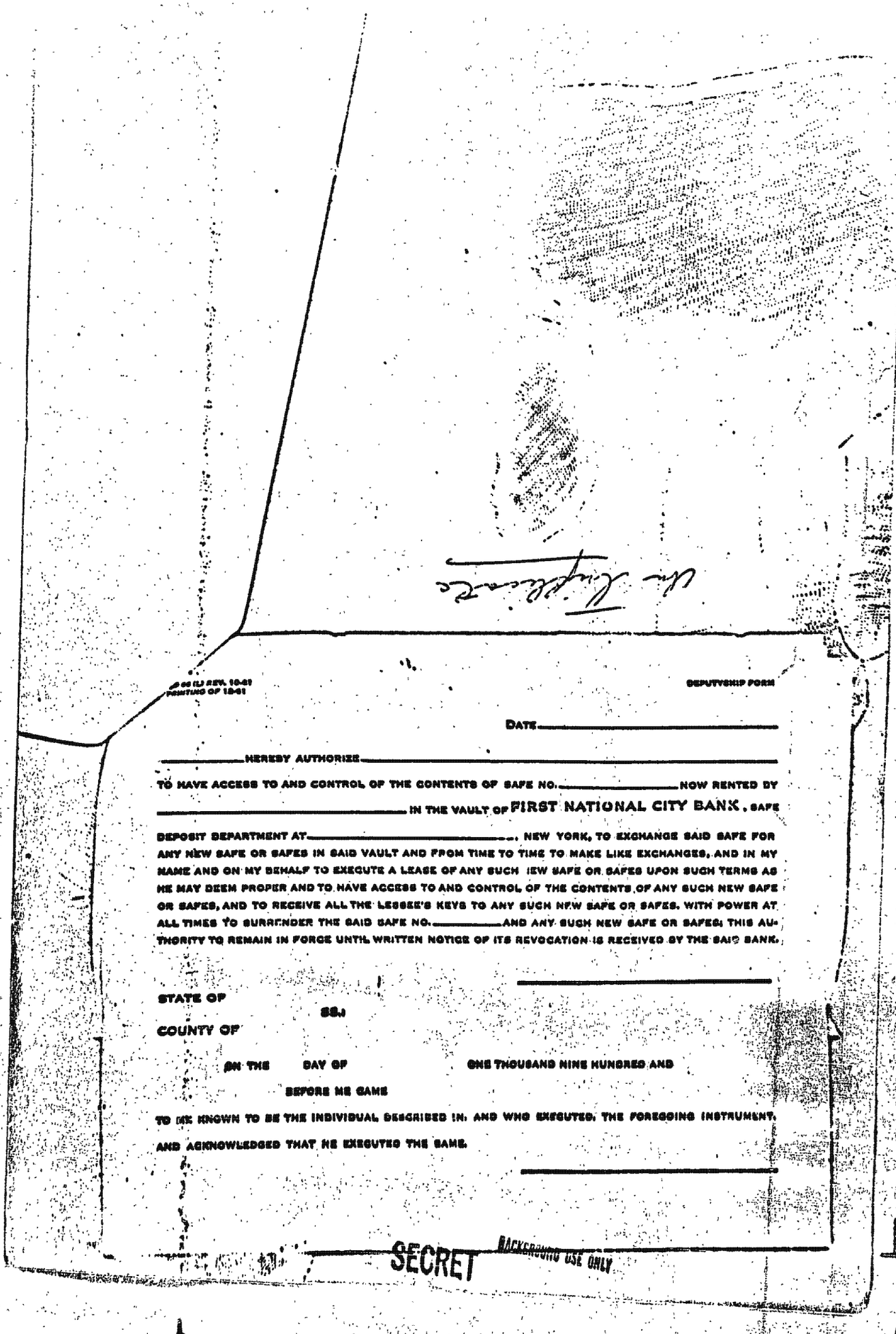
THE SIGNATURE APPEARING ABOVE IS THAT OF _____
WHO HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE NO._____IN THE VAULTS OF YOUR BANK.

_____

SB 84 REV. 10-61

SECRET
BACKGROUND USE ONLY

14-00000



...60 (L) REV. 10-61
PRINTING OF 12-61

DEPUTYSHIP FORM

DATE _____

_____ HEREBY AUTHORIZE _____

TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF SAFE NO. _____ NOW RENTED BY

_____ IN THE VAULT OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK, SAFE

DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT AT _____, NEW YORK, TO EXCHANGE SAID SAFE FOR ANY NEW SAFE OR SAFES IN SAID VAULT AND FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAKE LIKE EXCHANGES, AND IN MY NAME AND ON MY BEHALF TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES UPON SUCH TERMS AS HE MAY DEEM PROPER AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, AND TO RECEIVE ALL THE LESSEE'S KEYS TO ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, WITH POWER AT ALL TIMES TO SURRENDER THE SAID SAFE NO. _____ AND ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES; THIS AUTHORITY TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL WRITTEN NOTICE OF ITS REVOCATION IS RECEIVED BY THE SAID BANK.

_____

STATE OF
SS.:
COUNTY OF

ON THE DAY OF ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND

BEFORE ME CAME

TO ME KNOWN TO BE THE INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN, AND WHO EXECUTED, THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE EXECUTED THE SAME.

_____

SECRET BACKGROUND USE ONLY

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☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☒ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: [redacted] WH/7/Ht RB 2630

EXTENSION | NO.

DATE: 12 July 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. C/WH/7/Ht	12 JUL 1968			
2. c/wh/7				
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FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET

12 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter from Louis A. Brun to FSO Felder

1. I talked with [redacted] Staff) at 0840 hours this morning about the letter mailed to FSO Felder at the American Embassy in Port au Prince. Musulin said that he had spoken with Brun about the letter and Brun had assured him that Felder said to mail letters to him through Foreign Service mail channels. Brun is in contact with Felder during his visits to Haiti and this system was laid on between them during one of his trips.

2. Brun also said that he was a little upset about the problems which had arisen in sending his letter. Brun said that he had received a letter from Felder (mailed in New York City) saying that he had never received the letter from Brun. Brun was concerned that the letter may have fallen into the wrong hands in Haiti. Musulin said that he would try to recover the letter and send it back to Brun.

3. I told [redacted] that Ambassador Ross was very much disturbed about this matter and that any further involvement by the Agency with correspondence between Brun and Felder should be avoided. Brun is a business agent of Clemard Joseph-Charles and thus any correspondence between Brun and an official of the American Embassy is of particular concern to the Ambassador because of the obvious political implications. Musulin said he understood this and would tell Brun that the dispatch of any correspondence in the future would be his own responsibility.

[redacted]

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14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard Joseph Charles

			EXTENSION 2268	NO Case 47540
				DATE 17 July 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	17 JUL 1968	17 JUL 1968		
2. WH/7/HT Mr. Berg 3 B 0001 Hq.	17 JUL 1968	17 JUL 1968		For your information.
3. C/WH/7				
4. DC/WH/7				
5. C/HATT				
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FORM 1-48 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET

NY-529-68

Director, Domestic Contact Service

15 July 1968

ATTN : Operational Support Staff [redacted]

[redacted]

Letter from Louis A. Brun to Clemard Joseph Charles (to be Forwarded Via Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti)

REFERENCES: (A) [redacted] (B) CONTACTS/WASHINGTON 80548;
(C) Case 47,540

1. Reference "A" forwarded to you a letter from Louis A. Brun, B&B International Corporation, 134 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, to Clemard Joseph Charles, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This letter was to be sent by State Department diplomatic pouch to Mr. Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and given by him to Charles. Brun had told us that Felder had agreed to act as intermediary for correspondence between himself and Charles and added that he and Charles had already used the system. The letter in Reference "A" was the first time we had been approached in the matter.

2. Reference "B" stated that the letter had been dispatched via Message Center Courier to the State Department on 24 June 1968.

3. On or about 26 June 1968 Brun telephoned us and stated that Charles had not received the letter. We telephoned Mr. Musulin, who double-checked and assured us that the letter had gone to the State Department and that it should go out in the next pouch.

4. On 10 July 1968, Brun telephoned us and stated that on 9 July 1968 he had received a telephone call from a Ray Alvarez. Alvarez identified himself as a State Department employee in Washington and told Brun that he had the letter destined for Charles. Alvarez then told Brun that he would return the letter if Brun would tell him how it had reached the State Department. Brun refused to give Alvarez any information. We then telephoned Mr. Musulin and relayed the foregoing information. Mr. Musulin inquired into the matter and learned that the letter had gone to Haiti in the State Department pouch, had not been delivered to Felder and had been returned to Washington. He and we surmised that the State Department did

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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

NY-529-68
15 July 1968

not wish to lay itself open to the charge of becoming embroiled in local Haitian politics and so had refused to deliver the letter to Felder. We reported this information to Brun.

5. On 11 July 1968 Brun telephoned us and told us that he had received a letter from Charles via the Felder channel. This letter bore a New York City postmark. We gave this information to [redacted] We told Brun that it is quite probable that Felder has a personal arrangement with unknown parties which permits him to use the diplomatic pouch facilities. Since we do not, letters can go only from Charles to Brun and not from Brun to Charles. Brun and we agreed that he will not henceforth attempt to use Felder to send letters to Charles.

6. [redacted] agreed to retrieve the letter from the State Department and to send it to us. We shall return it forthwith to Brun.

[redacted]

[redacted]

FILE: Louis A. Brun
M&B Int'l Corp.
134 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY

and Case 47,540

14-00000

B. & B. INTERNATIONAL CORP.
134 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

Mme. Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

SECRET

14-00000

New York, N.Y. Le 5, juin 1960

Mme Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Ma chère Sophie,

Cette lettre est pour t'accuser réception des tiennes des 17 et 26 mai écoulés et du 4 juin en cours.

Si tu n'as pas eu de mes nouvelles depuis mon départ d'Haiti le 7 mai dernier, c'est que premièrement, je me proposais de retourner voir Clémard la semaine suivante. Le voyage a dû être différé lorsque j'ai su que Clémard avait, à nouveau, été arrêté le 11 mai. J'ai même eu à faire un câble à un ami pour lui annoncer mon arrivée et je suis sûr qu'il a dû t'en informer.

Deuièmement, l'arrestation de Clémard ainsi que les nouvelles des derniers événements en Haiti on eu des effets négatifs sur les négociations en cours que j'avais entamées pour Clémard et qui semblaient vouloir aboutir. Je n'ai pas besoin de te dire combien j'en ai été bouleversé. Alors que nos amis d'ici et moi pensions pouvoir aider Clémard que nous estimons comme un frère, sa nouvelle arrestation est venue nous assommer avec une rigueur dont nous nous remettons à peine.

Avant d'aller plus loin, je dois te dire que tu ne dois point douter de notre dévouement pour Clémard. Il sait, et tu dois aussi le savoir, que nous ne saurions jamais marchander notre concours à un ami pour qui nous avons la plus grande affection et pour qui nous sommes prêts à consentir tous les sacrifices personnels que les circonstances peuvent exiger. Je crois devoir te dire que si, en dehors d'Haiti, je n'arrive à le tirer de l'impasse dans laquelle il se trouve, je doute fort, sans fausse modestie, que quelqu'un d'autre puisse réussir à le faire.

Nos puissants amis communs tant à New York, Washington, Miami et ailleurs ont tous manifesté un désir sérieux de lui venir en aide dans les limites de leurs possibilités respectives.

Depuis mon retour d'Haiti je me suis mis en action à cette fin et ai personnellement vu plusieurs personnalités du monde financier qui n'ont pas hésité à consacrer une grande partie de leur temps précieux à la concrétisation des plans que j'ai eu à envisager avec Clémard en vue de le tirer d'embarras le plus rapidement possible.

/...

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Nes espoirs de réussite ainsi que ceux de tous les amis contactés se sont heurtés aux effets négatifs inévitables provenant tant de la nouvelle arrestation de Clémard que des derniers événements survenus en Haiti depuis le 20 mai écoulé. Je t'envoie, pour preuve, copie d'une lettre d'un de ces grands amis, Mr. Howard Burris de Washington, D.C. Je te demande de garder cette lettre strictement confidentielle car je n'aurais pas aimé que le nom de Mr. Burris soit mentionné à quiconque en Haiti. Si cela arrivait, nous pourrions perdre un très bon ami.

Pour ton information, je te dirai que Mr. Burris est un colonel retraité du Corps de Génie de l'armée américaine, ami personnel et conseiller du Président Johnson et extrêmement influent à Washington tant dans le monde politique que financier. J'ai eu à faire deux voyages à Washington entre le 8 et 11 mai au cours desquels lui et moi envisagions les moyens d'aider Clémard selon le "modus" envisagé. La copie de sa lettre du 7 juin en cours saura te confirmer ce qui précède.

J'ai aussi vu personnellement et lui ai causé maintes fois au téléphone, Joseph Dryer, qui devait se rendre en Haiti le 24 mai pour te vois mais qui a dû renvoyer son voyage après les nouvelles de la dernière tentative d'invasion. Je lui ai encore causé récemment au téléphone et il a eu à me faire part des résultats négatifs de ses efforts, toujours en fonction des mêmes circonstances.

Le lettres adressées aux autres amis de l'étranger, dont Dabinovick, par example, sont restées jusqu'ici sans réponses. Je vais une nouvelle fois écrire longuement à Dabinovick pour lui transmettre ta dernière communication avec l'espoir d'avoir un mot encourageant de lui.

Comme tu dois le comprendre, ma chère Sophie, nos efforts, malgré toute notre bonne volonté, ne sauraient se concrétiser à brève échéance, car les valeurs en question qu'il nous faut trouver ne sont pas insignifiantes. Je te signalerai en passant un point qui a été soulevé au cours des négociations et qui fait ressortir que même si nos amis seraient en mesure d'avancer à Clémard les valeurs nécessaires, ils ont des doutes sérieux non pas sur la sincérité de Clémard à faire face aux obligations qui devront être contractées, mais à la possibilité matérielle de rapatrier, en dollars américains, les valeurs avancées. J'ai personnellement assisté à des contacts avec des banquiers d'ici qui affirment qu'avant longtemps, Haiti n'aura presque plus de devises-dollars pour solder ses comptes à l'étranger. Autant d'obstacles que je suis malheureusement obligé de te signaler pour que tu saches à quoi t'en tenir.

Concernant maintenant le <u>grand banquier noir</u> dont j'ai eu moi-même à dire à Clémard que je croyais pouvoir nous aider, celui-ci a eu à me faire comprendre qu'il ne pouvait en l'occurrence intéresser son institution à une affaire de ce genre qui comporte trop de risques. De ce côté là il n'y a donc pas grand espoir.

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Ceci dit, malgré tous ces obstacles qui sembleraient insurmontables, je n'ai pas totalement perdu l'espoir de pouvoir t'aider à sortir Clémard, sain et sauf, de la prison où sa santé se détériore rapidement, je le sais. L'essentiel est que le Chef lui-même soit persuadé que l'inhabilité que nous éprouvons à satisfaire les exigences du moment, ne sont en aucune façon imputables à Clémard mais plutôt à des circonstances totalement indépendantes de notre volonté.

Je prie Dieu Tout-puissant pour que l'on finisse par réaliser que Clémard, en bon patriote haïtien, a eu foi en son pays et n'a pas cru bon d'expatrier, comme plus d'un l'a fait, le fruit de ses durs labeurs et de son intelligence productive.

Je me proposais d'écrire personnellement à Son Excellence le Président à Vie d'Haiti, pour implorer sa clémence et sa générosité pour un ami qui nous est cher. Je me suis alors demandé si c'était là un geste sage qui pourrait avoir la vertu de l'épargner et, dans le doute, j'ai préférer m'abstenir.

Pour revenir maintenant aux possibilités de réaliser au moins partiellement, la valeur exigée, je dois te dire que je suis heureux de savoir que tu détiens une procuration générale en bonne et due forme t'habilitant à ratifier tout ce que nous pourrions entreprendre à cette fin.

Séparément, par cette même voie, je te communiquerai toutes les formalités à remplir pour nous mettre en mesure de réaliser dans un délai raisonable au moins le tiers de la somme réclamée. Il serait souhaitable que tu sois mise en mesure de venir ici à New York, ce qui faciliterait beaucoup les choses, mais dans l'impossibilité d'une pareille alternative, tu devras donc agréer aux conditions stipulées. Il faudra donc agir avec dilligence pour nous permettre d'aller au plus vite.

Ma chère Sophie, je terminerai cette lettre déjà longue et ardue en te renouvelant mon dévouement le plus entier à la cause de notre ami Clémard et en te priant une nouvelle fois de ne jamais douter de mes sentiments propres et ceux de ma famille pour Clémard, toi et les tiens.

Affections à Gros-Miche, Marie-Claudine, Toto, Eddie et sa femme.

Bon courage!

Invariablement,

Louis A. Brun

LAB/jvb
encl. 1

SECRET

HOWARD L. BURRIS

SUITE 101, R.C.A. BUILDING
1725 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 7, 1968

Mr. Louis A. Brun
R. C. A. International Corp.
154 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011

Dear Mr. Brun

I apologize for the delay in responding to your suggestion concerning the commercial bank in Haiti. My activities here have been such that I have been unable until the past day or so to give your proposal adequate thought and consideration.

First I must admit that the recent abortive invasion attempt caused certain reflection and it is this kind of activity, successful or unsuccessful, that could create serious dislocations for those established in business. However I must assure you that this was only a reflection and the reason that I will be unable to accept your offer is the extent and nature of my activities here in Washington. I believe I alluded to some of them during your visit. The occasions when I would find it possible to visit Port-au-Prince or to devote any significant amount of time to the bank's activities here would be rare indeed. I shall confess to you that I declined a similar position on a bank board here in the states for the same reason.

I regret that this decision is necessary but I hope that in future relationships we may be able to do something useful and successful in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Burris

SECRET

14-00000

FORMALITES A REMPLIR PAR SOPHIE:

1) Envoyer, signe par Sophie, un mandat original notarie et legalise par le Consul Americain, a une personne amie ou parent habitant New York, donnant a cette personne les memes pouvoirs donnes par Clemard a Sophie. Ce mandat devra etre accompagne d'une copie authentifiee de celui de Clemard a Sophie.

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3) Indiquer le nom et la fonction de la personne autorisee par le gouvernement haitien a regler la transaction avec Clemard pour communication eventuelle relative a la transaction.

Ma chere Sophie:

Cette communication te parviendra par une voie que Clemard a eu a m'indiquer et que je crois etre sure. Fais bien attention a ce qu'il n'y ait pas d'indiscretion.

Je voudrais suggerer que tu habilites Paulette selon le paragraphe 1 ci-dessus.

Je t'envoie aussi par cette meme voie une lettre qui saura te renseigner sur l'etat de nos demarches et possibilites.

Encore une fois, Bon Courage et bonjour a tous.

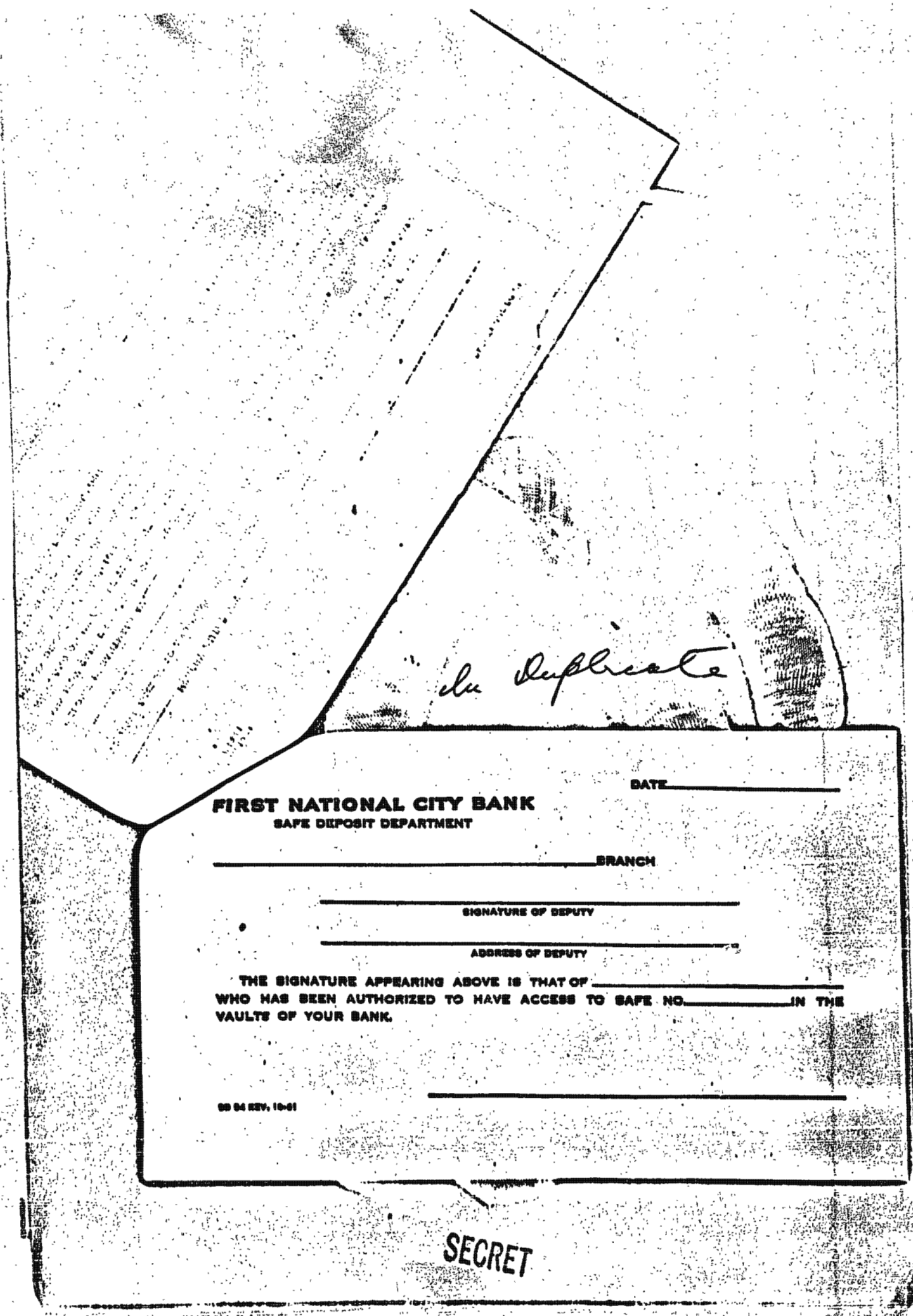
Invariablement,

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du duplicate

DATE_____

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT

_____BRANCH

_____
SIGNATURE OF DEPUTY

_____
ADDRESS OF DEPUTY

THE SIGNATURE APPEARING ABOVE IS THAT OF _____
WHO HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE NO._____IN THE VAULTS OF YOUR BANK.

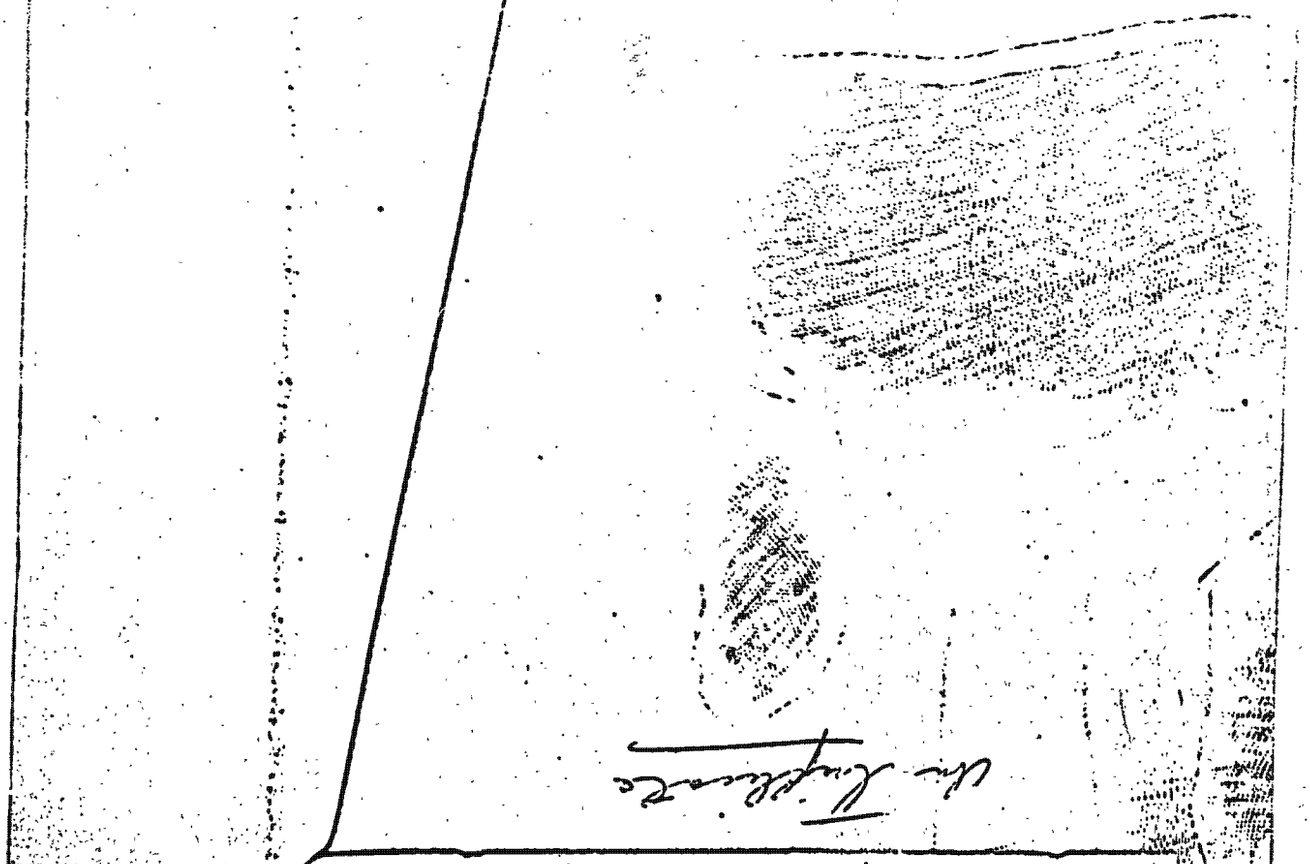
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...0 66 (L) REV. 10-61
...PRINTING OF 10-61

DEPUTYSHIP FORM

DATE _____

_____ HEREBY AUTHORIZE _____

TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF SAFE NO. _____ NOW RENTED BY _____ IN THE VAULT OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK, SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT AT _____, NEW YORK, TO EXCHANGE SAID SAFE FOR ANY NEW SAFE OR SAFES IN SAID VAULT AND FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAKE LIKE EXCHANGES, AND IN MY NAME AND ON MY BEHALF TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES UPON SUCH TERMS AS HE MAY DEEM PROPER AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, AND TO RECEIVE ALL THE LESSEE'S KEYS TO ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, WITH POWER AT ALL TIMES TO SURRENDER THE SAID SAFE NO. _____ AND ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES; THIS AUTHORITY TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL WRITTEN NOTICE OF ITS REVOCATION IS RECEIVED BY THE SAID BANK.

_____

STATE OF
SS.:
COUNTY OF

ON THE DAY OF ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND

BEFORE ME CAME

TO ME KNOWN TO BE THE INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN, AND WHO EXECUTED, THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE EXECUTED THE SAME.

_____

ONLY

14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☒ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: C/WH/7/Ht
3B 2630

EXTENSION | NO.

DATE 12 July 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. C/WH/7/Ht	12 JUL 1968			
2. c/wh/3				
3. exo/wh/3				
4. c/ch/3/ch				
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FORM 5-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET

12 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter from Louis A. Brun to FSO Felder

1. I talked with [redacted] Staff) at 0840 hours this morning about the letter mailed to FSO Felder at the American Embassy in Port au Prince. Musulin said that he had spoken with Brun about the letter and Brun had assured him that Felder said to mail letters to him through Foreign Service mail channels. Brun is in contact with Felder during his visits to Haiti and this system was laid on between them during one of his trips.

2. Brun also said that he was a little upset about the problems which had arisen in sending his letter. Brun said that he had received a letter from Felder (mailed in New York City) saying that he had never received the letter from Brun. Brun was concerned that the letter may have fallen into the wrong hands in Haiti. Musulin said that he would try to recover the letter and send it back to Brun.

3. I told Musulin that Ambassador Ross was very much disturbed about this matter and that any further involvement by the Agency with correspondence between Brun and Felder should be avoided. Brun is a business agent of Clemard Joseph-Charles and thus any correspondence between Brun and an official of the American Embassy is of particular concern to the Ambassador because of the obvious political implications. Musulin said he understood this and would tell Brun that the dispatch of any correspondence in the future would be his own responsibility.

[redacted]

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14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ [redacted] ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	Case 47540
		DATE 17 July 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	17 JUL 1968	17 JUL 1968	[illegible]	
2. WH/7/HT [redacted] 3 B 0001 Hq.	17 JUL 1968	17 JUL 1968	[illegible]	For your information.
3. C/WH 17			[illegible]	
4. DC WH 17			[illegible]	
5. C/HOTT			[illegible]	
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FORM 1-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

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HY-529-68

Director, Domestic Contact Service

15 July 1968

ATTN : Operational Support Staff

Letter from Louis A. Brun to Clemard Joseph Charles (to be Forwarded Via Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti)

REFERENCES: (A) (B) CONTACTS/WASHINGTON 80548; (C) Chge 47,540

1. Reference "A" forwarded to you a letter from Louis A. Brun, BAB International Corporation, 134 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, to Clemard Joseph Charles, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This letter was to be sent by State Department diplomatic pouch to Mr. Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and given by him to Charles. Brun had told us that Felder had agreed to act as intermediary for correspondence between himself and Charles and added that he and Charles had already used the system. The letter in Reference "A" was the first time we had been approached in the matter.

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SECRET

not wish to lay itself open to the charge of becoming embroiled in local Haitian politics and so had refused to deliver the letter to Felder. We reported this information to Brun.

5. On 11 July 1968 Brun telephoned us and told us that he had received a letter from Charles via the Felder channel. This letter bore a New York City postmark. We gave this information to [redacted] We told Brun that it is quite probable that Felder has a personal arrangement with unknown parties which permits him to use the diplomatic pouch facilities. Since we do not, letters can go only from Charles to Brun and not from Brun to Charles. Brun and we agreed that he will not henceforth attempt to use Felder to send letters to Charles.

6. [redacted] agreed to retrieve the letter from the State Department and to send it to us. We shall return it forthwith to Brun.

[redacted]

[redacted]

FILE: Louis A. Brun
B&B Int'l Corp.
134 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY

and Case 47,540

14-00000

SECRET

B. & B. INTERNATIONAL CORP.
134 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

Mme. Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

14-00000

SECRET

LOUIS A. BRUN
134 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Le 14 juin 1968

Mme Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Ma chère Sophie,

Cette lettre est pour t'accuser réception des tiennes des 17 et 26 mai écoulés et du 4 juin en cours.

Si tu n'as pas eu de mes nouvelles depuis mon départ d'Haiti le 7 mai dernier, c'est que premièrement, je me proposais de retourner voir Clémard la semaine suivante. Le voyage a dû être différé lorsque j'ai su que Clémard avait, à nouveau, été arrêté le 11 mai. J'ai même eu à faire un câble à un ami pour lui annoncer mon arrivée et je suis sûr qu'il a dû t'en informer.

Deuièmement, l'arrestation de Clémard ainsi que les nouvelles der derniers événements en Haiti on eu des effets négatifs sur les négociations en cours que j'avais entamées pour Clémard et qui semblaient vouloir aboutir. Je n'ai pas besoin de te dire combien j'en ai été bouleversé. Alors que nos amis d'ici et moi pensions pouvoir aider Clémard que nous estimons comme un frère, sa nouvelle arrestation est venue nous assommer avec une rigueur dont nous nous remettons à peine.

Avant d'aller plus loin, je dois te dire que tu ne dois point douter de notre dévouement pour Clémard. Il sait, et tu dois aussi le savoir, que nous ne saurions jamais marchander notre concours à un ami pour qui nous avons la plus grande affection et pour qui nous sommes prêts à consentir tous les sacrifices personnels que les circonstances peuvent exiger. Je crois devoir te dire que si, en dehors d'Haiti, je n'arrive à le tirer de l'impasse dans laquelle il se trouve, je doute fort, sans fausse modestie, que quelqu'un d'autre puisse réussir à le faire.

Nos puissants amis communs tant à New York, Washington, Miami et ailleurs ont tous manifesté un désir sérieux de lui venir en aide dans les limites de leurs possibilités respectives.

Depuis mon retour d'Haiti je me suis mis en action à cette fin et ai personnellement vu plusieurs personnalités du monde financier qui n'ont pas hésité à consacrer une grande partie de leur temps précieux à la concrétisation des plans que j'ai eu à envisager avec Clémard en vue de le tirer d'embarras le plus rapidement possible.

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Mes espoirs de réussite ainsi que ceux de tous les amis contactés se sont heurtés aux effets négatifs inévitables provenant tant de la nouvelle arrestation de Clémard que des derniers événements survenus en Haiti depuis le 20 mai écoulé. Je t'envoie, pour preuve, copie d'une lettre d'un de ces grands amis, Mr. Howard Burris de Washington, D.C. Je te demande de garder cette lettre strictement confidentielle car je n'aurais pas aimé que le nom de Mr. Burris soit mentionné à quiconque en Haiti. Si cela arrivait, nous pourrions perdre un très bon ami.

Pour ton information, je te dirai que Mr. Burris est un colonel retraité du Corps de Génie de l'armée américaine, ami personnel et conseiller du Président Johnson et extrêmement influent à Washington tant dans le monde politique que financier. J'ai eu à faire deux voyages à Washington entre le 8 et 11 mai au cours desquels lui et moi envisagions les moyens d'aider Clémard selon le "modus" envisagé. La copie de sa lettre du 7 juin en cours saura te confirmer ce qui précède.

J'ai aussi vu personnellement et lui ai causé maintes fois au téléphone, Joseph Dryer, qui devait se rendre en Haiti le 24 mai pour te voir mais qui a dû renvoyer son voyage après les nouvelles de la dernière tentative d'invasion. Je lui ai encore causé récemment au téléphone et il a eu à me faire part des résultats négatifs de ses efforts, toujours en fonction des mêmes circonstances.

Le lettres adressées aux autres amis de l'étranger, dont Dabinovick, par example, sont restées jusqu'ici sans réponses. Je vais une nouvelle fois écrire longuement à Dabinovick pour lui transmettre ta dernière communication avec l'espoir d'avoir un mot encourageant de lui.

Comme tu dois le comprendre, ma chère Sophie, nos efforts, malgré toute notre bonne volonté, ne sauraient se concrétiser à brève échéance, car les valeurs en question qu'il nous faut trouver ne sont pas insignifiantes. Je te signalerai en passant un point qui a été soulevé au cours des négociations et qui fait ressortir que même si nos amis seraient en mesure d'avancer à Clémard les valeurs nécessaires, ils ont des doutes sérieux non pas sur la sincérité de Clémard à faire face aux obligations qui devront être contractées, mais à la possibilité matérielle de rapatrier, en dollars américains, les valeurs avancées. J'ai personnellement assisté à des contacts avec des banquiers d'ici qui affirment qu'avant longtemps, Haiti n'aura presque plus de devises-dollars pour solder ses comptes à l'étranger. Autant d'obstacles que je suis malheureusement obligé de te signaler pour que tu saches à quoi t'en tenir.

