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2 volumes - Main file and references

File #105-121010
Section 1, Serials 1-35

from back toward

News article "Gamblers Pop Out of Exile Grab bag"
5/19/63 Miami News, Miami
re: offer of \$30 million by Chicago gamblers

Report of FBI of departure 105-121010
from Ralton Airport, Toronto to Chicago, Ill.
on January 8, 1963
for Paul ~~no~~ Sierra Martinez
Admitted under Section 0-1 Imm. Perm.
Residence. To residence at 4144 N. Clarendon Avenue, Chicago
13, Ill. Employed by Union Tank Car Co., Chicago, Ill.

Traveling done
6'3"; brown hair, brown eyes

CIA biographical data 11 Feb. 1963
Gives education, employment, residence

CIA CS DB - 3/654,388 30 April 63
Confidential

Report of info re: Sierra 30 April 1963
Source: Radio technician (F) formerly associated with Cuban
Ministry of Communications
Appraisal: 3

March 29, 1963. Sierra claimed he represented group of
Americans in Chicago with financial interests in L.A.
interested in combining their effort with those of Cuban
exiles to overthrow Castro regime with or without U.S.
government approval. Sierra contacted Eusebio Lujal Barniol
of CTC and Gen. Campos Marquetti of Arianza para la
Liberfada de Cuba

At meeting on March 30 Campo indicated the Lawyers Corp.
and the American Bankers would put up about 55 million
dollars. Sierra said American financial interests would
participate on condition that there was a true unity of
the majority of Cuban groups in exile. For military planning
he claimed he had assistance of two general (one who had
participated in Normandy invasion, the other in a "disem-
barkation" in Korea). Also 4 admirals and 4 rear admirals
all who had served with U.S. forces, willing to arrange
for arms and establishment of training bases in a L.A.
country.

March 30 - Sierra said he had meeting with owner of King Ranch, who had a personal message for Sierra, from a L.A. president indicating this country would permit establishment of base.

April 2 - Sierra to travel to P.R. through N.Y.

CIA Report TDCS DB-3/654,530

7 May 1963 Re: Sierra

Source: Cuban lawyer; rightist Cuban exile and rightist Latin American exile

May 6, 1963 MPR received invitation from Paulino A. Sierra to discuss military unification. (Sierra reportedly had been employed by Carlos Saladrigas, minister under Batista who had unsavory reputation)

May 2, 1963 meeting - Sierra presented a Mr. Trull (or Turull) as guest speaker, also representing Chicago group willing to lend assistance to extent of \$30 million dollars, with necessary obligation that Cubans form unity group representing a majority of the exiles.

One of the promoters for meeting was George Francis, a Haitian national, previously involved in gambling interests in Havana. Francis said Turull represented such companies as Standard Oil, Sears and Roebuck, Union Carbide. Reportedly Guatemalan government favorably disposed to lend a in fight against Castro.

105-121010-2

6/14/63 Third information deleted.

William H. Trull told agents (unidentified which) he became identified as friend of Cubans as result of having performed as entertainer for Cuban groups in Chicago, contacted by Sierra in March 63. (Remainder unavailable)

105-121010-3

5/25/63 Teletype to Director from SAC, Chicago re: Sierra

Trull advised he is formerly an entertainer. Sierra wired tickets to Trull from Miami. Trull flew May 1, registered at Ponce de Leon Hotel and was asked by Sierra to speak to Prio and (FNA) Mujal, former Cuban labor leader and say he represented wealthy American interests who had business propositions for Cuban people if they could unify with Prio as President and Sierra as Secretary. Trull did as requested. Also reiterated same to group at hotel. Sierra told Trull he knew Trull could not influence financial backing but that he did not need same since he had commitment from syndicate of hoodlums with interest in gambling

casinos in Cuba and operate them. Loan of \$14 million to be paid by Sierra's group to Cleveland group.

Memo 105-121010-3 to AG from director.

Sierra claimed Trull made original approach to Sierra. Trull allegedly told Sierra that people Trull represented would be interested in loaning up to \$30 million on bus. proposition. Sierra then made arrangements for Trull to go to Miami.

CIA CSDB - 3/655,116
19 June 1963 re: Carlos Prio

Prio spoke with Sierra at request of Santiago Babun

Prio met with Secretary Genreal of DRC, Luis Fernandez-Rocha Rodriquez, seeking support for Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, whom he has been helping since Gutierrez arrived in the U.S.

