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V = Varona
Leslie Witzelman

OFFICE OF SECURITY - VARONA FILE- SUMMARY

I. Chronology of Varona activities

16 December 1957- Varona is president of the Council for the Liberation of Cuba- An organization created to form a united front against Cuan Batista Government.

13 January 1958- Memo for Chief CI/OA from DDS re operational approval for Verona's use as an informant in Cuba by WH Division. REcommend that "suitable controls" to prevent " the possibility of his becoming a source of embarrassment to the Agency" be established."

~~###~~
20 January 1958 Varona is granted Operational Approval

28 August 1959 Varona is granted Operational Approval-@mended

17 or 18 April 1960- Varona plans to leave Havana for Caracas to attend Congress for Democracy

21 April 1960- Congress for Democracy convenes

Note: Varona is being considered in connection with Project ZENITH and will be paroled into the United States under the Special Agreement between the Attorney General and the DCI.

4 May 1960 Varona arrived NYC from Caracas

~~#####~~

13 May 1960 Varona arrived Maimi unannouced, Convinced Immigration Inspector that they were going back.

27 May 1960 Varona left Miami for Caracas

2 June 1960 Varona arrived in Miami, detained by Immigration office. Varona was paroled into US under Par # 3 of JMARC Field Handling Procedures.

14 June 1960 Varona is in Washington and leaves for NYC

17 June 1960 Varona to go to Puerto Rico

18-19 June 1960 Varona to goto San Jose, Costa Rica via Panama

23 June 1960 Varona to go to Teguc galpa, Hondoras

24 June 1960 Varona to go to Guatemala

25 June 1960 Varona to go to Mexico

28 June 1960 Varona to go to N.Y.C. , via Houston- V arrived Houston at 7:50 P.M. and left for N.Y. at 10:00P.M.

In New York City V was going to stay at the Statler Hotel and contact Mr. Pujan at the Pierre Hotel on the morning of the 29th. He would remain in NY until approx. July 3 and then return to Miami for 3 ~~of~~ 4 weeks. Then return Mexico City Sanchez Arango arrived NY.

28 June 1960

20 Aug 1960 Varona arrived in Miami and Planned to stay two days in Los Angelos and then return Mexico City

14 Sept 1960 Varona would arrive N.Y.C. at 6 P.M. via Eastern Flight from Mexico City. V will stay in ##### NYC for 2 days and return Miami on Sept 17.

17~~th~~ Sept 1960 Varona returns Miami- Address: 115 Venetian Way, San Marino Island, Miami Florida.

~~11~~ Feb 1961 V paid \$10,000 for Special Project (See Sect IV)

Feb 14 1961 Varona, Artime, Maceo, ##### and Rey will depart for Guatemala

Feb 19, 1961 Varona, Artime, Maceo will arrive JMFIG on 19 Feb

27 ~~###~~ March, 1961 Varona, A_rtime, Hevia, ALegos, Cardona would depart JMFIG

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22 Aug 1964

"Cuban Anti-Castro Chief by Day Selling Cars in Jersey by Night" NYT article on Varona. States that Varona arrived NYC about 6 months ago and working for Carey Chevrolet in evenings. During day works with Rescue Democratic Revolutionary Movement at 466 8th Ave.

II. Information re Cellini-Moss-Varona

The following info is from a memorandum dated 14 May 1973 to the Deputy Chief, Security Research Staff from Jerry Brown re Moss, Edward K. # 172 646. Brown refers to an FBI letterhead memo dated 18 January 1961 captioned "Manuel Antonio Varona, Internal Security-Cuba" which contains information furnished to the FBI by a "representative of an agency of the U.S. government." The following information was supplied: A Washington businessman called ~~me~~ the source and "expressed great concern about the relationships of one of the reputed anti-Castro group leaders with representatives of the so-called International Crime Syndicate." His observations were :

1. Varona has hired Edward K. Moss as his assistant for raising funds to finance operations against Cuba.
2. Julia Cellini is alleged to be Moss' mistress. She operates a secretarial service at 1025 Conn. Ave. NW. which is alleged to be a front for Edward K. Moss' activities.
3. Julia's brother, Dino Cellini and his other brother are active fronts for two of largest casinos in Cuba during Batista regime
4. It is alleged that the Cellini brothers are in close contact with Varona through Moss and ~~###~~ have offered sums, (considerable sums) of money (reported as high as 2 million dollars) through Moss to Varona to finance operations against the Castro Regime with an understanding that they would have the major slice "in the Cuba of the future."
5. Harry Tomlinson, 717 E. Oak St. Lakeland Florida had been offered position of supervisor of fundraising and public relations but declined position. It was reported that Tomlinson is fully familiar with activities of Moss and relationship with Varona. Tomlinson has taken a position with Upjohn Pharmaceutical company, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
6. Reported that American business man are being contacted by Moss' organization to solicit funds for Varona's operation.