Concernant maintenant le <u>grand banquier noir</u> dont j'ai eu moi-même à dire à Clémard que je croyais pouvoir nous aider, celui-ci a eu à me faire comprendre qu'il ne pouvait en l'occurrence intéresser son institution à une affaire de ce genre qui comporte trop de risques. De ce côté là il n'y a donc pas grand espoir.

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Ceci dit, malgré tous ces obstacles qui sembleraient insurmontables, je n'ai pas totalement perdu l'espoir de pouvoir t'aider à sortir Clémard, sain et sauf, de la prison où sa santé se détériore rapidement, je le sais. L'essentiel est que le Chef lui-même soit persuadé que l'inhabilité que nous éprouvons à satisfaire les exigences du moment, ne sont en aucune façon imputables à Clémard mais plutôt à des circonstances totalement indépendantes de notre volonté.

Je prie Dieu Tout-puissant pour que l'on finisse par réaliser que Clémard, en bon patriote haïtien, a eu foi en son pays et n'a pas cru bon d'expatrier, comme plus d'un l'a fait, le fruit de ses durs labeurs et de son intelligence productive.

Je me proposais d'écrire personnellement à Son Excellence le Président à Vie d'Haiti, pour implorer sa clémence et sa générosité pour un ami qui nous est cher. Je me suis alors demandé si c'était là un geste sage qui pourrait avoir la vertu de l'épargner et, dans le doute, j'ai préférer m'abstenir.

Pour revenir maintenant aux possibilités de réaliser au moins partiellement, la valeur exigée, je dois te dire que je suis heureux de savoir que tu détiens une procuration générale en bonne et due forme t'habilitant à ratifier tout ce que nous pourrions entreprendre à cette fin.

Séparément, par cette même voie, je te communiquerai toutes les formalités à remplir pour nous mettre en mesure de réaliser dans un délai raisonable au moins le tiers de la somme réclamée. Il serait souhaitable que tu sois mise en mesure de venir ici à New York, ce qui faciliterait beaucoup les choses, mais dans l'impossibilité d'une pareille alternative, tu devras donc agréer aux conditions stipulées. Il faudra donc agir avec dilligence pour nous permettre d'aller au plus vite.

Ma chère Sophie, je terminerai cette lettre déjà longue et ardue en te renouvelant mon dévouement le plus entier à la cause de notre ami Clémard et en te priant une nouvelle fois de ne jamais douter de mes sentiments propres et ceux de ma famille pour Clémard, toi et les tiens.

Affections à Gros-Miche, Marie-Claudine, Toto, Eddie et sa femme.

Bon courage!

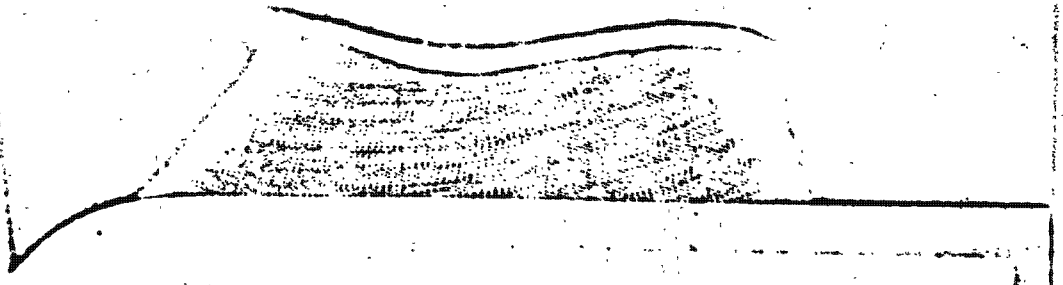
Invariablement,

Louis A. Brun

LAB/jvb
encl. 1

14-00000

SECRET



HOWARD L. BURRIS

SUITE 101, R.C.A. BUILDING
1725 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

June 7, 1968

Mr. Louis A. Brun
R. C. [illegible] International Corp.
134 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011

Dear Mr. Brun

I apologize for the delay in responding to your suggestion concerning the commercial bank in Haiti. My activities here have been such that I have been unable until the past day or so to give your proposal adequate thought and consideration.

First I must admit that the recent abortive invasion attempt caused certain reflection and it is this kind of activity, successful or unsuccessful, that could create serious dislocations for those established in business. However I must assure you that this was only a reflection and the reason that I will be unable to accept your offer is the extent and nature of my activities here in Washington. I believe I alluded to some of them during your visit. The occasions when I would find it possible to visit Port-au-Prince or to devote any significant amount of time to the bank's activities here would be rare indeed. I shall confess to you that I declined a similar position on a bank board here in the states for the same reason.

I regret that this decision is necessary but I hope that in future relationships we may be able to do something useful and successful in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Burris

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SECRET

le 14 juin 1968

FORMALITES A REMPLIR PAR SOPHIE:

1) Envoyer, signe par Sophie, un mandat original notarie et legalise par le Consul Americain, a une personne amie ou parent habitant New York, donnant a cette personne les memes pouvoirs donnes par Clemard a Sophie. Ce mandat devra etre accompagne d'une copie authentifiee de celui de Clemard a Sophie.

2) Envoyer les clefs des deux "safe deposit box" qui se trouvent a la First National City Bank avec les formes attacheed qui doivent aussi etre legalisees par le consul americain.

3) Indiquer le nom et la fonction de la personne autorisee par le gouvernement haitien a regler la transaction avec Clemard pour communication eventuelle relative a la transaction.

Ma chere Sophie:

Cette communication te parviendra par une voie que Clemard a eu a m'indiquer et que je crois etre sure. Fais bien attention a ce qu'il n'y ait pas d'indiscretion.

Je voudrais suggerer que tu habilites Paulette selon le paragraphe 1 ci-dessus.

Je t'envoie aussi par cette meme voie une lettre qui saura te renseigner sur l'etat de nos demarches et possibilites.

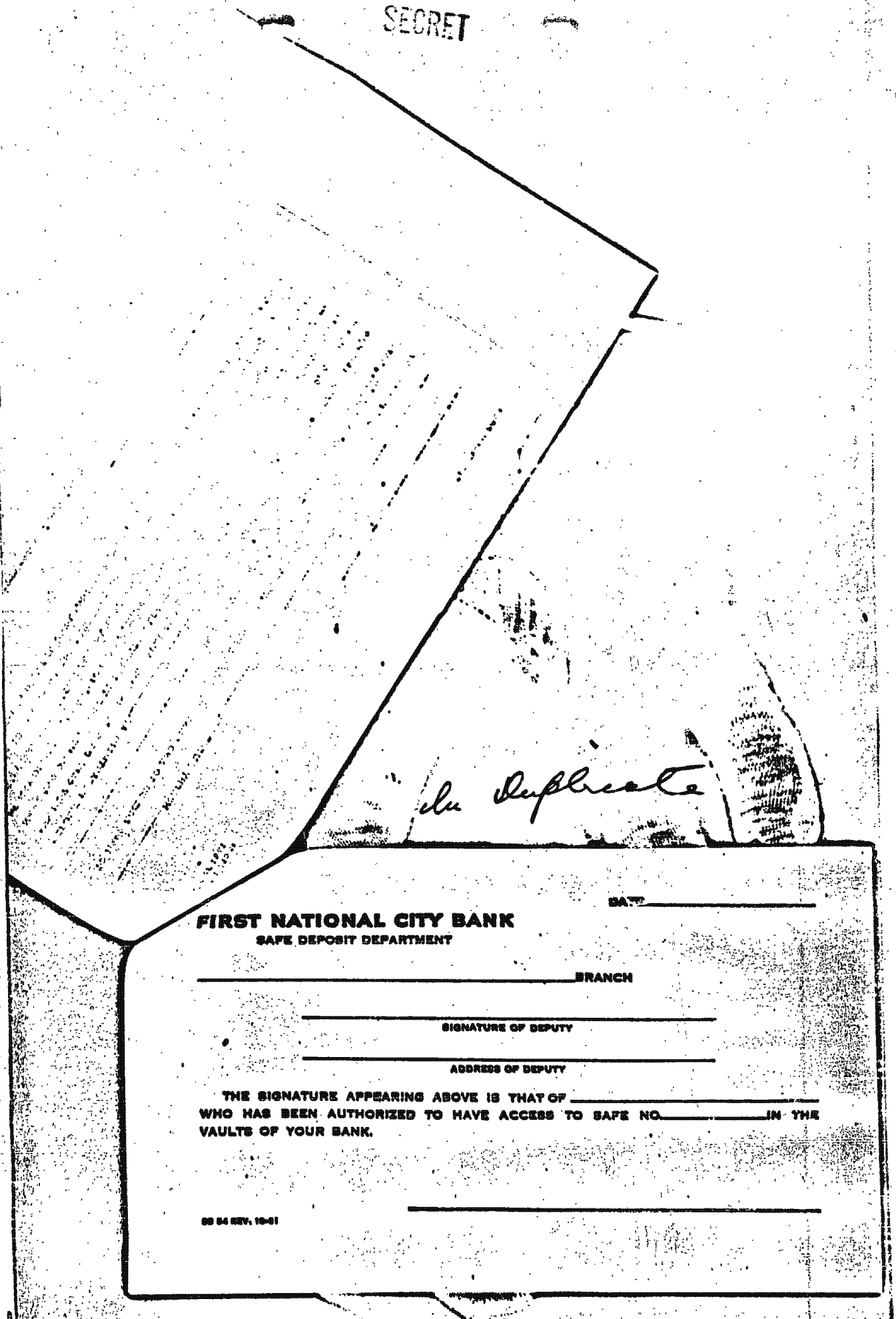
Encore une fois, Bon Courage et bonjour a tous.

Invariablement,

Gordon

14-00000

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DATE _____

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT

_____ BRANCH

_____
SIGNATURE OF DEPUTY

_____
ADDRESS OF DEPUTY

THE SIGNATURE APPEARING ABOVE IS THAT OF _____
WHO HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE NO. _____ IN THE VAULTS OF YOUR BANK.

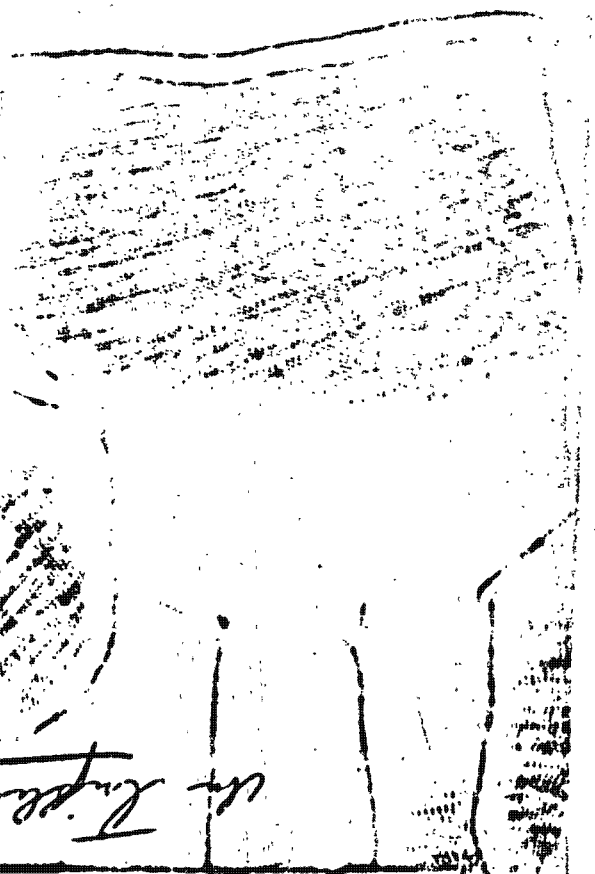
_____

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DEPOSITORS FORM

DATE

I, HEREBY AUTHORIZE

TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF SAFE NO. NOW RENTED BY

IN THE VAULT OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK, SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT AT , NEW YORK, TO EXCHANGE SAID SAFE FOR ANY NEW SAFE OR SAFES IN SAID VAULT AND FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAKE LIKE EXCHANGES, AND IN MY NAME AND ON MY BEHALF TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES UPON SUCH TERMS AS HE MAY DEEM PROPER AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF THE CONTENTS OF ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, AND TO RECEIVE ALL THE LESSEE'S KEYS TO ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES, WITH POWER AT ALL TIMES TO SURRENDER THE SAID SAFE NO. AND ANY SUCH NEW SAFE OR SAFES; THIS AUTHORITY TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL WRITTEN NOTICE OF ITS REVOCATION IS RECEIVED BY THE SAID BANK.

STATE OF
SS.:
COUNTY OF

ON THE DAY OF ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND

BEFORE ME CAME

TO ME KNOWN TO BE THE INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN, AND WHO EXECUTED, THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE EXECUTED THE SAME.

SECRET

14-00000

Clemard Joseph Charles

[redacted]

2268

Case 47,540

1 July 1968

DD/DCSE

WH/7/Haiti
3 B [illegible], Hqs.

For your information.

14-00000

SECRET

COUNTRY: Haiti

27 June 1968

DCS Case: 67,540

SUBJECT: Clerard Joseph Charles Has Gained Postponement of Deadline for Ransom Payment/Charles' Relationship with Rene Adrien and Yvon Saint-Victor and Background of His Rearrest/President Duvalier's Need for Money May Possibly Induce Him to Accept Scheme for Reorganized Banque Commerciale d'Haiti

1. Recently-released Clerard Joseph Charles has received a postponement of the deadline by which he must produce the US$605 thousand required as "ransom" for his permanent release. The new deadline is late September 1968.

2. Shortly before Charles' rearrest in May 1968 Rene Adrien visited him at his residence and remonstrated with him. Adrien, one of the directors of the Banque Nationale de la Republique d'Haiti (BNRH), told Charles that he (Charles) had not done enough since his release to procure the US$605 thousand and added that Charles was receiving too many visitors. Charles responded with such a tirade of abuse that Adrien left the house. Charles was rearrested that same afternoon. At about the same time, Yvon Saint-Victor visited Charles and talked to him in much the same vein as had Adrien. Charles' response to Saint-Victor was about the same as his answer to Adrien. Saint-Victor's wife is President Duvalier's secretary.

3. Since his release in June 1968, Charles has agreed to intensify his efforts to raise the US$605 thousand and to cease receiving so many visitors at his house.

4. Charles will undoubtedly revive the scheme to raise the US$605 thousand through subscription by foreign investors and to place it in a reorganized Banque Commerciale d'Haiti (BCH). [Collector's Note: this plan is outlined in CO-A(S) 322/14367-68 (Paragraph Two).] Alternatively, he may try to interest the Government of Haiti (GOH) in his visible cash assets and GOH bonds now on deposit in banks in New York City [Collector's Note: see CO-A(S) 322/14367-68 (Paragraphs Three, Four and Five.) See also CO-A(S) 322/17056-68.].

5. The idea of the reorganized BCH was formulated in order

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Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

14-00000

27 June 1968

DCS Case: 47,540

to get the required sum into Haiti and at the same time to ensure that it would not simply be confiscated by the GOH. The idea was born because Charles and his friends felt (and still feel) that if he simply handed over US$605 thousand he would then be liquidated. Thus, the BCH scheme would serve as a sort of insurance policy on Charles' life. On the other hand, it is possible that the GOH would refuse to accept the BCH scheme as a substitute for a direct payment and would continue to insist on the direct payment of the US$605 thousand as ransom. It is possible, however, for the following reasons that President Duvalier would consent to the BCH scheme. First, he is desperate for money and does not much care in just what form it may enter Haiti. Second, he approaches his problems on a day-to-day basis and does not plan far into the future. Third, he is obsessed with the idea of retaining power for life. Now, Duvalier is perfectly well aware, I am sure, that the BCH scheme will not net him US$605 thousand. On the other hand, however, he is quite anxious for foreign investors to place their money in Haiti, both for the economic benefits which such investments will bring to Haiti and also for the propaganda value which a new foreign business will bring to him. If he liquidates Charles, either before or after receiving the US$605 thousand, he will suffer much unfavorable publicity. It is possible, too, that he may think that he may be able to get his hands on the US$605 thousand even though it may be tied up in the BCH scheme. In any event, Charles is, I believe, going to make the effort to induce the President to allow the BCH scheme and thereby to bring an end to the "ransom" demands.

-end-

14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Letter Concerning Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
[redacted]	2268	DCS Case 47540
		DATE 25 June 196[illegible]

TO: (Number, street, city, state, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL		6/25	cer	Attached is a copy of a letter in French from Mr. Brun to Mme. Charles. The original of this letter was sent to Robert C. Felder, United States Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, via State Department channels, for transmittal to Mme. Charles.
2. WH/7/Haiti C/3 B 0001, Hqs.	26/6/67	26/6/67		
3. WH/7/Ht Chief Int Ext				
4.				
5. R/O FEB Sec				
6. File				
7.				
8. FI/BR				TDY: For filing in 201-357029
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

FORM 3-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

LOUIS A. [illegible]
136 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Le 4 juin 1968

Mme Clémard Joseph Charles
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Ma chère Sophie,

Cette lettre est pour t'accuser réception des tiennes des 17 et 26 mai écoulés et du 4 juin en cours.

Si tu n'as pas eu de mes nouvelles depuis mon départ d'Haiti le 7 mai dernier, c'est que premièrement, je me proposais de retourner voir Clémard la semaine suivante. Le voyage a dû être différé lorsque j'ai su que Clémard avait, à nouveau, été arrêté le 11 mai. J'ai même eu à faire un câble à un ami pour lui annoncer mon arrivée;et je suis sûr qu'il a dû t'en informer.

Ouelitement, l'arrestation de Clémard ainsi que les nouvelles des derniers événements en Haiti ont eu des effets négatifs sur les négociations en cours que j'avais entamées pour Clémard et qui semblaient vouloir aboutir. Je n'ai pas besoin de te dire combien j'en ai été bouleversé. Alors que nos amis d'ici et moi pensions pouvoir aider Clémard que nous estimons comme un frère, sa nouvelle arrestation est venue nous assommer avec une rigueur dont nous nous remettons à peine.

Avant d'aller plus loin, je dois te dire que tu ne dois point douter de notre dévouement pour Clémard. Il sait, et tu dois aussi le savoir, que nous ne saurions jamais marchander notre concours à un ami pour qui nous avons la plus grande affection et pour qui nous sommes prêts à consentir tous les sacrifices personnels que les circonstances peuvent exiger. Je crois devoir te dire que si, en dehors d'Haiti, je n'arrive à le tirer de l'impasse dans laquelle il se trouve, je doute fort, sans fausse modestie, que quelqu'un d'autre puisse réussir à le faire.

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/...

Mes espoirs de réussite ainsi que ceux de tous les amis contestés se sont heurtés aux effets négatifs inévitables provenant tant de la nouvelle arrestation de Clément que des derniers événements survenus en Haïti depuis le 20 mai écoulé. Je t'envoie, pour preuve, copie d'une lettre d'un de ces grands amis, Mr. Edward Burris de Washington, D.C. Je te demande de garder cette lettre strictement confidentielle car je n'aurais pas aimé que le nom de Mr. Burris soit mentionné à quiconque en Haïti. Si cela arrivait, nous pourrions perdre un très bon ami.

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/...

Ceci dit, malgré tous ces obstacles qui sembleraient insurmontables, je n'ai pas totalement perdu l'espoir de pouvoir t'aider à sortir Clémard, sain et sauf, de la prison et en santé le plus rapidement, je le sais. L'essentiel est que le Chef lui-même soit persuadé que l'inhabilité que nous éprouvons à satisfaire les exigences du moment, ne sont en aucune façon imputables à Clémard mais plutôt à des circonstances totalement indépendantes de notre volonté.

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Affections à Gros-Miche, Marie-Claudine, Toto, Eddie et sa femme.

Bon courage!

Invariablement,

Louis A. Brun

LAB/jvb
encl. 1

14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clonard Joseph Charles/Data Concerning Boro Dabinovic Dabimar X AA2-2794

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	DCS Case 47540
		DATE 21 June 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DD/DCSL	6/20	6/20	CEX	cc: SR/HYA
2. WH/7/Haiti 3 B 0001, Hqs.	24 JUN 1968	24 JUN 1968		Attached for your information is copy of
3.				WH/7/Hti Chief Int Files (Card) Init Sec Files
4. FI/ISR				
5. AC/WH/7/CI WH/7/CI			-ltr	
6.				
7. RID/AN	24 JUN 1968		8L	to 9: Please file in 201-357029
8. EUR/SA Files				Enter as indexed
9. FI/ISR				
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MICROFILMED JUL 26 1968 DOC. MICRO. SER.

AN DC E/ISS CS/DEST INDEX ABSTRACT

201-357029

FORM 3-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

XAA2-2749

[redacted]

COUNTRY: Haiti

19 June 1963

SUBJECT: Clesmard Joseph Charles Spared During Arranged Recent Wave Of Executions in Fort Dimanche Prison/Charles Must Produce Remainder of Ransom Money/Charles Is Living Under Rigorous Prison Conditions/Data Concerning Rose Dubinovic Dubinar, Swiss Friend of Charles

DCS Case: 47,540

[redacted]

1. During the week of 27 May 1963, the Government of Haiti (GOH) is reported to have carried out many executions among the prisoners held in Fort Dimanche prison. Clesmard Joseph Charles, Haitian banker, was not among those executed, because his life was spared on direct orders from President Duvalier.

2. The GOH is becoming more insistent than ever that Charles produce the ransom of US$605 thousand, which it has set as the price for his release. Charles now seems to feel that if he does not produce the money, he will be executed. During May 1963, he gave to his wife, Madame Sophie Ludvigson Charles, a general power of attorney. This power of attorney gives to Mme Charles the right to function as her husband's alter ego and sell or otherwise dispose of any or all of his assets.

3. Charles still has the US$100 thousand in cash in New York City banks [Collector's Note: See reference, Paragraph Four.] His holdings in GOH bonds total US$400 thousand [Collector's Note: See reference, Paragraph Two]. These bonds are guaranteed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Mme Charles is now endeavoring to collect the US$100 thousand cash and to pledge as collateral the US$400 thousand in GOH bonds, in the hope that the GOH will accept as payment of the US$605 thousand ransom whatever she is able to realize from the bonds plus the total of the cash. She hopes to place this sum in the reorganized Banque Commerciale d'Haiti (BCH) [Collector's Note: See reference, Paragraph Two] and hopes that the GOH will accept that as the payment of the ransom.

4. Charles is not being treated as well in Fort Dimanche

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COPY

[redacted]

[redacted]

DCS Case: 67,540
Supplement to: [redacted]

as he had been before his release in late April 1964. The Fort Dimanche authorities now refuse to accept food and clothing parcels sent to Charles from the outside. In consequence, he is still wearing the clothes in which he was incarcerated in May 1963 and is compelled to subsist solely on the regular prison meals. During his previous incarceration he was permitted to receive food and clothing from the outside and lived not too badly.

5. The following individual is a good friend of Charles.

Mme Dabimvie Dabimar
3.20160/62
Geneva, Switzerland

(Collector's Note: Source did not volunteer Dabimar's postal address; we did not judge it suitable to press him for it. We do not know the significance of the number listed above. We copied the above name and address from an envelope addressed by Mme Charles to Dabimar.) Dabimar is a Swiss citizen who owns a fleet of cargo ships. Until about 1961 or 1962 he had a contract with the GOH, under the provisions of which he sailed his ships under the Haitian flag. The GOH ultimately canceled the contract, because, I understand, Dabimar failed to pay the royalties called for under the terms of the contract. Dabimar is opposed to President Duvalier, because the latter canceled the contract just discussed, but is (or was) interested in developing projects (no additional data available) in Haiti. The letter which Mme Charles has just addressed to Dabimar contains an urgent appeal for financial assistance.

-end-

CONFIDENTIAL

14-00000

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONTROLLED DISSEM — CONFIDENTIAL — NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY: Haiti

REPORT NO

SUBJECT: Invaders Have Seized Control of Quartier Morin And Citadelle Laferriere/Government of Haiti Has Adopted Defensive Attitude/Reported Execution of 100 Prisoners in Fort Dimanche/Status of Clesmard Joseph Charles

DATE DISTR

NO PAGES: 2

REFERENCES: DCS Case: 47,540

1. The Government of Haiti (GOH) has issued claims that the invaders of 20 May 68 have been wiped out and that total victory against them has been achieved. A special Thanksgiving mass was celebrated recently in Port-au-Prince to commemorate and celebrate the event. On the surface, things are politically quiet.

2. The realities seem, however, to differ to a marked degree from the foregoing. Although the populace has remained quiet, it does not believe the GOH claims of total victory. In point of fact, the invaders have not been wiped out and they have succeeded in gaining of control of the small town of Quartier Morin and of the Citadelle Laferriere (both situated near Cap Haitien). The GOH has decided not to begin military operations against them, but to adopt a defensive attitude and wait and see what happens. The GOH realizes that to dislodge the rebels from the citadel, which is located in very rugged terrain, would be extremely difficult militarily and would be quite inadvisable politically, because the citadel has strong emotional historical associations for Haitians. To bombard it into rubble, which would be the only feasible way to recapture it, would create resentment among the populace. Accordingly, the GOH seems prepared to do nothing, in the hope that the rebels will fade away. Such an eventuality seems unlikely, however, because the invaders have not only succeeded in gaining control of the two above-mentioned places, but also have succeeded in rallying about 140 of the local populace to their side. Reports in the US Spanish-language press of 12 Jun 68 stated that the rebel force is now 300 strong and that 140 of these are local people who have rallied to them. My information corroborates those figures. The populace in Port-au-Prince expects further action from the rebels. The latest rumors (and the word "rumors" must be emphasized) in Port-au-Prince are that another invasion will be launched into southern Haiti this time, and that Cuba has infiltrated a number of illegal entrants

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

U — NO — CONFIDENTIAL — Exempt from automatic downgrading and declassification — S — NO

701-35,7029

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into Haiti (not into the present rebel force). I have no way of knowing whether or not there is any substance to these rumors.

3. The latest invasion was launched from Inagua Island, Bahama Islands. The mayor of Cap Haitien went personally to Port-au-Prince to ask for troops to defend his area. He received none. The invaders themselves and Haitian exiles in general are now all very optimistic, after having been quite depressed at the beginning of the invasion.

4. The GOH, which seems to be about to sit tight and await further action by the rebels, has not been idle in dealing with the local population. During the week of 27 May 68, many people (no additional data available) were arrested. And the GOH has executed about 100 of the prisoners held in Fort Dimanche prison. The well-known banker, Clemard Joseph Charles, was not, however, among those executed. His life was spared on specific instructions from President Duvalier.

5. During the recent debate in the United Nations Security Council concerning the Haitian complaint about the invasion, Haitian ambassador Alexander Bonhomme stated that Jean Theard, Haitian diplomat, had been killed by the invaders. This is not true. Theard was, in fact, killed by GOH troops. He had gone to Cap Haitien to make some sort of survey designed to put a sugar mill there into working order.

6. There are a number of Syrians in Haiti. These individuals are sensitive to the directions in which political winds are blowing. I learned that one of these Syrian businessmen is, for the first time, considerably worried about the outcome of the invasion. Previous invasions have left him totally unperturbed. Now, however, he is worried, because he has for some years done business with the GOH and fears reprisals at the hands of a new government.

-end-

14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Washingtonian Howard L. Burris

FROM:

EXTENSION: 2268

NO. Case 47540 DCE T 8157

DATE: ~~3 June 1968~~ 27 May 68

TO: (Office designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	3 JUN 1968	3 JUN 1968	S	
2. WH/7/Haiti 3 B 0001 Hq.	5 JUN 1968	5 JUN 1968	R	For your information and retention.
3. DC/WH/7				Here we go again.
4. C/WH/2			H	
5.				
6.				
7. WH/7/HT / Ruth		6 Jun 68	L	- Thanks much Ric.
8. RID/AN			CH	7708: Pls index and classify to 201-357029 Insufficient Bio Data. Pour. 13/W 201-145770, BURRIS, LEE /LTCL/ RID/201/
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11. FI/ISR (filing				
12. in 201-357029)				
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FORM 5-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

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DCE 18157
27 May 68

MICROFILMED
JUN 20 1968
DOC. MICRO. SER.

WAS-247-68
27 May 1968

Director, Domestic Contact Service
Attn: Operational Support Staff

Chief, Washington Field Office

Washingtonian Howard L. Burris Begged to Accept Chairmanship of Commercial Bank of Haiti

REFERENCE: Especially WAS-602-67, dated 5 September 1967; but also WAS-767-67 dated 21 December 1967.

1. [redacted]
21 May 1968 received a telephone communication from Howard L. Burris, 1725 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., a wealthy Texas oil man currently engaged primarily in real estate development in this area. Considerable background is afforded in the memoranda under reference but, briefly, Burris (Colonel, USAF retired) is a former chief of Air Force Foreign Liaison and later was attached to the White House staff, prior to his retirement a few years ago. His social contacts in Washington at present reach well into both Kennedy and (President) Johnson circles. The US citizen of Haitian origin mentioned below is the same as that referred to in the earlier memorandum under reference. He is said to travel "freely" between his home in New York City and Port au Prince.

2. Burris recently had a visit from Louis A. Brum of B. & B. International Corporation, 134 Fifth Avenue, New York City, a US citizen of Haitian origin whom he has known for several years. Brum brought a letter from Clemard Joseph Charles dated 6 May 1968 in Port au Prince. A copy is attached but in essence it says he, Charles, was illegally imprisoned for ten months but now is released. As President of the Commercial Bank of Haiti in Port au Prince, Charles professes great interest in the patriotic duty of developing his country economically. He states that the bearer, Mr. Brum, is charged with presenting orally a proposition from him, Charles. He also asked Burris to deliver a letter addressed to Vice President Humphrey. (Burris declined and suggested it be sent through the mails.)

3. About a year ago Brum approached Burris in Charles' behalf, urging Burris to buy at a low price, stock in the Commercial Bank of Haiti, and to accept a directorship if not the Chairmanship of the Board. On this latest visit Brum sweetened Burris to buy 50 to 51 percent of the stock at a "nominal fee, probably US$1.00 and other considerations" and definitely to accept the Chairmanship. Burris is not interested

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because he thinks this would be merely an opening gambit to attract investment funds from Burris' contacts. Moreover, he is not sanguine about the prospects in Haiti at present, to use understatement. However, Oakley has reason to believe that Burris might be cooperative should it suit official purposes to have him become involved. This aspect was not discussed in the least.

4. Burris says that Brun and Charles are somehow involved with the Bank of Nova Scotia which apparently operates in Haiti. Moreover, the two banks are offering participation in some kind of concession which they have, or hope to obtain, involving mineral rights throughout Haiti. Burris (and Oakley) are not overly impressed that this consists of more than the usual promotional effort.

[redacted]

[redacted]Oakley:em

Group 1
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14-00000

BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAITI

Le Président

Port-au-Prince, le 6 Mai 1968.

Cher Monsieur Barrie,

Pour avoir compris que la faiblesse de l'Economie Haitienne réside dans l'inutilisation des forces de travail du pays, j'ai créé une Institution dynamique qu'est la Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, génératrice de nouveaux standards économiques et qui doit engendrer l'intégration de la personnalité à partir d'une massification radicalisée et qui bien assimilée aurait pu projeter les approches de développement culturo-social en vue d'arriver à un déplacement économique en faveur des éternels déshérités par la pullulation de toute une gamme d'initiatives telles qu'Haiti puisse devenir une ruche d'activités.

Mais, malgré la conception dynamique de ce Nouveau Modèle Economique d'Haiti, bien peu semblent l'avoir pénétrée: c'est ce qui m'a valu cette "cabale" montée contre moi à dessein par des attardés qui feignent d'ignorer que, bien plus qu'à la politique on doit accorder la primat à l'économique.

Mon ami, après dix mois de détention illégale je suis encore vivant et, je profite de la visite de notre ami commun Louis A. [redacted] pour vous remercier de votre grande sollicitude à mon endroit durant ce sombre temps. Mais si ma situation et la votre ne me laissent guère entrevoir la possibilité de vous être utile, soyez assuré du moins que je serai toujours prêt à vous témoigner ma gratitude.

Notre ami commun est chargé de vous parler de vive voix de mon problème et de vous remettre en mains propres une lettre adressée à l'Honorable Fiorel H. [redacted] où se trouve exprimer mes voeux sincères pour son triomphe total aux Comices de Novembre prochain sur lesquelles reposent bien des espoirs!

14-00000

Le Président

Il est difficile en vérité, de déraciner cette propension à la politique tapageuse, à la politique verbeuse à l'infra-politique néfaste pour le citoyen, et encore plus néfaste pour la Nation Haitienne.

Cependant ma sagacité à résoudre les problèmes de l'heure et l'intérêt constructif et évolutif engendré par la R.C.H., n'ont permis de faire école et cette nouvelle génération politico-économique qui partage avec moi les responsabilités que posent ce renouveau de la Nation. Des Missionnaires de la Régénération Nationale, des Missionnaires "dont la valeur et l'efficacité mettent en jeu des hommes convaincus qui travaillent à discipliner l'Economie en vue d'un objectif bien défini; des hommes qui rejettent systématiquement toute idée de" fatalités économiques", mutation de la conscience sociale", Voilà ce qu'impose notre triomphe total pour et en faveur de notre peuple.

Cette cabale je puis l'attribuer à l'oeuvre du Destin. La foi en mon Destin réprime l'inquiétude maladive de l'esprit et le fixe dans la vérité.

"La vérité ne triomphe jamais mais ses ennemis succombent toujours" je vaincrai! Oui je vaincrai ! C'est dans cette guerre de chaque moment que je me perfectionne et c'est en combattant avec une foi ardente dans mon Destin que je peux dire comme l'Apôtre: "Je ne pense point être encore arrivé où j'aspire; mais oubliant ce qui est en arrière et m'étendant à ce qui est devant, je cours au terme de la carrière pour saisir le prix que Dieu nous a destiné la félicité à laquelle il nous a appelés par le Christ".

Je vous souhaite la santé et le bonheur pour vous et pour votre famille et le succès dans vos entreprises.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Mr. Burris l'expression de mes respectueux sentiments et reconnaissants.

Clément JOSEPH CHARLES.-

COLONEL HOWARD L. BURRIS
WASHINGTON D.C.,-

24-357:24

14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM		EXTENSION	NO.
		2268	Case 47,540
			DATE 22 May 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	22 MAY 1968	22 MAY 1968		Attached copy of [illegible] 88 and NYOR (TWX) 9891 is furnished for your information and possible interest.
2. WH/7/HT 3 B 0001 Hq.	22 MAY 1968	22 MAY 1968		
3. WH/7/HT Chief				
4. Int Ext				
5. R/D Sec				
6. File				
7. DC/WH/7				Reun is recognized by Tosca as self-seeking and an enemy of the coalition. Highly doubtful if Tosca made any of the statements attributed to him. There was no need for Tosca to call the Haitian consulate to find out about the invasion.
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12. FI/ISR				Please file 201-357029
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15.				