Prio intends to form a junta which would include: Manuel Antonio de Varona of CRC; "Pepin" Bosch Bishop Eduardo Boza Masvidal, who represents the industrias and whom Prio named a treasurer; Guillermo Alonso Pujol and Jose Manuel Cortina to direct relations with governments of free world;

Carlos Marquez Sterling - to represent followers of Batista Manuel Artime Buesa and Jose Fernandez-Rocha to represent combat youths;

Enrique Jose Ruiz - Williams, to serve as liaison with representatives of the U.S. government.

LHM, Santiago Alvarez Rodriguez
Anti-Fidel Castro activities IS-Cuba, Miami
June 3, 1963

Alvarez, formerly MD and Senator in Cuba, associated with Comandos L, knew Sierra in Cuba, as Secretary to Alvarez in political work. Sierra worked for Cuban rayon manufacturing company and expert in manufacture of synthetic fibers. Called by Sierra - introduced by American at airport (presumably Trull) who explained business deal. Alvarez thought plan a waste of time, American man contradictory, vague about plan. Sierra honest and sincere but gullible.

Memo to Director from SAC, Chicago 6/26/63 re Sierra

In view situation appears to be "con job" by Sierra and Trull to unify Cuban exiles and in view doesn't appear there is any hoodlum influence in situation, no further investigation to be conducted by Chicago office

LHM from Chicago, Ju . 26/63
re Paulino Sierra Martinez

Resided in Havana 1925-1960

Then went to Miami as translator and Judo instructor until 1962 when he came to Chicago. Speaks, reads, writes English, Italian, French, Spanish.

Previously in U.S. in 1948 in Ohio as student with Ind. Rayon Corporation

Brother - Jose Martinez
Israel Martinez

Advised he arrived in Chicago from Spain
January 28, 1963 on U.S. passport
Resided in Miami in 1960

Elected to American Bar Association on 2/7/63.

Admitted to Illinois Bar 1962, sponsored by William Browder, Union Tank Car Co. Sierra said Trull called him who said he saw him in March 10th issue of CHICAGO TRIBUNE. When Sierra asked about identify of individual represented by Trull, Trull talked vaguely about owner of King Ranch in Cuba, General Wood Jarvis - Millionaire in Texas. Now is concerned Trull involved with "impure" financial sources. About which Sierra is concerned.

Trull story different: called by Sierra - met with him several times in April. Began to talk about Cuban situation. Did not claim personal acquaintance but mentioned he knew Chicago stock broker, Buddy Arvez; Gen. Wood of Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Cleberg of King Ranch whom he thought lost money after overthrow of Batista.

Sierra sent for Trull to Miami and asked Trull to speak to Prio and and group of Cubans.

Trull said Sierra told him he didn't need financial influence of Trull inasmuch as a representative of Las Vegas gambling interests contacted Sierra offering backing of \$14 million for 50% interest in gambling in Cuba if Sierra able to organize successful ouster of Castro. Trull said he asked Sierra whether that was the Cleveland group which controlled gambling casinos in Las Vegas and that he may have mentioned name Bo Dalitz, but he doesn't recall Sierra's response.

DOB-10/19/29, Dallas, Texas. Encyclopedia Salesman.
5'9", 185 lbs., brown hair. Feels he was used as "actor" by Sierra to unify Cuban group and gain position of power for Sierra.

105-1021010-7

Memo 5/15/63

to Belmont from Evans re Sierra
Information from CIA deleted.

105-1021010-9

Teletype from SAC Miami
Information deleted - as informant and indent. data
5/20/63 to Dir. Sierra

105-121010-10

5/20/63 teletype to Director from SAC Chicago re Sierra

(Records INS, CC show appreciation for immigrant visa and alien registration Jan 7, 1963 granted when Sierra returned to U.S. following 6 month business trip for Union Tank Car Company in Spain.) Brother Jose lives in P.R., Israel lives in Tampa, Fla.

Arrested 12/5/60 by INS for violation immigration laws.
Letter to INS, copy to FBI, shows Sierra secret
12/2/63 Miami LHO
re: Junta de Gobierno de Cuba ewel Exilio IS-Cuba
Employed by Jesus Soto, a "Communist" and head of "CTC"
in Cuba

CIA TDCS-DB 3/654,695 17 May '63
Re discussion of meeting with Sierra by members of ALC,
and Jsto del Pozo. Pessimistic re negotiations.
Say Sierra trying to sell same deal to Comandos L, Alpha
66 and Montearsi the "action groups"

CIA TDCS DB-3/655,406
5 July 63

Main File 105-121010. Section 1 Serials 1-35

Memo to Dir. from SAC Chicago 3/3/77 - 35

Sierra received envelope from "zero organization"
Message: "Notice: Cuba is not to be betrayed with impunity."
Considered threat - called FBI

Sierra interested re 1963 activities.
Sierra refused to answer many questions.
Sierra said he personally gave money to various anti-Castro groups to be used for training and equipment. Donations were not documented. Would not say where he obtained funds. He said he had misled Cuban community to believe he had \$30,000,000 at his disposal but "he had a private financial group that could possibly have had \$30,000,000 at his disposal."

