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3 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WR/S

SUBJECT : William Sprague BARNES

1. The following curriculum vitae on William Sprague BARNES appears in "Who's Who in the East" - 1959:

~~WILLIAM SPRAGUE~~
 BARNES, WILLIAM Sprague
 DPOB: 18 August 1919, New York City
 Son of : Albert McClellan and Julia Sprague BARNES
 Married : Mary West on 22 September 1958
 Children : Christina BARNES
 A. McClellan BARNES II
 Residence: 121 A. Brattle, St., Cambridge 38, Mass.
 Office : 1563 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 38, Mass.
 Religion : Episcopalian (Mass. Dept. Christian
 Education, 52-55)
 Harvard - Law - L-46/41; 45/47; LLB; 43 (47)
 Yale - AB - 1940; LLB Harvard 1943; Docteur en
 Droit, Univ. Geneva, 1958.
 Research Associate in Comparative Law - Univ. Michigan
 1948-50
 Secretary, International Legal Studies, Harvard - 1950-55
 Assistant Dean - Harvard - 1955
 Director World Tax Series, Harvard International Program
 on Taxation 1954.
 Director, Buckingham School, Cambridge.
 Served as Air Cadet to Captain - USAAP - 1941-45
 Air Medal with Cluster (Army)
 Distinguished Flying Cross
 Member Inter-American Bar Association (Council)
 American Association for Comparative Study of Law (Treasurer)

2. In June 1960 a Seminar on International and Comparative Law was organized through the efforts of Bayliss PARKING, Professor of Law at Yale, BARNES of Harvard, Dr. Manuel BISBES, Cuban Ambassador and delegate to the United Nations (deceased) and Ernesto DIHIGO, former Cuban Ambassador to the U.S. and head of the Cuban Bar Association at that time. Horacio GODOY, Argentina law professor at La Plata University in Argentina, a student at Yale until June 1961, prepared the list of delegates and the topics to be discussed.

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3. While in Habana, members of the Seminar were introduced to Juna COBB; GODOY travelled to Miami on the plane with COBB when she came to New York (and subsequently Washington) at the request of Harry Harnsdorf. Twice in October, BARNES contacted COBB in New York after returning from Washington. On these occasions he attempted to elicit information concerning her possible connections with "friends" - the implication being some intelligence organization. He mentioned that an unnamed American had warned him not to see too much of COBB in Cuba inasmuch as she was "secretly connected with the U.S. Government". It is not inconceivable that COBB herself may have conveyed this impression and that BARNES was only curious. However, on subsequent occasions, he has expressed surprise that she has not been contacted. He drops names - none of which ring any bells with COBB.

4. BARNES has now approached COBB to work on one of his several Latin American projects -

The Tax Institute of Harvard
The Latin American Branch of the U.N.
The Economic Commission of Latin America with
headquarters in Santiago, Chile

5. According to COBB, BARNES who will be working in conjunction with PREBBISCH of the UN, wants COBB to help coordinate in Latin America. "He was especially interested in my (COBB's) being able to communicate with useful members of left-wing groups". "He feels that this (the fiasco resulting from his attempts to rewrite the tax laws of Mexico) was inspired by the extreme right-wing --- and that it is indispensable that somebody involved in the conference preparations be compatible to the left-wing groups". He will receive more on this later after COBB has had a chance to find out more about BARNES' projects.

6. While there is no actual "derogatory" in the meager info on Subject, COBB's notes and BARNES own reports for OO/Contacts (copies attached) say to some degree indicate leftist sympathies.

03
[CLARK W. SIMMONS]
Chief, -R/4/CI

Attachments 4

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