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SECRET

MAY 21 11 43 AM 68

S E C R E T 211344Z MAY 68 CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASE 47,948

ON 20 MAY 1968, LOUIS A. BRUN TOLD US THAT CLEVARD JOSEPH CHARLES IS SEEKING HELP IN RAISING THE REQUIRED US$60,000 RANSOM FROM TWO PRINCIPAL SOURCES. ONE SOURCE IS BRUN HIMSELF, TOGETHER WITH SOMEBODY NAMED ALBERT (NO ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE), IN NEW YORK CITY. AS ALREADY REPORTED, THIS GROUP HAS FAILED TO RAISE THE MONEY, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THIS MELANCHOLY INTELLIGENCE TO CHARLES. THE SECOND GROUP IS CONNECTED WITH A MAN NAMED JOSEPH DRYER. MME. CHARLES WROTE TO BRUN (LETTER RECEIVED ON 20 MAY 1968), TOLD HIM THAT MR. DRYER WAS INVOLVED IN THE MONEY-RAISING EFFORT AND MADE A CRYPTIC REFERENCE TO THE CARNER BANK IN MIAMI, FLORIDA. BRUN, WHO KNOWS DRYER, STATED THAT HE HAS QUERIED DRYER ABOUT THE CARNER BANK AND THAT DRYER TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT. BRUN DESCRIBED DRYER AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE INVESTMENT FIRM GOODBODY IN MIAMI AND SAID THAT HE HAS BUSINESS INTERESTS IN HAITI AND THE NETHERLANDS, AMONG OTHER PLACES. BRUN AND DRYER ARE MEETING DURING THE EVENING OF 20 MAY 1968, AFTER

WHICH BRUN WILL TAKE DRYER TO THE AIRPORT. DRYER IS TO FLY TO HAITI ON 24 MAY 1968. BRUN SAID THAT DRYER IS A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH P. KENNEDY. WE PROMPT UP THE NAME OF MME. SAINT-VICTOR, SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER, WHOM WE REPORTED AS HAVING BEEN IN MIAMI SINCE 9 MAY 1968. IT NOW DEVELOPS THAT IT IS MR. SAINT-VICTOR (NOT MME.) WHO HAS BEEN IN MIAMI SINCE 9 MAY 1968. SAINT-VICTOR, WHO IS OFTEN EMPLOYED BY PRESIDENT DUVALIER ON CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS AND WHO CONTROLS THE HAITIAN PHILATELIC CORPORATION (WHICH ISSUES HAITIAN STAMPS), HAS ACTED AS THE INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND CHARLES AND HIS WIFE. HE REPORTEDLY VISITED CHARLES WHILE THE LATTER WAS IN FORT DIMANCHE AND DELIVERED TO HIM THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HE WOULD BE SET FREE (I.E., THE US$605,000). BRUN OPINED THAT THE REASON FOR SAINT-VICTOR'S PRESENCE IN MIAMI MIGHT POSSIBLY BE TO OBTAIN SOME OR ALL OF THE US$605,000 FROM SOMEBODY THERE.

NEW SUBJECT: BRUN ALSO KNOWS A REPUTED MULTIMILLIONAIRE NAMED JOHN BOLTEN AND INTRODUCED HIM, VIA CABLE APPOINTMENT, TO LOUIS LEVEQUE. BOLTEN IS REPORTEDLY A NATURALIZED US CITIZEN OF EITHER GERMAN OR AUSTRIAN BIRTH AND IS NOTED FOR HIS PHILANTHROPIC INTERESTS.

NEW SUBJECT: BRUN WHO KNOWS [redacted]

OF THE ARMY, SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE REPORTED 29 MAY 1968 INVASION OF HAITI BY EXILES IS THE WORK OF THE HAITIAN COALITION AND OF CIA. HE TOLD US THAT HE IS A GOOD FRIEND AND CONTACT OF RAYMOND JOSEPH, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE HAITIAN COALITION IN NEW YORK AND THAT JOSEPH TOLD HIM THAT THE HAITIAN COALITION IS SPONSORED IN EVERY WAY BY THE CIA. BRUN SAID THAT WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE REPORTED INVASION HE CALLED JOSEPH AND ASKED HIM WHETHER OR NOT THE REPORT WAS TRUE. JOSEPH FIRST DENIED IT, BUT LATER (AT ABOUT 1130 HOURS) CALLED BRUN BACK AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH HIS PATRONS IN WASHINGTON. THE PATRONS TOLD HIM THAT THE INVASION STORY IS TRUE, BUT THAT THE INVASION WAS LAUNCHED NOT FROM CUBA, BUT FROM "SOME OTHER PLACE". BRUN TOLD US THAT JOSEPH DID NOT IDENTIFY THE "OTHER PLACE". BASING HIS BELIEF UPON JOSEPH'S BEHAVIOR AND ANSWERS, BRUN IS CONVINCED THAT THE INVASION HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY CIA. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA REPORT THAT A B-26 PLANE DROPPED EITHER THREE OR FIVE BOMBS ON PORT-AU-PRINCE. ONE FELL NEAR THE PALACE, ONE IN THE CITY AND ONE AT THE AIRPORT (NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OTHER TWO). BUT ONLY ONE

EXPLODED. NO CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED BY THE HAITIANS. JOSEPH CALLED THE HAITIAN CONSULATE AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INVASION AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS THINGS FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL. BRUN TELEPHONED PAN AMERICAN AND WAS TOLD THAT DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE ARE PROCEEDING NORMALLY.

FILE: LOUIS A. BRUN, PRESIDENT
B&B INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
684 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
AND
CASE 47,548

S E C R E T

GROUP 1
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14-00000

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO

DATE DISTR 22 May 1968

NO PAGES 2

REFERENCES DCS Case: 40,556

SUBJECT Rearrest of Clesard Joseph Charles/Charles Is Not Able to Raise US$605 Thousand Ransom/Data Concerning Charles' US Bank Accounts/President Duvalier Might Settle for US$100 Thousand Cash/ Charles Has Credit of US$300 Thousand in National Bank of the Republic of Haiti And Claims an [redacted]

1. Clesard Joseph Charles was rearrested at 1600 hours 11 May 68. His present whereabouts are not known to me.

2. It became clear, during the period between 3 May 68 and 16 May 68 that Charles would not be able to raise the ransom sum of US$605 thousand. His release from prison, which took place on 25 Apr 68, was apparently contingent on his ability to produce that sum. (Collector's Note: See [redacted] Immediately following his release, Charles attempted to interest foreign investors in subscribing to a fund of US$605 thousand. This sum was to be placed in a reorganized Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, formerly Charles' private preserve, and used to pay off depositors and to stimulate investment in Haitian enterprises. Charles soon learned, however, that the present political and particularly the present economic conditions in Haiti were such as to discourage foreign investors from risking their money there. Nobody would invest US dollars. Nobody wants gourds. Nobody is interested in investing in a bankrupt country. Even Charles' reported willingness to pledge as collateral his extensive holdings in Haiti (essential oils and various other business enterprises, land, buildings and Haitian government bonds) failed to change the negative opinions of those approached as possible investors.

3. Charles holds a receipt from the Banque Nationale de la Republique d'Haiti (BNRH) in the amount of US$300 thousand dated 1966, and claims from the BNRH another personal credit of US$100 thousand, dated 1963. He does not, however, hold a copy of any receipt for the latter sum. Charles apparently cannot utilize these sums, or his credit for them, to pay off the US$605 thousand ransom.

4. Charles' current visible cash assets consist of US$100 thousand, deposited in the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company and the First National City Bank, both of New York City. He originally had US$110 thousand in these two banks. When he was first

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imprisoned in 1967, the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) compelled him to sign a number of blank checks of these two banks. The authorities then cashed a check for US$10 thousand, which the bank honored. When the Haitian authorities next presented filled-in checks, however, the bank refused payment, because it knew of his arrest and refused to believe that he had signed a check after his arrest. The Haitian authorities then abandoned their attempts to lay their hands on the rest of the money.

5. It is possible that President Duvalier might settle with Charles for the US$100 thousand on deposit in New York, when, as and if he finally realizes that Charles is not able to raise the original US$605 thousand demanded. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that Charles has other funds secretly deposited outside of Haiti. It must be recalled that he acted for some time as courier for President Duvalier, periodically took money for the President to Switzerland and deposited it there for him. Charles may therefore have utilized the opportunity to deposit some of his own money outside of Haiti.

6. If Charles did in fact deposit money of his own in Switzerland or some other locality outside of Haiti, President Duvalier may know or suspect that he has done so. He definitely does know about Charles' US$100 thousand in New York. Accordingly, Charles' 11 May 68 rearrest may be the preliminary to renewed pressure to induce Charles to part with his New York money and/or the funds which he may have secreted elsewhere outside of Haiti.

-end-

14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	DCS Case 47540
		DATE 21 May 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	21 MAY 1968	21 MAY 1968	SH	Attached, for your information, is copy of New York (TWX) 9881).
2. C/WH/7/HT 3 B 0001, Hqs.			X	
3. WH/7/HT Chief				
4. [illegible]				
5. R/O [illegible] Soo [illegible] File [illegible]				
6.				
7. FI/ISR				for filing in 201-357029.
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MAY 28 11 25 PM '68

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 281444Z MAY 68 CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASE 47,548 (CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES)/PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S SECRETARY IN MIAMI/GUERRILLA LANDING IN HAITI

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES USES THE PSEUDONYM "JACOBY" IN HIS CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND ALLOTS THE PSEUDONYM "HEAD" TO LOUIS LEVEQUE.

NEW SUBJECT: THE 28 MAY 1968 ISSUE OF "THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS" CARRIES ON PAGE 28 A REUTERS REPORT FROM SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERRILLAS FROM CUBAN HAVE LANDED IN HAITI REUTERS QUOTES REPORTS FROM PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, THAT ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER, TROOPS WERE SENT OUT TO DEAL WITH THE INVADERS, SAID TO INCLUDE ARMED HAITIAN EXILES, A NUMBER OF CUBANS AND SOME EUROPEAN MERCENARIES. THEY LANDED ON THE HAITIAN COAST FROM ORIENTE PROVINCE, CUBA, ACCORDING TO REUTERS. PRESIDENT DUVALIER IS SAID TO BE DIRECTING MILITARY OPERATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

LOUIS A. BRUN TOLD US ON 15 MAY 1968 THAT MADAME SAINT-VICTOR, WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S SECRETARY, HAD BEEN IN

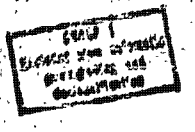
MIAMI, FLORIDA, SINCE 9 MAY 1968. HE DID NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR VISIT, BUT SPECULATED THAT SHE MIGHT BE COLLECTING INFORMATION CONCERNING AN INVASION, RUMORED IN NEW YORK AS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED. SOME HAITIAN EXILES IN NEW YORK (NO ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE) ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN MISSING FROM THEIR USUAL HAUNTS SINCE THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 1968. WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE ACCURACY OR TRUTH OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING BITS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING INVASIONS AND MERELY PASS THEM ALONG TO YOU FOR TRANSMITTAL TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

FILE: LOUIS A. BRUH, PRESIDENT
B&B INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
134 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
AND
CASE 47,548

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

CCC: RE FILE: BOTTOM MESSAGE LINE THREE SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS

134 FIFTH AVENUE XXX VICE GER



14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Bldg.)	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	DCS Case 47540
		DATE 20 May 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	20 MAY 1968	20 MAY 1968	S	Attached for your information and possible interest is copy of OO-A(S) report 322/14068-68.
2. WH/7/HT 3 B 0001, Hqs.	20 MAY 1968	20 MAY 1968	[illegible]	
3. DC/WH/7			[illegible]	
4.				
5. WH/7/Ht Chief Asst				
6. Exec I/A				
7. WH/7/HT See File C-36				
8.				
9. FILE SR				
10.				
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201-357029

FORM 3-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONTROLLED DISSEM C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO

SUBJECT Clemard Joseph-Charles Must Raise US $605 Thousand Before He Can Resume His Banking And Other Activities/Outline Of Charles's Plans/President Duvalier Reportedly Hopes To Improve His Image And To Attract Foreign Capital And Business Activity/ Rumors Continue Concerning Possible Reorganization Of Haitian Government

DATE DISTR

NO PAGES 2

REFERENCES DCS Cables 40 956 and 47 540 Supplement

1. Clemard Joseph-Charles was released from prison during the evening of 25 Apr 68 in return for a "ransom" of US $605 thousand.

2. Charles has been given until 24 May 68 to produce the US $605 thousand. This sum must be in an irrevocable letter of credit on an American bank in favor of the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti. It has been intimated that the 24 May 68 deadline can be extended, should Charles be experiencing any really unusual difficulties in producing the required money.

3. In order to obtain his release from prison, Charles had to sign a memorandum of understanding that he would produce the US $605 thousand plus some unidentified real property. These terms were agreed to by both Charles and his wife prior to the release. At the same time, Charles wrote a personal letter to President Duvalier asking for release and promising to hand over the money and property in question.

4. Charles is now under house arrest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

5. Charles's immediate resources consist of about US $100 thousand in cash in two US banks (no additional data available), various homes, businesses (essential oils, an automobile dealership and others (no additional data available)), buildings, land and about US $400 thousand worth of Haitian government bonds. He did have another US $300 thousand in personal funds in Haiti. He can no longer count on this money to help raise the US $605 thousand, however, because prior to his release from prison the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) confiscated it.

6. Charles has agreed to raise the US $605 thousand on condition that it be used to pay off legitimate claims of depositors in his Banque Commerciale d'Haiti. He has stated that he will permit the money to be paid out only to those depositors who are able to produce documentary proof that they had deposited funds in his bank.

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

U NO CONFIDENTIAL/CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY S NO

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7. Charles and several associates now propose to reorganize the Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, formerly his private preserve, into a corporate entity and to incorporate it in the US. The associates plan to raise US $500 thousand for this new corporation. This sum will be separate from the US $605 thousand and will serve to put the new banking corporation into business. Secretarial help and at least some of the six directors of the corporation will be US citizens. Two of the directors will be Charles himself and Louis Lovegue.

8. President Duvalier is reportedly most interested in the new venture and is anxious to see it succeed. He has finally realized that the economic situation in Haiti has deteriorated so badly during the past 18 months that he must do something before total bankruptcy occurs. Accordingly, President Duvalier wants to improve his "image" in the eyes of the outside world, particularly in the US, and by doing so hopes to attract investments and business activities from outside Haiti. He apparently hopes that the new, incorporated, Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, will help attract such activity to Haiti and is therefore permitting Charles to proceed.

9. (Collector's Note: [redacted] described a possible reorganization in the Haitian government. This reorganization, sponsored by Duvalier, would place Duvalier on the elevated plane of spiritual adviser and father of the people and would, on the surface, at least, turn over to a president the day-to-day management of Haitian government affairs. Various names have been mentioned for the position of president under the possible new system.] The name of Luc-Albert Foucard has recently been mentioned frequently in Haiti as the possible new president under the rumored reorganization of the government. Foucard is a son-in-law of Duvalier and lives in Haiti. He is in charge of tourism. Some say that Duvalier listens to Foucard and is, to a degree, influenced by him. I doubt this very strongly.

- end -

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COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO

SUBJECT Clesmard Joseph-Charles Must Raise US $605 Thousand Before He Can Resume His Banking And Other Activities/Outline Of Charles's Plans/President Duvalier Reportedly Hopes To Improve His Image And To Attract Foreign Capital And Business Activity/ Rumors Continue Concerning Possible Reorganization Of Haitian Government

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

U | C O N F I D E N T I A L/CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY | S E C R E T

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- end -

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Clemard Joseph Charles

EXTENSION: 2268
NO.: DCS Case 47540
DATE: 20 May 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	20 MAY 1968	20 MAY 1968	S	Attached for your information is copy of New York (TWX) 9873.
2. C/WH/7/Ht 3 B 0001, Hqs.			R	
3. WH/7/Ht Chief				
4. Asst I/A				
5. R/O Soo File CSS				
6.				
7. FI/ISR				
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CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 16 4 09 PM '68

C O N F I D E N T I A L 161949Z MAY 68 [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

SUBJECT: REARREST OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES (CASE 47,540)

MR. BRUN TOLD US ON 16 MAY 1968 THAT ON 11 MAY 1968 AT 1600 HOURS CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES WAS REARRESTED. HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT KNOWN TO MR. BRUN. MR. BRUN TOLD US THAT HE RECEIVED THE WORD IN A LETTER RECEIVED DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 16 MAY 1968.

FILE: LOUIS A. BRUN, PRESIDENT
B&B INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
134 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM: [redacted] EXTENSION 2268 NO. DCS Case 47540 DATE 2 May 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL		3 MAY 1968		REF: Ripley/Musulin Telecon, 2 May 1968
2. WH/7/Haiti AT TN: Mr. Berg	3 MAY 1968	3 MAY 1968	R	Attache [redacted] which was summarized in ref telecon is furnished for your information and interest.
3. DC/WH/7				We shall confine our reply to ~~New York~~ to advise our New York Office to counsel source to check in with US Embassy in Haiti and to thoroughly debrief source on his return to New York.
4. C/WH/7			H	
5.				
6. C/WH/7/RO			PLO	
7. WH/7/RO/HT			BB	
8.				
9. WH/3/HT — Rust				
10. Grage				
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12. FI/ISR Kilo				- cleared through there.
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14-00000

[redacted]

COUNTRY: HAITI

[redacted]

SUBJECT: CLEMARD JOSEPH-CHARLES HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON AND APPARENTLY MUST PAY RANSOM OF US$605,000

30 A(S) 322/13163-68

[redacted]

1. CLEMARD JOSEPH-CHARLES WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ON THE EVENING OF 25 APRIL 1968 AND PROCEEDED TO HIS RESIDENCE. OIM SOURCE TELLS US THAT CHARLES IS BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MORALLY WELL AND IS NOW MAKING PREPARATIONS TO RETURN TO WORK.

2. [redacted] HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY CHARLES, THROUGH A [redacted] PARTY, EDMOND VILAIRE, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, TO TRAVEL TO HAITI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE CHARLES WANTS TO TALK TO HIM. CHARLES HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO AGREE TO TAKE OUT A LETTER OF CREDIT IN FAVOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI IN THE AMOUNT OF US$605,000. THIS LETTER IS TO REMAIN VALID FOR 30 DAYS FROM THE TIME IT IS TAKEN OUT. CHARLES HAS BEEN GIVEN A SHORT TIME (NOT SPECIFIED) TO PRODUCE THE MONEY AND THE LETTER OF CREDIT.

3. MADAME CHARLES COMMITTED HER HUSBAND TO THE FOREGOING COURSE OF ACTION. FOLLOWING HER OWN RELEASE FROM PRISON, SHE WAS VISITED BY AN UNKNOWN (TO OUR SOURCE) PARTY. THIS INDIVIDUAL SET FORTH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CHARLES WOULD BE RELEASED. THE CONDITIONS INCLUDED THE US$605,000 MENTIONED ABOVE. MADAME CHARLES ACCEPTED THE CONDITIONS AND SIGNED A PAPER TO THAT EFFECT. HER SIGNATURE COMMITTED HER HUSBAND.

4. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT WHAT CHARLES WANTS HIM TO DO IS TO TAKE THE MONEY FROM WHEREVER CHARLES HAS IT (THE SOURCE PROFESSES NOT TO KNOW WHERE THE MONEY NOW IS) AND DELIVER IT TO HAITI.

5. [redacted] PLANS TO FLY TO PORT-AU-PRINCE ON EITHER 2 MAY 1968 OR 3 MAY 1968 AND TO RETURN TO NEW YORK ON 6 MAY 1968. THIS SCHEDULE IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DEPENDING UPON THE LOCATION OF CHARLES'S MONEY AND DEPENDING UPON WHETHER OR NOT SOURCE IS CORRECT IN HIS SURMISE THAT CHARLES WANTS HIM TO ACT AS COURIER.

6. [redacted] REQUESTED US TO NOTIFY THE US EMBASSY IN HAITI THAT HE WILL BE IN THE COUNTRY. HE WISHES THE EMBASSY TO BE NOTIFIED AS A PRECAUTION. SOURCE IS A NATURALIZED US CITIZEN OF HAITIAN BIRTH AND DOES NOT FEAR THAT ANYTHING UNTOWARD WILL HAPPEN TO HIM. HE FEELS THIS WAY NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS US CITIZENSHIP [illegible] BECAUSE HE REASONS THAT THE HAITIANS WILL NOT HARM THE [illegible]. HE IS, HOWEVER, MOST ANXIOUS THAT THE [illegible] KNOW THAT HE WILL BE IN HAITI. [redacted] IS VERY PROUD OF [illegible] CITIZENSHIP AND SHOWS THAT HE WILL DO NOTHING TO [illegible] IT OR OTHERWISE GET HIMSELF IN TROUBLE.

[illegible] SUGGESTED STRONGLY TO HIM THAT AS SOON AS HE ARRIVED [illegible] PORT-AU-PRINCE HE VISIT THE EMBASSY AND LET THE PEOPLE THERE KNOW THAT HE IS IN HAITI. HE ALSO TOLD HIM TO TELL THE EMBASSY PEOPLE HIS DATE OF DEPARTURE AND TO CHECK IN WITH THE EMBASSY AGAIN PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. [redacted] AGREED TO DO THIS.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT [redacted] DDP, IS AN [illegible] OF THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR. ~~AMEMB~~, PLEASE HAVE HIM NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS IN HAITI THAT SOURCE WILL BE THERE DURING THE TIMES MENTIONED ABOVE.

14-00000.

SECRET

2 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph-Charles - Plans for Payment of Ransom

1. [redacted] (DCS) called today to give WH/7/Haiti advance notice of a report his office has received relative to the release from prison of Clemard Joseph-Charles.

2. Louis BRUN, who is the business representative of CHARLES in New York, has been urgently requested to come to Port au Prince. The request came to BRUN from one Edmond VILAIRE who, BRUN asserts, represents CHARLES in Haiti. BRUN plans to leave New York on 2 or 3 May and return on 6 May.

3. According to BRUN, CHARLES has agreed to pay $605,000 to the Duvalier Government for his release from prison. BRUN claims not to know where the money is located but suspects that it may be in Europe. He further suspects that he will be asked to act as courier.

4. BRUN, who is a naturalized U.S. citizen, has some qualms about his own safety in Port au Prince and has asked his DCS contact in New York, Mr. Mitchell, that the Embassy in Port au Prince be advised of his arrival. He was told that he should go to the Embassy himself upon arrival and make his position known.

5 [redacted] said he assumed WH/7/Haiti would pass the information to the State Department.

[redacted]

SECRET

14-00000

File Cuba (201-357029)

INDEX: ☐ YES ☐ NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO.
X-REF TO FILE NO.
FILE RID ☐ RET. TO ☐ BRANCH ☐
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ACTION IW (ACD) ☒ RID COPY

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TDCSDB-315/00106-68
HTP-1126
ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

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5		10	

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CS/DO, FI/D . FI/INT 6, DDP, SOD 4, WH/COG 8, WH/REG 8, WH/7/H/RE 3, DO 5.

9 Jan 68 26694

S E C R E T 091700Z JAN 68 CITE [ ] 4912

DIRECTOR INFO [ ] JMWAVE

INTEL

SUPDATA EVLEMON 2 FROM EVLEMON 14

FILED 091700Z

S-E-C-R-E-T

201-357029

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

IN-26694

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF FBI JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SOO ONE CRS

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GROUP 1
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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT. NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

SECRET 092148Z CITE

DIST 9 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY: HAITI

DOI: 30 DECEMBER 1967

SUBJECT: AMNESTY OF PRISONERS

1. PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER RELEASED 107 PRISONERS IN A NEW YEARS AMNESTY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LUCIEN BELIZAIRE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DUVALIER CABINETS FROM 4 NOVEMBER 1958 TO 21 DECEMBER 1959, WERNER APOLLON, FORMER OFFICIAL IN THE TABAC REGIE,

14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Mme Clemard Joseph Charles Reportedly Released From Prison

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	Case 47,540
		DATE 4 January 1968

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	4 JAN 1968	4 JAN 1968		For your information and retention.
2. WH/7/Haiti 3 B 0001 Hqs.	5 JAN 1968	5 JAN 1968		
3.		5 Jan 68		
4.		5		
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13. FI/ISR				Please file in 201- 357029
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CONTROLLED DISSEM | CONFIDENTIAL | NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY Haiti

SUBJECT Mme Clemard Joseph Charles Reportedly Released from Prison/Clemard Joseph Charles May Be Released from Prison

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR 4 JAN 1968

NO PAGES 1

REFERENCE

I have learned that during the last week of December 1967 Mme Clemard Joseph Charles was released from prison. Reports persist that Clemard Joseph Charles will soon be released. No date has been indicated for the reported forthcoming release.

-end-

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

U NO | CONFIDENTIAL | NO

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COUNTRY Haiti

SUBJECT Rumored Release of Clémard Joseph Charles

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 27 Dec 67

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES DCS CASE: 40556

I have heard that Clémard Joseph Charles may be released at the end of December 1967. President Duvalier has reportedly sent people to restore Charles' residence to its former state and has ordered the return of the items which were stolen from the house at the time of Charles' arrest. Duvalier has also ordered new clothes to be sent to Charles in jail.

-end-

201-357029

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SECRET SENSITIVE

NY-909-67
10 October 1967

Subject: Case 47,340 - Reported Relationship Between Haitian Banker Clemard Joseph Charles and Colonel Max Dominique, Son-in-Law of Haitian President Duvalier

1. On 6 October 1967, Louis A. Brun, President, B & B International Corporation, 1182 Broadway, New York City, stated that Haitian banker Clemard Joseph Charles has, in fact, contrary to previous information, been in contact with Colonel Max Dominique, son-in-law of Haitian President Duvalier. While Brun was not able to supply any details concerning this relationship, he believes that it is political in nature and possibly not unrelated to the various stories now circulating concerning plots to unseat the President.

2. Brun also stated that Dominique is scheduled to arrive in New York City for a visit in the near future (no additional details available).

201-357029

SECRET SENSITIVE

Classified Top Secret Sensitive
Downgrading and Declassification

(Charles) 201-357029

TDCSDB-315/03967-67

MTP 1101

INDEX ☒ YES ☐ NO

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S E C R E T 031630Z CITE

DIRECTOR INFO JMWAVE 30 Oct 67.

INTEL

IN 64877

SUPDATA PARA 1 EVLEMON 2 FROM EVLEMON 14

PARA 2 EVLEMON 2 FROM EVLEMON 5

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

IN 64877

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA ONE OCR SDO

D/ORR 5

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

032238Z CITE

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIST 3 OCTOBER 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

SUBJECT 1. ATTEMPTS BY HAITIAN GOVERNMENT TO GET MONEY FROM THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES.

2. POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES FROM PRISON.

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

(classifications) (dissem controls)

1. ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE HERVE BOYER, EX-MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE [redacted] (PORTION MISSING) [redacted] FRANCOIS DUVALIER. BOYER HAD WITH HIM TWO BLANK CHECKS ON A SWISS BANK WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM DUVALIER BY CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, EX DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI. BOYER WAS SHOCKED WHEN THE SWISS BANK REFUSED TO HONOR THE CHECKS.

2. IT IS STRONGLY RUMORED WITHIN THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT THAT CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES WILL SOON BE RELEASED FROM PRISON.

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCLANT, CINCSO, [redacted]

4. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: MISSING PORTION WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF IT MATERIALLY AFFECTS THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.

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SECRET
(When Filled In)

DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT	DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION
	a. DI FILE NO.
	b. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. / c. DATE
	d. SOURCE CRYPTONYM / e. DATE OF INFO. / f. EVALUATION
g. ANALYST / h. DATE PROCESSED	i. DISSEMINATED IN / j. DATE

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

k. CROSS REFERENCED TO THIS FILE	l. TRANSFERRED TO DI FILE NO.

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

CHARLES, JOSEPH CLENARD
201-357029
SEX M DOB ?

CIT HAITI
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NTP:WR804

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FILE IN 201-357029

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

FORM 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-66)

14-00000

FBI DOCUMENT

DATE: 8 AUGUST 1967

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JOSEPH CLEMARD CHARLES
INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI

FBI FILE NO: NONE GIVEN (NEW YORK)

DISPATCH

KAPOK
SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION	
	MARKED FOR INDEXING
X	NO INDEXING REQUIRED
	ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
	MICROFILM

TO

INFO

FROM: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: Plotting Against the Duvalier Regime

ACTION REQUIRED · REFERENCES

ACTION: Information Only

Forwarded under separate cover is a Memorandum for the Record prepared by an LNGOLD Official on the reported plotting by Clemard Joseph Charles to overthrow the Duvalier regime. The memorandum was prepared on the basis of a conversation held with a representative of Charles in Washington on 29 June 1967.

[redacted]

Distribution:
2 - [redacted]

Attachment:
1 - Memorandum, U.S.C.

KAPOK

CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE
	WFPB-696	12 JUL 1967 Typed: 11 July 1967
	CLASSIFICATION: SECRET	HQS FILE NUMBER: 201-357029

1 - RI
1 - WH/7/Haiti

ORIGINATING

OFFICE	OFFICER	TYPIST	EXT.
		sld	5595

COORDINATING

OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE	OFFICER'S NAME

RELEASING

OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE	OFFICER'S NAME
C/WH/7	12 JUL 1967	Lyle V. Harwood

FORM [illegible] IS PREVIOUS EDITION.

1401

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SECRET/SENSITIVE

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Clemard J. Charles

		EXTENSION 2268	NO. Sensitive Case 47540	
			DATE 11 July 1967	

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL	7/11	7/11		
2. WH/7/Haiti	11 JUL 1967	11 JUL 1967		
3. 3 B 0001 HQS [redacted] 12/11/67				
4. Ruth		12 July 67		
5. Carrie File		12 JUL		
6.				
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15. SECRET/SENSITIVE				

Attached for your retention is Clemard Charles' letter carried by Mr. Brun which was passed to our New York Office and in turn delivered to Mrs. Matlack. Mrs. Matlack bucked this copy to us. She also encouraged Mr. Brun to use our New York Office for similar transmittals. Brun also passed a copy of his 10 page "opus" dated 20 June 1967 to Mrs. Matlack. A copy of this report was previously furnished your office.

201-357029
Clemard Joseph Charles
C. J. Charles.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

FORM 8-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAITI
SOCIETE ANONYME DE BANQUE
AU CAPITAL AUTORISE DE UN MILLION DEUX CENT CINQUANTE MILLE GOURDES

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE
CONBANK
P. O. BOX 1007
CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES
PRESIDENT ET DIRECTEUR

SIEGE SOCIAL ET BUREAU PRINCIPAL
RUE DU CENTRE
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE June 6, 1967

REFERENCE Confdl

Miss D. K. Matlack
CACSI/DA
Washington 25, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Miss Matlack:

May I recall the kind reception you gave me in May 1963, when I was in Washington, also your courtesy in recommending me the Alban Towers Hotel, 3700 Massachusetts Avenue, where I lodged in Room 522. You will remember the conversation I had with you regarding the future of my country, and the hope I expressed that the assistance of the U. S. would not fail us.

I have earnestly worked since in order that Haiti may be relieved from the tyranny and misery in which has been inconsiderately thrown, and have succeeded in securing the sympathy and support of a great majority of the populations all over the Republic, including religious people, businessmen, professionals, intellectuals, etc. A plan has been prepared and will be executed by a Military man who has with him most of the officers in the Army. These people are ready and eager to begin operations and are only awaiting word from me.

I would have already given them order to strike, through the Chief who is the only one in contact with me, were it not for my apprehension that the turmoil that will necessarily follow might serve Castro's plan to introduce communist agitators in the country. I also have reason to wonder about Balaguer's position on account of his friendly feelings for Duvalier. Therefore, before going any further, I feel that it would be wise for me to have the U.S. assurance that these two forces will be properly neutralized, and I am requesting your kind cooperation so that this assurance may be given to me.

/2

BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAITI
SOCIETE ANONYME DE BANQUE
AU CAPITAL AUTORISE DE UN MILLION DEUX CENT CINQUANTE MILLE GOURDES

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE
COMBANK
P. O. BOX 1007
CLENARD JOSEPH CHARLES
PRESIDENT ET DIRECTEUR

SIEGE SOCIAL ET BUREAU PRINCIPAL
RUE DU CENTRE
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE June 6, 67.

REFERENCE Confd.

I have requested my friend and associate in New York, Mr. Louis A. Brun, to turn personally this letter over to you, also to give you all the details that it would not be proper for me to write. You may feel free to talk at length with Mr. Brun on all matters relating to my project. You will also be kind to give him any reply you may have for me, which he will keep in New York until my next visit to the U. S. shortly.

Permit me to thank you in advance for your contribution to the relief of my country, and to assure you that your cooperation will ever live in my memory.

Respectfully yours,

Clémard JOSEPH CHARLES.-

14-00000

[illegible] Brun
Pres.
C&P Investment Corp
NYC

20 June 67

The following is my humble appraisal of the political situation now prevailing in Haiti.

As I repeatedly stated to anyone who may have asked me, my motivations are purely patriotic while I am also moved by a sincere desire to see Haiti emerge as a democratic independent nation friendly to the United States.

Since I left Haiti with my family ten years ago to later become an American citizen, I have made several trips to Haiti and have maintained close contacts with people in all walks of life both in Haiti and with those who were forced out of the country for political reasons or otherwise.

My latest visit to Haiti took place on June 5th of this year and I stayed two days in Port-au-Prince. Although the purpose of my trips were mostly business I also had the opportunity to discuss the Haitian political situation with politicians, as well as with average Haitian citizens concerned with the situation. My personal conclusions are as follows:

The fact is that the Duvalier regime is, at present, in a state of internal political confusion in which no one directly or indirectly connected with it can predict the outcome. There is strong evidence showing that his son-in-law, Colonel Max Dominique, has in fact tried to overthrow Duvalier in order to personally assume the direction of Haiti's political affairs. How Duvalier became aware of Colonel Dominique's intentions is the question everybody is trying to find the answer to. Nevertheless, Duvalier rounded up the alledged associates of Colonel Dominique and, after a mock court martial accusing and convincing 19 young army officers of treason they were all killed by a firing squad on June 8, 1967 at Fort Dimanche on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Duvalier himself was present at the slaughter and he ordered Col. Dominique to be a member of the firing squad. Non-confirmed information from usually reliable sources

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indicates that several other persons, low ranking military personnel, militia men and civilians were also executed on similar charges, without fanfare. It is also the general concensus of opinion that the "purge" will continue at a rate that no one can yet determine.