Visited Miami 2/18/77 and talked with Felipe Rivero, General Cabrera, and Carlos Rodriguez Quesada.

SECRET

Memo to SAC, Miami from Dir, B
8/27/65
-34
re Paulino Sierra

Report from [Guat. Embassy, Port-au-Prince] Haiti advised [CS]
Cuban lawyer Sierra who resides in Onat. had asked for
interview with Duvalier.

Sierra wants to establish fishing company in Haiti to be
used as screen for ops. ag. Cuba

LM M, CONFID. 7-28-64
Miami Fl.
Re Legion Baragua
IS-Cuba NM

Sierra - "was a fraud, psychotic and unreliable." Com-
pletely discredited by Cuban exiles in Miami.

Report 2/25/64 Miami, Robert James Dwyer
re: Sierra - IS
Manuel Locano Pino advised 1/15/64
that Sierra abandoned all efforts establish unity and
military action and returned to Chicago

INS records reflect Sierra came to U.S. 11/6/60
Claimed to be member of Cuban Army 1931-32. Clerk of
Havana District Court of Appeals, 1934-48; instructor of
personnel for Cuban Rayon Corporation 1948-53

June 1963 Gilberto Rodriguez Fernandez and others visited
William Browder and J.W. Van Gorkom, President, of
Union Tank Car Co. re: Cuban government in exile. Stated
that if Committee established government in exile, perhaps
they could get US government support and financing from
other sources.

See Notes - third

LHM - 11/1/63 Miami re SNFE
Menoyo contacted by Diego Medina of Chicago SNFE re getting
"equipment." Medina had been talking to person named
"Cardoso" in Chicago, connected with Dr. Sierra." Jose
Cardoso accompanied by Sierra, on trip to Detroit about
Oct. 1 where Sierra purchased \$6000.00 to \$7000.00 worth
of arms, which Sierra in process of bringing to Miami in
early October.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

FBI INFO
3/2/98
CLASSIFIED BY: 50683W/mde
REASON: 1.5 (C.d.)
DECLASSIFY ON: X (1)(6)
(JFK)

SECRET

10/30/63 Information received that SNFE has plans for operation on Oriente from base in Dominican Rep. Arrangements made by Menoyo and Abel Camacho in Key West. Plan is for action against bridge. Plan worked out by Veciana and engineer who designed bridge.

LHM 9/23/63 Re Sierra
p. 4. 9/12/63 Sierra told Miguel A. "Cuco" Leon, colleague of Manuel Artime Buesar, during visit to Nicaragua in late July 1963 that he represented U.S. gambling interests provided Sierra's group got gambling concessions in

See notes- Misc. Ref.

Memo to Dir. from SAC, Miami 12/10/63
re: Americanism Educational League, L.A., Calif.
P.O. Box 90593 Airport Station, LA 9, Calif. OR8-1641

Syn: Apparently has no connection to Sierra.
2/63. Meeting in Chicago with Sierra, Armando Gomez de Molina (Brother in law of Baldomero Merito Acosta and person who happened to meet Sierra, heard he wanted to unify Cuban groups, and organized meeting with American league.) of AEL Bert B. Mold, Dr. John R. Lechner and Acosta.

Gave Sierra advice to try to unify groups then he may be able to get government assistance. In March Sierra gave speech at Royalton Hotel, Miami, claiming backing of AEL. Acosta challenged statement. Sierra said he didn't need their help; he had funds from other source.

LHM 10-30-63 Miami re AEL, LA, Calif.
Sierra interviewed 9/12/63. When in Miami reachable through cousin Alberto Diaz, 3396 N. 14th Avenue, Hialeah, Fl.

LHM Miami 11/14/63 re: INTERPEN
Lauchli said he was visited recently by Paulino Sierra who heads JGCE and wanted purchase arms from Lauchli.

LHM Miami 2/28/64 re: JGCE
Group organization to establish political and military unity among Cuban exiles to eventually overthrow Cuban government. However, individuals and groups more interested in \$ than in carrying war of liberation to Cuba. Causing group to fail.

