

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

11 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE Division

ATTENTION : Division Security Officer

FROM : (Thomas L. Briggs)⁰³
SE/X/LA

SUBJECT : Appearance As Witness In Behalf of the
United States Government

REFERENCE : USA V. Gerald P. Hemming, Et Al. (76-371-CR-CA)

1. During the period of my employment as a Special Agent at the Drug Enforcement Administration (May 1974 - Jan 1977), I conducted an interview of Gerald Patrick Hemming (DPOB 7 March 1937, at Los Angeles, California) on 23 May 1975 at DEA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. My report concerning that interview has become part of the case file in USA v. Gerald P. Hemming, Et Al., Case Number 76-371-CR-CA, Southern District of Florida, Miami, Florida.

2. Upon my entrance on duty in SE Division on 5 January 1977, I orally informed the Division Security Officer, Billy Hix, about the information in paragraph 1 above. Mr. Hix asked me to submit the information in writing as soon as I was settled in the Division. On 7 January 1977, however, Special Agent Robert Fredericks telephonically contacted [redacted] DC/SE/X/LA, and told her that the United States Attorney, Southern District of Florida, had requested that I appear at the U.S. Courthouse, Miami, Florida on 10 January 1977 to confer with the Assistant United States Attorney, Karen L. Atkinson, regarding my appearance as a witness in behalf of the U.S. Government in the trial of Gerald P. Hemming.

3. During the afternoon of 7 January 1977 I conferred with Mr. Hix who advised me to contact the Office of the General Counsel. I talked to Mr. Edmund Cohen who advised me to get in touch with the Office of Security, External Activities Branch (OS/EAB). I completed an Outside Activity Approval Request (Form 879), obtained the concurrence of DC/SE, Mr. John Stein, and submitted the Form 879 to OS/EAB. OS/EAB sent me to Central Cover Staff (Mr. Blandford) and then to the Office of the General Counsel. After discussions with Mr. Cohen, I called

2/12/77

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

S/A Fredericks in Miami at Mr. Cohen's suggestion. S/A Fredericks was not available. Mr. Cohen then advised me to return to my office and he would contact me with further instructions. Mr. Cohen retained the Form 879. Subsequently, Mr. Cohen advised me that I should travel to Miami as requested and that CIA would reimburse me for expenses connected with my activities in behalf of the U.S. Government. He further advised me that being in an overt cover status I should state, if asked under oath, that I am currently a CIA employee.

4. On 10 January 1977 I traveled to Miami where I met and conferred with AUSA Karen Atkinson and DEA S/A Robert Fredericks. They informed me that Gerald P. Hemming's case had been severed and his trial would not begin on 11 January. AUSA Atkinson told me she wanted me as a rebuttal witness if Gerald P. Hemming presented the defense that he had been working at the direction of DEA. She said they would not call me until and unless that defense was presented. She also said that she felt that any attempt to question me concerning my current place of employment was irrelevant and she would object to any such line of questioning. She said she would only ask me where I was employed at the time I interviewed Hemming. I returned to Washington D.C. the same day.

03
(Thomas L. Briggs)
Thomas L. Briggs

CLASSIFY AS APPROPRIATE

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY APPROVAL REQUEST

COMPLETE AND FORWARD ORIGINAL AND 2 COPIES TO EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES BRANCH

TO :	DIRECTOR OF SECURITY; ATTN: EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES BRANCH			DATE 7 Jan 77
THRU:	(Staff, division or office head and security officer, where assigned) SE Division Security Officer			
FROM:	NAME AND GRADE OF EMPLOYEE (Print or type) 03 (BRIGGS, Thomas D) 12/3	COMPONENT DDO/SE	ROOM NO. AND BLDG. HQ 5B29	PHONE 1556 5953

1. FULL DESCRIPTION OF OUTSIDE ACTIVITY FOR WHICH APPROVAL IS REQUESTED INCLUDING NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED, DATES, LOCALE, ETC. (Refer to HR 10-7 before completing)

On 7 January 1977 at approx. 1430 hrs. I was informed by my supervisor, [redacted] that she had been telephonically contacted by a Mr. Fredericks of DEA in Miami, Florida (Ofc 305-591-4902, Res 305-595-1698) and told that DEA wants me to travel to Miami, to attend a pre-trial conference on Monday 10 January in order to prepare for possible appearance as a witness for the DEA against Gerald Patrick NEEDING.

I consulted with the SE Division Security Officer who advised me to contact the OGC. At approx. 1450 hrs this date I talked to the OGC who advised me to contact the Office of Security, External Activities Branch.

2. REMARKS BY REQUESTOR

IN ENGAGING IN THE REQUESTED ACTIVITY, I WILL MAKE NO REFERENCE TO OR DISCUSS MY CIA ASSIGNMENTS OR DUTIES. I (WILL, WILL NOT) BE IDENTIFIED AS EMPLOYED BY CIA FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

I was a CIA employee from Jan 69 to May 74 prior to transferring to DEA. I was under cover at that time. I have not yet been put under cover since my new EOD (3Jan77).