No one ignores that there has been and still are very hostile feelings between two groups within the President's family and close associates. One is headed by Colonel Dominique and his wife Marie-Denise Duvalier, and another is led by Mrs. Yvon St.Victor, the President's private secretary and confidante. The names of the President's wife, Simone, his son Jean-Claude and his younger daughter Simone, are being mentioned as being part of the first group. In the second group, Mrs. St.Victor's brother, the present Head of the Department of Tourism, Mr. Luc-Albert Foucard, who is also married to one of the President's daughter, is among other names such as Henri Siclait, head of the Regie, Minister Lebert Jn.Pierre, etc. mentioned to be siding with Mrs. St.Victor. So far, the President has shown signs that he favors the latter group. The ramifications of both groups extend to people who were considered the most fanatic supporters of Duvalier himself. The fact is that none of the remaining so-called strong men of Duvalier in the militia, the Tonton Macoutes or the Army know for sure how the president feels towards them and are very much concerned about their own future and survival. In other words, confusion and insecurity are wide spread amongst Duvalier's followers.

I believe that in spite of the actual confusion and sense of insecurity prevailing in government circles, there is no real organized opposition as such against Duvalier at this moment, except for what I will point out later in this paper.

There is, however, strong anti-Duvalier feelings in the middle and upper classes of Haiti, representing only a small percentage of the whole population. A segment of the population to be taken into very serious consideration is the one made up of the people living in the slum areas,

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both within and on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. These people to be differentiated with the rural peasants, live in abject poverty with no established means of subsistance, and represent the most volatile and dangerous political force to be watched closely in the event of any significant development of the political and social situation. These people which formed, in 1956 and 1957, the core of former president Daniel Fignole's followers, can be swung to any movement and play a decisive role in the confusion that may arise in the event of a coup. We are convinced that these people will welcome a change should any demagogue lead them to believe that they will benefit by such a change.

I am informed that in Port-au-Prince there are some political personalities, in and out of the Government, that are waiting for an opportunity to swing that sector in their favor, whenever a serious attempt to overthrow Duvalier is made, whether by them or anyone else.

Under those circumstances, Duvalier loosing his old grip on key elements committed to his support, a large portion of which he has recently liquidated, is trying to instore a new political philosophy reaching out for elements of the middle class as well as those of the slum areas mentioned above. I have a feeling that the new philosophy is aimed at antagonizing the U.S. Government for its hands-off policies and the economic squeeze applied by the U.S. against his government. This antagonism will go as far as necessary even to an almost impossible alliance with communist countries such as Cuba or other communist nations of Europe, Africa or Asia. As evidence of that direction in Duvalier's Government, he has allowed the so-called "Little Red Book" of Chairman Mao-Tse-Tung of Communist China to circulate freely in Haiti, whereas previously the same book was banned and seized in local libruiries and newsstands in Haiti. Several articles appearing in local Haitian newspapers have lately referred with much emphasis to the "Cultural Revolution" of Duvalier which has yet to take place. The appointment in his newly formed cabinet of three Blanchet brothers, all well-known communist sympathizers, is also an indication of his subtle shift towards a

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radically leftist oriented Government. If allowed time, Duvalier may well succeed to turn the country into a new communist satellite and work out some agreements with communist countries. Here again, we should not fail to mention the new exchange of diplomatic representations between Haiti and some communist countries. The most significant one is the new appointment in Haiti of an Ambassador from Poland with whom, I was told, Duvalier is closely working with.

Taking everything into consideration:

1. The non existence of any organized opposition in Haiti;

2. The state of non cohesiveness and distrust amongst the exiled political elements abroad, therefore nullifying any positive action from outside Haiti;

3. The fear of local politicians that, if outside forces were to come in, their safety and security would be very much at stake, therefore they should resist such intervention and do whatever is necessary to prevent it at all cost;

4. The fear of Duvalier's so-called followers that they may be eliminated upon mere suspicion, just or unjust denonciations;

5. The middle and upper classes sentiment that the U.S. is not working as it should to bring about the downfall of Duvalier and that the U.S. is even supporting the regime intentionally or unintentionally by not encouraging or allowing the opposition to organize itself;

6. The interpretation of the above classes which are at a loss to understand the silence of the U.S. press in general for not having raised the usual indignation about the recent mass killings, therefore making room for the belief of a possible collusion by means of money or otherwise of Duvalier with said press, particularly the New York Times, to refrain from bringing these facts to the attention of international public opinion;

7. The strong belief that compromises have been worked out with President Balaguer in the Dominican Republic to return to Haiti all opponents of Duvalier who had fled there.

all this leads to believe that Duvalier will hold in power for quite a while more.

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It would be childish, however, to formulate an opinion only on the basis of the mentioned facts, although on the surface, they appear logical enough to confirm these conclusions.

I am convenced in my own mind, that when some politicians close to Duvalier will feel that their lives are in real danger, some of them will successfully attempt to eliminate him even though they may not be, themselves, in a position to control the chaotic situation that will necessarily follow. This is where the real danger is. If any such unplanned action was allowed to take place, the U.S. will then find itself with a real "hot potato", requiring such drastic action similar to those takin in 1965 durfng the recent crisis in the Dominican Republic. Such actions are not to be desired, not only because they are costly to the American taxpayers, but because they inevitably provoke strong anti-American feelings based on the opinion that the U.S. did nothing to help bring about the collapse, but is merely there to impose its choice and decisions against the will of the people. If the U.S. is to wait for the OAS to decide on joint action in the eventuality of chaos, we are afraid that communist influence and even control of the situation by forces based in Cuba and other countries, will make it much more difficult to cope with within the context of our national security. It is, therefore, imperative, in our opinion, that the U.S. take some steps towards working with local politicians to take the initiative of a coup which, when performed, would receive the strong backing of this country, militarily, financially and otherwise, to secure an orderly succession of the present regime. As far as Haiti is concerned, I feel that I have the most adequate solution for the proposed action. I feel that whenever the security of this nation or any nation is concerned, there is no time for wait-and-see considerations. In the case of Haiti, in particular, where the political scene is really deprived of individuals of strong convictions, one way or the other, we feel that the U.S. should not have any problem in finding someone that they can build politically and work with in a sincere and loyal effort to help that small nation solve some of its perennial problems.

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In connection with the possibility of finding a political leader, as indicated above, I must say that I have been in contact with a man whom, I feel, could very well fill the position. His name is Clénard Joseph Charles, President of Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, President of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce, a director of several other business and industrial organizations in Haiti.

I have known Mr. Charles since 1951. We have been friends and business associates eversince. To me, Mr. Charles is a true and sincere patriot. Of course, today, a number of people question his patriotism on the basis of his close cooperation with the Duvalier regime. I have myself, sometimes, felt that he went too far. I have also told him so, many times. His answers on such occasions have, most of the time, satisfy my own judgement. In fact, Mr. Charles told me that, knowing Duvalier, as he knows him, it would have been a question of life or death if he were to behave in a different manner. What would his death serve if he had taken a position of non-compromise? He feels that in order to be able to control the situation and outlive Duvalier, it was better to be "in" than "out" or to put it another way to be alive than dead. I can say that on several occasions, was it not for Mr. Charles' influence on Duvalier, this latter would have done more harm to the poor pelple of Haiti , in general, than he has done so far.

I have always maintained a dialogue with Mr. Charles and passed on to him as much as possible the judgements of Haitians and others with whom he had no direct contact. I must say that I have always find him receptive to their opinions.

Eversince I have known Mr. Charles, he has always told me of his ambitions and determination to be a great Haitian. He asked me to never let him down and to stay with him to help him carry out his dream. Though it has cost me some of my friends, I have extended to him everything that I could possibly offer to help him reach his goals.

Unlike the majority of Haitian politicians, Mr. Charles has an unsurmontable faith in the future of his country. He feels that if Haiti, under Duvalier, has considerably regressed in every way, the time will come

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where, like a miracle, the country will again take its course forward to join the other progressive nations of this hemisphere. Unlike those politicians who have seen their prominent positions as a temporaty state of affairs with absolutely no future beyond Duvalier, Mr. Charles has practically invested in Haiti almost all the wealth that he has accumulated before and during Duvalier's reign through genuine efforts and self-discipline. Of course, I will admit that his wealth would not have increased in its present proportion if it was not for Duvalier's favors to him. But who else under the previous regimes who were in the same position have genuinely directed their efforts in using their gains for the betterment of the people? I have always find that Mr. Charles took very much satisfaction in giving employment and assistance to as many people as he possibly could. As a matter of fact this is one of his biggest assets in his present struggle.

Mr. Charles is not a demagogue. He believes in the realities of the modern world. He realizes that without the assistance of the U.S., progress is impossible for Haiti. He sincerely believes in the spirit of the Alliance for Progress. Having traveled extensively, he is fully aware of the tragic state of stagnation in which his country is in. He deeply wishes to see Haiti make some progress in the fields of human dignity, education, technology and above all, Freedom.

All that I have said so far are my own personal opinion and also the opinion of a large number of people in and out of Haiti. If some defer in their evaluation of Mr. Charles, it is their privilege and undeniable rights.

Now, if we are to take for granted my opinions, what does Mr. Charles have to offer to the U.S. to prevent the chaos that will necessarily follow Duvalier's downfall? First of all, Mr. Charles is at present ready and willing to provoke the desired collapse of Duvalier's regime. This, he assured me, he can do without any outside assistance. I am personally aware of certain confidential dispositions taken by him to assure the success of a coup if and when he decides to make it. Why does

/...

not he go ahead and make it, you may ask? His reply is that should he make it, what assurances does he have that his action will satisfy the U.S. As I stated before, Mr. Charles feels that without United States backing, no government can possibly exist in Haiti except under the very same conditions of Duvalier's Government. There would be no reason to precipitate a change if Haiti were to remain under a tyranical dictatorship like Duvalier's.

What Mr. Charles is asking as a prerequisite of any action to be sponsored or initiated by him is the assurance from a person of established authority in the U.S. Government that the United States will support the provisional government that will necessarily have to assure power after Duvalier.

The dispositions taken by Mr. Charles are that a military coup by a Junta will take over and stay in power until free elections are held. The members of that military junta have been already selected by Mr. Charles, who has their commitments to that effect. Mr. Charles believe that if free elections are held he should not have any great difficulty in selling his plans and programs to the people and therefore be elected the next president of Haiti. In my opinion, Mr. Charles is not asking too much. Should the United States consent to his request in the form mentioned above, I feel that the Haitian situation, long a sore note in the U.S. hemispheric relations, could be changed without risk for all parties concerned.

Why should the United States gamble on any other calculated risk, while I feel, it can wrap up the situation safely in accord with Mr.Charles' plans? The military junta proposed by Mr. Charles will be made up by high ranking officers of the Haitian army loyal to him, therefore on the side of the U.S. With U.S. assistance - it is almost impossible otherwise - the steps proposed by Mr. Charles after the junta will take over are as follows:

1. Disarm the Militia and the Tonton Macoutes immediately;
2. Reorganize the Army and the Government services;
3. Prevent the interference of communist forces made of exiles Haitians based in Cuba or elsewhere;

/...

4. Prevent the return to the Haitian political scene of such "rabble-rouser" so-called leaders as Daniel Fignole and Henri Vixamar;

5. Start the ground work for free elections as soon as possible.

Mr. Charles feels that although it will probably be impossible to prevent acts of reprisals during the first 72 hours of the military take over, strong efforts should be made to avoid unnecessary bloodshed.

Mr. Charles, in my opinion, is one of the few individuals around whom a reconciliation of all the social divisions and subdivisions of the Haitian family can be achieved. I will mention some of the basic reasons behind this opinion:

1. He is of modest rural extraction, therefore is what is called in Haiti a "son of the masses";

2. He is black, therefore representing the vast majority of the Haitian people who, at this point, considers the light-skin Haitian as a threat for the return of the domination of the mulatto minority;

3. He is deprived of the prejudice of color, therefore the mulatto minority will find in him a certain feeling of security and can be assured that it will not be persecuted solely on the basis of the color of their skins;

4. He is wealthy, therefore credited for not ambitioning power for mere personal gains;

5. He is known to be a hard, intelligent industrialist and administrator capable of promoting and encouraging the establishment of new business and industries in Haiti;

6. He has shown respect for certain moral values such as the undeniable right of the individual to live without fear within the framework of the laws of the land;

7. He is a Roman Catholic who professes to have nothing to do with "Voodoo" as a religion or a cult and who has given all the other religious denominations functioning in Haiti all the evidence of his encouragement and support for their pastoral activities;

/...

8. Being a businessman in his own right, the business community with which he has dealt through the Chamber of Commerce and his bank will always have a dialogue with him and therefore will find him receptive to their suggestions and endeavours;

9. Having dealt with elements of the actual regime who have his confidence, he will be able to control them in a way which will avoid unnecessary hardships should someone else - a complete stranger to them - be in a position of Government leadership;

10. He is known to be strongly anti-communist and pro-American, therefore opening the door to close cooperation with the United States, under the doctrine of the Alliance for Progress, to promote better understanding and opportunities for the Haitian people with the help of the United States;

11. He will welcome the return of all Haitian exiles to take their place anew within the Haitian community and to work with him to the task of making the country a safer and better place to live;

12. He does not contemplate any reprisals or even sanctions against anybody for their past political affiliations, his efforts to be mainly directed not to solve the errors of the past, but to provide a better present and future for those who want to live in Haiti.

The task, if and when he succeeds to gain power, will not be an easy one. I am sure, however, that Mr. Charles will be able to find the support of enough honest and patriotic Haitians to help him carry out his dream of building up a better Haiti.

Mr. Charles' past affiliation with the Duvalier regime should not, therefore, be held against him. As a matter of fact, this affiliation may give him the foresight that he should do his utmost not to repeat the same mistakes.

In conclusion, I feel that the U.S. Government, through its qualified Agencies, should give Mr. Charles' offer to topple the Duvalier regime, all the required careful consideration and make a decision as fast as possible.

June 20, 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

June 29, 1967
3:30 p.m.

ARA/CAR - Edward T. Long

Plot of Clemard Charles to Overthrow Duvalier

At the suggestion of Mr. Bowdler, Howard L. Burris, 1725 K St., N.W., a Washington businessman who served in the past as an assistant military aide to the President, telephoned this morning and asked me to meet Mr. Louis A. Brun at Mr. Burris' office. This I did this afternoon.

Mr. Brun, a nationalized American, owns and operates the B & B International Corporation, 1182 Broadway, New York. A native-born Haitian, he has lived in the States since 1957. He is a close friend and confidant of Clemard Joseph Charles, a Haitian banker who has been deeply involved with the Duvalier government. Charles has fallen in disfavor with Duvalier and several of his government concessions have been cancelled. Charles is actively plotting the overthrow of Duvalier and, according to Brun who saw Charles in Port au Prince June 5-7, has 167 military and civilians ready to move with him. None of this group was represented by the 19 officers who were recently executed or the 80 some Haitians who are currently in diplomatic asylum.

In the past, Charles has made efforts himself and through Brun to get the U.S. Government to commit itself in favor of the overthrow of Duvalier but until recently all of these approaches were rebuffed, U.S. officials having stated U.S. policy was such that no plot of this nature could be supported. Brun showed me a letter he had just received from Charles written on June 23 stating in a commercial language code which Brun and Charles use in their correspondence that an American official last week had met with Charles in Fort-au-Prince and that Charles was most pleased with the meeting. The implication was that this "American" had indicated to Charles that the U.S. Government favored the plotting. I flatly told Brun that the U.S. was not interested

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LIMDIS

in supporting plotting of this nature, that our policy had not changed, and that he should know this categorically. Brun smilingly accepted this statement, but obviously considered the "approach" in Port-au-Prince was more important than my exposition of U.S. policy.

Brun said he was in regular contact with Major James Balog who, he described, as an intelligence officer from the Pentagon. He said that he, Brun, had written a report on his opinion re things Haitian and had given one copy to Major Balog and one to Mr. Burris. He then handed me a copy which is attached. This report is basically a plea for U.S. prior indication to Charles that the U.S. would support any Charles-formed provisional government created following the overthrow of Duvalier.

I closed the half hour meeting with Brun insisting again that he should clearly understand the U.S. Government was not interested in becoming involved in this sort of an operation.

Attachment

ARA:CAR:ETLong:jf

14-00000

DEPT OF STATE AIRGRAM A-3

DATE: 7 JULY 1967

CLASSIFICATION: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

SUBJECT: WOES OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES INCREASE

FROM: AMEMBASSY, PORT AU PRINCE

INDEX: ☒ YES ☐ NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. 201-355722
X-REF TO FILE NO.
FILE RID ☒ RET. TO BRANCH ☐
DESTROY ☐ SIG.

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES 4

SECRET

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PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

FROM: 12

ACTION	ADVANCE COPY	UNIT	TIME	BY
WH 8	☒ RID COPY ☐ ISSUED ☐ SLOTTED ☒ TUBED	WH	1552Z	J

INFO FILE, VR, C/SD, ADDP, CA 2, CA/PEG, CA/PAR, CA/OA, C1, C/PES, C/IC 2, WH/1068, FI, FI/DA, C/INT, IW, FOR CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY, DDI, D/OCI 3

SECRET 061345Z

6 Jul 67 IN 05671

PRIORITY DIRECTOR INFO JMWAVE

REF: (IN 05039)

AM	FI	
ABSTRACT		ENTER

1. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES CHECKED AT CHARLES HOUSE MORNING 6 JULY. NO MEMBERS FAMILY IN SIGHT AND TWO GUARDS WITH RIFLES ON DUTY WHO SAID CHARLES AND WIFE "NOT THERE." OBVIOUSLY CHARLES IS UNDER ARREST.

2. COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY ANTONIO ANDRE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BANK 5 JULY 1967 STATES THAT NATIONAL BANK HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL BANK AND THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI JUSTIFIABLY ALARMED AT THE SITUATION IN THE COMMERCIAL BANK HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO SEE TO IT THAT THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI MR. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES IS MADE TO FURNISH THE COMMERCIAL BANK WITH THE MEANS TO PAY ITS DEBTS." THIS FIRST NOTICE THAT CHARLES IS EX-DIRECTOR.

SECRET

BT

6 Jul 67
201-355722

INDEX: ☒ YES ☐ NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. 201-357029 CLASSIFIED MESSAGE B TOT 29
X-REF TO FILE NO.
FILE RID ☒ RET. TO BRANCH ☐
DESTROY ☐ SIG. Chiles

FROM

SECRET

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

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PRECEDENCE

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ACTION WH 8

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ADVANCE COPY ☐ ISSUED ☐ SLOTTED ☒ TUBED

UNIT	TIME	BY
CSDS	2245Z	S

INFO

FILE: CIA CSDS CAS CASPER CI/SIGS FI 3026, FI/INTEL ADDS DDP

PRIN

SECRET 052200Z CITE [redacted] 4545

5 JUL 67 IN 05039

IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR

1. NATIONAL BANK DIRECTOR ANTONIO ANDRE TOLD EMBASSY ECON OFFICER THAT HE WAS TOLD BY DUVALIER TO GO TO CHARPES AT FORT DIMANCHE AND GET HIM TO SIGN CHECK FOR BALANCE HIS NEW YORK BANK ACCOUNT. Antonio Andre told by Duvalier to get Soby to CLEMAND JOSEPH ck sign check for balance his New York bank account.

2. [redacted] SURVEILLANCE CONTRADICTS ABOVE. WILL CHEV ON HOUSE DETERMINE WHETHER CHARLES THERE.

SECRET

BT

SECRET

MICROFILMED JUL 31 1967 NSRB MICRO. SER.

ACTION FI

ABSTRACT INDEX

S

5 Jul 67

201-357029

INDEX: ☒ YES ☐ NO
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X-REF TO FILE NO. 244418
FILE RID ☐ RET. TO BRANCH ☐
DESTROY ☐ S.G.

SECRET

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ABSTRACT INDEX

SECRET 292140Z CITE

DIRECTOR INFO JMWAVE

EVMUSCLE

30 JUN 67 W: 01443

INDEXED AND CONTROL COPIES

MICROFILMED

JUL 31 1967

DOC. MICROFILM SER.

1. DURING REGULAR MEETING AFTERNOON 27 JUNE EVMUSCLE-DOL SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUERY THAT:

A. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES IS A SLIPPERY, LESS THAN ORDINARY INTELLIGENT, AND GENERALLY WEAK MAN WHO IS A TOADY OF DUVALIER'S. CHARLES MADE ALL HIS MONEY THROUGH VARIOUS MANIPULATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OR KNOWN TO DUVALIER.

B. COLONEL JACQUES LAROCHE IS A STRONG, INTELLIGENT MAN AND A GOOD LEADER. HE IS UNACCEPTABLE AS A POSSIBLE LEADER OR HEAD OF STATE TO THINKING EXILES AND PERSONS IN HAITI DUE TO HIS KNOWN LEFTIST SYMPATHIES AND BELIEFS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF YEARS. DESPITE A GOVERNMENT BAN ON OFFICERS BELONGING TO POLITICAL PARTIES, HE WAS KNOWN AMONGST FRIENDS TO HAVE BEEN A SECRET MEMBER OF THE OLD PSP (PARTI SOCIALISTE POPULAIRE). IT IS NOT KNOWN IF HE IS A SIMILAR TYPE MEMBER OF THE PSP'S SUCCESSOR (PEP). HE HAS BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF DUVALIER AND APPEARS TO ALL AS A TRUE DUVALIERIST.

2. BELIEVE ABOVE MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO THESE PERSONS WHO ARE OF CURRENT INTEREST.

3. INDEX: CHARLES, LAROCHE.

SECRET

30 Jun 67

201-357029

SECRET 201-244418

14-00000

FBI DOCUMENT

DATE: 30 JUNE 1967

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - HAITI

FBI FILE NO: NONE GIVEN (NEW YORK)

14-00000

DEPT OF STATE DOCUMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD (WASH., D.C.)
ARA/CAR

DATE: 29 JUNE 1967

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET - LIMDIS

SUBJECT: PLOT OF CLEMARD CHARLES TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER

DEPT OF STATE AIRGRAM A-349

CLASSIFICATION: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DATE: 28 JUNE 1967 FROM AMEMBASSY, PORT AU PRINCE

SUBJECT: CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES FALLS FROM GRACE

14-00000

SENSITIVE

SECRET

Jun 29 08 23 Z 84

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE 291405Z CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASE 47348

CONFIRMING [redacted] TELECON, 28 JUN

1. [redacted] TALKED BRUN OUT OF PAYING A "COURTESY VISIT" TO DOROTHY.

2. BRUN WILL SEE COL. BURRIS IN WASHINGTON TODAY. - 29 June.

3. YESTERDAY [redacted] INTRODUCED [redacted] TO BRUN. DURING BALOG'S VACATION IN JULY HARRY WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH BRUN.

4. BRUN TOLD US THAT ON 28 JUN HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HAITIAN BANKER CHARLES ADVISING THAT HIS HEALTH WAS MUCH BETTER AND THAT HE WAS ABLE TO VISIT FRIENDS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE. APPARENTLY CHARLES' HOUSE ARREST WAS LIFTED.

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

BT

Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

SECRET

201-357029
Charles 201 Item 1

14-00000

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Clemard Joseph Charles

SECRET/SENSITIVE

FROM: [redacted] EXTENSION 2268

NO. DCS Case 47540

DATE 28 Jun 67

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL		6/28		Attached copy of New York 8312 per our telephone conversation, this date.
2. WH/7/HT ATTN: [redacted] and Ripley	28 JUN 1967	28 JUN 1967		
3. S B 2630, Hqs.				
4. C/WH/7	28 JUN 1967	28 JUN 1967		
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SECRET/SENSITIVE

FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET

SENSITIVE

JUN 27 3 11 PM '67

SECRET/SENSITIVE 271859Z CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

THIS IS SENSITIVE

CASE 47348

1. IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THIS TWX FOLLOWING CODE USED BY HAITIAN BANKER CLENARD JOSEPH CHARLES AND LUIS A. BRUN IS QUOTED:

A. BELL & CO -- "MAJOR" BALOG AND DOD

B. FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NY -- US GOV'T

C. D. K. & CO. -- DOROTHY MATLACK OF DOD

D. THE HOWARD CORPORATION -- COL. BURRIS, A FORMER MILITARY AID TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

E. BUSINESS TRANSACTION -- HELP OF US GOVERNMENT TO CHARLES

2. ON 21 JUN 67 AFTER REPEAT AFTER HIS ARREST AND CONFINEMENT TO HIS HOME IN PORT-AU-PRINCE CHARLES WROTE FOLLOWING FRENCH-LANGUAGE LETTER VIA AIR MAIL TO LOUIS BRUN.

3. " ... AS FAR AS BUSINESS IS CONCERNED I RECEIVED AT MY HOME A REPRESENTATIVE OF BELL & CO. I AM VERY HAPPY NOW. I THINK WE HAVE NO FURTHER WORRY CONCERNING THE BUSINESS TRANSACTION. HE ACCEPTED TO SPONSOR THE BUSINESS TRANSACTION WITH D. K. & CO. THE

PAGE 2 [redacted] S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

HOWARD CORPORATION AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES. THIS IS A VERY BIG SUCCESS, AND I HOPE THAT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK WE'LL MAKE RAPID PROGRESS. AFTER ALL OUR EFFORTS WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN AND OUR FIELD OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY WILL BE ENLARGED."

4. BRUN BELIEVES THAT PAPA DUVALIER "DOES NOT DARE TO KILL CHARLES WHO HAS MANY FOLLOWERS IN HAITI" (SEE BRUN'S 18-PAGE MEMO MEMO POUCHED ON 27 JUN, THIS CASE).

5. BRUN WILL SEE COL. BURRIS WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HE'LL BRIEF BURRIS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS; ALSO WILL GIVE HIM A COPY OF MEMO.

6. BRUN IS IN TOUCH WITH CHARLES VIA MAIL AND TRAVELERS FROM HAITI (US, HAITIAN AND CANADIAN BUSINESSMEN).

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

BT

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

14-00000

INDEX: ☐ YES ☒ NO

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. 201-357029 (Cited)

X-REF TO FILE NO.

FILE RID ☐ RET. TO WH/7/HE BRANCH ☒

DESTROY ☐ SIG. B.E. Bachman

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ #

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SECRET

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INFO:

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CI/DO, FI/D . FI/INT 6 . ~~WH/REG 8~~, WH/7/H/RE 3, SOD 4, DO 5, CA/O 4, WH/COG 8,

DDP.

DRIN

28 Jun 67 00388

SECRET 272055Z CI WKTE

DIRECTOR INFO

JMWAVE

INTEL

SUPDATA EVLEMON-2 FROM EVLEMON-10

FILED 272055Z

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

AN	~~PT~~	WH	7	HE
~~DD~~	~~DDCI~~			
ABSTRACT	X	~~SUBJECT~~		

201-357029
28 Jun 67

14-00000

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 00388

STATE/INR FBI | DIA | NMCC/MC | (SECDEF | JCS | ARMY | NAVY | AIR) | CIA/NMCC | NIC USIA | NSA ONE | OCR DRR | SDO | AID

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

S-E-C-R-E-T 290212Z CITE

DIST 28 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

SUBJECT VIEWS OF GENERAL GERARD CONSTANT ON PRESENT SITUATION

1. THE REASONS FOR PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER'S MEASURES AGAINST CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK ARE NOT HARD TO FIND. DUVALIER HAS

LEARNED THE LESSONS OF HAITIAN HISTORY. PRESIDENT ESTIME AND PRESIDENT PAUL MAGLOIRE WERE OVETHROWN BY THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATES. DUVALIER HIMSELF WAS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE CONSPIRACIES AND KNOWS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THE MOTIVATION OF THE PLOTTERS. WHEN HE GETS RID OF MILITARY MEN OR CIVILIANS FROM TIME TO TIME EVEN THOUGH THEY HELPED HIM GAIN POWER, IT IS BECAUSE AS CHIEF OF STATE HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE REALITIES OF HAITIAN POLITICS. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, WHO GAINED MUCH OF WHAT HE HAS UNDER MAGLOIRE, WAS AMONG THOSE WHO FINANCED DUVALIER'S CAMPAIGN. IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT DUVALIER WOULD RESENT THAT FACT. FURTHERMORE, SINCE CHARLES IS ACTUALLY A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND MANEUVERING AGAINST DUVALIER, DUVALIER WILL DISCOVER SOME "EVIDENCE" LINKING CHARLES WITH THE NINETEEN EXECUTED OFFICERS.

2. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT CHARLES WAS NOT REALLY AN ASSOCIATE OF DUVALIER'S. HE WAS REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN AN EMPLOYEE. IT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF HIS PRETTY EYES THAT DUVALIER MADE CHARLES THE CONTROLLER

OF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT MONOPOLIES. DUVALIER ARRANGED THIS FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. HE NEEDED TO HAVE A BANK TO RECEIVE NON-FISCAL DEPOSITS FROM WHICH HE COULD MAKE WITHDRAWALS AS HE WISHED. OUT OF THIS ALSO GREW ANOTHER REASON WHY DUVALIER IS ANGRY AT CHARLES. WHEN THE NON-FISCAL ACCOUNTS IN THE COMMERCIAL BANK RAN DRY, THE BANK ADVANCED THE GOVERNMENT MONEY AGAINST BONDS. CHARLES USED THESE BONDS IN HIS FINANCIAL MANIPULATIONS AND THEY FELL INTO THE HANDS OF FOREIGN SPECULATORS WHO ARE NOW DEMANDING PAYMENT.

3. PLOTS SUCH AS CHARLES WAS ENGAGED IN WILL NOT SUCCEED. DUVALIER HAS SO ORGANIZED THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE OLD WAYS OF OVERTHROWING A REGIME ARE DENIED TO CONSPIRATORS. HE IS NOT INVULNERABLE BUT ONLY BY ASSASSINATION WILL HE BE REMOVED. HIS GOVERNMENT IS BASED ON TERROR AND INTIMIDATION. THE BOLD STROKE IS HIS STRENGTH. HE EXECUTED THE NINETEEN OFFICERS IN ORDER TO STRIKE THE POPULAR IMAGINATION AND CREATE A PSYCHOSIS OF FEAR. HE MEANS IT WHEN HE SAYS THAT HE ADMIRES LENIN, NKRUMAH, MAO, LUMUMBA, ETC. THE DANGER IN HIS

RECEIVED
RID/MIS
Jun 30 10 43 AM '67

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM
(classification) (dissem controls)

REGIME LIES IN ITS DRIFT TO THE LEFT. PROFESSORS LIKE RENE PIQUION AND ULYSSES PIERRE-LOUIS, TWO CLOSE DISCIPLES OF DUVALIER, ARE PREACHING TO THEIR STUDENTS A RACIST, LEFTIST, PHILOSOPHY. IT IS TIME THAT THE AMERICANS REALIZE THIS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST THE HAITIAN CALIGULA.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCLANT, CINCSO.

REPORT CLASS SECRET/ NO FOREIGN DISSEM/ CONTROLLED DISSEM

S E C R E T

14-00000

NO INDEX

FROM: WH 8

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE A TOTAL COPIES 27

SECRET

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ACTION: WH 8 — RID COPY — ADVANCE COPY: ISSUED SLOTTED TUBED — UNIT — TIME — BY

INFO

FILE: VR, WH/COG 8, FI, FI/INT 3, CI, CI/OPS

PRTY

SECRET 281420Z CITE [redacted] 17

PRIORITY DIRECTOR INFO [redacted] JMWAVE

28 JUN 67 IN 00401

REF: DIRECTOR 14279

1. [redacted] CHARLES LIFE IN IMMINENT DANGER DUE HIS PLOTTING AND AMBITIONS. BELIEVE CHARLES PLACING HOPES ON AMERICAN FINANCIAL ASSOCIATES AND U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SAVE HIM IN CASE HE IS ARRESTED. AMERICAN FLAG NOW FLYING DAILY OVER CENTRAL OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL BANK.

2. UNFORTUNATELY [redacted] CONFINED TO HOME FOR ONE WEEK DUE CIRCULATORY DISTURBANCE AND [redacted] HAS NO ACCESS. WILL ARRANGE EVLEMON-2 WHO LIVES FAIRLY CLOSE TO MAKE PERIODIC NEIGHBORHOOD CHECK. DAILY DRIVE-BY PAST CHARLES HOUSE REVEALED NOTHING ABNORMAL MORNINGS 26 AND 27 JUNE. ALSO WILL ASK EMBASSY JUNIOR OFFICER TENANTS OF ANOTHER CHARLES HOUSE TO LOOK IN ON HIM.

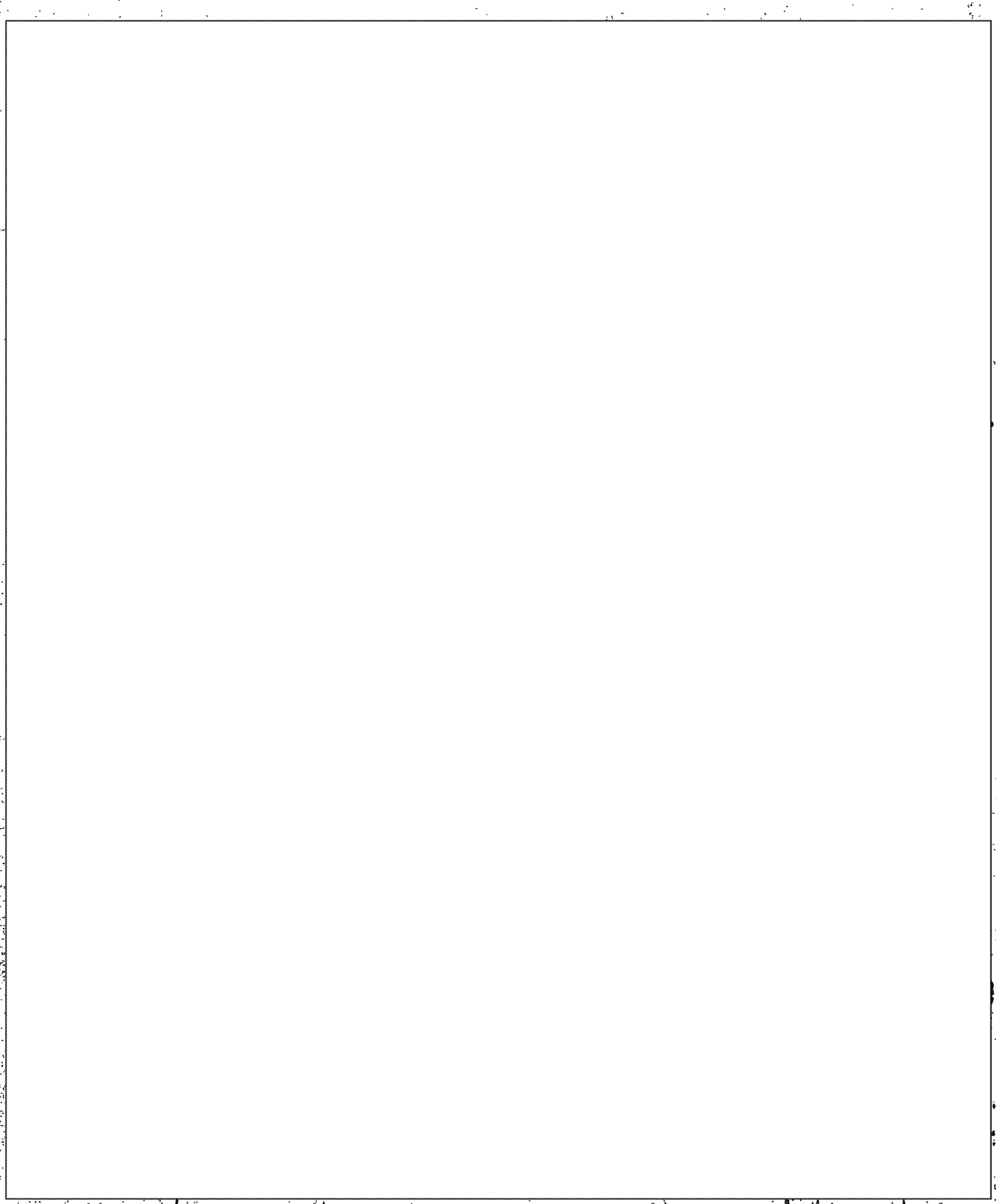
3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION AFTERNOON 26 JUNE PROMULGATED STIFF OMNIBUS LAW ON "DESERTION" WHICH COULD EASILY BE USED BY DUVALIER MAKE ARREST AND SEIZ[illegible]

SECRET

AM/C | FI | PS | DEST | ABSTRACT X | INDEX

28 JUN 67

201-357029



☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) ~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

Clemard Joseph Charles

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	DCS Case 47540 (SENSITIVE)
		DATE: 27 June 1967

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL		6/27	CSH	Copy of NY-556-67, with attached letter designated for Mrs. Dorothy Matlack is forwarded for appropriate handling, coordination , and disposition. We are not familiar with the contents of Charles' letter to Mrs. Matlack, but would urge that all matters referred to this case should be confined to channels already established for this purpose to avoid duplication and multilateral communications.
2. WH/7/HT ATTN:	28 JUN 1967			
3. 3 B 2630, Hqs.				
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14-00000

SECRET SENSITIVE

Director, Domestic Contact Service

NY-556-67
22 June 1967

FOR : CSS

[redacted]

Case 47,540 - Clesnard Joseph Charles of Haiti

1. Please forward attached letter of Haitian banker Clesnard Joseph Charles to Mrs. Dorothy Matlack, Department of Defense. In his letter Charles asks the Department of Defense to support him against President Duvalier.