Aldo Vera Serafin, of American Patriotic Action Movement, said JGCE inactive.

Sierra

CIA TDCS 3/582,395
5/27/64 3 pages SECRET
NO-Serial

CIA CSDB 3/660, 112
3/17/64 2 pages Conf.
No serial

CIA CSDB 3/658,375 11 Dec. 63
1 pages conf.
No serial

Re: Termination of Sierra's Cuban exile activity on behalf of American financial interests.

Report that Sierra, accompanied by Armando Fléites, was summoned to Chicago in early November by an attorney "representing financial interests which had pledged support for liberating Cuba" and was accused of throwing away \$50,000; wasting time and effort, expounding policies inconsistent with those of U.S. Government. Sierra given no opportunity to explain. Began wind up affairs. Told to hand over all monies, supplies and equipment to alliance of SNEE, MRP, Alpha 6.

CIA TDCS-DB 3/658-399 CONF.
11 Dec. 63 2 pg.
28

Information from Sierra - returned to Miami.
from Chicago with instructions from his patrons to coordinate plans for war against Castro. Sierra to travel to S. America.

FBI-LHM 11/2/63 Miami JGCS
INS application dated 1/6/63 (Arrival date)
6 month business trip to Spain

3/10/63 Chicago Tribune published photo and article describing Sierra as "coordinator" of exiles in favor of Cuban liberation.

p. 16 - Rodriguez Auesada met with Sierra @1½-2 months previously (before 8/8/63) to discuss financing military action.

p. 29-30 Sierra gave money to Tony Cuesta (\$1000.00) at home of Alvarez Rodriguez in presence of Hemming. 8/9/63
Cuesta used it to buy guns from Lauchli. Sierra also visited Lauchli in Collinsville.
Sierra requested Steve Wilson deliver arms; 3 weeks previously offered Joe Garrman \$11,000 for raid of Oriente Province.

p. 33 Members according to Sierra:

Felipe Rivero Diaz
Albert Garrido
Carlos Rodriguez Quessada
Carlos Nenez
Jose I. Rivero
Jose M. Gutierrez

p. 35 Aldo Vera Serafin said Sierra gave him \$900 for repairs on boat.

p. 37. Gilbert Rodriguez aka Conde "Leon" claims he brought action groups into Sierra's organization.

Released from Cuban prison April 1963. (Imprisoned 8/61) in prisoner exchange. Expelled from Sierra's group because of suspicions he was G-2 agent.

p. 41. Said Felipe Rivero and Sierra traveled to NY, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington, D.C and somewhere collected \$40,000. Committee upset about lack of leadership; Sierra went into hiding for time.

p. 43. Said Sierra has had to buy support of action groups such as Vera Serafin and Manuel Aguilar. Aguilar unknown; Serafin collects money; does nothing.

CIA TDCS DB-3/657,893 14 Nov. 63 3 pgs.
confidential
no serial

Approximately expenditures by Sierra. \$11,390 plus personal expenses. Made pact with Alpha 66 - SNFE-MRP Locano Pino resigns.

CAI CS DB-3/658,034 11/22/63 1 page
confidential

Group intends to sue U.S. agents for seizure of "Pitusa 1" as it was being transported by trailer to Key West by Dennis Lynn Harber, 22 NW 8th Avenue, Apt. 5, Miami

CIA CS DB-3/657,685 11/4/63 1 page
CONF.
Report re: 2 man sub owned by Sierra.
In house of Jesus Rodriguez

INS A 12 537 895 (INV-CIN)
10/8/63 1 page

CIA CSDB 3/657,741 11/6/63

4 pages conf.

no serial

Tomas Cabanas Batista offered command of Sierra's military forces August 1963

CIA CSDB 3/657,755

11/7/63 1 page secret

no serial

June 1963 Sierra visiting Bogota, Columbia.

Approached Castro for support in plan for anti-Castro activity.

CIA CSDB 3/657,599 10/31/63 1 page

CONF.

Re: boats for Sierra's group (3) - Manuel Augnilar Alvarez has Pitusa 1, Jose Pepe Couz has outboard; Jesus Rodriguez has 2-man sub (Rodriguez assoc. with Serafin)

CIA CSDB 3/657,115 10/8/63 2 page

CONF

CIA TDCS DB 3/657,301 10/16/63

3 page CONF

23

2 man sub ordered from California arrived 10/9/63 and in garage of Manuel Aguilar's home. Also storing boat trying to get Columbian Island off Nicaragua for base of operations.

CAI TDCS DB 3/657,272 15 Oct 63

3 pages CONF.

