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13 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cuba TDY - Edward G. Tichborn (P)

03 1. On 12 January and 13 January I talked with (Phil Toomey) and (Bob Reynolds) of WH Division to firm up details re Tichborn's briefing here on 15 January and re preparations for his trip to Cuba.

03 2. Re the briefing, it was decided that: (1) Mr. (Reynolds) will give Subject a general briefing on the Cuban political situation (the major one will be undertaken by the Station) and (2) Subject will be given sanitized copies of the Perlongo (P) report (on India) Section IV, and of the report prepared by the Plans Branch/PP/PRD entitled "Target Study of Opposition Groups in Cuba" to be read by Subject while at the briefing and then returned to us. Some observations on security will probably also be made at this time in addition to instructions on the manner of keeping and submitting his financial accounting. (It should be mentioned here also that WH Finance/Admin (Mr. Sousane) is of the opinion that since Tichborn will return to Washington in about 2 1/2 weeks time, it is not necessary for him to submit his accounts by mail, since that can be taken care of on his return.)

3. The problem which seemed to need most careful consideration was that of his cover while in Cuba. In talking to operational contacts he makes there, the cover story suggested by the Station in IN-47609 of 12 Nov. 1959 appears adequate. However, according to Pan American Airways, upon arrival in Havana the visitor is issued a tourist card by the Cuban Immigration authorities. One must state his profession at this time, which should present no problem to Tichborn. It could be that one is also asked his reason for being in Cuba. In this case, WH has suggested that the answer of "tourist" would be best since less suspicion would be placed on Subject in the beginning. The important aspect, however, appears to be that of covering Tichborn as well as possible in the event that he runs afoul of the Cuban authorities due to the nature of his activities and his contacts. I brought this matter up with WH and they agreed that some kind of backstopping might be a good idea. As a result, I contacted Mr. Strange of Cover Division who assured me that, if necessary, an appropriate letter could be provided Tichborn from a cover company. The one finally decided upon as the most logical was the [redacted] of the cover company (in 24 [redacted] which had originally been provided for funding Tichborn.

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Mr. Strange suggested that if this procedure be followed, Subject should then be given the name of the branch office rather than the one in Philadelphia. Mr. (Toomey) suggested the wording of such a letter (the basic idea of which would be for Subject to combine business with pleasure) which I will write up (if agreed upon by AC/PAD/FP) in final draft, and Cover Division will then transfer it to the appropriate letterhead. However, I advised both Mr. (Toomey) and Mr. Strange that before going into this matter further, I would have to check this whole matter out with you on 14 January.

4. As far as financing is concerned, Mr. (Sousane)⁰³ of WH is taking care of this matter and as of 13 January, the request for the advance (\$2,000) has been approved. The request for one-half of Tichborn's salary (\$650) must await approval until Subject has signed the amendment to his contract (which was received by this office on today's date). As per your suggestion, Mr. Strange has agreed to provide payment of Tichborn by a check drawn on the cover company to be deposited with Subject's bank. (I guess the final decision on this will depend on how Subject wants the money, whether a bank deposit or cash.) If done through the cover company and sent to Tichborn's bank, we should allow at least four or five days for the deposit to be made, depending upon the speed of the postal system.

Evelena Vidal
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