2. Mrs. Matlack asked Louis A. Brun, President, MAB International Corp., NYC, to have letter forwarded to her by "Major" Balog.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attachment: a/s

SECRET SENSITIVE

Chief
Davis - Defector Committee
Don Huffman FI/ICG

[redacted]
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

14-00000

SECRET

Director, Domestic Contact Service

NY-577-67
27 June 1967

ATTN : CSS (Maulin) - Info: International Div. (Alyea)

[redacted]

Case 57,340

1. The attached paper describing the present political situation in Haiti was written by Louis A. Brun, President, B&B International Inc., NYC, before the arrest of Haitian banker Clemard Joseph Charles.

2. Brun asked "Major" [redacted] to forward a copy to Dorothy Matlack, DCH. He will furnish a copy to Col. Burris, the one-time military aid to President Johnson.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attachments: (2)

SECRET SENSITIVE

Louis A. Brun
President
B & B International Co.
NYC

20 June 67

The following is my humble appraisal of the political situation now prevailing in Haiti.

As I repeatedly stated to anyone who may have asked me, my motivations are purely patriotic while I am also moved by a sincere desire to see Haiti emerge as a democratic independent nation friendly to the United States.

Since I left Haiti with my family ten years ago to later become an American citizen, I have made several trips to Haiti and have maintained close contacts with people in all walks of life both in Haiti and with those who were forced out of the country for political reasons or otherwise.

My latest visit to Haiti took place on June 5th of this year and I stayed two days in Port-au-Prince. Although the purpose of my trips were mostly business I also had the opportunity to discuss the Haitian political situation with politicians, as well as with average Haitian citizens concerned with the situation. My personal conclusions are as follows:

The fact is that the Duvalier regime is, at present, in a state of internal political confusion in which no one directly or indirectly connected with it can predict the outcome. There is strong evidence showing that his son-in-law, Colonel Max Dominique, has in fact tried to overthrow Duvalier in order to personally assume the direction of Haiti's political affairs. How Duvalier became aware of Colonel Dominique's intentions is the question everybody is trying to find the answer to. Nevertheless, Duvalier rounded up the alledged associates of Colonel Dominique and, after a mock court martial accusing and convincing 19 young army officers of treason they were all killed by a firing squad on June 8, 1967 at Fort Dimanche on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Duvalier himself was present at the slaughter and he ordered Col. Dominique to be a member of the firing squad. Non-confirmed information from usually reliable sources

/...

indicates that several other persons, low ranking military personnel, militia men and civilians were also executed on similar charges, without fanfare. It is also the general concensus of opinion that the "purge" will continue at a rate that no one can yet determine.

No one ignores that there has been and still are very hostile feelings between two groups within the President's family and close associates. One is headed by Colonel Dominique and his wife Marie-Denise Duvalier, and another is led by Mrs. Yvon St.Victor, the President's private secretary and confidante. The names of the President's wife, Simone, his son Jean-Claude and his younger daughter Simone, are being mentioned as being part of the first group. In the second group, Mrs. St.Victor's brother, the present Head of the Department of Tourism, Mr. Luc-Albert Foucard, who is also married to one of the President's daughter, is among other names such as Henri Siclait, head of the Regie, Minister Lebert Jn.Pierre, etc. mentioned to be siding with Mrs. St.Victor. So far, the President has shown signs that he favors the latter group. The ramifications of both groups extend to people who were considered the most fanatic supporters of Duvalier himself. The fact is that none of the remaining so-called strong men of Duvalier in the militia, the Tonton Macoutes or the Army know for sure how the president feels towards them and are very much concerned about their own future and survival. In other words, confusion and insecurity are wide spread amongst Duvalier's followers.

I believe that in spite of the actual confusion and sense of insecurity prevailing in government circles, there is no real organized opposition as such against Duvalier at this moment, except for what I will point out later in this paper.

There is, however, strong anti-Duvalier feelings in the middle and upper classes of Haiti, representing only a small percentage of the whole population. A segment of the population to be taken into very serious consideration is the one made up of the people living in the slum areas, formed mainly of three Marxist brothers, all well-known communist sympathizers, is also an indication of the subtle shift towards a

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14-00000

radically leftist oriented Government. If allowed time, Duvalier may well succeed to turn the country into a new communist satellite and work out some agreements with communist countries. Here again, we should not fail to mention the new exchange of diplomatic representations between Haiti and some communist countries. The most significant one is the new appointment in Haiti of an Ambassador from Poland with whom, I was told, Duvalier is closely working with.

Taking everything into consideration:

1. The non existence of any organized opposition in Haiti;

2. The state of non cohesiveness and distrust amongst the exiled political elements abroad, therefore nullifying any positive action from outside Haiti;

3. The fear of local politicians that, if outside forces were to come in, their safety and security would be very much at stake, therefore they should resist such intervention and do whatever is necessary to prevent it at all cost;

4. The fear of Duvalier's so-called followers that they may be eliminated upon mere suspicion, just or unjust denonciations;

5. The middle and upper classes sentiment that the U.S. is not working as it should to bring about the downfall of Duvalier and that the U.S. is even supporting the regime intentionally or unintentionally by not encouraging or allowing the opposition to organize itself;

6. The interpretation of the above classes which are at a loss to understand the silence of the U.S. press in general for not having raised the usual indignation about the recent mass killings, therefore making room for the belief of a possible collusion by means of money or otherwise of Duvalier with said press, particularly the New York Times, to refrain from bringing these facts to the attention of international public opinion;

7. The strong belief that compromises have been worked out with President Balaguer in the Dominican Republic to return to Haiti all opponents of Duvalier who had fled there.

all this leads to believe that Duvalier will hold in power for quite a while more.

/...

It would be childish, however, to formulate an opinion only on the basis of the mentioned facts, although on the surface, they appear logical enough to confirm these conclusions.

I am convenced in my own mind, that when some politicians close to Duvalier will feel that their lives are in real danger, some of them will successfully attempt to eliminate him even though they may not be, themselves, in a position to control the chaotic situation that will necessarily follow. This is where the real danger is. If any such unplanned action was allowed to take place, the U.S. will then find itself with a real "hot potato", requiring such drastic action similar to those takfn in 1965 during the recent crisis in the Dominican Republic. Such actions are not to be desired, not only because they are costly to the American taxpayers, but because they inevitably provoke strong anti-American feelings based on the opinion that the U.S. did nothing to help bring about the collapse, but is merely there to impose its choice and decisions against the will of the people. If the U.S. is to wait for the OAS to decide on joint action in the eventuality of chaos, we are afraid that communist influence and even control of the situation by forces based in Cuba and other countries, will make it much more difficult to cope with within the context of our national security. It is, therefore, imperative, in our opinion, that the U.S. take some steps towards working with local politicians to take the initiative of a coup which, when performed, would receive the strong backing of this country, militarily, financially and otherwise, to secure an orderly succession of the present regime. As far as Haiti is concerned, I feel that I have the most adequate solution for the proposed action. I feel that whenever the security of this nation or any nation is concerned, there is no time for wait-and-see considerations. In the case of Haiti, in particular, where the political scene is really deprived of individuals of strong convictions, one way or the other, we feel that the U.S. should not have any problem in finding someone that they can build politically and work with in a sincere and loyal effort to help that small nation solve some of its perennial problems.

/...

In connection with the possibility of finding a political leader, as indicated above, I must say that I have been in contact with a man whom, I feel, could very well fill the position. His name is Clémard Joseph Charles, President of Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, President of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce, a director of several other business and industrial organizations in Haiti.

I have known Mr. Charles since 1951. We have been friends and business associates eversince. To me, Mr. Charles is a true and sincere patriot. Of course, today, a number of people question his patriotism on the basis of his close cooperation with the Duvalier regime. I have myself, sometimes, felt that he went too far. I have also told him so, many times. His answers on such occasions have, most of the time, satisfy my own judgement. In fact, Mr. Charles told me that, knowing Duvalier, as he knows him, it would have been a question of life or death if he were to behave in a different manner. What would his death serve if he had taken a position of non-compromise? He feels that in order to be able to control the situation and outlive Duvalier, it was better to be "in" than "out" or to put it another way to be alive than dead. I can say that on several occasions, was it not for Mr. Charles' influence on Duvalier, this latter would have done more harm to the poor pelple of Haiti , in general, than he has done so far.

I have always maintained a dialogue with Mr. Charles and passed on to him as much as possible the judgements of Haitians and others with whom he had no direct contact. I must say that I have always find him receptive to their opinions.

Eversince I have known Mr. Charles, he has always told me of his ambitions and determination to be a great Haitian. He asked me to never let him down and to stay with him to help him carry out his dream. Though it has cost me some of my friends, I have extended to him everything that I could possibly offer to help him reach his goals.

Unlike the majority of Haitian politicians, Mr. Charles has an unsurmontable faith in the future of his country. He feels that if Haiti, under Duvalier, has considerably regressed in every way, the time will come

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where, like a miracle, the country will again take its course forward to join the other progressive nations of this hemisphere. Unlike those politicians who have seen their prominent positions as a temporaty state of affairs with absolutely no future beyond Duvalier, Mr. Charles has practically invested in Haiti almost all the wealth that he has accumulated before and during Duvalier's reign through genuine efforts and self-discipline. Of course, I will admit that his wealth would not have increased in its present proportion if it was not for Duvalier's favors to him. But who else under the previous regimes who were in the same position have genuinely directed their efforts in using their gains for the betterment of the people? I have always find that Mr. Charles took very much satisfaction in giving employment and assistance to as many people as he possibly could. As a matter of fact this is one of his biggest assets in his present struggle.

Mr. Charles is not a demagogue. He believes in the realities of the modern world. He realizes that without the assistance of the U.S., progress is impossible for Haiti. He sincerely believes in the spirit of the Alliance for Progress. Having traveled extensively, he is fully aware of the tragic state of stagnation in which his country is in. He deeply wishes to see Haiti make some progress in the fields of human dignity, education, technology and above all, Freedom.

All that I have said so far are my own personal opinion and also the opinion of a large number of people in and out of Haiti. If some defer in their evaluation of Mr. Charles, it is their privilege and undeniable rights.

Now, if we are to take for granted my opinions, what does Mr. Charles have to offer to the U.S. to prevent the chaos that will necessarily follow Duvalier's downfall? First of all, Mr. Charles is at present ready and willing to provoke the desired collapse of Duvalier's regime. This, he assured me, he can do without any outside assistance. I am personally aware of certain confidential dispositions taken by him to assure the success of a coup if and when he decides to make it. Why does

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14-00000

not he go ahead and make it, you may ask? His reply is that should he make it, what assurances does he have that his action will satisfy the U.S. As I stated before, Mr. Charles feels that without United States backing, no government can possibly exist in Haiti except under the very same conditions of Duvalier's Government. There would be no reason to precipitate a change if Haiti were to remain under a tyranical dictatorship like Duvalier's.

What Mr. Charles is asking as a prerequisite of any action to be sponsored or initiated by him is the assurance from a person of established authority in the U.S. Government that the United States will support the provisional government that will necessarily have to assure power after Duvalier.

The dispositions taken by Mr. Charles are that a military coup by a Junta will take over and stay in power until free elections are held. The members of that military junta have been already selected by Mr. Charles, who has their commitments to that effect. Mr. Charles believe that if free elections are held he should not have any great difficulty in selling his plans and programs to the people and therefore be elected the next president of Haiti. In my opinion, Mr. Charles is not asking too much. Should the United States consent to his request in the form mentioned above, I feel that the Haitian situation, long a sore note in the U.S. hemispheric relations, could be changed without risk for all parties concerned.

Why should the United States gamble on any other calculated risk, while I feel, it can wrap up the situation safely in accord with Mr.Charles' plans? The military junta proposed by Mr. Charles will be made up by high ranking officers of the Haitian army loyal to him, therefore on the side of the U.S. With U.S. assistance - it is almost impossible otherwise - the steps proposed by Mr. Charles after the junta will take over are as follows:

1. Disarm the Militia and the Tonton Macoutes immediately;
2. Reorganise the Army and the Government services;
3. Prevent the interference of communist forces made of exiles Haitians based in Cuba or elsewhere;

/...

4. Prevent the return to the Haitian political scene of such "rabble-rouser" so-called leaders as Daniel Fignole and Henri Vixamar;

5. Start the ground work for free elections as soon as possible.

Mr. Charles feels that although it will probably be impossible to prevent acts of reprisals during the first 72 hours of the military take over, strong efforts should be made to avoid unnecessary bloodshed.

Mr. Charles, in my opinion, is one of the few individuals around whom a reconciliation of all the social divisions and subdivisions of the Haitian family can be achieved. I will mention some of the basic reasons behind this opinion:

1. He is of modest rural extraction, therefore is what is called in Haiti a "son of the masses";

2. He is black, therefore representing the vast majority of the Haitian people who, at this point, considers the light-skin Haitian as a threat for the return of the domination of the mulatto minority;

3. He is deprived of the prejudice of color, therefore the mulatto minority will find in him a certain feeling of security and can be assured that it will not be persecuted solely on the basis of the color of their skins;

4. He is wealthy, therefore credited for not ambitioning power for mere personal gains;

5. He is known to be a hard, intelligent industrialist and administrator capable of promoting and encouraging the establishment of new business and industries in Haiti;

6. He has shown respect for certain moral values such as the undeniable right of the individual to live without fear within the framework of the laws of the land;

7. He is a Roman Catholic who professes to have nothing to do with "Voodoo" as a religion or a cult and who has given all the other religious denominations functioning in Haiti all the evidence of his encouragement and support for their pastoral activities;

/...

8. Being a businessman in his own right, the business community with which he has dealt through the Chamber of Commerce and his bank will always have a dialogue with him and therefore will find him receptive to their suggestions and endeavours;

9. Having dealt with elements of the actual regime who have his confidence, he will be able to control them in a way which will avoid unnecessary hardships should someone else - a complete stranger to them - be in a position of Government leadership;

10. He is known to be strongly anti-communist and pro-American, therefore opening the door to close cooperation with the United States, under the doctrine of the Alliance for Progress, to promote better understanding and opportunities for the Haitian people with the help of the United States;

11. He will welcome the return of all Haitian exiles to take their place anew within the Haitian community and to work with him to the task of making the country a safer and better place to live;

12. He does not contemplate any reprisals or even sanctions against anybody for their past political affiliations, his efforts to be mainly directed not to solve the errors of the past, but to provide a better present and future for those who want to live in Haiti.

The task, if and when he succeeds to gain power, will not be an easy one. I am sure, however, that Mr. Charles will be able to find the support of enough honest and patriotic Haitians to help him carry out his dream of building up a better Haiti.

Mr. Charles' past affiliation with the Duvalier regime should not, therefore, be held against him. As a matter of fact, this affiliation may give him the foresight that he should do his utmost not to repeat the same mistakes.

In conclusion, I feel that the U.S. Government, through its qualified Agencies, should give Mr. Charles' offer to topple the Duvalier regime, all the required careful consideration and make a decision as fast as possible.

JUNE 20, 1967

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ORIG: [redacted]
UNIT: WH/7/HT
EXT: 5995
DATE: 24 June 1967

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CITE DIRECTOR 4279

TO [redacted] JMWAVE

REF: [redacted] (IN 97136)*

1. APPRECIATE REF REPORT ON CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES. THIS CORRESPONDS TO REPORTS FROM LNERGO, WODISH, AND OTHER SOURCES. LNERGO ALSO HAS REPORT FROM SOURCE CONSIDERED RELIABLE THAT CHARLES LIFE IS IN IMMINENT DANGER BECAUSE OF ALLEGED OPPOSITION HE HAS ORGANIZED AGAINST THE DUVALIER REGIME. CAN YOU ~~EK~~ CONFIRM THIS?

2. PLS REPORT PRIORITY ALL DEVELOPMENTS THIS CASE.

END OF MESSAGE

*WH COMMENT: CHARLES HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST AND ALL PROPERTY TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM.

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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28 JUN 53

217PM 6-23-67 MLT

TO THE PRESIDENT 08

TO SECRETARY OF STATE 08

TO DIRECTOR CIA 05

TO DIRECTOR DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 05

TO DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY 02

TO DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 02

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

(CONFIDENTIAL - FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - HAITI)

28 JUN 96894

ON JUNE TWENTY THREE, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST ADVISED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN HAITI:

JOSEPH CLEMARD CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER, UPON LEAVING A HOSPITAL IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, AFTER HAVING HAD A TONSILLECTOMY PERFORMED WAS ARRESTED BY DUVALIER HENCHMEN ON JUNE TWENTYONE, AND IMMEDIATELY INCARCERATED IN AN UNKNOWN LOCATION

CONFIDENTIAL

201-357029

IN PORT-AU-PRINCE BY HIS CAPTORS. CHARLES' BANK ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL HOLDINGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY DUVALIER. CHARLES' LIFE IS IN IMMINENT DANGER AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT CHARLES WILL BE KILLED BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGED OPPOSITION WHICH HE HAS ORGANIZED AGAINST THE DUVALIER REGIME.

THE SOURCE STATED THAT THE SITUATION IN HAITI HAS DETERIORATED GREATLY DURING THE PAST MONTH AND SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THIS SITUATION IS THE WORST IT HAS BEEN IN THE LAST YEAR.

GP 1

14-00000

SECRET 23 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Report from [redacted]

1. [redacted] Washington DCS representative, called this afternoon to advise the following:

a. Dorothy Matlack (Dept. of Army G-2) has now been cut out of the contact between the DCS and Mr. B in New York. Presume that Mr. B refers to Luis Brun, the New York lawyer and representative of Clemard Joseph Charles.

b. Mr. C. (Clemard Joseph Charles) has been placed under house arrest as of 21 June. He cannot leave the country. All of his properties and possessions have been taken from him. The only thing Chrles has left is his interest in the Commercial Bank. The situation in Haiti is believed to be deteriorating very rapidly. (Note: Musulin or Brun apparently have no explanation as to how Charles managed to retain his banking interest after having everything else stripped from him.)

c. Two children of Max Dominique from his previous marriage arrived in New York last night by plane from Port au Prince.

d. Papa Doc is very concerned about the impression one gets from business interest in the city. Apparently the place takes looks like a ghost town after dark. Accordingly he has issued ~~instructions~~ orders that all stores stay open from 8-12 am the morning and 4-9 in the evening.

2. Will advise when more info available. Musulin believes that Duvalier placed Charles under arrest because he got wind of his proposed conspiracy. He does not know where the leak occurred.

SECRET [redacted]

14-00000

INDEX: YES X NO (mails)
CLASSIF. TO FILE NO. 201-357029
X-REF TO FILE NO.
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PRIN

SECRET 231726Z CITE [redacted] 23 Jun 67 97136

DIRECTOR INFO [redacted] JMWAVE

INTEL

SUPDATA PARA 1 EVLEMON-2 FROM EVLEMON-6 [redacted]

[redacted]

PARA 2 EVLEMON-6

[redacted]

[redacted] HAD WITH CHARLES.

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ABSTRACT	X	FILE

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201-357029
23 Jun 67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

IN 97136

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

STATE/INR	DIA	NMCC/MC	(SECDEF	JCS	ARMY	NAVY	AIR)	CIA/NMCC	NIC	NSA	OCR	SDO	~~AEC~~
	TREASURY	FBI		INS		D/MS 2				ONE			

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SECRET

CITE

DIST 23 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

SUBJECT CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK

1. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK, HAS CAUSED PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER TO BE ANGRY WITH HIM. HE IS PUBLICLY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PRESIDENCY

14-00000

TO SUCCEED DUVALIER. WHILE IN THE GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR A THROAT OPERATION DURING THE WEEK OF 12 JUNE 1967 CHARLES MAINTAINED A REGISTER IN WHICH ALL THOSE WHO CAME TO SEE HIM COULD SIGN THEIR NAMES. DUVALIER NOW KNOWS THAT CHARLES IS AMBITIOUS AND LACKING IN GRATITUDE, FOR WITHOUT DUVALIER HE WOULD BE NOTHING. BUT CHARLES WILL FEEL DUVALIER'S WRATH. ALL HIS PROPERTY WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM AND HE WILL BE KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

2. WHILE CHARLES WAS IN THE HOSPITAL HIS BUSINESS VENTURES WERE SEIZED BY THE TAX OFFICE AND PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF TWO TAX INSPECTORS, SERGE SALOMON AND MAURICE LAFONTANT.

3. [redacted] CHARLES RETURNED TO HIS HOME ON 19 JUNE 1967 AND WILL REMAIN THERE FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN DAYS UNDER DOCTORS ORDERS TO RECUPERATE. HIS HOUSE IS NOT UNDER GUARD NOR UNDER VISIBLE SURVEILLANCE. CHARLES CLAIMS TO BE CONTINUING TO PLOT THE OVERTHROW OF DUVALIER WHOM HE CONSIDERS INSANE AND WILL NOT SEEK

97136

PAGE 3 OF 3PAGES

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

(classification) (dissem control)

ASYLUM DESPITE FACT HE HAS LOST MOST OF HIS BUSINESS VENTURES. CHARLES IS STILL DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK WHICH IS NOW CONTROLLED BY AN UNNAMED INVESTMENT CORPORTATION IN NEW YORK CITY TO PREVENT ITS SEIZURE BY THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCLANT, CINCSO

REPORT CLASS SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

14-00000

SECRET 21 June 1967

Bob,

[redacted], extention 2268, called to say that Dorothy Matlack had called to inform him that she had reached Mr. B and that per instructions Mr. B. would pass info for Matlack to [redacted] said that from his conversation with her he believed that Matlack wanted to be cut in on this activity and wanted to receive copies of any disseminations.

[redacted] mentioned that if Mr. B had told Matlack that he had heard that the operation (tonsillectomy) was performed on Charles and he is feeling fine.

SECRET

14-00000

FBI DOCUMENTS

DATE: 20 JUNE 1967
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: JOSEPH CLEMARD CHARLES
FBI FILE NO: NONE GIVEN (NEW YORK)

DATE: 21 JUNE 1967 (cross reference sheet)
DBB 84012

14-00000

SECRET SENSITIVE

JUN 15 2 01 PM '67

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE 151540Z CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASE 47540

1. ON 14 JUNE 67 LOUIS A. BRUN, PRESIDENT, B&B INTERNATIONAL CORP., NEW YORK CITY, SAW IN WASHINGTON COLONEL (HOWARD) BURRIS. THEY DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITI.

2. COLONEL BURRIS, WHO THINKS VERY HIGHLY OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, TOLD BRUN THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTS THE HAITIAN BANKER'S PLANS AND THAT HE WILL SEE PRESIDENT JOHNSON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. BURRIS TOLD BRUN THAT HE WILL URGE THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER GIVING US GOVERNMENT HELP TO CHARLES.

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

BT

201-357029

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SECRET

C. J. Chiles

14-00000

SECRET

15 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph CHARLES (201-357029)

1. Background: Clemard Joseph CHARLES, born Gonaives, Haiti, 21 April 1923, is a Negro of peasant origin. CHARLES is a shrewd, opportunistic, basically dishonest individual whose natural talents have been channelled to President DUVALIER's advantage over a period of ten years. Having made considerable money in the banana business, CHARLES was able, in 1960, to create the Commercial Bank of Haiti, of which he is still the sole owner. Since its beginning, the Bank has been an instrument for DUVALIER's financial manipulations, and CHARLES is a subservient agent for the President in many of the latter's clandestine operations conceived to evade U. S. Government surveillance. CHARLES, for example, was DUVALIER's agent in the operation designed to smuggle surplus U. S. military aircraft to Haiti and, in fact, made a trip to a USAF base in Arizona to effect purchase, which was later blocked. After long, close association with DUVALIER, during which CHARLES had become extremely wealthy, he managed to incur DUVALIER's displeasure. Gradually CHARLES' influence diminished in favor of Henri SICLAIT, Director of the Regie de Tabac. As CHARLES began to realize that he no longer enjoyed DUVALIER's favor, he began, for the second or third time, to seek channels to the U. S. Government and to solicit support for himself as a successor to the President.

2. Agency Contact: CIA contact with CHARLES in the U.S. dates back to May 1963 when he was visited in his suite in the Hotel Willard in Washington by a representative of WH Division. Since that time, he has made his every visit to the U.S. an occasion to talk to some official of the U. S. Government. The most persistent of his approaches has been made to DCS/New York, which he believes leads him to the Department of Defense. Never has this unscrupulous, overly-ambitious charlatan offered any evidence that he has anything going for him inside Haiti. The names he has furnished as his alleged collaborators have meant little or nothing. [redacted] produced nothing in the way of hard information. His reports, passed to DCS/NY through his business representative in New York, have been evasive and, in some instances, utterly false. Fabrication has in some cases been obvious.

3. In brief, CHARLES is trying to coerce the U. S. Government into some sort of support for his presidential aspirations. Should anyone listen to him, it would simply mean that the U. S. would have to take over the entire operation and move him in behind a regiment of Marines. State Department, Haiti Desk, has long considered him highly undesirable. Let higher-placed buyers beware!

K. T. R.

SECRET

14-00000

SECRET

15 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/WH/7

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph CHARLES

1. At 1500 hours, the DCS representative [redacted] informed the Haiti Desk that Mr. BRUN, lawyer for Clemard Joseph CHARLES, had met COLONEL HOWARD L. BURRIS on 14 June and had passed the "word" to him plus allegedly the two letters from CHARLES. BURRIS assured BRUN that his plea would be taken to the White House level.

2. DCS will keep Haiti Desk informed of further developments.

R. Lehman

SECRET

14-00000

15 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/WHD

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph CHARLES

1. At 1530 hours, the DCS representative [redacted] called WH/7/Haiti Desk to report the following:

"On 14 June 1967, Mr. BRUN met Colonel HOWARD L. BURRIS in Washington, D. C. They discussed in private the current developments in Haiti. Colonel BURRIS, who thinks very highly of CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, told BRUN that he fully supports the banker's (CHARLES) plans and that he will see the President as soon as possible. BURRIS told BRUN that he will urge the President to consider giving U. S. Government support to CHARLES."

2. No other information available.

SECRET

201-357029

14-00000

SECRET

15 June 1967

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph CHARLES

REFS: Attached two teletypes from [redacted]

1. At 1115 hours, 15 June, Dorothy MATLACK, Department of the Army, called the DCS Washington representative, [redacted] to inform that she had just received a phone call from Louis BRUN, President, B & B International, NYC, requesting an "audience". MATLACK contacted DCS for advice. Allegedly, BRUN wants to pass the two letters from Haitian Banker CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES to MATLACK. DCS called the Haitian Desk for advice to formulate a reply to MATLACK.

2. WH/7/Haiti has identified the two American contacts mentioned in references as follows:

a. DOROTHY MATLACK: Employed in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, U.S. Army. Has been a participant on the Interagency Defector Committee and has been issued an Agency badge. Both TSD and OCR have shown interest in her.

b. COLONEL HOWARD LAY BURRIS: Born Texas, 1918, graduate of U. S. Military Academy. Believed to be retired from the USAF. His name, along with Pierre SALINGER, etc. was included on a list from the Office of the Vice President requesting an SI clearance, 10 February 1961. Considered to be a Texas millionaire.

3. DCS suggested that MATLACK inform BRUN to contact [redacted] with whom BRUN has been in contact, and pass the letters to him. Final decision rests with WHD.

SECRET

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Hdq 201-357029

TRANSMITTAL OF TDCS INFORMATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION: #154 SECRET Charles

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UNIT	WH/7/HAITI
EXT.	4222
DATE	14 JUNE 1967

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

CITE

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIST 15 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

SUBJECT 1. CONTINUING BIDS BY CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HIS PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT

2. CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS IN HAITI

1. (SUMMARY: CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI, AGAIN IS PLANNING TO SEEK U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HIS PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO CHARLES, HE NOW HAS 290 SOLDIERS (OFFICERS AND MEN) WHO ARE READY TO STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND KILL PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER, AND HE HAS NAMED SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS AND "FELLOW CONSPIRATORS" THROUGHOUT HAITI. CHARLES SAID THAT HE AND HIS ARMY FRIENDS WILL GET RID OF DUVALIER,

BUT THEY ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH WITHOUT FOREIGN HELP TO STAY IN POWER. HE WARNED THAT IF U.S. GOVERNMENT HELP IS NOT FORTHCOMING, THE CASTROITE HAITIANS HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF SEIZING POWER.)

2. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES HAS BEEN DRAWN FROM INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS RELIABLE SOURCES: SINCE ABOUT 1963, CHARLES HAS TRIED TO GAIN U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF AS THE SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER; HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING AN OPPORTUNIST, SHREWD, CAPABLE, AND UNSCRUPULOUS, AND HAS DUVALIER'S CONFIDENCE WHICH HE HAS USED TO FURTHER HIS OWN EFFORTS AGAINST DUVALIER. THE INFORMATION WHICH FOLLOWS APPEARS TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXTENSION OF CHARLES' ATTEMPTS TO PANIC THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THEREBY GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY CONSIDER CHARLES AS THE LESSER OF A NUMBER OF EVILS. HIS ALLEGED SUPPORTERS, LISTED BELOW, ARE BELIEVED TO BE INSIGNIFICANT AND HIS ALLEGED ARMY SUPPORTERS ARE SUSPECT. CHARLES' REFERENCE TO FIDEL CASTRO AND DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER AS HIS COMPETITORS IN A RACE TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER IS CONSIDERED TO BE WITHOUT BASIS - A CALCULATION BY CHARLES TO FORCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S HAND IN HIS FAVOR.

FOR OTHER RECENT REPORTING ON CHARLES' PLANS TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER, SEE

3. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI, WHO IS PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT, IS TO UNDERGO A MINOR THROAT OPERATION ON 14 JUNE 1967 IN PORT-AU-PRINCE. CHARLES WANTED TO HAVE THE OPERATION IN THE U.S., BUT DUVALIER "STRONGLY SUGGESTED" THAT IT BE DONE LOCALLY.

4. CHARLES, WHO IS INCREASINGLY FEARFUL THAT DUVALIER WILL BECOME AWARE OF HIS PLOT AND WILL "ELIMINATE" HIM, AGAIN PLANS TO SEEK U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. HE DESCRIBED THE CONDITIONS IN HAITI AS NEAR CHAOTIC AND REITERATED THE NEED TO GET RID OF DUVALIER. HE SAID THAT HE NOW HAS 290 SOLDIERS (OFFICERS AND MEN) WHO ARE READY TO STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND KILL DUVALIER. CHARLES SAID THAT HE AND HIS "HIGH-RANKING ARMY OFFICER FRIEND" FEEL THEY HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION AT THEIR COMMAND TO HOLD OUT FOR 24 HOURS. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: CHARLES MAY BE REFERRING TO MAJ. COICOU,(FNU), COL. OCTAVE CAYARD, OR CAPT. WALTER PREVAL REPORTED IN

[redacted] HOWEVER, AFTER 24 HOURS, THEY DEFINITELY WOULD NEED U.S. HELP AGAINST THE FOLLOWING THREE POSSIBILITIES:

A. COUNTERACTION BY FANATICAL DUVALIER FOLLOWERS

B. AN INVASION ATTEMPT BY CUBAN-TRAINED HAITIAN EXILES

C. DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER'S ACTION TO SUPPORT THE DUVALIER FOLLOWERS SO THAT CHARLES AND HIS MILITARY JUNTA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TURN HAITI INTO A STAGING AREA FOR DOMINICAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT EXILES.

5. CHARLES NAMED THE FOLLOWING AS SOME OF HIS CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS AND "FELLOW CONSPIRATORS" THROUGHOUT HAITI:

A. IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

(1) SYLVESTER JEAN-BAPTISTE, A TANNER

(2) PIERRE GABRIEL, A MERCHANT

(3) G. PAINSON, A BUSINESSMAN

(4) EUGENE PAUL, A MERCHANT

(5) WALLACE B. TURNBULL, A PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN

(6) JOSEPH VOLCY, AN INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMAN IN BEL-AIR SECTION

(7) ANDRE BALE, "POPULAR LEADER" IN BEL-AIR SECTION

(8) JOSEPH RAYMOND, IN MORNE A TUF SECTION

(9) PIERRE JEAN-BAPTISTE, IN CARREFOUR SECTION

B. TRADE UNION LEADERS

(1) JACQUES ST. LOT

(2) ACHILLE LA ROSE

(3) JEAN BERNARD

(4) LELIO JOSEPH

C. CATHOLIC CLERGYMEN

(1) ROGER AUGUSTINE, OF CATHOLIC RELIEF

(2) MSGR. PETER CAYES

(3) MSGR. CONSTANT (FNU), OF GONAIVES

(4) FATHER HILAIRE (FNU), WHOSE BROTHER, AN ARMY OFFICER, WAS FIRED BY DUVALIER

(5) FATHER DELVA (FNU), OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

(6) BROTHER VICTOR, OF THE JEAN-MARIE GUILLOUX SCHOOL IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

(7) BROTHER RICHARD

D. SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

(1) NAGIB HANDAL

(2) NASTRI AND ELIAS BABOUN

(3) THE ACRA BROTHERS

(4) FOUAD MOURU

E. ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

(1) THE PETOIA FAMILY

(2) THE MAGLIO FAMILY

F. OTHERS

(1) FRANK PEURIES, A BUSINESSMAN IN CORAIL

(2) ALPHONSE BAZIL, A LAWYER IN JEREMIE

(3) JEAN BOURGEOIS, A BUSINESSMAN IN CAYES

(4) MIDOUIN TURNIER, A BUSINESSMAN IN JACMEL

(5) LEON ST. REMY, A BUSINESSMAN IN GONAIVES

(6) CLAUDE FORBIN, A BUSINESSMAN IN GONAIVES

(7) SERGE HARLIEN, A BUSINESSMAN IN CAP HAITIEN

(8) FELIX ANGELOUSE, A BUSINESSMAN IN CAP HAITIEN

(9) CHARITE JEAN, A BUSINESS LEADER IN PLAISANCE

(10) MARC BELOT, A LAWYER IN PETITE RIVIERE DE L'ARTIBONITE

(11) MICHEL FEQUIRE, A BUSINESSMAN IN PETIT TROU DE NIPPES

(12) GERARD BARTHOLOMY, A PHARMACIST IN MIRAGOANE

6. CHARLES CLAIMS THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LATE CLEMENT JUMELLE, A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1957, ARE AMONG HIS SUPPORTERS, AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPERMEN:

A. DUMERIC (FNU), PRESIDENT OF PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, WHO WRITES FOR LE MATIN

B. MAX CHAUVET, PUBLISHER OF LE NOUVELLETTE.

HE ALSO COUNTS ON THE SUPPORT OF A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO ARE STUDYING IN WEST GERMANY, SPAIN, AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON SCHOLARSHIPS WHICH HE GAVE THEM.