22

Organization raid on ESSO refinery.
to use Serafin's boat as mother ship.

State Department Cablegram CCA/M A-6

9/17/63 3 pages

Secret

CIA TDCS DB-3/656,607

12 Sept. 63 3 pages conf.

-17

Miguel Leon talked to Sierra in Nicaragua in late July 1963

CIA CSDB - 3/656,611 9/13/63

2 pages CONF.

No serial

Gilberto Rodriguez said:

Meeting 8/20/63 to discuss conduct of Sierra. Leading to chaos and anarchy.

Decided to report to Sierra's backers in Chicago.

Rodriguez Quesada called Vanderbilt (FNU) who was not in, Rodriguez Fernandez called Dillon Braden and explained Sierra's activities.

Jose Bosch Lamargue asked by Committee replace Sierra.

Braden to locate Sierra withdrawal of sub...

CIA TDCS DB 3/655,406 7/5/63

4 pages secret

No serial

Mid-June 1963 unidentified American representing American Education League of L.A., California approached Sierra with offer from group firms offering unlimited financial support.

(Baldomero "Merito" Acosta, director of American Education League, reportedly contacting groups in June 1963 offering unlimited finances if Cubans unite.)

Sierra and Committee to travel to Washington, NYC, Chicago to discuss with backers. Met with officials of following firms - United Fruit, ESS, Standard Oil, Dupont, AT&T, U.S. Steel and others.

Group given \$650,000 which was deposited in Miami Bank Sierra and River then departed for Nicaragua (June) to discuss with Somoca plans for base.

CIA Intel. Info Cable 5/13/64 2 pages

CONF.

105-114543-128

"Poss. that JURE will not accomplish any military action inside Cuba by May 1964."

CIA info. report 10-28-63 1 page CONF

105-124049-not recorded

CSDB - 3/657,487

"Attempt of Jose Carogol to join Paulino Sierra's Anti-Castro group."

CIA Info. Report 9/27/63 1 page CONF.

"Recruitment of Eduardo Mor Ruiz for Sabotage Missions in Cuba."

CSDB 3/656,849

105-124049 not recorded

CIA Info. Report 8/22/63 2 pages CONF.
"Creation of Junta del Gobierno de Cuba en el Exilio,"
CSDB - 3/656,148

105-124042 - not recorded

CIA info. report 4/21/64 2 pages Secret
113-7-210-3B4
"Surfacing of an unidentified small sub off Cayo Largo,
Las Villas Province."
CSDB 3/660,733

CIA 5/9/63 2 pages CONF. TDCS-DB-3/654,562
105-95357-201

CIA telegram 5/22/63 3 pages CONF
TDCS-DB-3/654,742 109-584-3592

CIA 4/30/63 3 pages CONF.
109-584 *396*

Department of State 6/24/64 3 pages CONF.
109-584 Section 65 Serial 3986

CIA 5/7/63 4 pages SECRET
TDCS-DB3/654,530
105-95357-4-198

CIA Info. Report 3 pages
Secret TDCS 3/582,395
105-77731-800 p.2

CIA Intell. Info. Cable
1/9/64 2 pages Secret
TDCS 3/583,531

64-22200-no serial

Department of State Airgram
10/14/63 29 pages Secret
CCA/M Airgram A-7
109-584-3779

FBI 2/3/64 LHM Chicago - "Anti-Fidel Castro Activitites

11/4/63 Jose Cardozo, 2317 S. Trumbull, reported he had
affiliated himself with "Comandos Libre" and had planned to
establish pickets during Kennedy's trip to Chicago 11/2/63,
which was cancelled.

CL in Chicago under direction of Jose L. Hernandez, 3309
Crystal St.

(DRE planning meeting 11/27/63 to commemorate 8 Cuban stu-
dents killed by Spanish 1871 - Principal Speaker - Frank
Bianco)

Jose Cardosa came 12/19/63 meeting of Demo. Organizations
of Chicago with several others. (Jose Hernandez among them)
to oust present pres. and place Sierra Martinez or someone
Sierra can control.

Hurricane Flora hit Cuba 10/4/63.
Sant. Alvarez Rodriguez, Sr.
Fernandez, Jr.

CIA TDCS-DB-3/656,906
9/27/63 3 pages
Confidential
109-430 Section 56 Serial 2452

CIA CSDB 3/654,706 5/23/63 2 pages
Conf. 105-117331 - No serial

U.S. Customs page 3, page 8 secret
105-117222-140

CIA TDCS DB-3 656,640 4 pages
Secret
97-4474-43