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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

012387

FROM: BETSY PALMER *BP*

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 1978

SUBJECT: FBI File Review - Luis Conte Aguero

On October 4, 1978, I completed the review of the five volume file on Luis Conte Aguero. Pertinent information on Augero is outlined below.

Volume 1 - #105-86025, Section 1, Serials 1-35

1. #105-86025-2
April 8, 1960
Airtel to Director from SAC, Miami

Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero, news commentator for Havana station CUQ, arrived Miami, April 6, 1960, having sought refuge in Argentine Embassy, Havana, prior to departure. Is becoming an exile in order to write and speak the truth about Cuba. Says Castro is not a communist but a prisoner of pro-communists. Informant says Conte is a Castro plant in the U.S. Miami says it unusual for exile to blast Castro prior to his family's safe arrival in U.S. Conte's wife and child to arrive in about a week.

2. #105-86025 -
April 27, 1960
Memo to Director from SAC, WFO (97-1354)
Subject: The Fair Play for Cuba Committee

Informant says one Roberto (LNU) requested that the Cuban Foreign Ministry furnish him biographical information on Manuel Beaton and Conte Aguero to write articles about these persons on the "Fact Sheet". Information on Conte: Head of Public Relations Department of Cuban Foreign Ministry described Conte as a traitor to his country. Said Conte's allegations against Cuba were copied word for word from assertions of the White Rose organization. After Batista was ousted, Conte was devoid of all influence and tried to reestablish friendship with Castro and Castro was generous enough to forgive him. Says Conte is presently attempting to be placed in charge of anti-Cuban programs on Voice of America.

Same informant says that Robert Taber (a FPCC member) has made trips to Havana to confer with Castro.

3. #105-86025-9
June 9, 1960
Interview of Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero Conducted in
New York by Lawrence H. Bracken on 5/23/60

Bracken feels Conte exhibits good potential as a possible informant. Conte advised: DPOB July 6, 1924, Santiago, Cuba. Received Doctor in Philosophy from University of Havana 1948. Met Fidel Castro while in university. Broadcast his first attack against Communists in general on March 12, 1960. Came under attack by the Communist Party and eventually by Raul and then Fidel Castro. He then sought refuge in Argentine Embassy. He is writing a book entitled "The Two Faces of Castro" to be published by Robet Speller and Sons.

4. #105-86025-14
September 14, 1960
New York Report of Lawrence H. Bracken
Subject: Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero

Conte has formed "The Christian Humanist Front" in New York -- an anti-Castro organization. Informant estimates membership of 600 in New York. Plan a weekday radio broadcast in New York City. Program cancelled by the station because of foul language heard in background during one of the broadcasts. Conte moved to Miami circa September 1960.

5. #105-86025
October 26, 1960
Report from Miami - William W. Craddock
Title: Frente Anticomunista Cristiano (FAC)

Pedro Diaz Lanz advised on 8/8/60 that his group, Cuban Constitutional Crusade and Conte's Christian Anti-Communist Front joined in Alliance for Liberation. They wish to be recognized by the FRD and be utilized in future Anti-Castro campaigns.

6. October 3, 1961
Airtel to Director from SAC, Miami

Conte participating in 20-car caravan from Miami to Washington, D. C. to protest Castro's execution of April invasion army prisoners. Participants plan to picket Office of Committee of Human Rights.

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7. #105-86025
May 21, 1962
Memo to Director from SAC, New York
Subject: Christian Anti-Communist Front (CACF)

CACF no longer with CRC - left in February 1962 shortly after Foreign Ministers meeting in Uruguay in late June 1962. Conte, head of CACF, had created scandals while there and ordered to leave after he gave his scheduled speech. (Information comes from Dr. Ernesto Aragon, secretary to Dr. Jose Miro Cardona, President of CRC).

Aragon says Conte continues to have CIA sponsorship for his radio broadcasts which are beamed into Cuba through the facilities of radio station WWRL in New York City.

Volume 2
File #105-86025, Section 2, Serials 36- open

1. #105-124386-5
April 7, 1965
Memo to Director from SAC, Miami
Subject: Sentinels of Liberty - Dr. Luis Conte Aguero, Leader

Conte head of Sentinenals of Liberty. Tapes broadcasts nightly for WRUL, New York. Reportedly receives salary of \$3,000 per month. Also has publication entitled Centinela de la Libertad -- three issues which have appeared contain photos of Cuban exiles engaged in military training but individuals belong to many groups and not Sentinels of Liberty, although that is impression Aguero gives.

Volume 3
#105-86025 - Enclosure to Serial #43
An Analytical Summary Search, June 7, 1971 by Barbara J. Donlin - 59 pages of document references. No notes taken.

Volume 4
Section # Sub A
Newspaper clippings and wire service stories. No notes taken.

Volume 5
Miscellaneous References

1. April 14, 1959
Memo to Director from Legat, Havana
Subject: Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz

Concerning Castro's trip to United States, some of his entourage is listed -- among whom is "Ernesto Betancourt, former head of July 26 Movement in Washington. He was formerly a PSI for the Washington Field Office.