7. CHARLES, THROUGH HIS AGENTS, ALSO HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH WITCH DOCTORS AND "PERSONALITIES IN THE VOODOO MOVEMENT."

8. ALTHOUGH CHARLES GAVE NO DATE FOR THE ACTION, HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS ARMY FRIENDS WILL GET RID OF DUVALIER, BUT THAT THEY ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH WITHOUT FOREIGN HELP TO STAY IN POWER. HE WARNED THAT IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO HELP THEM, THE CASTROITE HAITIANS HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF SEIZING POWER.

9. FIELD DISSEM: CINCSO, CINCLANT

14-00000

SECRET

12 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]

FROM : [redacted]

SUBJECT : Assessment of Clemard Joseph-Charles.

Clemard Joseph-Charles, President of the Commercial Bank of Haiti and President of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, is the source.

For four years Charles has tried to gain U.S. support for himself as successor to President Duvalier.

He is an opportunist of the first water-shrewd, capable and unscrupulous. He has played Duvalier's game to the hilt, often entrusted with missions abroad which were, in effect contrary to U.S. government interests. (He played a principal role in the attempt to smuggle B-26 aircraft out of the U.S. for Duvalier's use. In that connection he went to Arizona to try to purchase U.S. Air Force surplus planes, using U.S. citizens of suspicious nature as his agents.)

Charles has been forced in recent months to make loans to the Duvalier government, the last one having been in the vicinity of $700,000. As a result he claims that his bank is in a precarious position. Therefore, he wants out.

Charles has many business interests in Haiti apart from his banking operation (essential oils, sisal etc.). Haitian exiles estimate that as many as 4,000 persons may be dependent upon him for their livelihood. (This includes dependents of his employees).

Charles is poorly regarded by the State Department. The Department's stance towards him as a successor to Duvalier has been even more negative than is customary.

The current report turned in by Louis ERUN, his representative in New York, appears to be nothing more than an extension of his attempts to panic the U.S. and thus to gain for himself support as the lesser of a number of

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evils. The list of names of his alleged supporters is meaningless. His adherents in the army are not identified and are suspect.

His referral in this, and in a previous report, to Castro and Balaguer as his competitors in a race to overthrow Duvalier is considered to be nonsense. All this is calculated to force the U.S. hand in his favor.

His attempt to find a channel to the Pentagon are in the pattern of his action for several years. Should he succeed he might be convincing enough to cause trouble.

INDEX: ☐ YES ☒ NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. 201-357029 CLASSIFIED MESSAGE F TOTAL COPIES 41
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SECRET 091840Z CITE [redacted] 9 JUN 67 IN 86208

DIRECTOR INFO [redacted] JMWAVE [redacted]

REF: DIRECTOR 08970

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ABSTRACT X INDEX
MBH

1. CHARLES USING VISA BUSINESS AS EXCUSE CAME TO EMBASSY. WHILE THERE HE ASKED SPEAK TO POLITICAL OFFICER. WAS DIRECTED TO MR. CLARENCE BREAUX WHO LISTENED TO HIS STORY WHICH ALMOST IDENTICAL REFERENCE.

2. DUE FACT CHARGE LIMITING CABLE TRAFFIC MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED. CHARLES INSISTED NO ACTION WOULD TAKE PLACE UNTIL OCTOBER. STATION CONCURS HQS COMMENT THERE NO INFO-MATION SUBSTANTIATE CHARLES CAPABILITY FOR A COUP.

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9 JUN 67
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Further Plans of Clemard Joseph Charles To Overthrow the Haitian Government, His Military Supporters and His Aids For Support from Haitian Exiles

DATE DISTR. 8 June 1967

NO. PAGES 3

REFERENCES

1. Clemard Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, claims that since Maj. Colson (fnu),[1] a close friend, has replaced Capt. Harry Tassy in the Presidential Guard, he (Charles) now has an access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the Palace and is in a position to carry out a coup against President Francois Duvalier "in the near future." Although no definite date has been set yet for the coup, Charles is convinced that it must be carried out "within the next few months" to save Haiti from economic and political chaos. Charles, and especially his military friends, feel that 1967 is the year of decision.

2. Although Col. Pierre-Louis (fnu),[2] commander of the Dessalines Barracks, was not named as a fellow-conspirator, Charles believes that Pierre-Louis knows of and approves his plans to overthrow Duvalier, and that he (Charles) "controls" the Dessalines Barracks through Pierre-Louis. Col. Octave Caillard is one of the key military figures on whom Charles pins his hopes. Caillard is thoroughly disillusioned with Duvalier and is willing to cooperate. Caillard fears that if Duvalier remains in power, Haiti's economy will be completely ruined and Haitian exiles receiving guerrilla training in Cuba may attempt to seize power in Haiti.

3. Charles has the support of Capt. Preval (fnu),[3] of the Presidential Guard, and realizes that high-ranking officers loyal to Duvalier could cause bloodshed; Charles and his associates expect violence during the initial stages of the coup.

4. In addition to ships of the Haitian Coast Guard, Charles now has the use of a 352-ton converted landing craft (LC) which normally sails between Jamaica and Port-au-Prince carrying flour, fuel oil, etc.

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5. Charles had no contact with Haitian exile groups until early May 1967, when he sent an emissary to New York City to talk to Louis Sansaricq, a prominent anti-Duvalier exile, whose entire family was killed by Duvalier's henchmen. Sansaricq agreed to support Charles in a final showdown with Duvalier and promised to line up some of his fellow exiles to support Charles. A close friend of Charles was planning to go to New York in mid-May 1967 ostensibly to discuss port development projects in Port-au-Prince with a U.S. construction firm; however, the real purpose of the trip is to contact Haitian exiles to gain their support for Charles.

6. On 19 May 1967, a group of prominent Haitian exiles held a meeting in New York City to celebrate Haitian Flag Day. One of the organizers of the meeting was Dr. Jumelle (fnu), a medical doctor whose brother was a former Haitian Minister of Finance and who was killed by Duvalier. Another exile who attended the meeting was Vixamar (fnu) who claims to be a legal advisor to the Republic of Chad and who said that he was going to be the next president of Haiti. The group of Haitian exiles, believed to call itself the "National Organization of Haitian Exiles", has some members who back Charles.

7. Following are prominent Haitians who Charles believes must be eliminated after the coup:

   a. Col. Gracia Jacques of the Presidential Guard - Jacques, who is no longer blindly loyal to Duvalier, will be needed in the execution of the coup, and can be bought; however, once power is in the hands of a military junta and Charles, Jacques will be eliminated.

   b. Luc Desir, head of the Tonton-Macoute.

   c. Clovis Desinor, Minister of Finance - an "anarchist" with presidential aspirations who has an "underground movement in Haiti."

   d. Gen. Gerard Constant, Chief of Staff.

   e. Col. Jacques Laroche, Deputy Chief of Staff - a "convinced Communist."

8. If the coup is successful, Charles hopes to give Andre Theard, former Haitian Ambassador to the United States, a diplomatic post; Theard is strongly pro-U.S. Charles regards Gerard Philippeaux, Minister of Health, as a very sick man with no further political aspirations.

9. Close friends of Charles are convinced that Charles has no choice but to carry out a coup with or without foreign help, and that his chances of success are good because several of Duvalier's new appointees to key positions are friends of Charles; also, that Charles must act soon because the morale of many of Duvalier's military and civilian supporters has reached an all-time low and because the Haitian Treasury is almost empty.

Headquarters Comments

1. Coicou may be Maj. Serge Coicou.

2. Probably Lt. Col. Luc Pierre-Louis.

3. Another source has identified Preval as Capt. Walter Preval.

[redacted]

4. Probably Dr. Gaston Jumelle.

5. Probably Henri Vixamar.

[redacted] recently reported other plans of Clemard Joseph Charles.

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file 201-357029

TRANSMITTAL OF TDCS INFORMATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

#163 Charles

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DATE	8 JUNE 1967	3		6	

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DATE DISTRIBUTED
8 JUNE 1967

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RECOMMEND FOR EXO. BASIC DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO DCI.

REQUEST FOR RELAY TO REP/LANT, [redacted] UMWAVE, [redacted] ATTACHED.

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

S-E-C-R-E-T

CIT

DIST 8 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

0 22 20Z

SUBJECT READINESS OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT

1. ON 24 MAY 1967, CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI, SAID THAT HE WAS "100 PERCENT READY TO GO THROUGH WITH THE 'BUSINESS TRANSACTION' " AND DID NOT WANT TO WASTE TIME BECAUSE "LOCAL BUSINESS COMPETITORS" MIGHT GET AHEAD OF HIM. CHARLES REITERATED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT HIS TWO PRINCIPAL "FOREIGN COMPETITORS," I.E., FIDEL CASTRO AND DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER, BE NEUTRALIZED TO PREVENT THEM FROM SPOILING HIS "PROMISING BUSINESS DEAL."

• S-E-C-R-E-T/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM
(classification) (disem controls)

[redacted] THIS DEAL IS, OF COURSE, CHARLES' ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT.)

2. ON 30 MAY, CHARLES AGAIN WARNED OF THE NECESSITY OF NEUTRALIZING CASTRO AND BALAGUER BECAUSE OF THE "EXTREME URGENCY OF THE BUSINESS MATTER." [redacted] IT IS BELIEVED THAT EVEN IF CHARLES IS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS COUP AGAINST DUVALIER, HE STILL WILL FEAR INTERVENTION BY CASTRO AND BALAGUER.) IN THIS RESPECT, CHARLES HAS URGED HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO PREVENT CASTRO AND BALAGUER FROM ANY ACTION AGAINST HIS PLAN, AND HAS ENDEAVORED TO SECURE SUPPORT FROM HAITIAN EXILES IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. LOUIS SANSARICQ, A HAITIAN EXILE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND HIS SON HAVE PROMISED CHARLES THEIR FULL COOPERATION. SANSARICQ'S SON, WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE HAITIAN COALITION IN NEW YORK, NOW IS PLANNING TO INTENSIFY PROPAGANDA AGAINST DUVALIER AND HIS HENCHMEN. FROM TIME TO TIME, THIS PROPAGANDA WILL ATTACK CHARLES FOR HIS "SUPPORT" OF THE DUVALIER REGIME IN ORDER NOT TO AROUSE DUVALIER'S SUSPICION; THESE ATTACKS, HOWEVER, WILL BE LESS SHARP THAN THOSE DIRECTED AGAINST OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE REGIME. THE SANSARICQS WILL TRY TO MAKE CHARLES

[redacted]

ACCEPTABLE TO THE HAITIAN COALITION IN THE UNITED STATES. FOR THEIR EFFORTS, CHARLES HAS PROMISED THE SANSARICQS "IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSTS IN HIS (CHARLES') FUTURE CABINET."

4. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME, CHARLES HAS SAID THAT HE PLANS TO OVERTHROW DUVALIER WITH OR WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT. HIS STATEMENTS IN THIS REPORT THAT HE IS READY TO GO THROUGH WITH THE COUP MAY BE ONE OF HIS FINAL BIDS FOR U.S. SUPPORT. SEE [redacted] RECENT INFORMATION ON CHARLES' PLANS AND HAITIAN SUPPORT FOR A COUP. THERE IS NO INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES TO SUBSTANTIATE CHARLES' CAPABILITY FOR A COUP.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: CINCSO, CINCLANT [redacted]

[redacted]

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) SECRET/SENSITIVE

Clemard Joseph Charles, Plot to Overthrow Duvalier Government

FROM	EXTENSION	NO.
	2268	DCS Case 47540 (Sensitive)
		DATE 7 June 1967

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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CONTACTS WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

THIS SENSITIVE

CASE 47,548

CONFIRMING [redacted] TELECON 2 JUN 67

1. AT MIDNIGHT SUNDAY, 4 JUNE, LOUIS A. BRUN, PRESIDENT B & B INTERNATIONAL CORP, NYC CALLED AND TOLD BALOG ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITI.

2. A TRUSTED HAITIAN FRIEND JUST ARRIVED IN NYC AND BROUGHT BACK NEWS OF WIDESPREAD FEAR GRIPPING HAITI. COLONEL TASSY, IN CHARGE OF CRIMINAL DIVISION AT PORT-AU-PRINCE AND HIS BROTHER TOOK REFUGE AT AN UNNAMED (PRESUMABLY LATIN AMERICAN) EMBASSY IN THE CAPITAL. THE COLONEL WAS RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO "DEPARTMENT OF N NORTH"; INSTEAD OF TAKING UP HIS NEW POSITION HE FLED TO EMBASSY.

3. RELATIVES OF DE CATALOGNE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF TOURISM (PRESENT DIRECTOR IS DUVALIER'S SON-IN-LAW) ALSO SOUGHT AND FOUND REFUGE AT AN EMBASSY.

4. FEAR PERMEATES PORT-AU-PRINCE; NO ONE KNOWS WHO IS NEXT TO BE ARRESTED, DISMISSED, TRANSFERRED OR SIMPLY TO "DISAPPEAR". TON TON

JUN 6 2 PM '67

MACOUTE IS BUSIER THEN EVER.

5. SUNDAY EVENING A NEPHEW OF CANADIAN CITIZEN HARRY A. DOLANSKY, LEFT PORT-AU-PRINCE TOGETHER WITH ALLAN COLTON, CANADIAN OWNER OF HAITIAN INTERNATIONAL LEATHER CORPORATION, PORT-AU-PRINCE. DOLANSKY'S NEPHEW CALLED BRUN FROM MONTREAL. ACCORDING TO HIM DUVALIER LEARNED ABOUT CHARLES' PLOTTING AND ALSO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF BRUN'S INVOLVEMENT. THE NEPHEW STRONGLY ADVISED BRUN TO FOREGO HIS TRIP TO PORT-AU-PRINCE AT THIS TIME; HE FEELS THAT THE LIFE OF BRUN, A NATURALIZED US CITIZEN OF HAITIAN DESCENT MAY BE IN DANGER IF HE GOES TO PORT-AU-PRINCE SINCE PAPA IS "COMPLETETLY UNPREDICATABLE AND FEELS CORNERED BY HIS ENEMIES AND FRIENDS SUCH AS CHARLES AND OTHERS". THE NEPHEW REMINDED BRUN THAT HE (BRUN) HAS A WIFE AND FOUR SMALL CHILDREN IN NYC.

6. NOW BRUNS IS TORN BETWEEN HIS LOYALTY TO HIS FRIEND CHARLES AND HIS OWN FAMILY. IN HIS PLIGHT HE ASKED BALOS FOR ADVICE. WE TOLD HIM THAT, WHILE PERSONALLY WE SYMPHATIZE WITH HIM, PROFESSIONALLY WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO ADVISE HIM ON HIS PROJECTED TRIP TO PORT-AU-PRINCE WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR 11:30 AM, 9 JUNE. BRUN INFORMED US THAT HE'LL ALSO SEEK THE ADVICE OF HIS FBI CONTACT MAN WHO HAS DEALT WITH HIM RE HAITIAN DEVELOPMENTS FOR

SOME TIME.

7. AT 7 AM MONDAY, 5 JUNE, BRUN CALLED CHARLES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE. THE BANKER REPEATED HIS TELEPHONE REQUEST MADE ON MONDAY, 4 JUN FOR BRUNS'S TRIP TO HAITIAN CAPITAL ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS "URGENT BUSINESS MATTERS." CHARLES EMPHASIZED THAT "NO POLITICS WAS INVOLVED; THE PURPOSE OF THEIR GET TOGETHER IS PURELY BUSINESS NATURE." AFTER THAT BRUN, OVERRULING HIS WIFE'S OBJECTIONS, DECIDED TO GO. HE TOOK OFF FROM KENNEDY IAP, MONDAY, AT 11:33 AM ON PAN AM.

8. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE BRUN WILL REGISTER WITH US DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION AT PORT-AU-PRINCE. HE HAS NOT DONE THAT BEFORE.

9. BRUN HOPES TO BE BACK WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK AT WHICH TIME HE'LL CALL [redacted]

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

[redacted]

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SECRET

3. RELATIVES OF DR. CATALOGNE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF TOURISM [redacted]

4. [redacted]

ARRESTED, DISMISSED, TRANSFERRED OR SIMPLY TO "DISAPPEAR". TON TON [redacted]

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard Joseph Charles, Plot to Overthrow Duvalier Government

FROM: [redacted] EXTENSION: 2268 NO.: DCS Case 47,540 (Sensitive) DATE: 6 June 1967

TO (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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15.				SECRET/SENSITIVE

FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET SENSITIVE

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE 052031Z CITE [redacted]

CONTACTS/WASHINGTON

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF [redacted]

THIS IS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: CASE 47,540

1. CLEMARD JOSEPHQ CHARLES AND LOUIS A. BRUN HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT PHONE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER IN RECENT DAYS. IN ADDITION BRUN RECEIVED SEVERAL LETTERS FROM CHARLES WHICH WERE HANDCARRIED BY TRUSTED FRIENDS.

2. IN A LETTER, DATED 24 MAY, CHARLES STATED THAT HE WAS "100 PER CENT READY TO GO THROUGH BUSINESS TRANSACTION AND I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TIME BECAUSE LOCAL BUSINESS COMPETITORS MAY GET AHEAD OF ME." CHARLES REPEATED HIS PREVIOUS REQUEST THAT "MR BELL AND COMPANY" (THE CODE NAMES CHARLES BESTOWED ON [redacted] AND THE PENTAGON) MUST MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE TWO PRINCIPAL FOREIGN COMPETITORS, I.E., CASTRO AND BALAGUER, TO SPOIL THE "PROMISING BUSINESS DEAL." THIS DEAL IS OF COURSE HIS ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT.

3. IN ANOTHER LETTER, DATED 30 MAY, CHARLES WARNS BRUN OF THE "EXTREME URGENCY OF THE BUSINESS MATTER VIS-A-VIS MR. BELL AND

Jun 5 10 42 AM '67

DB-3121016 25-67

COMPANY" AND AGAIN REQUESTS THE "NEUTRALIZATION OF FOREIGN COMPETITION BY SAID COMPANY". BRUN FEELS THAT EVEN IF HIS COUP AGANST DUVALIER SUCCEEDS CHARLES STILL FEARS INTERVENTION BY CASTRO AND BALAGUER. CHARLES URGED BRUN "TO DO EVERYTHING TO PERSUADE MR. BELL'S COMPANY HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO GET RID OF POSSIBLE FOREIGN COMPETITION." CHARLES ALSO ADVISED BRUN THAT HE HAS TO UNDERGO AN OPERATION TO REMOVE A BENIGN GROWTH FROM HIS THROAT.

4. AT CHARLES' REQUEST BRUN HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH HAITIAN EXILES IN NYC TO SECURE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BANKER. LOUIS SANSARICQ, AND HIS SON PROMISED FULL COOPERATION. SANSARICQ'S SON WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE HAITIAN EXILE RADIO BROADCASTING ANTI-DUVALIER MATERIAL FROM THE US TO HAITI NOW REGULARLY DELIVERS TAPED PROPAGANDA TO BRUN BEFORE TRANSMISSION. BRUN AND YOUNG SANSARICQ ARE NOW PLANNING TO INTENSIFY PROPAGANDA AGAINST DUVALIER AND HIS HENCHMEN. FROM TIME TO TIME EXILE RADIO WILL CONTINUE TO ATTACK CHARLES FOR HIS SUPPORT OF REGIME SO AS NOT TO AROUSE PAPA'S SUSPICION. THESE ATTACKS, HOWEVER, WILL BE LESS SHARP THAN THOSE DIRECTED AGAINST OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE REGIME. IN ANY EVENT, THE SANSARICQS WILL TRY TO MAKE CHARLES ACCEPTABLE TO THE

"HAITIAN COALITION" IN NYC. FOR THEIR LABOR THEY WERE PROMISED "IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSTS IN CHARLES' FUTURE CABINET."

5. BRUN INFORMED US THAT CHARLES'S SUPPORTER EDMOND VILAIRE, PORT-AU -PRINCE SHIPOWNER, WILL RETURN FROM NYC TO HAITI ON 8 JUN 67 AND THAT LOUIS LEVEQUE WILL VISIT NYC AGAIN MID-JUN. BEFORE HIS RETURN TO HAITI LEVEQUE EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE THROUGH BRN TO MMEET BALOG AGAIN IN NYC.

END

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

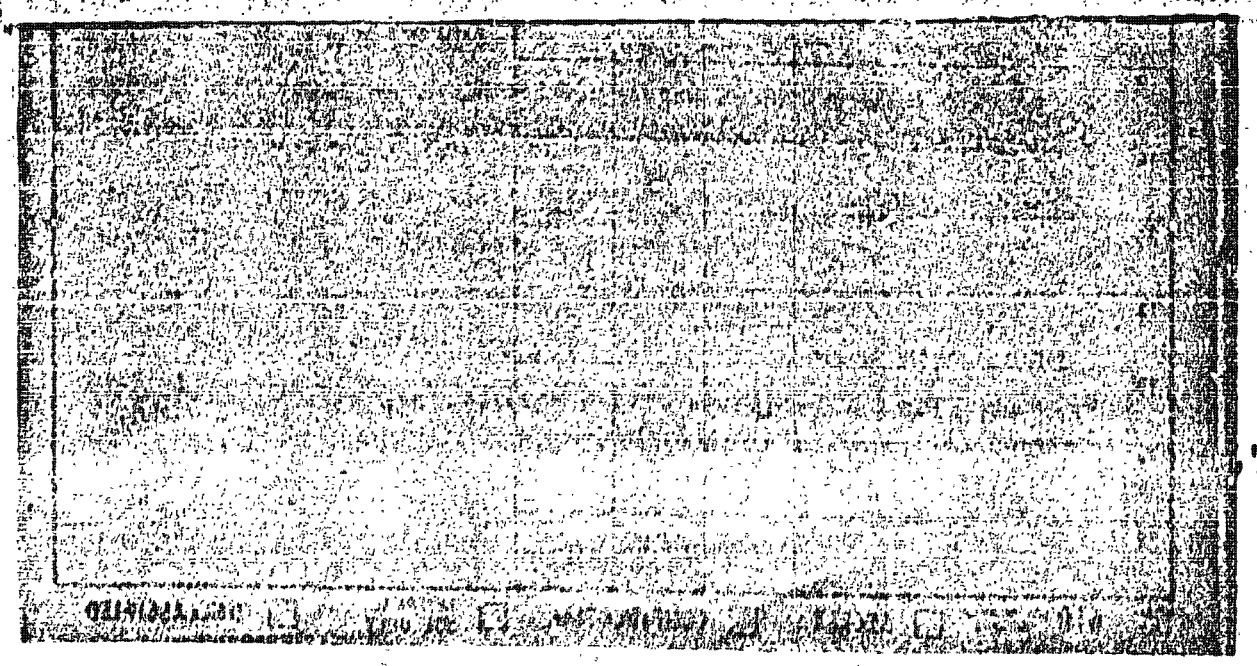
SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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14-00000

COUNTRY Haiti

DIST. NO.

SUBJECT Plans of Clemard Joseph Charles, President of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

DATE 22 May 1967

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

1. In discussing the possibility of overthrowing the Duvalier Government in the near future, Clemard Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, said he now is ready to execute his long-planned scheme to seize power with his military and civilian friends in Port-au-Prince, with or without the help of the U.S. Government.[1] If he fails in his efforts to obtain U.S. support for his plan, Charles still intends to go ahead with the plot, but he said the execution of his scheme will take more time. However, Charles believes that it is in the best interest of the U.S. to give him all necessary help in his effort to get rid of President Duvalier who has brought Haiti to the brink of total economic collapse.[2]

2. Charles said that he has rifles and hand grenades hidden "somewhere in Haiti" and that through his good friend, Colonel Octave Cayard,[3] commander of the Haitian Coast Guard, three Haitian boats, which carry cannons, will be under his control. Cayard cannot furnish enough ammunition for the cannons, but Charles hopes to obtain the necessary amount from the U.S. Government. He would like to get the ammunition from the U.S. aircraft carrier, BOXER, which has been on duty in the Caribbean area for some time.

3. Besides Cayard, Charles has the support of an unnamed high-ranking Haitian Army officer.[4] Charles and his military and civilian friends plan to set up a provisional junta and get rid of the "enemies of Haiti," that is, Duvalier and his supporters. After the consolidation of power in the hands of the junta, Charles plans to run for President and is convinced that he can win since he has many supporters in Port-au-Prince as well as in the rural areas of Haiti. Charles claims that he "controls" the Catholic and Episcopal clergy, teachers and students, several businessmen, and key militiamen in the rural areas who are waiting for his signal to overthrow the present regime.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

4. Charles has stated that should he become President of Haiti, he would pursue a pro-U.S. policy, eliminating the Duvalierists and the Communists and establishing a "liberal democratic" regime.

5. Charles still is pretending to be a loyal supporter of Duvalier; however, his position has become shaky and he believes that his life is in danger. He feels that he may fall victim to Duvalier unless he (Charles) strikes first. For the time being, Charles will continue to support Duvalier in an effort to allay the President's suspicions. As president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, Charles soon will deliver a speech praising the achievements of Duvalier. He is anxious for the U.S. to know that his overtures toward Duvalier are pretense and that he is determined to go into action against the present regime.

Headquarters Comments

[redacted] from another reliable source, reported that Charles and Herve Boyer, former Minister of Finance under Duvalier, were contending for power in the Haitian Government.

1. In the past several months, Charles has made numerous attempts to elicit support from several U.S. Government agencies for his plot against the Duvalier Government.

2. No reason was given for Charles' belief that it would be in the best interest of the U.S. to support his scheme to overthrow Duvalier. However, he may be referring to his claim that should he become President of Haiti following the overthrow of Duvalier, he intends to pursue a pro-U.S. policy and establish a "liberal democratic" regime.

3. [redacted] Cayard, who enjoys the confidence of Duvalier, is a secret ally of Charles.

14-00000

[illegible]
[illegible]
Case [illegible] (Enclosure)

SUBJECT: New Messages from Clemard J. Charles/Current Haitian Exile Activities in New York City

1. On 20 May 1977, Louis A. Bram, President, B & B International Corporation, New York City, furnished the following information:

2. Clemard Joseph Charles, President, Banque Commercial d'Haiti, Port-au-Prince, claims that his military and civilian anti-Duvalier forces are organized in "strong cells ready to strike when the time arrives." He also claims to have supporters among Haitian exiles in the US and "on the islands surrounding Haiti."

3. Charles reiterated his previous assertion that he will depose Duvalier with or without the help of the US, but he would prefer to make contact with a "US liaison man in Port-au-Prince to speed up things."

4. The financial crisis deepens each day. Revenues are falling, and foreign capital continues to stay away. Attempts to sell Treasury bonds abroad and attract tourists have utterly failed. In an effort to attract foreign investment, Mr. Auguste, Haiti's former ambassador to the US and recently appointed ambassador to West Germany, persuaded a businessman from Kuwait (name not given) to have an audience with President Duvalier on 25 May 1977 in order to discuss a business deal. Charles expects to be present on this occasion.

5. Duvalier is not well. In addition to diabetes, he has what Charles describes "arteriosclerosis psychosis." He is very much upset by the failure of his son-in-law, the Minister of Tourism, to sell Haiti to foreign tourists. He is also disturbed about the recent behavior of his other son-in-law, Lt. Col. Maximilien Dominique. According to Charles, Dominique incurred the presidential wrath by moving out of the palace with his wife and Mrs. Duvalier without Papa's permission. After Duvalier personally brought the party back to the palace, Dominique resigned his palace assignment via his wife. Duvalier angrily refused to accept the letter of resignation from his daughter saying that, "as long as I am the president, people cannot resign--they are fired."

201-957029

6. Charles states that Gracia Jacques, chief of the Presidential Guard, "will be needed in the execution of the plan." He feels that Jacques is no longer blindly loyal to Duvalier and that he can be bought. Once the power is in the hands of a military junta and Charles, Jacques "will be eliminated."

7. The banker further states that honest and competent citizens, who are also pro-US, will be brought into the government. Some of the exiles now in the US will be in the government.

8. Charles insists that he and his friends are strong enough on the domestic scene to do away with the Duvalier government "sooner or later." His greatest fear is that either Castro or Balaguer might interfere in Haiti's affairs following a coup against Duvalier. He earnestly hopes that the US will neutralize Castro and Balaguer. Charles is convinced that Duvalier and Balaguer are "close friends." He feels that the time has definitely come for the US Government to get in touch with him now in Port-au-Prince. If his wish is granted, he will divulge his plan (names, etc.) to the "liaison man."

9. On 19 May 1967, a group of prominent Haitian exiles had a meeting in New York City to celebrate Haitian Flag Day. One of the organizers was Dr. Jeanlle, an M.D. whose brother, a former Minister of Finance, was killed by Duvalier. Another exile in attendance was (fnu) Villemar, who claims to be a legal adviser to the Republic of Chad. Villemar, who is described by Brun as a mystic, stated, "I am going to be the next president of Haiti." Brun believes that the group calls itself "National Organization of Haitian Exiles." According to him, some of the members are now backing Charles' presidential aspirations.

10. Louis Lévesque, a member of the Economic Planning Board of Haiti, a confidant of Charles', will come to New York City after a few days' stay in Miami, Florida, and Memphis, Tennessee. On 24 May 1967, Lévesque will meet with representatives of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, 80 Broad Street, NYC, to discuss the port modernization project of Port-au-Prince. According to Brun, Lévesque has "some very important information relative to the Charles' plan."

NY-[illegible]/7
12 May 1967
Case 47,540 (Emperor)

SUBJECT: Additional Information Concerning Plans of Haitian Banker, Clesmar Joseph Charles, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

1. Louis A. Dunn, B and B International Corporation, 1133 Broadway, New York, NY, furnished the following additional information concerning new developments in Haiti and plans of Haitian banker, Clesmar Joseph Charles, and his military and civilian associates to overthrow the Duvalier government.

2. Colonel Caillard, Chief of the Haitian Coast Guard, is definitely one of the key military figures on whom Charles pins his hopes. Caillard is thoroughly disillusioned with Duvalier and is willing to cooperate with Charles. Caillard fears that if Duvalier remains in power, the economy of the country will be completely ruined and that Haitian exiles now being trained in guerrilla warfare in Cuba may attempt to seize power. As a prosperous dairy farmer, whose wealth is estimated to be approximately US$1 million, Caillard has a large stake in the future of Haiti. He feels that "patriots such as Charles and himself" must eliminate Duvalier and his henchmen.

3. Although Charles did not name Colonel Pierre Louis, officer in charge of the Casernes Dessalines, Port-au-Prince, as a fellow-conspirator, there is reason to believe that Louis knows and approves the plans to overthrow Duvalier. Charles and Louis are good friends; the banker was best man at the wedding of the Colonel's daughter. When the government was unable to pay Louis and his soldiers on time, on several occasions, Charles advanced money so that Louis and some of his trusted associates "could eat."

4. Engineer Louis Lerebours, a member of the Economic Planning Board of Haiti, is also aware of Charles' plans. Lerebours is a respected public figure who has made several trips to the US in an effort to obtain capital for the Haitian economy. He has given up all hope and is convinced that the Duvalier government must be eliminated.

5. Charles claims the support of a substantial segment of the clergy, intelligentsia, teachers, and students as well as peasants in the rural areas. As a devout Roman Catholic, he maintains a close relationship with the church authorities and also befriended Père Rene P Gilles, Bishop Wagali's successor at the Episcopalian Church's St. Trinite Cathedral in Port-au-Prince. In addition, he claims to have several important newspapermen on his payroll.

6. Charles is fully aware of the danger confronting him and his fellow-conspirators, but they are determined to "eliminate" Duvalier and his key supporters. Since Charles "controls" Casernes Dessalines through Colonel Lenis, and the Coast Guard through Colonel Caillard, he is confident that in the event of a successful coup by a military junta he and his associates will be able to round up the principal supporters of Duvalier. Although he has his man, Captain Preval, in the Presidential Guard, he realizes that high-ranking officers loyal to Duvalier could cause bloodshed. Charles and his associates expect violence during the initial stages of their coup. No definite date has yet been set for action, but Charles is convinced that the coup must be carried out "within the next few months" to save the country from economic and political chaos. In any case, Charles and especially his military friends feel that 1967 is the year of decision.

7. At present, Charles has no contact with Haitian exile groups. However, initial steps to establish a good relationship with exiles in the US have been taken. In early May 1967, Brun met Louis Ramsaricq, a prominent anti-Duvalier exile, whose entire family was killed by Duvalier's henchmen. Ramsaricq agreed to support Charles in case of a final showdown with President Duvalier. Moreover, he promised to line up some of his fellow-exiles for Charles and his friends. Negotiations between Brun and Ramsaricq are in progress.

8. Dr. Fourcand, an M.D. in Haiti, is no longer trusted by Duvalier. Mme Duvalier and his family have the services of four doctors: Dr. Hedard, an orthopedist; Dr. Thermaty, another orthopedist; Dr. Dumtempe, a general practitioner; and Dr. Mart-Fleurdes Duplessi. Duvalier's dietitian is Mrs. Gracia Scott Mahu. A male nurse, Turgo Jeudi, is entrusted with taking periodic blood sugar tests of Duvalier. Jeudi is well liked by the President, who made him a member of the Legislative Chamber.

9. Charles is of the opinion that Duvalier is determined to remain in Haiti and face any opposition from inside and outside the country. Although Duvalier is confident that he can meet any inside crisis, he has made a secret agreement with President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic. Duvalier asked for and was granted asylum in the Dominican Republic in the event his government is overthrown. The two presidents maintain close liaison through Andre Simon, a member of the Legislative Chamber in Haiti. Simon, who, according to Charles, is responsible for the murder of several anti-Duvalier persons in the Jamaal area, frequently travels in a jeep with diplomatic license plate between Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince. Simon received a diplomatic passport from Duvalier. While on business in Santo Domingo, he stays in the presidential palace.

