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Agency Information

AGENCY : BUCHEN/DAN
RECORD NUMBER : 178-10003-10345

RECORD SERIES : CORRESPONDENCE

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CORRESPONDENCE--WHITE HOUSE INTERNAL (4)

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : WH
FROM : FORD, GERALD R.
TO : BUCHEN, PHIL

TITLE :

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection
Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 53244 Date: 06-12-2017

DATE : 03/10/1975
PAGES : 2

SUBJECTS :

ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES
ASSASSINATIONS, FOREIGN LEADERS
CIA
CONSPIRACY THEORIES, CASTRO
FORD, GERALD R.
WARREN COMMISSION
WARREN COMMISSION, INFORMATION WITHHELD FROM

DOCUMENT TYPE : MEMORANDUM
CLASSIFICATION : Top Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1B; 1C
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/28/1993

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :

4

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

178-10003-10345

March 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

In the intelligence evaluation currently underway, both in the Congress and in the Executive Branch, I would be grateful if you would direct special attention to two areas that have raised questions in my mind. Please assemble this information independently and provide it personally to me, together with your recommendations.

The first matter relates to the Warren Commission. You will recall that Bill Colby mentioned to me certain assassination attempts, sponsored by the Agency, on Castro. As I recall, this conflicts with what I recall was some of the information furnished to the Warren Commission. The Warren Commission, as I remember, addressed this question to see what, if any, relationship there may have been to attempts on Castro, which would cause retaliation against Kennedy. If you could review the record in the Warren Commission on this point, it would be helpful. As I remember, those of us on the Commission got the impression the Agency has never engaged in such activities *against*

*withheld
1/75*

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Castro. Dave Belan might be able to shed some light on this entire question and I would be interested as to his recollection on this subject.

The second area in which I would like you to get some additional information is on the Azorian-Matador Project. When did it begin? What is the relationship with Hughes? I first learned of this program after I was well into my Vice Presidential term. In fact, Admiral Anderson of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board suggested that I raise it with the Agency when I visited there. There was only one short briefing and that did not go into the background of the project which I understood had originated several years ago. The briefing also did not go into cover arrangements in any depth.

Since becoming President, I have focused more on the status and operation of this project, rather than the details of how it was put together. Perhaps it might be well for you to establish just what has been the relationship of the Agency to Howard Hughes down through the years. Have there been other programs and projects which have run through him or his organization?

I would be grateful for your suggestions and guidance as to how you think we should proceed once you have assembled the information I have requested.