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20 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Covert Action Staff

SUBJECT : Edward G. Tichborn (P)

1. On 11 May I contacted Tichborn (P) in Los Angeles. Following the suggestion that Mr. Collins had made, I queried him as to his availability to work with some of our Cubans. I pointed out to him that there was a Cuban government in exile forming and that we were trying to keep tabs on it and hoped to be able to steer it along lines which we thought to be in the best interest to the United States. In this connection I said that we had a North American who was more or less handling the operation and trying to guide them as best he could, however, we felt that it might be highly desirable to interject him into the picture because of his background and language capability. I went on to point out to him that it was obviously an extremely difficult task to get the Castro opposition to agree to one coordinated program, etc. I told him that it was our hope that if a government in exile were formed, it would include all segments of the Castro opposition and that we were pulling strings to see to it that it was not formed in the United States. I told Tichborn (P) that we did not envisage that he would have to work permanently with this group but rather that he would be available from time to time to discuss with them and to act as an auditor of their problems as well as a mentor in their operation, etc.

2. Tichborn (P) said that he would be very glad to do this for us and thought he would be able to find the time. The only question that arose in his mind was the fact that he will soon be actively engaged in the Democratic campaign, perhaps on a full time basis. This obviously raises a security problem as if it were to become known that we were working with the Castro opposition, it might reflect unfavorably on whoever he was supporting politically in this country. It was left that he would give some serious thought to this problem and let me know as soon as he made up his mind definitely one way or the other whether he would be willing and available to work with the government in exile on a spot basis from time to time.

(Signature)
 Horace W. Davis
 Chief
 Political Action Division

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