10. It seems that the "battle of the sons-in-law" has been won by Fouchard, Minister of Tourism. In early May 1967, Duvalier's other son-in-law, Dominique, who is an Army officer, moved out of the presidential palace together with his wife. They took up residence in Port-au-Prince but their independence did not last long. After a few days in their new home, President Duvalier and his bodyguards made a "friendly visit" to the Dominique home and took his daughter and son-in-law back to the presidential palace. Charles believes that Dominique is now virtually a prisoner. He also learned from those close to the palace that Duvalier either will appoint or has already appointed Dominique to a foreign diplomatic post, which amounts to "golden exile." At the same time Fouchard continues to enjoy Duvalier's full confidence. He was allowed to visit New York City with his wife "to promote Haitian tourism." After an unsuccessful stay in the US, Fouchard flew to Mexico City, where he was also unsuccessful in his bid to attract Mexican tourists; but as a consolation prize, he received a decoration from the Mexican government.

11. Charles made the following comments to Brum concerning certain individuals in Haiti:

a. Ernnin Jacques, in charge of the Presidential Guard. No compromise with him in case of coup; he must be eliminated.

b. Luc Desir, head of Ton Ton Macoute. Must be eliminated.

c. Clovis Desinor, Minister of Finance. He is an "anarchist" with presidential aspirations who has some "underground movement in Haiti." To be eliminated.

d. Gerard Philippeaux, Minister of Health. In early May 1967, he was in New York City to seek treatment of a serious brain tumor condition. A very sick man, he no longer has political aspirations.

e. General Gerard Constant, chief of staff. To be eliminated.

f. Thiard, a former ambassador to the US. He is strongly pro-US. Charles "hopes" to give him a diplomatic post when he is in a position to do so.

g. Colonel Jacques Laroche, deputy chief of staff, "a convinced Communist." To be eliminated.

12. Charles stated that Dr. Laughlin, a US citizen, an M.D., who lives with his son in Port-au-Prince, is "an undercover agent for Duvalier." As one-time Laughlin was running a tannery for Duvalier; his son is now in charge of an extensive rice plantation.

13. If Charles receives no US help against Duvalier, he will act on his own. However, he knows that without US help (ammunition, weapons) it may take several months before he and his friends are ready to strike. During the interim period, he will endeavor to undermine the Duvalier government on the economic front. To be specific, he plans to tell his foreign friends connected with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that they must abandon the present regime to complete economic chaos. In addition to furnishing a copy of his memorandum addressed to Duvalier to the US ambassador in Haiti on the wrongdoings of Henri Sicilait, president of the Haitian Tobacco and Match Monopoly, he gave copies to "foreign communists." Charles feels that even the "economic situation of Haiti is absolutely hopeless" he and his friends will be able to carry out the coup.

14-00000

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Clemard J. Charles

			EXTENSION 2268	NO. DCS Case 47,540 (Sensitive)
				DATE 16 May 1967
building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DO/DCSL		16/5/67		
2. WH/7/Haiti (ATTN: Messrs. [redacted] 3 B 2630, Hqs.				Attachment: NY-419-67 w/encls.
3.				2 & 4: Pass copy of this to Paul Harwood as he can keep abreast of the Charles affair. 2 to 8: Put in Charles file.
4. C/WH/7/RU		17 May 67		
5. DC/WH/7	17 MAY 1967			
6. C/WH/7				
7. WH/7/HAITI				
8. Chron				
9. FI/ISR 2E03				Pls. file in Clemard J. Charles 201. 357029
10.				
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FORM 5-48 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

Case 47,540 (Reopened) New Developments in Plans of Haitian Banker, Clemard Joseph Charles to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

[redacted]

NY-419-67

15 May 1967

Director, DCS

ATT: [redacted]

Contacts:

Louis A. Brun
B & B International Corp.
New York, N. Y.

and

Edmond Vilaire
Commission Agent
Shipping Service
Box 916
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

A copy of this memorandum will be furnished to DO/HY.

Info contained herein is responsive to requirements of HH/H which [redacted] received from [redacted] On 12 May 67, in telecon with Hem and his boss, Balog passed on portions of this memo. They requested this memo indicating that new info is "vital."

Info on stealing of UN funds comes from Brun's wife, an employee of the UNDP in NYC. Brun, who has been a contact of the FBI in NYC, on Haitian exile matters, decided not to tell his FBI contact about Charles' plans.

14-00000

HY-4-19-67
15 May 1967
Case 47,540 (reopened)

SUBJECT: New Developments in Plans of Haitian Banker, Clesmard Joseph Charles, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

1. On 11 May 67, Edmond Vilaire, a Haitian national, who operates a 352 ton converted LC as a cargo ship in Port-au-Prince, arrived in New York City. On 12 May 67 in the company of Louis A. Brun, B & B International Corp., New York City, he stated the following. (Letterhead of the Port-au-Prince firm is attached.)

2. President Duvalier has just transferred Captain Harry Tassy of the Presidential Guard to a rural post and replaced him with Major Coicou, who happens to be a good friend of Clesmard Joseph Charles. Charles claims that through Coicou, he now has access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the palace and is in a position to carry out a coup "in the near future."

3. After an explosion near the palace in mid-April 1967, Duvalier quietly embarked upon a major shakeup in the military and the civil service. He dismissed or transferred a number of Army, Militia, and Ton Ton Macoute officers and civil servants, including those who had previously served in the presidential palace. To date no official announcements have been made concerning these important changes.

4. In addition to Captain Tassy, the following officers lost their positions in Port-au-Prince:

   a. Captain Laroche of the Presidential Guard; transferred to an unknown post outside the capital.

   b. Major Remy Berge of the Army; Berge, a confident of Duvalier, was in charge of radio propaganda. He used to see the president at least twice a day. Berge was transferred to a town in the northwest region of Haiti.

   c. Paul Verrigois of the TTM.

5. Veriquin, who was in charge of the TCM in the Petionville section of Port-au-Prince, was dismissed by Duvalier because the President suspected him of siding with the Dominique clique. Dominique, an Army officer and son-in-law of Duvalier, was offered a military attache position either in Spain or Italy, which he refused to accept as his wife is reluctant to leave Haiti at this time. This situation is complicated by the decision of Duvalier's wife to side with her daughter. The rift in his own family as well as the attempt of his enemies to disrupt the celebration of his 60th birthday and the 10th anniversary of his taking office prompted Duvalier to remark that the only man he trusts is Gracia Jacques, commander of the Presidential Guard. This statement antagonized even those who have hitherto been loyal to Duvalier. Moreover, even the most faithful Duvalier supporters now fear for their lives. Colonel Caillard, who is in charge of the Coast Guard, bitterly complained to Charles about Duvalier's remark and reassured the banker that he and his friends were ready to set up a military junta.

6. In addition to the Coast Guard ships, Charles would have the use of Villaire's converted LC, which normally plies the waters between Jamaica and Port-au-Prince carrying flour, fuel oil, etc. Villaire is convinced that Charles has no choice but to carry out the coup with or without foreign help and that his chances of success are good since several of the new Duvalier appointees to key military and civilian positions are Charles' friends. Villaire feels that Charles must act now since the morale of many of the military and civilian supporters of Duvalier now reached an all-time low and the Haitian Treasury is almost empty. Since Duvalier has been unable to obtain foreign capital, he has again resorted, through his Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry Lebert Jean-Pierre, to a shake-down of commercial and industrial enterprises. In a circular letter, dated 2 May 67, the Secretary appealed for "voluntary contributions as a fitting homage to the Venerable President for Life, Chief of the Duvalierist Revolution." (A copy of the letter is attached.)

7. Jean-Pierre and Henri Dalsait, confidants of Duvalier in charge of the Regie de Tabac and des Allumettes, are among the staunchest supporters of the president. Both men have stolen considerable amounts of public funds and succeeded in smuggling some of their money out of Haiti.

8. Secretary of State for Justice Rameau Estimé, who is a good friend of Captain Tassy, is in serious trouble. Estimé, a brother of a former president of Haiti, may lose his position. Since he himself has presidential ambitions, he may become a candidate for this office if he survives the present crisis.

9. Another potential rival for the presidency is Secretary of State for Labor and Social Welfare Max A. Antoine, who claims the support of the labor unions.

10. According to Vilaire, the wildest rumors are rampant in Haiti. For example, even intelligent persons give credence to the allegation that the US Government is not really anxious to see the downfall of Duvalier and that a portion of the US$40 million hitherto allocated to President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic as development loans was passed on, with the tacit consent of the US, to "Balaguer's good friend," Duvalier. Another rumor states that the CIA is now in the process of training Haitian exiles in the US for a possible invasion of Haiti. The name of Luc Foucne, a former Senator in Haiti and a former Ambassador to the US now in exile in New York City, has been mentioned as one of those receiving training in guerrilla warfare.

11. One of Vilaire's aims during his present visit to the US is to convince influential Haitian exiles that Charles is not a Duvalier supporter and that he would make a good president. Vilaire has already contacted, through Brun, Louis Dejoie, a prominent anti-Duvalier exile in New York City, and hopes to meet other exile leaders.

12. Brun stated that the newly appointed representative of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) in Port-au-Prince, a Greek, has just returned to New York and stated that he will not go back to Haiti because he discovered that funds granted by the UNDP were "misappropriated by the Duvalier government."

13. Brun also asserted that an organization comprised of US citizens and calling itself the "Society for Haiti" will try to raise money for "nutrition, education, reforestation, cultural and economic developments in Haiti." Dejoie, Haiti's Ambassador to the US, is connected with this organization. An OAS mission is expected to be in Port-au-Prince this week and Dejoie will be on hand. (A copy of a list of the names of persons supporting the Society for Haiti is attached.)

14. Engineer Louis Lavergne, a member of the Haitian Economic Planning Board and a close friend of Charles', is expected in New York on or about 20 May 67 ostensibly to discuss port development projects of Port-au-Prince with the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, 80 Broad NYC. . The real purpose of his visit, however, is to contact US friends and Haitian exiles in an effort to gain support for Charles.

15. Chaplin and Brun talked on the phone 12 May 67. The banker stated that he is "tied down" in Port-au-Prince until the end of May, at which time he may make another business trip to the US.

16. Brun is firmly convinced that Charles has already made the decision to overthrow the Duvalier government with his friends and that he must act fast to prevent chaos and a possible Communist take-over. Vilaire and Brun agree that the political and economic situation in Haiti is such that "the population wants a change, any change, and would even welcome a Communist coup." They added that Charles and his military friends wish to prevent a Castro-supported Communist seizure of power.

14-00000

SERVICE SERVICE
BOX 676
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

14-00000

PORT-AU-PRINCE, le 2 Mai 1967.-

Messieurs,

A l'occasion des grandioses manifestations commémoratives du 14ème X de la Révolution Duvalieriste, les forces vives de la Nation se sont associées pour donner à cette célébration toute l'ampleur qu'elle mérite.

A cet hommage que la Nation tient à rendre à Son Vénéré [illegible] A Vie, Président, le Docteur François DUVALIER, digne Chef de la Revolution, il est louable que le Commerce et l'Industrie apportent leur participation effective.

C'est pourquoi, il vous est donné l'opportunité d'inviter les employés de votre entreprise à apporter eux aussi leur contribution suivant le barème ci-après :

De 5	à 200 gourdes	: Gdes	5.00
De 201	à 500 gourdes	: Gdes	10.00
De 501	à 1500 gourdes	: Gdes	15.00
A partir de 1501	"	: Gdes	25.00.

Il demeure entendu qu'il est laissé à vous individuellement, ainsi qu'à votre haut personnel, la liberté d'accomplir tout geste de générosité, le plafond de la contribution, en l'espèce demeurant illimité.

Les valeurs ainsi recueillies par vos soins, seront converties en chèques à l'ordre de la Secrétairerie d'Etat des Finances et des Affaires Economiques, accompagnées de la liste de votre personnel et transmises au Département du Commerce et [illegible]

Agréez, Messieurs, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Docteur [illegible] PIERRE
Secrétaire d'Etat

14-00000

Society for Haiti

Miss Ella F. Harllee – President of Educational Committee Association

Mr. Paul Rioble – Founder of American Airlines/Rioble Airline/Embry Riddle University

Dr. Simpson – Economist (in Roosevelt's first Braintrust)

Dr. Hook – Economist

Col. King – Retired Executive with Park Service

Dr. DeBeauvoy – Retired Vice President of Ocian University & Representative of Peru

Mr. Dooley – Editor of "Grace" Magazine

Ray Liberson – Developer Architect

Marshall Digs – Attorney/past Comptroler General of U.S.

14-00000

SECRET SENSITIVE

Case 47,540 (Reopened) New Developments in Plans of Haitian Banker, Clemard Joseph Charles to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

[redacted]

NY-419-67

15 May 1967

Director, DCI

[redacted]

Contacts:

Louis A. Brun
B & B International Corp.
New York, N. Y.

and

Edmond Vilaire
Commission Agent
Shipping Service
Box 916
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

A copy of this memorandum will be furnished to BO/NY.

Info contained herein is responsive to requirements of [redacted] which received from [redacted] On 12 May 67, in telecon with Hen and his boss, Raleg passed on portions of this memo. They requested this memo indicating that new info is "vital."

Info on stealing of [redacted] funds comes from Brun's wife, an employee of the [redacted] in [redacted]. Brun, who has been a contact of the FBI in [redacted], on Haitian exile matters, decided not to tell his FBI contact about Charles' plans.

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[redacted]

BOI-357029

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NY-419-67
15 May 1967
Case 47,540 (reopened)

SUBJECT: New Developments in Plans of Haitian Banker, Clemard Joseph Charles, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government

1. On 11 May 67, Edmond Vilaire, a Haitian national, who operates a 352 ton converted LC as a cargo ship in Port-au-Prince, arrived in New York City. On 12 May 67 in the company of Louis A. Brun, B & B International Corp., New York City, he stated the following. (Letterhead of the Port-au-Prince firm is attached.)

2. President Duvalier has just transferred Captain Harry Tassy of the Presidential Guard to a rural post and replaced him with Major Coicou, who happens to be a good friend of Clemard Joseph Charles. Charles claims that through Coicou, he now has access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the palace and is in a position to carry out a coup "in the near future."

3. After an explosion near the palace in mid-April 1967, Duvalier quietly embarked upon a major shake-up in the military and the civil service. He dismissed or transferred a number of Army, Militia, and Ton Ton Macoute officers and civil servants, including those who had previously served in the presidential palace. To date no official announcements have been made concerning these important changes.

4. In addition to Captain Tassy, the following officers lost their positions in Port-au-Prince:

   a. Captain Laroche of the Presidential Guard; transferred to an unknown post outside the capital.

   b. Major Remy Borgs of the Army; Borgs, a confident of Duvalier, was in charge of radio propaganda. He used to see the president at least twice a day. Borgs was transferred to a town in the northwest region of Haiti.

   c. Paul Veriquin of the TTM.

SECRET [illegible]

5. Veriquin, who was in charge of the TTM in the Petionville section of Port-au-Prince, was dismissed by Duvalier because the President suspected him of siding with the Dominique clique. Dominique, an Army officer and son-in-law of Duvalier, was offered a military attache position either in Spain or Italy, which he refused to accept as his wife is reluctant to leave Haiti at this time. This situation is complicated by the decision of Duvalier's wife to side with her daughter. The rift in his own family as well as the attempt of his enemies to disrupt the celebration of his 60th birthday and the 10th anniversary of his taking office prompted Duvalier to remark that the only man he trusts is Gracia Jacques, commander of the Presidential Guard. This statement antagonized even those who have hitherto been loyal to Duvalier. Moreover, even the most faithful Duvalier supporters now fear for their lives. Colonel Caillard, who is in charge of the Coast Guard, bitterly complained to Charles about Duvalier's remark and reassured the banker that he and his friends were ready to set up a military junta.

6. In addition to the Coast Guard ships, Charles would have the use of Vilaire's converted LS, which normally plies the waters between Jamaica and Port-au-Prince carrying flour, fuel oil, etc. Vilaire is convinced that Charles has no choice but to carry out the coup with or without foreign help and that his chances of success are good since several of the new Duvalier appointees to key military and civilian positions are Charles' friends. Vilaire feels that Charles must act now since the morale of many of the military and civilian supporters of Duvalier has reached an all-time low and the Haitian Treasury is almost empty. Since Duvalier has been unable to obtain foreign capital, he has again resorted, through his Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry Lebert Jean-Pierre, to a shake-down of commercial and industrial enterprises. In a circular letter, dated 2 May 67, the Secretary appealed for "voluntary contributions as a fitting homage to the Venerable President for Life, Chief of the Duvalierist Revolution." (A copy of the letter is attached.)

7. Jean-Pierre and Henri Sialait, confidants of Duvalier in charge of the Regie de Tabac and des Allumettes, are among the staunchest supporters of the president. Both men have stolen considerable amounts of public funds and succeeded in smuggling some of their money out of Haiti.

8. Secretary of State for Justice Rameau Estimé, who is a good friend of Captain Tassy, is in serious trouble. Estimé, a brother of a former president of Haiti, may lose his position. Since he himself has presidential ambitions, he may become a candidate for this office if he survives the present crisis.

9. Another potential rival for the presidency is Secretary of State for Labor and Social Welfare Max A. Antoine, who claims the support of the labor unions.

10. According to Vilaire, the wildest rumors are rampant in Haiti. For example, even intelligent persons give credence to the allegation that the US Government is not really anxious to see the downfall of Duvalier and that a portion of the US$40 million hitherto allocated to President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic as development loans was passed on, with the tacit consent of the US, to "Balaguer's good friend," Duvalier. Another rumor states that the CIA is now in the process of training Haitian exiles in the US for a possible invasion of Haiti. The name of Luc Fouche, a former Senator in Haiti and a former Ambassador to the US now in exile in New York City, has been mentioned as one of those receiving training in guerrilla warfare.

11. One of Vilaire's aims during his present visit to the US is to convince influential Haitian exiles that Charles is not a Duvalier supporter and that he would make a good president. Vilaire has already contacted, through Brun, Louis Sansarico, a prominent anti-Duvalier exile in New York City, and hopes to meet other exile leaders.

12. Brun stated that the newly appointed representative of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) in Port-au-Prince, a Greek, has just returned to New York and stated that he will not go back to Haiti because he discovered that funds granted by the UNDP were "misappropriated by the Duvalier government."

13. Brun also asserted that an organization comprised of US citizens and calling itself the "Society for Haiti" will try to raise money for "nutrition, education, reforestation, cultural and economic developments in Haiti." Dorbonne, Haiti's ambassador to the US, is connected with this organization. An OAS mission is expected to be in Port-au-Prince this week and Dorbonne will be on hand. (A copy of a list of the names of persons supporting the Society for Haiti is attached.)

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14. Engineer Louis Leveque, a member of the Haitian Economic Planning Board and a close friend of Charles', is expected in New York on or about 16 May 67 ostensibly to discuss port development projects of Port-au-Prince with the G. E. White Engineering Corporation, 80 Broad Street, NYC. The real purpose of his visit, however, is to contact US friends and Haitian exiles in an effort to gain support for Charles.

15. Charles and Brun talked on the phone 12 May 67. The banker stated that he is "tied down" in Port-au-Prince until the end of May, at which time he may make another business trip to the US.

16. Brun is firmly convinced that Charles has already made the decision to overthrow the Duvalier government with his friends and that he must act fast to prevent chaos and a possible Communist take-over. Villaire and Brun agree that the political and economic situation in Haiti is such that "the population wants a change, any change, and would even welcome a Communist coup." They added that Charles and his military friends wish to prevent a Castro-supported Communist seizure of power.

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Cable Address: EDVIL

EDMOND VILAIRE

COMMISSION AGENT

SHIPPING SERVICE

BOX 916

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Tel. No. 3104

14-00000

DEPARTEMENT DU COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Le 2 Mai 1967.-

Messieurs,

A l'occasion des grandioses manifestations commémoratives de l'AN X de la Révolution Duvaliéristes, les forces vives de la Nation se sont associées pour donner à cette célébration toute l'ampleur qu'elle mérite.

A cet hommage que la Nation tient à rendre à Son Vénéré Président A Vie, Son Excellence le Docteur François DUVALIER, digne Chef de la Révolution, il est louable que le Commerce et l'Industrie apportent leur participation effective.

C'est pourquoi,il vous est donné l'opportunité d'inviter les employés de votre entreprise à apporter eux aussi leur contribution suivant le barème ci-après :

De	5	à 200 gourdes	: Gdes 5.00
De	201	à 500 gourdes	: Gdes 10.00
De	501	à 1500 gourdes	: Gdes 15.00
à partir de 1501		"	: Gdes 25.00.

Il demeure entendu qu'il est laissé à vous individuellement, ainsi qu'à votre haut personnel, la liberté d'accomplir tout geste de générosité, le plafond de la contribution, en l'espèce demeurant illimité.

Les valeurs ainsi recueillies par vos soins, seront converties en chèques à l'ordre de la Secrétairerie d'Etat des Finances et des Affaires Economiques, accompagnées de la liste de votre personnel et transmises au Département du Commerce et [illegible].

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Docteur [illegible] PIERRE
Secrétaire d'Etat

"Society for Haiti"

Miss Ella F. Harllee – President of Educational Communicati Association

John Paul Riddle – founder of American Airline/Riddle Airline/Embry Riddle University

Dr. Simpson – Economist (in Roosevelts first Braintrust)

Dr. Houk – Economist

Col. King – Retired Executive with Park Service

Dr. deBeccenyey – Retired ~~VP~~ President of Ocian University & Represent of Peru

Ms. Denby – Editor of "Grace" Magazine

Roy Mason – Developer Architect

Marshall Digs – Attorney/post Comptroler General of U.S.

14-00000

NY 406-67
10 May 1967

SUBJECT: Plans of Haitian Banker Clemard Joseph Charles to Overthrow the Duvalier Government - Case 47,540 (Re-opened)

1. On 9 May 1967 Louis A. Brun, B&B International Corp., New York City, furnished the following information.

2. He and Clemard Joseph Charles, President of the Banque Commerciale D'Haiti and President of the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti, have discussed in detail the possible overthrow of the Duvalier Government in the near future. During his visit to New York City in the first week of May, 1967, Charles stated that he is now ready to execute his long-planned scheme to seize power with his military and civilian friends in Port-au-Prince, with or without the help of the United States Government. Charles further stated that he had rifles and hand grenades hidden "somewhere in Haiti." In addition he will have, through his good friend Colonel Caillard, Chief of the Haitian Coast Guard, three Haitian boats under his control. Caillard, who enjoys the confidence of Duvalier, is a secret ally of Charles and is now ready to place the three boats, which carry cannons, at the disposal of Charles. The trouble is that Caillard does not have enough ammunition for the cannons. Charles hopes to obtain the necessary ammunition from the US Government. He would like to receive the ammunition from the US Carrier, BOXER, which has for some time been on duty in the Caribbean area. Charles believes that it is in the best interest of the US Government to give him all necessary help in his effort to get rid of Duvalier who has brought Haiti to the brink of total economic collapse.

3. Besides Caillard, Charles has the support of an unnamed high-ranking Haitian Army officer. Charles and his military, as well as civilian, friends plan to set up a provisional Junta and get rid of the "enemies of Haiti," that is, Duvalier and his supporters. After the consolidation of power in the hands of the Junta, Charles will run for President. He is convinced that he can win since he has many supporters in Port-au-Prince as well as in rural areas. Charles claims that he "controls" Roman Catholic and Episcopalian clergy, teachers and students, several businessmen, and key militia figures in the rural areas who now wait for his signal to overthrow the present regime.

4. Charles is still pretending to be a loyal supporter of Duvalier. However, he feels that his life is now in danger and unless he strikes first, he may fall victim to the President. His position has become shakey. In early 1967, at Duvalier's request, he submitted a memorandum to the President describing the wrong doing of Henri Siclait, who is in charge of the Regie de Tabac and Des Allumettes (tobacco and match industry),

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but it appears that Duvalier took Siclait's side. According to Charles, Siclait has been successful in raising money for Duvalier and also had beautiful homes built for some of the President's key supporters. Charles stated that he had given a copy of his memorandum on Siclait to the US Ambassador in Port-au-Prince.

5. Although he has relationships with the US diplomatic service in Port-au-Prince, Charles expressed his desire to "cooperate with a Liaison Officer from the US". When asked to elaborate, he stated that it would be too dangerous to contact a US diplomat in Port-au-Prince; instead he would prefer to cooperate with "a Liaison man from the Pentagon."

6. Charles stated that as President he would pursue a pro-US policy, eliminating the Duvalier elements and the Communists and establishing a "liberal democratic" regime. If he fails to receive US help in his effort to overthrow the present Haitian Government, he will still go ahead with the planning, but the execution of his scheme will take more time.

7. For the time being, Charles will continue to support the Duvalier government, in an effort to allay the suspicions of the President. Charles, in his capacity as the President of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, will soon deliver a speech praising the achievements of Duvalier. Charles is anxious for the US Government to know that this is just a pretense, that he now is determined to go into action against the regime, and that he knows that he and his friends are facing an extremely difficult task.

SECRET SENSITIVE

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY Haiti

SUBJECT Efforts by Haitian Civilians And Military to Gain Power In Haitian Government

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1967

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

1. Haitians Clemard Joseph Charles and Herve Boyer are contending for power in the Haitian Government, and each has hopes of succeeding President Francois Duvalier. Although they are working together and will join forces in order to get rid of Duvalier, they probably will start fighting between themselves once this objective is obtained.[1]

2. Colonel Jacques Laroche is the military's primary contender for power, and undoubtedly he will be the one to consolidate a military movement against Duvalier. Since the dismissal of high-ranking military officers by Duvalier in November and December 1966, Laroche has enjoyed the greatest power within the Army.[2]

3. If Duvalier is assassinated, it is likely that there will be bloodshed in the streets. In this event, it would be the Army who would step in immediately and control the situation. Despite the fact that the Army is small and weakened from its loss of high-ranking offficers, it still would be powerful enough to neutralize any effort by the Haitian militia (VSN) because the VSN is disorganized and would be unable to cope with the confusion which would be caused by an unnatural death of Duvalier. However, if Duvalier dies a natural death there would be less chance of hostilities because the people around Duvalier would have a better chance of taking power.

4. There is little chance that Duvalier will step down from power voluntarily because of his pride. However, in this respect his family, particularly Mrs. Duvalier, has constantly encouraged him to give up the presidency and appoint a successor.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AID	OCR	
		CINCSO #						

(Note: Field distribution indicated by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CA/INT	2	WH/7/Ht	6	WHIC/CA	1			
CA/PROP	1	WH	1	WHIC/WAVE	1			
WH/R	1	WHIC/MQ	1	WH	(CINCSO) 1			
		WHIC/FI	1					

TOTALS XR 8, CI 2, FI 3, CA 3, WH/COG 3 (1), WH 7 (2), DO/H 1.

LIAISON #

(INDEX: Haiti - Duvalier)
TX-1173
NP
(MVMOUNT-2)

COORDINATING

RELEASING HK - [illegible] HLV/[illegible] beg

FORM NO. 1 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. (88)

[redacted]

Headquarters Comments

1. Charles is president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, and Boyer is a former Minister of Finance under Duvalier. Another source, whose reporting has been infrequent, but considered reliable, has reported that Boyer has signed a contract to work with an international organization in Europe. If Boyer leaves Haiti, it is possible that he will forego his ambitions for power in the Haitian Government, or that his endeavors will be hampered seriously by his absence from the country.

2. Leroche is Deputy Chief of Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces. His ambitious and corrupt character, and his overtures toward Duvalier, have gained him his power within the Army over the placid, easy-going General Gerard Constant, Chief of Staff of the Haitian Army. For biographic information on Leroche see [redacted]

14-00000

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 201-35 1029

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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Plans of Clemard Joseph Charles, President of the Commercial Bank Of Haiti, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government	DATE DISTR.	22 May 1967
		NO. PAGES	2
		REFERENCES	

1. In discussing the possibility of overthrowing the Duvalier Government in the near future, Clemard Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, said he now is ready to execute his long-planned scheme to seize power with his military and civilian friends in Port-au-Prince, with or without the help of the U.S. Government.[1] If he fails in his efforts to obtain U.S. support for his plan, Charles still intends to go ahead with the plot, but he said the execution of his scheme will take more time. However, Charles believes that it is in the best interest of the U.S. to give him all necessary help in his effort to get rid of President Duvalier who has brought Haiti to the brink of total economic collapse.[2]

2. Charles said that he has rifles and hand grenades hidden "somewhere in Haiti" and that through his good friend Colonel Octave Cayard,[3] commander of the Haitian Coast Guard, three Haitian boats, which carry cannons, will be under his control. Cayard cannot furnish enough ammunition for the cannons, but Charles hopes to obtain the necessary amount from the U.S. Government. He would like to get the ammunition from the U.S. aircraft carrier, BOXER, which has been on duty in the Caribbean area for some time.

3. Besides Cayard, Charles has the support of an unnamed high-ranking Haitian Army officer.[4] Charles and his military and civilian friends plan to set up a provisional junta and get rid of the "enemies of Haiti," that is, Duvalier and his supporters. After the consolidation of power in the hands of the junta, Charles plans to run for President and is convinced that he can win since he has many supporters in Port-au-Prince as well as in the rural areas of Haiti. Charles claims that he "controls" the Catholic and Episcopal clergy, teachers and students, several businessmen, and key militiamen in the rural areas who are waiting for his signal to overthrow the present regime.

Ref Memo to Legal dated 16 May 1967 - (Enclosure-1) Capt. Walter Heaven

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AID	CIA	FBI 2
		CINCSO #						I&NS

(Note: Field distribution indicated by "#".) (Also sent

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

(MSG (Unit) EYES ONLY-1)

CA/INT	2	WH/7/Mt	4	WHIC/MO	1			TX-1176
CA/PROP	1	WH	2	WHIC/WAVE	1			NP
								(MMS)
WH/R	1	WHIC/FI	1	WH/	CINCSO 1			
		WHIC/CA	1					

TOTALS IH 2, CI 2, FI 3, CA 3, WH/COO 3 (1), WH 5 (2), DO/H 1.

LIAISON *

COORDINATING

RELEASING HK WLV/BEB DLG

4. Charles has stated that should he become President of Haiti, he would pursue a pro-U.S. policy, eliminating the Duvalierists and the Communists and establishing a "liberal democratic" regime.

5. Charles still is pretending to be a loyal supporter of Duvalier; however, his position has become shaky and he believes that his life is in danger. He feels that he may fall victim to Duvalier unless he (Charles) strikes first. For the time being, Charles will continue to support Duvalier in an effort to allay the President's suspicions. As president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, Charles soon will deliver a speech praising the achievements of Duvalier. He is anxious for the U.S. to know that his overtures toward Duvalier are pretense and that he is determined to go into action against the present regime.

Headquarters Comments

[redacted] from another reliable source, reported that Charles and Herve Boyer, former Minister of Finance under Duvalier, were contending for power in the Haitian Government.

1. In the past several months, Charles has made numerous attempts to elicit support from several U.S. Government agencies for his plot against the Duvalier Government.

2. No reason was given for Charles' belief that it would be in the best interest of the U.S. to support his scheme to overthrow Duvalier. However, he may be referring to his claim that should he become President of Haiti following the overthrow of Duvalier, he intends to pursue a pro-U.S. policy and establish a "liberal democratic" regime.

3. [redacted] Cayard, who enjoys the confidence of Duvalier, is a secret ally of Charles.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Further Plans of Clemard Joseph Charles To Overthrow the Haitian Government, His Military Supporters and His Bids For Support from Haitian Exiles	DATE DISTR.	8 June 1967
		NO. PAGES	3
		REFERENCES	

1. Clemard Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, claims that since Maj. Coicou (fnu),[1] a close friend, has replaced Capt. Harry Tassy in the Presidential Guard, he (Charles) now has an access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the Palace and is in a position to carry out a coup against President Francois Duvalier "in the near future." Although no definite date has been set yet for the coup, Charles is convinced that it must be carried out "within the next few months" to save Haiti from economic and political chaos. Charles, and especially his military friends, feel that 1967 is the year of decision.

2. Although Col. Pierre-Louis (fnu),[2] commander of the Dessalines Barracks, was not named as a fellow-conspirator, Charles believes that Pierre-Louis knows of and approves his plans to overthrow Duvalier, and that he (Charles) "controls" the Dessalines Barracks through Pierre-Louis. Col. Octave Caillard is one of the key military figures on whom Charles pins his hopes. Caillard is thoroughly disillusioned with Duvalier and is willing to cooperate. Caillard fears that if Duvalier remains in power, Haiti's economy will be completely ruined and Haitian exiles receiving guerrilla training in Cuba may attempt to seize power in Haiti.

3. Charles has the support of Capt. Preval (fnu),[3] of the Presidential Guard, and realizes that high-ranking officers loyal to Duvalier could cause bloodshed; Charles and his associates expect violence during the initial stages of the coup.

4. In addition to ships of the Haitian Coast Guard, Charles now has the use of a 352-ton converted landing craft (LC) which normally sails between Jamaica and Port-au-Prince carrying flour, fuel oil, etc.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AEC	CCS	FBI 8
		CINCSO 5						

(Note: Field distribution indicated by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CI/IC	1	AF/3&5/R	2	WHIC/FI	1			TX-1188
CI/OP/WR	1	WH/R Files	1	WHIC/CA	1			WRS
		WH/R	1	WHIC/MO	1			(HQS; EYES ONLY)
CA/INT	2	WH/7/Hti	1	WHIC/WAVE	1			
CA/PROP	1	WH/	1	WH/ (CINCSO)	1			

TOTALS HE 2, CI 4, FI 3, CA 2, AF 2, WH/COG 3 (1), WR 5 (2), Do 1.

LIAISON

CI/OA

WH/7/Hti

FORM NO. 1 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

5. Charles had no contact with Haitian exile groups until early May 1967, when he sent an emissary to New York City to talk to Louis Sansaricq, a prominent anti-Duvalier exile, whose entire family was killed by Duvalier's henchmen. Sansaricq agreed to support Charles in a final showdown with Duvalier and promised to line up some of his fellow exiles to support Charles. A close friend of Charles was planning to go to New York in mid-May 1967 ostensibly to discuss port development projects in Port-au-Prince with a U.S. construction firm; however, the real purpose of the trip is to contact Haitian exiles to gain their support for Charles.

6. On 19 May 1967, a group of prominent Haitian exiles held a meeting in New York City to celebrate Haitian Flag Day. One of the organizers of the meeting was Dr. Jumelle (fnu),[4] a medical doctor whose brother was a former Haitian Minister of Finance and who was killed by Duvalier. Another exile who attended the meeting was Vixamar (fnu)[5] who claims to be a legal advisor to the Republic of Chad and who said that he was going to be the next president of Haiti. The group of Haitian exiles, believed to call itself the "National Organization of Haitian Exiles", has some members who back Charles.