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This memo contains additional info on the Cellini's, FBI # for Dino is 2198122. Edward Groffredo Cellini and Groffredo Cellini were known to be evening manager and afternoon manager respectively, at the Casino International in Havana. Dino was employed at the Tropicana and Rivera. He then went to Haiti and was in Miami in 1961. Dino's 201 number is 885706 DOB: ~~###~~ 19 Nov 1914. Dino was detained in May 1959 ~~#####~~ in Havana by Cuban authorities at the request of U.S. bureau of Narcotics. He was released on June 1959 for lack of evidence. #201 file was opened in 1971 when Cellini was living in Rome. Associates- Meyer Lansky (~~###~~ OS 623652); Edward Levinson (OS # 463 982); and Michael McClaney (OS 509046). Julia Cellini was Moss's secretary from 1950 -53 "who later became a close business partner of Moss." In 1971-72 she resided at 8144 Eastern Ave. NW.

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III. ~~#####~~ Richard Cain Information and miscellaneous Chicago info

A. Report dated 12 Oct 1960 from Robert P.B. Lohmann of Chicago Office- Richard Cain reported he had a meeting with the Chicago head of the Counter Revolutionary Movement in Cuba. He was put in touch with this individual by William Buenz. He has also spoken with Jack Mabely, a columnist for the Chicago Daily News. He claims they have arranged for him to go to Cuba to take pictures for the Daily News and Life. He will be flown to Cuba from an airstrip in Alabama or Florida. Report includes background data on Cain. Cain was born Oct 4, 1931, 1947, at the age of 15, he joined the Army. Discharged 1950. From 1950 to date he has been employed by William J. Burns Detective Agency in Dallas, Texas and Chicago, Ill. He was also in the private detective business in Miami and worked for a time with UPS. In 1956 he joined the Chicago Police Dept. He also operated Accurate Laboratories, a private investigative business. Cain speaks Spanish and Italian, and flies plane

B. Report dated 8 Dec 1960 by Lohmann. Cain reported they were unable to get him to Cuba. He did, however, get off shore a couple times. Cain stated that during his stay in Miami, he spent some time in the Intelligence office of the DRF (FRD???) and learned the location of Soviet equipment in Cuba which he passed on to the FBI.

C. Report dated 9 June 1961 by Lohman- Richard Cain "who is doing various jobs for the Cuban FRD informed me that Angel # Salano, one of Tony Varona's men, was approached by two girls in Chicago." It was an accidental meeting, according to Cain. Salano asked Cain to check on the girls who were Christel Maeller Schaeffel, employed by the German Consulate in Chicago, and Giselle Kruman, a German Tourist Agency employee.

D. Report dated 17 May 1961- Cain has been hired # as a bodyguard for Jose Rasco during Rasco's visit to Chicago. According to Cain, Manny Fefferman has been given authority to collect funds for the MDC in Chicago by Rasco.

E. Report of a "confidential informant" of the Field Office, Chicago- (probably not Cain) . On Aug 7, 1963 Informant stated he had learned that while Varona was in Chicago recently (July 1963), four underworld figures made a contribution # of \$200,000 to him. Two of the figures are unknown. The other two are Moe Ginacana and Murray (The Canal) Humphreys. He also said Miro Cardozo (Cardona???) wanted to buy guns. Cardozo is employed by American National Insurance Co., Chicago Ph.# 522-7337 (7337)

F. 23 Aug 1963 - Cain reported he had been approached by representative of the DRE and they attempted to recruit him to be trained in Central Am. The person who contacted him spoke on the phone in his presence to some one in Miami named Salvant or Salvat, and asked if his group is sponsored by the CIA. Salvat said the group was sponsored by "the pentagon, which is in competition with CIA, and, therefore, all activities of the Directory must be kept secret."

G. Report dated 29 Aug 1963 by confidential source who stated that two Cubans had told him that Dr. Olivara is the Cuban CIA representative in Chicago. The Chicago office has no information on Olivara. Did find an article in the Chicago Daily News dated Oct 1962 which states that Dr. Arimaro (sp??) Olivara was elected coordinator of the united front of Chicago Council for Democratic Cuba, 30th of Nov Movement, Dem. Revolutionary Rescue, DRE, and Cuban Association of Chicago.

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H. Miro Cardozo contacted Cain on 30 Aug 1963 and wanted some help in locating arms. He told Cain that Duque (phonetic) in Miami was desperate, because there were some men already in Cuba and some ready to go. Cain told Cardozo he had lost his contacts. In connection with conversation Horace Goelet (Horace Speed III) #199499 had with Cain, Cain said that Cardozo told him that the CIA will have nothing to do with the arms sale.

