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SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting Chief, Personnel Security Division

DATE: 25 February 1960

FROM : Deputy Chief, Clearance Branch

RETURN TO CIA
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#112569

Reference is made to your query of 19 February as to whether Subject, a Career Agent, grade GS-12, would be eligible for employment as a staff employee, contract employee or independent contractor. The record on Subject for the moment in the Office of Security is a covert file which has been reviewed at your request.

Subject has had a covert affiliation with the Agency since 1949. He is 37 years of age and native born of native born parents. After withdrawing from high school in June 1940, he enlisted in the US Army in August 1940. He served in the Army Air Corps as an intelligence specialist until discharged in July 1945. He returned to Panama to marry his wife in December 1945 (he met her at an Army post exchange while stationed in the Panama Canal Zone in 1943). He was employed as a civilian laborer by the US Naval Air Station at Coco Solo, Canal Zone during the winter of 1945-46, re-enlisting in the USAF as an Intelligence NCO in April 1946. Upon completion of his enlistment in the USAF in 1949 he was recruited by this Agency serving in [redacted] Cuba and currently in Mexico. He was granted a high school diploma in 1948 on the basis of GED tests, and attended universities in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Cuba working towards a B.A. degree in economics. He was brought to the US for training in basic tradecraft during the autumn of 1953.

Favorable National Agency record checks and a check of RI were completed on Subject in September 1954. A favorable background investigation and a re-check of National Agency records was completed in May 1957. The AGO check indicated that Subject had been granted a Secret clearance by the Caribbean Air Command on 18 May 1948 on the basis of a limited investigation. RI checks at this time were not derogatory. A check of source K on Subject, his alien spouse and some of his alien in-laws developed information covered below. Both Subject and his wife were given favorable polygraph interviews in April and May 1958.

When Subject married in December 1945, he acquired an alien wife and numerous alien in-laws, all Costa Rican nationals. Subject's wife, whose maiden name was Argentina CORDERO Calderon, was born 15 March 1918 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Her parents were born in Costa Rica and are deceased, her father since 1942 and her mother since 1956. Her grandmother was born in Germany. She has nine siblings one of whom died as a child. She

SECRET

attended school until 1933. She was married to a Pedro Marzál a wholesale pharmaceutical supplier and Spanish national from November 1939 to December 1940. In February 1941, Marzál married a younger sister of Subject's wife, Gladys. At one time during World War II, Marzál was included on American and British proclaimed lists as a Nazi sympathizer and in May 1944 was jailed by Costan Rican authorities on charges of adulterating drug products. He left Costa Rica in 1946 with Subject's sister-in-law. The field reported in August 1959 that Pedro & Gladys Marzál have been residing in Spain.

After her divorce ^{from her first husband} in December 1940, Subject's wife worked in local cantinas in San Jose, Costa Rica until May 1942 when she went to Panama. She worked at three different post exchanges in the Panama Canal Zone until October 1943. She then worked at various cantinas in Colon, Panama as a cashier and bartender until Subject returned to Panama to marry her in 1945. In 1944, Army Intelligence ran an extensive investigation on her after it was alleged that she was sympathetic to Germany and was attempting to elicit information from servicemen across the bar. The allegation was proven baseless although it was developed that she could speak and understand German, thought German men would make fine husbands and disliked most American men because of their immorality. For a period of a several months during 1944-1945 Subject's wife and a younger sister were part of a dance troupe composed of a stateless Russian, his stateless ^{Russian} wife and themselves. Since her marriage to Subject, her interests have been primarily domestic. She completed a beautician's course in Havana, Cuba, 1957-1958 and has worked as a beautician in Mexico City to the present.

With regard to the siblings of Subject's wife, a report of the Military Attache, American Embassy, San Jose, Costa Rica made in November 1944 characterized one of Subject's brothers-in-law, Antonio, as being a sex pervert and morphine addict. He was reported by the field in August 1959 to have been jailed on a robbery charge. Another brother-in-law, Mario, may have been a member of the Communist Party of Costa Rica. He is presently self-employed as a shoemaker and living in a house owned by Subject and his wife in suburban San Jose, Costa Rica. Mario had been a staunch supporter of the Calderon party in power in Costa Rico, 1944-1948 which comprised a coalition of liberals, socialists and Communists. At the time of the 1947-1948 Revolution in Costa Rica, however, Mario fought with the Communist forces. In June 1959, the Agency was considering the possibility of recruiting Mario. The field reported in August 1959 that Mario is being regularly visited by Communists who leave printed propaganda with him. In its August 1959 report, the field reported that a third brother-in-law, Azdrual is currently employed as a shoemaker in a San Jose shop owned by a Communist. Azdrual is also reported to be sympathetic to Communism.

WH Division advises that Subject's operational capability and achievements are outstanding and point out that he received a personal commendation from the DDCI for his services on behalf of the Agency during early 1959 when he contacted Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra mountains of Cuba.

It is the hope of WH Division that a tour in the United States will enable his wife to become an American citizen. Reports from the field also indicate that Subject's wife is witting of his work and at one time in [redacted] made his agent contacts for him when he was sick. 16-15

In light of the information presented above, it is not believed that Subject is eligible for staff employment or contract Type A employment. It is conceivable, however, that Subject could be utilized as an independent contractor with access to information classified through SECRET, provided his future usefulness to WH Division would not be nullified by an overt association with this Agency. It is recommended that WH Division be so advised.

Erwin W. Umbach
Erwin W. Umbach

Because of subject's wife and to information on her brothers subject does not meet staff standards. Unless an exception is made because of past service, this would bar him from duty in headquarters as a staff employee, contract employee, or independent contractor. Recommend OTR be so informed.

*← Donam - No exception.
RFBarnom
2 Mar 60*

*W. O. Volume
2/26/60*

*Concur
Charles C. G.../PPS
5/16/60*

*It may be possible to utilize the subject outside of official installations in some contract capacity - but no access to official premises.
RFBarnom*