7. Following are prominent Haitians who Charles believes must be eliminated after the coup:

   a. Col. Gracia Jacques of the Presidential Guard - Jacques, who is no longer blindly loyal to Duvalier, will be needed in the execution of the coup, and can be bought; however, once power is in the hands of a military junta and Charles, Jacques will be eliminated.

   b. Luc Desir, head of the Tonton-Macoute.

   c. Clovis Desinor, Minister of Finance - an "anarchist" with presidential aspirations who has an "underground movement in Haiti."

   d. Gen. Gerard Constant, Chief of Staff.

   e. Col. Jacques Laroche, Deputy Chief of Staff - a "convinced Communist."

8. If the coup is successful, Charles hopes to give Andre Theard, former Haitian Ambassador to the United States, a diplomatic post; Theard is strongly pro-U.S. Charles regards Gerard Philippeaux, Minister of Health, as a very sick man with no further political aspirations.

9. Close friends of Charles are convinced that Charles has no choice but to carry out a coup with or without foreign help, and that his chances of success are good because several of Duvalier's new appointees to key positions are friends of Charles; also, that Charles must act soon because the morale of many of Duvalier's military and civilian supporters has reached an all-time low and because the Haitian Treasury is almost empty.

Headquarters Comments

1. Celcou may be Maj. Serge Celcou.

2. Probably Lt. Col. Luc Pierre-Louis.

3. Another source has identified Preval as Capt. Walter Preval.

4. Probably Dr. Gaston Jumelle.

5. Probably Henri Vixamar.

[redacted] recently reported other plans of Clemard Joseph Charles.

14-00000

SECRET

ACTION 30

WH 3 RID COPY

INFO FILE, VR WHKOOB DO7, RI/HN, FI, EI/INT 3, C1, C1/OPS, DDP ADDP

SECRET 0523062 CITE JMWAVE 7027

DIRECTOR INFO

JMUNION EVLOFT

6 MAY 67 IN 61236

REF DIRECTOR 98664

B. UFGT 19382

1. ON 4 MAY 67, EVLOFT-1 LEARNED FROM CONSUL EUGENE MAXIMILIEN THAT CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES IS IN NEW YORK CITY ATTEMPTING BORROW MONEY ON GOH BONDS. ACCORDING TO MAXIMILIEN, PRESIDENT DUVALIER HAS INSTRUCTED CHARLES TO ADVANCE $50,000 FROM OMA (SOCIAL SECURITY) FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF CARS FOR TOURISM DEPARTMENT. MAXIMILIEN STATED THAT ALTHOUGH OMA SUPPOSEDLY HAS $425,000 IN CASH, CHARLES HAS ALREADY ADVANCED $125,000 AND CANNOT FIND ENOUGH CASH TO MEET DUVALIER'S REQUEST. BECAUSE OF THIS, CHARLES IS SCARED TO RETURN HAITI ESPECIALLY IF PRESENT NEW YORK NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. CHARLES IS ALSO WORRIED THAT HE MAY NOT BE ABLE DEPART HAITI.

2. MAXIMILIEN ALSO SAID THAT FRITZ GREGER, DUVALIER TROUBLE-SHOOTER, NOW IN NEW YORK AND WAS INVOLVED IN COUNTER-FEITING HAITIAN STAMPS AND MONEY AND HAS BEEN BANISHED FROM HAITI. EVLOFT-1 OPINES THAT HIS STORY FALSE AND GREGER

SECRET

201-357029

ACTUALLY IN NEW YORK OBTAIN INFO HAITIAN EXILES. SECRET

3. JMWAVE FORWARDING UNDER REF B COPY OF DOCUMENT PREPARED BY PRESIDENT OF BANK OF HAITI, ANTONIO ANDRE, FOR TREAGER BROS AND ASSOCIATES, MIAMI EXPORTERS, WHICH OUTLINES FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HAITI AS OF 26 DECEMBER 1966. EVLOFT-1 OBTAINED DOCUMENT FROM TRAEGER BROS WITH WHOM HE HAS PERSONAL CONTACT. TRAEGER BROS APPARENTLY APPROACHED FOR HELP IN PROPOSED $2 MILLION BOND ISSUE, BUT HAS NOT RESPONDED. THE DOCUMENT WAS PASSED TO STATION ON 4 MAY.

4. INDEX CHARLES, GREGER, ANDRE.

S E C R E T SECRET

BT

SECRET

4 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : [redacted]
Clemard Joseph CHARLES

[redacted]

Signed, re Clemard Joseph CHARLES.

2. Today the DCS Headquarters received the following teletype from [redacted] DCS representative, from Luis A. BRUN, President of B&B International Corporation, New York City.

A. Haiti's financial situation is now catastrophic. All efforts by President DUVALIER to attract foreign capital have failed. Domestic financial resources exploited through threats, extortion, etc. are rapidly drying up and unless the Government receives foreign help, it faces complete financial ruin.

B. In another effort to raise money abroad, DUVALIER gave permission to Banker Clemard Joseph CHARLES to visit the United States and contact his business friends there. (See Cases 40570 & 40576). CHARLES' visit to the U.S. is scheduled on or about 9 May 1967, at which time he will contact his business partner, Joseph DRYER, in Miami.

C. According to BRUN, CHARLES also plans to go to Washington where he wants to tell "U.S. Government officials in strict confidence that he is ready and able to overthrow DUVALIER's regime provided he receives U.S. help." BRUN will fly to Miami to meet CHARLES and will, in turn, tell [redacted] about the results of CHARLES' efforts.

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201-357029

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3. There is a possibility that CHARLES will also come to New York City. If he does, BRUN and Capt. [redacted] will discuss the latest developments with him.

4. During the past few days, CHARLES and BRUN have been in almost daily telecommunications, ostensibly discussing business matters. Using certain code words previously agreed upon in person, CHARLES is able to tell BRUN about the recent situation in Haiti without arousing the suspicions of Haitian phone censorship. Parts of the information contained in Paragraph 1 was received from CHARLES by BRUN during their tele-conversation on 25 April 1967.

[redacted]

[redacted] stated she would obtain copies of the DCS reports referred to in Para. 2-B above and call the Haiti Desk on 27 April 1967.

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3 May 1967

Requirements for [redacted] Clemard Joseph Charles

A. Basic Points To Be Stressed:

1. The U.S. Government cannot make any commitment of support to Clemard Joseph Charles.

2. Clemard Charles should not infer, imply or boast of U.S. support in his attempts to gain support for his project. The U.S.G. does not wish to be accused of overthrowing other governments.

3. Charles should be told, however, that any information concerning his plans, intentions and movements will not under any circumstances be divulged to the GOH nor to other countrymen of his.

4. [redacted] and his friends are definitely interested in Charles' activities and information he can provide relative to the situation in the latter's country.

B. Specific Requirements Relative to His Plans Since he Claims to Have Certain Capabilities:

1. What elements or groups within the GOH, the military and police do you have actually committed to your plan of overthrowing Papa Doc (Duvalier)?

2. Give the strength of each group? Names of leaders?

3. When do you plan to execute your project?

4. How do you intend to handle the situation with regard to the Presidential Guard, the Dessalines troops and the police in Port au Prince?

5. In the execution of your scheme what is the extent of violence foreseen?

6. What connection do you have with exiles and where?

7. In case you decide to act would you notify Mr. Brun beforehand?

SECRET

14-00000

C. Other Requirements:

1. What is the true evaluation of Papa Doc's health?

2. Who are his personal doctors?

3. In view of the deteriorating economy of the country do you think Papa Doc will step down and depart?

4. What is the reason or circumstances for the recent dismissals and transfers of junior officers within the military?

5. In a struggle for power what would be the situation between Lt Col Max Dominique and Luc Fourcard? Are these two individuals part of your scheme?

6. What part would Gracia Jacques, Luc Desir, Clovis Deminor, Gerard Philippeaux and General Constant play in case Papa Doc goes or there is a power struggle?

7. What part would the people outside of Port au Prince play in an attempt of an overthrow? What groups in the interior and other cities would begin fighting each other at this juncture?

14-00000

SECRET

1 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT [redacted] Clemard Joseph CHARLES

1. At 1430 hours the DCS Hqs. representative [redacted] relayed the following message received [redacted] from the DCS New York office, [redacted]

2. The "EARL" referred to in my previous message is Earl SMITH, former U.S. Ambassador to Cuba and a friend of the KENNEDYS. SMITH, who was approached by Joseph DRYER, florida businessman, to take Haitian banker Clemard Joseph CHARLES to the State Department, refused to do so. In turn, DRYER contacted Paul ROGERS, Congressman from Florida, who agreed to talk with Senator Ted KENNEDY. According to Luis A. EBRUN, KENNEDY agreed to make an appointment for CHARLES at the State Department.

3. Last night (presumably 30 April), CHARLES flew from Port au Prince to New York City. He is staying at the Lincoln Square Motor Inn, Suite 1002-1003, SU-7-6800, until Wednesday (3 May) when he plans to go to Washington and Miami.

4. Also, last night, Luc Albert FOUCARD, son-in-law of President DUVALIER who is Minister of Tourism, and his wife arrived in New York City. They are staying at the Waldorf Asteria, EL 5-3000.

5. Allan COLTON, part owner of Haiti International Leather Corp, Port au Prince, a Canadian national who requested an interview with Capt. HALOG, flew back to Haiti yesterday. He told us (DCS) that his efforts to sell Haitian treasury bonds in the United States and Canada were unsuccessful.

[redacted]

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25 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Melville Osborne
ARA/CAR
Department of State

Per our telephone conversation, there follows a copy of the message from Ambassador TIMMONS, dated 22 April 1967, concerning Clemard Joseph CHARLES:

"As Department and CIA Washington are well aware, CHARLES has inordinate ambitions and has several times in past taken similar line. In my judgment he is again fishing to see if he can attract some form of U.S. Government support. We are most circumspect here in dealing with CHARLES and I am sure Washington is handling in same fashion. Ambassador asks this message be shown to LONG AND OSBORNE, ARA/CAR, State."

Original & 1 - addressee
1 - WH/7/Haiti Chrono
Clemard Joseph CHARLES 201

SECRET

201-357029

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24 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [redacted] CLemard Joseph CHARLES

1. At 1500 hours, 21 April 1967 [redacted] Domestic Contact Service, [redacted] called the undersigned to inform the Haiti Desk of comments made on a teletype message from their DCS representative [redacted] interviewed a U.S. businessman who travels frequently in Latin American (later identified as Luis BRUN), on conditions in Haiti. [redacted] had teletyped the report to DCS Headquarters, and had added the following comment at the end of the report.

"On 20 April, [redacted] interviewed the source (BRUN). The source visited Port au Prince during the latter part of February 1967 and spent one week as the guest of CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES (President of the Commercial Bank of Haiti). Source, who maintains telephone and cable contact with CHARLES, is convinced the latter (CHARLES) has decided with his unnamed Army friends, to overthrow President DUVALIER now. Source says CHARLES had asked his U.S. business partner, Joseph DRYER, Palm Beach, Florida (Home phone: 655-2610; Business phone: 832-6331) and another person identified as "EARL" (probably Earl O. FINNEY, AID official) to get in touch with the U.S.State Department before the end of this week. "EARL", who is supposed to have influential friends at the State Department, will try to persuade the U.S. Government that CHARLES, who has presidential aspirations, now has the power and determination to get rid of DUVALIER. CHARLES, who now fears for his life, sent his son to New York City a few weeks ago for a medical checkup and advised him to remain in the U.S."

2. [redacted] then referred to Paragraph 6 of the intelligence report which contained the following question and answer:

Question: What is your assessment of youths, their political orientation or lack of one and their general outlook for the future?

SECRET

Source Anwer: Students, as well as educated persons, listen regularly to two foreign radio broadcasts -- one emanating from the United States and one from Cuba. The Cuba station, which emphasizes Communist ideology, appears to be popular with the intelligencia and students while the "man-in-the street" prefers the U.S. broadcasts.

3. [redacted] then commented regarding paragraph 2 above as follows:

"The radio station mentioned above is located somewhere in Massachusetts, according to our source and his Haitian friends in New York City. The believe it is a CIA operation."

4. Clemard Joseph CHARLES' Army friends mentioned above may possibly include Jacques LAROCHE, Deputy Chief of Staff.

5. At 1630 hours, the undersigned contacted [redacted] to obtain additional information from [redacted] concerning his interview with BRUN. Unfortunately, [redacted] put the above message on the teletype and then departed for the weekend and will not be available for recontact until Monday, 24 April 1967.

[redacted]

Distribution:
Original - 201-357029
1 - WH/7/Haiti Memo file
1 - 36-9-10

INDEX: ☐ YES ☒ NO
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X-REF TO FILE NO.
FILE SID ☐ RET. TO BRANCH ☒
DESTROY ☐ SID FILE
FROM W. Tehmel
22

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE F TOTAL COPIES 40

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SECRET 2215222 CITE [redacted]

PRIORITY DIRECTOR

REF: DIRECTOR 95076

22 Apr 67 51252

AM/CA	[illegible]	FILE
[illegible]	[illegible]	
ABSTRACT	X	[illegible]

1. REF SHOWN TO AMBASSADOR MORNING 22 APRIL.

2. FOLL FROM AMBASSADOR: AS DEPT AND WOFACT WASHINGTON WELL AWARE, CHARLES HAS INORDINATE AMBITIONS AND HAS SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST TAKEN SIMILAR LINE. IN MY JUDGMENT HE IS AGAIN FISHING TO SEE IF HE CAN ATTRACT SOME FORM OF USG SUPPORT. WE ARE MOST CIRCUMSPECT HERE IN DEALING WITH CHARLES AND I AM SURE WASHINGTON IS HANDLING IN SAME FASHION.

3. AMBASSADOR ASKS THIS NSG BE SHOWN TO LONG AND OSBORNE, ARA/ CAR, STATE.

SECRET # BEING SERVICED

SECRET

ET

22 APR 67

201-357029

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ORIG: R.LEHMAN:sld
UNIT: WH/7/Haiti
EXT: 5595
DATE: 21 April 1967

MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES: 36

SECRET

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
BY ____ P.B. ____

☐ INDEX ☐ DESTROY ☒ RETURN TO CI/SR BRANCH ☐ FILE DID
☐ NO INDEX ☒ FILE IN CS FILE NO. 201-357029

COMP: WHD ☒ RID COPY
INFO: FILE VR 5041 C3/SGG C3 C3/SOE5 C3/PS
FI FI/SOG FI/INT2 CA2 CA/PEG CA/O4
(classification) (date and time filed) (office) (reference number) (prior)

SECRET 21 23 10Z CITE DIRECTOR 95076

TO PRIORITY

MEXICO

ANTH		FI/ISR
DA		
ABSTRACT		

1. ON 21 APRIL, ANOTHER WOFACT COMPONENT PASSED FOLLOWING INFO RE CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES WHICH OBTAINED FROM SOURCE WHO IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH CHARLES. SOURCE CLAIMS HE SPENT WEEK LATTER PART FEBRUARY AS GUEST CHARLES IN PORT AU PRINCE.

2. SOURCE REPORTED 20 APRIL HE CONVINCED CHARLES HAS DECIDED OVERTHROW DUVALIER NOW WITH AID FROM UNNAMED ARMY FRIENDS. SOURCE STATED CHARLES HAD REQUESTED U.S. BUSINESS PARTNER AND ANOTHER FRIEND TO GET IN TOUCH WITH STATE DEPARTMENT "BEFORE END OF WEEK" TO PERSUADE U.S. GOVT THAT CHARLES NOW HAS THE POWER AND DETERMINATION TO GET RID OF DUVALIER. SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT CHARLES, WHO FEARS FOR HIS LIFE, SENT HIS SON TO NYC FEW WEEKS AGO FOR MEDICAL CHECKUP WITH INSTRUCTIONS REMAIN IN U.S.

3. SOURCE ABOVE INFO NOT AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING PRIOR 24 APRIL. HQS PASSING INFO TO MR. OSBORNE OF STATE DEPT. 21APR67 201-357029

ACOS PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR.

END OF MESSAGE

William V. Broe
C/WHD
RELEASING OFFICER

Paul V. Harwood
C/WH/7
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFYING OFFICER
SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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COPY NO.

14-00000

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION:
- MARKED FOR INDEXING
- NO INDEXING REQUIRED
- ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
- MICROFILM

TO: Chief, WH Division

INFO.:

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Operational/Contact with Clemard Joseph Charles

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES: 201-357029

Reference: [redacted]

1. On 8 January 1967 Subject again made contact with [redacted]. Contact was established through one of Subject's assistants who came to [redacted] home at approximately 1750 hours on 7 April 1967. Subject's assistant asked [redacted] if he would like to borrow some books on the history of Haiti and if so he could go to Subject's home and make a selection. [redacted], in order to stall for time to affect the proper coordination, stated he would be able to proceed to Subject's home the following afternoon at 1600 hours. On the morning of 8 April [redacted] touched base with both the COS and Chief, LINCOLN who agreed that [redacted] should go to see Subject.

2. Subject was expecting [redacted] and apologized to [redacted] for not proceeding to [redacted] home himself but explained that he was afraid [redacted] may have had guests. He proceeded to tell [redacted] that the economy of Haiti was in a deplorable condition and that noone can tell the President what to do. He then left the room and returned a minute later with a copy of "Le Moniteur", the official Haitian newspaper, which, he said, would not be released until sometime the following week. This newspaper stated that the Haitian Government plans to pay for the minting of new silver coins. Subject was very upset because, he stated, the Haitian Government cannot afford such an expense. The newspaper was turned over to LINCOLN.

/continued/

Distribution:
2-Chief, WHD

CS COPY

201-357029

CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE
	HTPA-2011	11 April, 1967
	CLASSIFICATION: SECRET	HQS FILE NUMBER

3. Subject once again reiterated to [redacted] that he was willing to answer any questions. He also stated that he hoped that the outgoing Chief, LaPORTE would inform the incoming Chief, LaPORTE that he is most willing to cooperate with LaPORTE because he believes that the salvation of his country depends on such cooperation.

4. [redacted] Charles appeared much more at ease during this meeting than he did at the previous one. It appeared as though he actually wanted to talk to someone and knew that he could trust RACHFIELD not to leak the conversation to the GOH. RACHFIELD, once again, left the door wide open for future conversations.

[redacted]

14-00000

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION	PROCESSING ACTION
SECRET	MARKED FOR INDEXING
TO: Chief, WH Division	NO INDEXING REQUIRED
INFO.	ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
FRO	MICROFILM

SUBJECT: Summary of LNFURE Traces on Clemard Joseph CHARLES

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Reference: DIRECTOR 85314, 21 March 1967

1. A dark negro about 5'7" tall, Clemard Joseph L. Charles was born at Gonaives, Haiti, on 21 April 1923. According to himself, his father was a professor and his mother a "simple peasant". According to others he is sensitive about his origins and is reported to have changed his name from Canerien because of the connotation of nothingness implied in the name. His father is variously reported to have been a carpenter and a peasant. He received his primary education at the parochial school and graduated from the Lycee Geffrard in Port au Prince in 1939. According to his own account he taught in rural schools, worked as a pathologist, upholsterer, time-keeper, plantation supervisor, and free-lance journalist. In 1947 he was appointed Controller General of Haitian Southern Banana Industry and in 1948 became General Agent. The following year he established himself as Manufacturer's Representative and created his own export and import business. In 1959 he went to London as a member of the Economic Mission of the Haitian Government, and in 1954 negotiated on the Haitian Government's behalf a contract with the General Electric Co., Ltd. of Coventry, England for the modernizing and extending of the telecommunications system of Haiti. He later said that both his ventures into the banana and telecommunications businesses were unsuccessful due to political interference. His success story, according to a U.S. official "apparently hinges on the fact that he feels that he has achieved stature in the community both socially and politically". Charles states that he created the Banque Commerciale d'Haiti (CH) in 1960 and is now the sole owner. The

/Concinued/

Distribution:
2-Chief, WHD

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201-357029

CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE
	HTPA-2005	29 March 1967
	CLASSIFICATION: SECRET	HQS FILE NUMBER

principal officer in Charles' bank when the bank was opened in 1960 with Charles as president was an American citizen in the savings and loan business named Colin (fnu), who was later indicted, convicted and jailed in the United States for using the mails to defraud. Another original partner of the bank, one Gerald P. Connolly, allegedly from Chicago, Illinois has a criminal record and various jail sentences and convictions. Neither Colin or Connolly are currently signatories to the bank, nor partners. The bank is reported to have a very poor portfolio of loans since, according to rumor, the loans have been made to government officials on the basis of their signature and without proper collateral. Besides the bank, he is also full or part owner of several other industrial and commercial enterprises in Haiti and is the sole representative in Haiti of the General Electric Co., Ltd., London England, and the Siemens Schukert Werke, Germany. He is Director of Port Concession (after Mohammud Fayed departed) and also took over the oil refinery concession which originally belonged to Valentine. (Now involved in litigation with Alu over their investment guarantee.)

2. Charles is President of the Chamber of Commerce, and also belongs to several other commercial and civic organizations including the Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Rural Sections of Haiti, the International Club of Commerce of Haiti, the Commerce and Industry Association of New York, and the Rotary Club. (According to a report of March 1967 he was dropped from the last club in 1960 for non-attendance.)

3. In March 1967 he was forced to give up his interest in a number of smaller concerns (Sonafruco, Haitian Tobacco, Haitian International Leather, etc.) but retained his monopoly of the insurance business and the bank as well as his individually owned export-import business.

4. Although it is obvious that Clemard Joseph Charles has been a favorite of President Duvalier, the recent changes in his financial empire indicate a loss of trust. The economy is in such a poor shape that Charles is not making as much out of his enterprises and the money and credit squeeze is hitting him as well as the rest of the more honest businessmen in Haiti. As symbols of past favor Charles has been decorated with the Order of Petion and Boliver (Commander), the Order of Agricultural Merit (Commander), Knight of the National Order "Honor and Merit", Officer of the Labor Order, and Commander of the Civil Merit Order.

5. One well-informed high United States official reported in early 1963 that Charles was a "slippery character" but that some doubt existed concerning his importance or political significance within the regime. A few months after this estimate was made, Charles conversed with a US Embassy official. Throughout their talk he showed an obvious desire to demonstrate his total political disinterest in the past while simultaneously hinting that he could become a political figure in the near future. He made guarded statements about the Duvalier regime, unhesitatingly giving the impression that he was the President's friend, both through desire and necessity, but that he definitely did not agree with some of the government's policies. He attributed his support of the current government to the fact that it would be dangerous for a Haitian to withhold it. The following month (May 1963), on a business trip to the United States, Charles told a former US journalist that he was in a position to become head of a provisional government after Duvalier was removed from the scene. He expressed a belief that the President was ready to institute a reign of terror and that he was willing to accept Soviet aid. In the opinion of the journalist, Charles firmly believed that this was the last chance for the United States to help establish a democratic Haiti, friendly toward the United States, and save the country from a Castro-type Communist takeover. Charles said that although he was on good terms with the President, he felt

/continued/

that he had gone crazy and must be stopped before he liquidated the opposition. Charles talked freely of his wide range of support (peasants; forcibly retired, anti-Duvalier army officers; intellectuals; journalists and businessmen) and of the prominent individuals who were anti-Duvalier and ready to back "my government". He added that if he did not become Provisional President he would be satisfied with the post of Secretary of Finance and Economic Affairs. In addition to his having reached the constitutional age requirement for President (40), Charles gave as another qualification the fact that he was of "100 per cent black origin," noting that only those in this category could win the presidency.

6. Charles said that if he were to be President he would need the "moral and economic help of the US Government and people" to transform Haiti into a true and prosperous democracy. He noted that he would need about a year to put into effect his "plan for the economic and social development of Haiti", which included the following points: creation of a balanced economy adapted to Haitian conditions; and modernization of agriculture. He said that he would like to present this plan to US officials for their consideration.

7. Charles endeavors to attract US venture capital for various Haitian projects and claims to be thoroughly pro-United States. He is reported to be an honorary citizen of the city of Long Beach, Long Island, New York, having promoted a "sister city" relationship with that town and Port au Prince; in 1962 he reportedly received the key to the City of New York. He has visited the United States, the United Kingdom and Western Europe many times on business trips. In July 1964 Charles traveled to Mexico and the United States, ostensibly to discuss the establishment of a sisal cordage factory in Haiti, but in reality to obtain 30 surplus T-28 trainer aircraft. Charles subsequently was reported to be attempting to purchase 24 US surplus naval craft for Haiti's armed forces.

8. He is married to Sophie, nee Lherisson, and has an adopted son.

9. Personality. Charles is generally considered as shrewd but not intelligent. This is borne out by his willingness to cooperate with the international swindler, Mohammed Fayed in a number of money-making schemes which came to a grinding halt when Fayed absconded with an undetermined but large amount of money. He has little sense of economic realities and is apparently sensitive about his knowledge or lack thereof. The Embassy reported in December 1965 that at a meeting Duvalier was holding with Antonio Andre (President of the National Bank of Haiti - BNRH) that Andre should be made to divert some of the "coffee money" from the National Bank to Duvalier's own needs. (Apparently Charles was referring to certain taxes on coffee exports which go to the Bank for debt amortization.) Andre roundly criticized Charles and other self-styled financial and fiscal experts in the Government, and ended by telling Duvalier that if the latter followed the advice of such persons he would wreck Haiti. Charles reportedly burst into tears and was taken ill. This gave rise to the story which was current at the time that he had had a nervous breakdown.

INDEX: ☐ YES ☒ NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. 201-357029
X-REF TO FILE NO.
FILE RID ☐ RET. TO BRANCH ☒
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FROM: #1

ACTION: WE 8

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SECRET 2215222 CITE [redacted]

DIRECTOR

REF: DIRECTOR 85314

1. NO TRACES WOFACT FILES OTHER THAN REF TO REF AND 00-B-3,260,765, 10 MAY 1963.

2. SEE BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER REPORT OF JULY 1964 FOR SUMMARY EMBASSY TRACES. POUCHING ADDITIONAL DETAILS WHICH HOWEVER DO NOT CHANGE PICTURE OF SHREWD UNSCRUPULOUS MONEY MAD PROMOTER WITH UNORTHODOX IDEAS ABOUT BUSINESS AND WITH HIGH POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

SECRET

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SECRET

22 Mar 67
201-357029
Clemard Joseph Charles

14-00000

INDEX: ☐ YES ☐ NO
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DIRECTOR

REF: DIRECTOR 85314

1. NO TRACES WOFACT FILES OTHER THAN REF TO REF AND 00-B-3,260,765, 10 MAY 1963.

2. SEE BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER REPORT OF JULY 1964 FOR SUMMARY EMBASSY TRACES. POUCHING ADDITIONAL DETAILS WHICH HOWEVER DO NOT CHANGE PICTURE OF SHREWD UNSCRUPULOUS MONEY MAD PROMOTER WITH UNORTHODOX IDEAS ABOUT BUSINESS AND WITH HIGH POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

S E C R E T

BT

14-00000

ORIG: M.J.GREMILLION:sld
UNIT: C/WH/7/Haiti
EXT: 5595
DATE: 21 March 1967

MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES: 11

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
BY 25/M PER _____ #_____

☐ INDEX ☐ DESTROY ☐ RETURN TO _____ BRANCH ☐ FILE SID
☐ NO INDEX ☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

CONF: WH 8 ☐ RID COPY

INFO: FILE, VR C/OPS

(classification) (date and time filed) (office) (reference number) (price)

SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR 85314

TO PRIORITY [redacted] 19562

REF: [redacted] (IN 22385)

1. EVMEND-1 RECEIVED WORD CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES DUE ARRIVE NEW YORK 21 OR 22 MARCH. [redacted] CONFIRM SOONEST.

2. REQUEST TRACES ON CHARLES.

END OF MESSAGE

WH COMMENT: Ref describes contact of Clemard CHARLES with [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

CO. NO. 201-257026

14-00000

ORIG:
UNIT: C/WH/7/Haiti
EXT: 5595
DATE: 21 March 1967

MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES: 11

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
BY 25/M FOR ____ #____

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☐ NO INDEX ☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

CONF: WH 5
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INFO: FILE VR C/OPS

(classification) (date and time filed) (cite) (reference number) (prior)

SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR 85314

TO ☐ PRIORITY 21 1958Z

REF: (IN 22365)

1. EVMEND-1 RECEIVED WORD CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES DUE ARRIVE NEW YORK 21 OR 22 MARCH. CONFIRM SOONEST.

2. REQUEST TRACES ON CHARLES.

END OF MESSAGE

WH COMMENT: Ref describes contact of Clemard CHARLES with

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

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SECRET 151634Z CITE [redacted]

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15 MAR 67 22345

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ABSTRACT ✓ INDEX

1. ON 11 MARCH CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES VISITED [redacted] OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS NEEDED REPAIRS. [redacted] AFTER ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES SOCIAL CONVERSATION, CHARLES ASKED [redacted] IF IT POSSIBLE TO PASS A MSG OUT OF CHANNELS DIRECTLY TO CHIEF LNPURE. [redacted] ASKED FOR MSG WITH COMMENT THAT HE WOULD MAKE ATTEMPT BUT COULD NOT SPEAK FOR CHIEF LNPURE. CHARLES SAID MSG NOT READY. [redacted] WHILE CHARLES PREPARED MSG HE WOULD CHECK WITH CHIEF LNPURE. [redacted] THEN REPORTED IMMEDIATELY [redacted] CHIEF LNPURE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED SOONEST. CHIEF LNPURE THEN GAVE HIM PERMISSION ACCEPT MSG.

2. SAME EVENING [redacted] WENT CHARLES' HOME TO PICK UP MSG. CHARLES AGN STATED MSG NOT READY BUT PROCEEDED TELL [redacted]E VERY PRO-WOLADY AND WELL KNOWN HIGH LEVELS LNHARP. CHARLES SAID HE WOULD HAVE MSG READY BY 1000 HOURS FOLLOWING MORNING AND WOULD BRING TO [redacted] HOME.

3. NEXT MORNING CHARLES ARRIVED ON TIME CARRYING RECORD

SECRET

15 Mar 67

201-357029

SECRET

JACKET CONTAINING CONCEALED MANILA ENVELOPE SEALED WITH SCOTCH TAPE. [redacted] STATED THIS PACKAGE NOT IN KEEPING WITH MEANING OF WORD MSG AND HAD NO AUTHORITY TRANSPORT PACKAGE TO CHIEF LNPURE. IN ATTEMPTS MAKE CHARLES REVEAL CONTENTS, [redacted] STATED HE NOT PREPARED TALK AGAIN WITH CHIEF LNPURE UNLESS HE ABLE INFORM CHIEF LNPURE CONTENTS OF PACKAGE. CHARLES STATED PACKAGE CONTAINED REPORT OF COMMERCIAL BANK AND TOBACCO MONOPOLY. [redacted] SET UP ANOTHER MEETING FOR ONE HOUR LATER WITH CHARLES. [redacted] CHIEF LNPURE WHO TOLD HIM TO ACCEPT PACKAGE.

4. WHILE PICKING UP PACKAGE CHARLES MADE ALL OUT PITCH TO IMPRESS [redacted] WITH HIS PRO-VOLADY TENDENCIES. HE TOLD [redacted] E FORCED GO ALONG WITH DUVALIER TO PROTECT HIS TWO AND HALF MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENTS HAITI AS WELL AS PROTECT HIS LIFE. ALSO, JUST PRIOR [redacted] DEPARTURE CHARLES STATED HE WILLING TELL ANYTHING CHIEF LNPURE WANTS TO KNOW. [redacted] LEFT DOOR WIDE OPEN FOR FURTHER CONVERSATIONS.

5. PACKAGE CONTAINED OVERT MATERIAL PLUS TWO MEMOS CHARLES HAD WRITTEN TO DUVALIER POINTING OUT DISCREPANCIES

SECRET

TOBACCO MONOPOLY FUNDS. PAPERS ADDED NOTHING NEW. WILL POUCH COPIES.

6. AS HQS AWARE, CHARLES PRESENTLY IN POWER STRUGGLE WITH HENRI SICLAIT AND RUMOR IS THAT CHARLES LOSING. FROM CONVERSATION [redacted] BELIEVES CHARLES RUNNING SCARED. IT ALSO [redacted] OPINION THAT CHARLES WANTED OPEN CHANNEL TO LNPURE, AND BEING UNSURE TYPE RECEPTION, USED PAPERS OF SOME BUT LITTLE VALUE TO OPEN CONTACT. HOWEVER, WHAT MOST INTERESTING IS NOT VALUE OF ORIGINAL PAPERS BUT FACT HE DID PASS ANYTHING AT ALL PLUS HIS OFFER ANSWER QUESTIONS.

7. CHARLES APPROACHED LNFORT BEFORE. SINCE HE OPPORTUNIST SEEKING REINSURANCE LNHARP AND LNPURE HAVE TAKEN POSITION WILLING TO LISTEN ANY TIME CHARLES WANTS TO TALK BUT NO STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN IN HIS DIRECTION IN HAITI. [redacted] HAS INSTRUCTED [redacted] TO FOLLOW LNPURE PATTERN. HOWEVER [redacted] WILL BE ALERT TO CHARLES EXTERNAL TRAVEL PLANS AND WILL ADVISE HQS AND AFFECTED [redacted] IMMEDIATELY.

SECRET SECRET

BT

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14-00000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Miami, Florida

Instructions: Any handwritten entries shall be in block capital letters. All Spanish names shall be hyphenated with the father's name first and the mother's name following.

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

FILE NO. (If any) UAH

DATE 5-3-67

A-2

The alien listed below has been admitted to the United States under the provisions of Section 101 (a) 15 (A) or Section 101 (a) 15 (G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

FAMILY NAME (Capital Letters)	First Name	Middle Initial
CHARLES	CLEMARD	J.

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
HAITI

UNITED STATES ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)
WALDORF ASTORIA NEW YORK CITY

AIRLINE AND FLIGHT NO. OR VESSEL OF ARRIVAL
PAA 432

Number, Street, City, Province (State) and Country of PERMANENT RESIDENCE
PORT AU PRINCE HAITI

BIRTH DATE	BIRTH PLACE
4-21-23	Gonaives, Haiti

NAI
6 June 67
201-357029*

CHARLES CLEMARD Joseph

DATE AND PLACE OF ADMISSION
4-30-67 Miami, Fla.

PURPOSE AND LENGTH OF ADMISSION
official-dur. of status

DESTINATION
above U.S.

201-357029*

lh

Other agencies are requested to furnish any derogatory subversive information regarding this alien to the F. B. I.

cc: C.I.A.
G-2
O.S.I.
State Dept.
O.N.I.

Deputy Associate Commissioner
Travel Control

02/5/67

FORM I-97
(REV. 6-1-66)

S-E-C-R-E-T

DATE 02/02/67

X-REF. S

X-REF.	SYM. NUMBER	DOC. DATE	CLASSIFICATION
201-337029	HTPA-01900	06 JAN 67	201-808464
	DDB -66019	03 JAN 67	036-009-010
	DDB -66106	03 JAN 67	036-009-006
	DDB -66473	03 JAN 67	036-009-010

THE ABOVE DOCUMENT (S) IS CROSS REFERENCED TO THE 201 FILE CITED UNDER LEFT MARGIN.

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