I. Report on Cuban exile activities in Spain. Chicago office obtained a letter written from Spain by Angel Solano on 1 Sept 1963. Angel went to Spain in 1961 and now is an actor. Stated that Prio was in Spain last week at the same time Batista was in Madrid. Rumor in Spain that an interview or meeting took place between the two.

J. Information supplied by unnamed source: On Sept 11, 1963, 6 PM source met Serapio Montejo, a ##### naturalized American, and a Cuban exile named Torres. Montejo was the former director of the Frente in Chicago, and associated with Varona. Source was introduced to Jose Miro Cardozo by Montejo in Miami prior to the Bay of Pigs. Source was told that Torres is the purchasing agent for DRE. They asked source to assist Torres in the purchase of certain weapons. The transportation of the weapons was to be supplied by Torres. Source describes Torres as 25, 5'8", 150 lbs., dark straight hair, clean features. Torres remarked that the CIA is using Cuba as a pawn in international dealings, and his organization is concerned with Cuba exclusively as a national matter. Source was given a list of arms and supplies they wanted which is attached to this report.

IV. Rosselli/Varona/ Mafia plots

A. Report by James O'Connell dated 26 Dec. 1968. Roseali called Jim and stated he "ran into the 'principal contact' of our project." "I asked if he meant Tony, and he replied in the affirmative (Tony Varona). He had not seen him in several years until this chance meeting at the Fontainebleu Hotel. They had lunch together and during the luncheon, Tony indicated that there were several "strong men" from the Caribbean area in Miami that were determined to overthrow some of the current regimes in their respective countries." Nicaragua, in particular, was mentioned. "Varona stated that he along with other leaders felt very bitter toward the Agency, and any effort initiated by them would be done without requesting any assistance from us. The basic complaint was that there were too many leaks in the security of the Agency." Varona reported that he keeps aware of what's happening in Cuba through the brother of a high Cuban official who is supposed to be #5 in the Castro regime. The brother is living in Madrid.

B. Memo re Johnny Roselli to DCI dated 9 Dec. 1970. Related IG story. Starts in Aug 1960 when Richard M. Bissell approached Sheffield Edwards to determine if Office of Security had assets that may assist in a sensitive mission requiring gangster-type action. Target was Castro. DCI was briefed and gave approval. Colonel J.C. King was also briefed. Certain TSD and Communications people participated but were not witting of mission. O'Connell was Roselli's contact until May of 1962. During week of Sept 25 Mahew was introduced to Sam and Joe at the Fontainebleu. Joe gave the pills to Orta, but Orta got cold feet. "Joe then indicated that Dr. Anthony Varona, one of the principal officers in the Cuban exile junta, had become disaffected with the apparent ineffectual progress of the Junta and was willing to handle the mission through his own resources." "He asked as a prerequisite to the deal, that he be given \$10,000 ##### for organizational expenses and \$1,000 worth of communication equipment. Dr. Varona's potential was never fully exploited, as the project was cancelled shortly after the Bay of Pigs episode. Varona was advised that the offer was withdrawn, and the pills were retrieved." (Dulles)

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C. Memo for IG, Attention Mr. John Leader from Charles W. Kane-DS dated 22 May 1975. States that a review of OS files relating to Robert Maheu, Johnny Roselli, and Giancana disclosed operation against Castro was approved by Dulles. \$150,000 was authorized. An undated, unsigned memo in Maheu's file indicates \$10,000 plus \$1000 of communications equipment were given to Varona. The date or person who paid the money is noted in the file.

Neither Hunt nor McCord were in charge of Mexico operations in 1963. Hunt was assigned to DDP/CA Staff, Office of the Chief, Hdq. Collateral duties with DDP/Domestic Operations Division/ Facilities Branch. Hunt was assigned to these staffs from Nov 1961 to Feb 1965.

D. Memo from DS to Chief WH Division- Payments for special project

25 Sept 1960- Feb 6, 1961	To Cut Out-	\$6900
11 Feb 1961	To principal agent	10000
31 Jan 1961 to 14 Feb 1961	Communication	1043.08
26 Sept 60 to 12 Feb 61	Miscellaneous	993.87

D. Confidential Funds posting voucher 6-26-61

E. Memo which states that nothing in security files to clarify the \$6900 paid to a cutout. Information on Juan Orta DOB: 5-28-6; 1965 he was residing in Mexico City but planning on returning to Miami.

Memo also states that Varona is reported to have used his son-in-law in the special project.

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3rd Agency Material in File

1. Results of 1957 Name Check /ACSI + FBI
2. Investigative Data- Partial BI conducted in 1957 , INS File Review
3. FBI results of 1960 Name Check
4. FBI-1 page report dated 28 Feb 1961 at NYC re Varona
5. FBI report dated 13 Oct 1961 in name of Roy Paul Mackal aka Markle
6. Personal information.

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