

*2/10 received
Mr. Hecksher
FBI - returned
letter
JH*

15 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with AMEMBER-1 about his meeting with Luis SOMOSA

DATE : 10 July 1963, 1800 hours

1. AMEMBER-1 called me to tell me that he had had lunch with Luis SOMOSA. He said Somosa's apparent purpose in arranging the luncheon, for it had been upon Somosa's initiative that they had gotten together, was to discuss certain Cuban refugees who seem to be gearing up for action in regard to the question of Cuban liberation. I asked after names and Subject cited Veciana, Batista Falla, and AMBIDY-1, stating that these were the names Somosa had thrown out during discussion. I asked Subject to tell me what he had said in regard to each and attempted to elicit Somosa's own views on each of these personalities. Pertinent for the record is the fact that Subject declared to Somosa that AMBIDY-1 was, in his own view, a very questionable fellow for two reasons: the first, he was overly cocky and inordinately ambitious and, secondly, he comes from a pro-communist family. In an attempt to determine Somosa's views on AMBIDY-1, I requested that Subject define more precisely what he meant by communist family, but was unable to obtain a meaningful response. I asked Subject if in the last instance it simply didn't boil down to the fact that he just didn't like AMBIDY and he agreed that this might well be the case. Along the line Subject stated that Somosa had simply been thinking of taking up some sort of contact with AMBIDY-1. I did not press for further details in view of my presumption that there was probably some special sort of relationship between Somosa and AMBIDY-1, the nature of which it would be unhealthy for Subject to know, and that too much emphasis on my part in this regard.

2. Those portions of the phone call devoted to AMBIDY-1 did not bear the same proportions to the whole as the discussion of AMBIDY-1 does to this report. The bulk of the conversation concerned inquiries on my part into the depth and nature of Subject's relationship with Somosa. Subject had known Somosa for decades and is a very close friend of the entire family, owns large tracts of property in Nicaragua and is presently considering entering upon

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construction of a sugar mill in Nicaragua with Somosa. The conversation concluded with Subject's statement that Somosa was coming to Washington on 11 July to see "topmost brass" in hopes of winning support for a push against Castro. According to Subject, Somosa is convinced that the Caribbean ain't big enough for both Castroites and Somosaites. One genre has to go.

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[JOHN H. SHEPHERD]
DAS/BUS/LE