03

Thomas D. Briggs
SIGNATURE OF REQUESTING EMPLOYEE

3. COMMENTS AND CONCURRENCE OF STAFF, DIVISION OR OFFICE HEAD

CONCUR:

DATE

SIGNATURE OF OPERATING OFFICIAL

FOR COMPLETION BY EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES BRANCH AND RETURN OF ORIGINAL TO EMPLOYEE

DATE:

19 January 1977

SECURITY APPROVAL HAS BEEN (GRANTED, ~~DECLINED~~)
FOR THE ACTIVITY CONTEMPLATED BY THIS REQUEST.

Robert L. Morrison
(FOR) CHIEF, SECURITY SUPPORT DIVISION

OPERATIONAL CONTACT REPORT

Project Title EMBRYO
 Asset ID none
 Code Name none

1. DETAILS OF CONTACT

Date 23 May 1975
 Place Washington, D.C.
 Participants Gerald Patrick HEMMING
 & SA (Thomas BRIGGS)
 Cover N/A 03

RETURN TO CIA
 Background Use Only
 Do Not Reproduce

2. NEXT MEETING

N/A

3. ALTERNATE MEETING

N/A

4. INTELLIGENCE REPORTING

On May 23, 1975 Gerald Patrick HEMMING walked in to Drug Enforcement Administration Headquarters, 1405 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20537 and asked to see Mr. Lucien Conein, who is the Acting Chief, Special Operations and Field Support Staff. HEMMING told CONEIN that Mitchell Livingston WERBELL III had given HEMMING CONEIN's name as a DEA official to whom HEMMING could talk. HEMMING told CONEIN that he wanted to provide information on drug trafficking between Colombia and Florida. CONEIN asked SA (Thomas BRIGGS) to conduct a debriefing of HEMMING since SA (BRIGGS) was working on the collection of narcotic intelligence concerning Colombia and Florida.

HEMMING stated that he is presently employed at TECPOLE Security, 801 Madrid, Suite 105, Coral Gables, Florida, telephone 305-443-9681 or 305-446-8379. (HEMMING stated he believed that 443-9681 was being tapped, he did not say who he believed was tapping the telephone) He stated that he has extensive experience in paramilitary air operations, having served in CASTRO's rebel army and then with several anti-Castro groups operating from Florida in the 1960's. He claimed extensive knowledge and experience in all types of air operations.

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

In August 1974 HEMMING was approached by Armando BOLET, a Cuban veteran of the 2506 Brigade whom HEMMING had worked with in anti-Castro activities, and by John VARESE (nfi), to help them organize and run air smuggling operations for Thomas and William O'DONNEL. The O'DONNEL brothers, using the cover of their construction firm in the Ft. Lauderdale area, (AMERICAN EASTERN DEVELOPMENT) were involved in maritime smuggling of marijuana from Colombia to Florida. During an unspecified four years (probably 1970-74) the O'DONNEL's had averaged approximately six-seven loads of marijuana per year at three-four tons for each loads smuggled into Florida. Of these 24-28 loads of marijuana they had to jettison into the sea only five loads for security reasons. The rest of the loads had been successfully delivered into Florida.

The source of the marijuana in Colombia is Dr. Arturo ROMANO-Fedullo of Barranquilla, Colombia. Besides running the smuggling for ROMANO, William O'DONNEL handles the laundering of the money accumulated by drug trafficking through banks in Grand Cayman, Switzerland, and Curacao.

Armando BOLET convinced the O'DONNEL's that they should add air smuggling to their narcotic trafficking methods and that they should also try cocaine in addition to marijuana. BOLET told the O'DONNEL's that there were many experienced men available in Florida who could be used to smuggle drugs into Florida by air. BOLET was especially interested in cargo parachute drops and parachute jumps by individuals carrying loads of cocaine. BOLET recruited HEMMING to help organize these activities. A common technique used by BOLET and HEMMING was to fly an aircraft into Florida legally, but to have a parachutist jump onto a pre-selected drop zone in southern Florida prior to landing the aircraft. This way, police authorities never found any contraband on the aircraft and the dropped narcotics would not be lost because the parachutist carried them on his person. If he missed the drop zone he could simply fold up his parachute and walk to the location of the reception committee. BOLET uses a DC-3 tail number N1099 and a Navajo Chieftain tail number N7678L in his smuggling operations.

HEMMING had a falling out with the O'DONNEL group and decided to leave them. He is now associated with Carlos CARABALLO who operates a charter fishing business and traffics in drugs. HEMMING decided to inform on the O'DONNEL's for revenge and in order to try to eliminate the competition.

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

Gerald Patrick HEMMING ✓

Naddis 310145

Thomas O'DONNEL ✓

FBI # 100 269

Naddis 327615

William O'DONNEL ✓

Naddis 326518

Arturo ROMANO-Fedullo ✓

Naddis 67658

Carlos CARABALLO

Naddis 270732

Armando BOLET

Naddis 279217

Naddis 273842

John VARESE

Naddis 23174

Naddis 47225

Naddis 156721

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

3. AA 54 - Karen Atkinson 5461

485-305-591-4902 = JEA

4. Pay travel - 1 m

1. when trial - 1 m

2. Caption case

what court

was re :

76-376-CR-CA

~~Sakomura~~ Judge

Pat-Fredricka 305-591-4902 (not 305-595-1698)
Peter Seaneese John Montoya 591-4970

DS/EAB 4E33 X1193
Pat Morris
Grafton Tappan

OGE

Ed Cohen X1319

Gary Brenneman
Andy Fennel