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CONTACT REPORT

SUBJECTS: LIROBBIN-1 and -2 P-11665

DATE OF MEETING: 14 December 1967

1. LIROBBIN-2 called on 13 December and asked to see me. I consequently met her and LIROBBIN-1 at their apartment from 1035-1140 on 14 December. The next meeting will be arranged by telephone.

2. Pearl GONZALEZ. It turned out that the number one topic Subjects ~~wish~~ wished to discuss was Pearl GONZALEZ, who recently interviewed New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and reported the interview in a front-page article in the 11 December edition of The NEWS. In the article, which is attached, Pearl quoted GARRISON as attacking the CIA as the U.S.'s "fascist alter ego." LIROBBIN-1 said that the article was evidently only a prelude to a major campaign against CIA and the Warren Commission involving Pearl, District Attorney GARRISON, and RAMPARTS magazine. LIROBBIN-1 said that Pearl had only returned to Mexico about a week ago and she wasn't saying too much about the whole business, but that from talking with her he had learned the following facts and fragments:

(a) That Pearl is presently collaborating with RAMPARTS Magazine on the Joel David KAPLAN case. LIROBBIN-1 said he was certain that Pearl's relationship with RAMPARTS began in May of this year when RAMPARTS reporter John RAMSEY (pen name of John RAYMOND) was in Mexico to cover the KAPLAN case. LIROBBIN-1 said that Pearl and RAMSEY were quite friendly when RAMSEY was here and recalled that Pearl had done a series of articles on the ^{in the NEWS}

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KAPLAN case after RAMSEY's sudden and involuntary departure from Mexico. In these articles Pearl repeatedly cited the possibility that the CIA might well be involved in the KAPLAN case because of KAPLAN's uncle's connection^{with} the Agency (i.e., the KAPLAN Fund). (There was considerable correspondence with Headquarters on RAMSEY's visit. LIROBBIN-1's previous reporting on RAMSEY, who according to Pearl has since been fired by RAMPARTS[?] is contained in a Memorandum for the Record dated 3 May 1967.)

(b) That RAMPARTS arranged Pearl's interview with GARRISON and paid for her trip to New Orleans. The reason for this is that RAMPARTS is trying to put together evidence that the KAPLAN case is directly connected with the assassination of President Kennedy. Although Pearl was not at all clear about this, one element in RAMPARTS theory is evidently that KAPLAN was the person who tipped off Castro on the timing of the Bay of Pigs invasion. Because of this, RAMPARTS' theory runs, Senator Robert Kennedy has been exerting (presumably ~~***~~ either directly or through the U.S. Government--and ultimately the U.S. Embassy in Mexico) pressure on the Mexican Government to keep KAPLAN imprisoned.

(c) That RAMPARTS has about six staff reporters working on the story and that one of these reporters sat in on Pearl's interview of GARRISON/

(d) That GARRISON was so impressed by Pearl that he asked her to join his staff (which she declined to do).

(e) That Pearl went on to New York from New Orleans and talked to a famous trial lawyer there about the KAPLAN case.

3. The LIROBBINS' opinion of Pearl is somewhat ambivalent.

On the one hand, they consider her a friend and enjoy her company.

On the other, however, they recognize that she is a very impressionable, left-leaning, and irresponsible person and are concerned about the harm she is doing to her own government. While I am certain they would not want to be responsible for the U.S. Government taking any action against Pearl--such as trying to have her thrown out of Mexico--they nevertheless both suggested that the U.S. Embassy at least protest to Publicaciones Herrerias about her provocative stories appearing on the front page of The NEWS. LIROBBIN-1 added that he understood that either Romulo O'Farrill Sr. or Jr. had considered Pearl's GARRISON article to be too muckrakash to print in NOVEDADES. Yet he permitted it to appear on the front page of The NEWS.

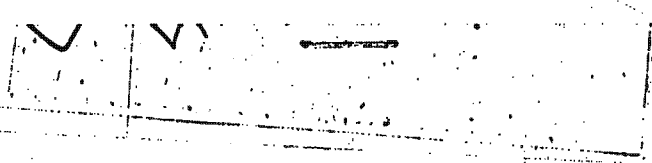
4. SARATOV and SYCHEV. Subjects said they had seen SARATOV and SYCHEV together at the Press Club twice in the past two weeks. SYCHEV was introducing SARATOV around on both occasions and introduced him to Subjects on the first. Subjects chatted with SARATOV both times and found him very friendly and outgoing, but much less aggressive than SYCHEV. Subjects explained that SYCHEV is "outgoing" to the point that he will zero in on someone he has just been introduced to and ask the person so many questions as to literally debrief him on his whole life. SARATOV's English grammar and American accent, according to Subjects, are a little better than SYCHEV's, although SYCHEV uses more American slang and colloquialisms than SARATOV. SARATOV asked Subjects to call him "Ed."

5. Subjects said they were very impressed by SARATOV's seemingly

genuine liking for the United States. While he said nothing about having attended Yale, he spoke enthusiastically of his tour in Washington, of how much he and his wife had liked it there, and of how they had hated to leave. In fact, his wife, he said, had come to like the U.S. so much and become so used to the modern conveniences of life in the United States, that she was having a hard time adjusting to Mexico. SARATOV went on to say that he had traveled all over the United States. When one of Subjects asked him if he had been in Chicago, he replied that he had and he thought it was a great city. Had he been in San Francisco, someone asked. Oh, San Francisco, he answered--he loved San Francisco and would love to live there. New Orleans? Yes, he had had the best time of his life in New Orleans and thought it was a great place. Shortly thereafter, someone asked a question about Moscow (if it had changed much in the last ten years or something similar). In sharp contrast to his enthusiastic comments on the United States, SARATOV brushed off the question by replying uninterestedly that he hadn't been back to Moscow for two and a half years and in the last ten years really hadn't seen much of Moscow at all. Subjects noted that SARATOV made only one other reference to the USSR in the two times they talked with him (see next paragraph) and that he avoided political topics completely.

6. SARATOV mentioned that he had specialized in languages in school and had worked as a guide in the USSR "for Americans and Latin Americans," because "those two languages" were his "specialty." (Since Subjects spoke ~~with SARATOV~~ with SARATOV in English, they have not heard him speak Spanish.)

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7. Subjects said that Kathy MANJARREZ (P-12800) had mentioned to them that SARATOV had come into the Press Club alone on the evening of 12 December.

8. PRIKHODKO. Subjects had PRIKHODKO to dinner with a small crowd of other guests on the evening of Monday, 11 December. PRIKHODKO didn't arrive until 2130 or 2200 and explained that he had had to attend a "reception" (no mention of where) beforehand. Although LIROBBIN-2 specifically asked him to bring his wife, he as usual, showed up without her. When LIROBBIN-2 asked where his wife was, he smiled blandly and said, "She's at home. She likes it there." The only guest PRIKHODKO showed any particular interest in was a Brit by the name of Denny JACOBSON. JACOBSON, according to LIROBBIN-2, came to Mexico about 6-8 months ago and works for IBM here. LIROBBIN-2 said that JACOBSON is a friend of Jose (Pepe) ANGULO, and like ANGULO, is a homosexual. Subjects said that PRIKHODKO spent a good hour and a half or more talking with JACOBSON off to one side. After PRIKHODKO left (about 0130), JACOBSON told LIROBBIN-1 that PRIKHODKO had asked him to demonstrate some IBM machines for him. JACOBSON implied to LIROBBIN-1 that he had agreed to demonstrate the machines. (The 1967-68 Anglo-American Directory carries the following listing: *JACOBSON, Denny P. (BR.). IBM Area del Caribe, Reforma 185, 5^a piso, z. 5. Tel. 66-15-55. Apdo 30-535. Res. Biarritz 16-2, Col. Juarez, z. 6. Tel. 25-84-79.)

9. Subjects also saw PRIKHODKO on two other occasions since I last talked with them:

(a) At Pearl GONZALEZ's home on Thanksgiving evening

(23 November). As she did last year, Pearl had a big Thanksgiving dinner to which she invited PRIKHODKO, the LIROBBINS, and a number of people from the Press Club. Subjects said the evening was uneventful.

(b) At Benno LIEBERMANN's Folkloric Association on the evening of 9 December. This was Russian (or Ukrainian) night at the Association and PRIKHODKO was there with various members of the Ukrainian Ice Ballet troupe. Subjects recalled that about a year ago LIEBERMANN had tried to get Soviet Embassy cooperation for a Russian night, but had always been put off (see CR report of 9 Jan 1967). Subjects said they didn't know how LIEBERMANN and the Soviets had finally managed to get together.

10. Although not previously reported, LIROBBIN-1 told me in November that he and LIROBBIN-2 had attended the celebration of the October Revolution at the Soviet Embassy on 7 November. LIROBBIN-1 had told me that nothing of any special interest had occurred and LIROBBIN-2 confirmed this on 14 December.

11. I told Subjects to take advantage of any opportunities to become friendly with SYCHEV and especially SARATOV, since it looks as though they may be seeing these two Soviets at the Press Club from time to time. I specifically suggested that they invite SYCHEV and SARATOV the next time they invite PRIKHODKO to a party. I told them that while they obviously could not drop PRIKHODKO, we were nonetheless more interested in SYCHEV and SARATOV and would like to have them at least be on good terms with either or both of these Soviets when the time came for PRIKHODKO to leave Mexico (which Mrs. PRIKHODKO has said they will do sometime in 1968).

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