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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

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REPORT MADE AT MEXICO, D. F.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/19/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/27, 28, 30 / 54; 1/11/55	REPORT MADE BY ROLF L. LARSON
TITLE EDWARD BROWDER, JR., with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject was rearrested on November 28, 1954, by Mexican Immigration authorities and is being held for possible deportation on the basis of his illegal entry and presence in Mexico. BROWDER claims to have participated in the recent Guatemalan revolution on the side of Colonel CASTILLO ARMAS and to have been involved in the organization of a revolution against the government of Costa Rican President JOSE FIGUERES FERRER.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
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SLIP(S) OF
DATE 7/12/97

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

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1-10-95
Classified by SP8 MAC/jac
Declassify on: OADR
(JFK)

January 19, 1955

Re: EDWARD BROWDER, JR., with aliases

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I. BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION

This investigation is predicated on information received from T-1, of known reliability, to the effect that Subject EDWARD BROWDER, JR., had been arrested by agents of the Mexican Ministry of Government (Immigration) on November 28, 1954. It was stated that the arrest had taken place in Mexico City at Calle Alvaro Obregon #51-A, that address being a small boarding house in which Subject had been residing for several days as an alleged student of Mexico City College.

II. STATUS OF SUBJECT IN MEXICO

T-1 advised that Subject was being held by Mexican Immigration authorities for illegal entry to and residence in Mexico since he claimed to have left Mexico subsequent to his earlier escape from the Department of Immigration Lockup on June 16, 1954. It was also mentioned by T-1 that charges could conceivably be placed against the Subject for violation of bond in connection with a previous arrest in Mexico on a charge of "fraud" and also for escape. It was the opinion of T-1, however, that the Mexican Immigration Department might prefer to deport Subject rather than press criminal charges against him as a result of which he would probably have to serve a prison sentence in the penitentiary of the Federal District.

It was advised by T-2, of known reliability, that Subject was endeavoring to obtain funds from his acquaintance and alleged co-revolutionary, ROSENDO ARGUELLO, JR., with which to finance his own "voluntary departure" from Mexico in order to avoid formal deportation proceedings which might render his possible return to Mexico more difficult. Subject stated to T-2 that he preferred not to be deported to the United States but that he hoped he might be sent to Guatemala where he claimed to have "friends."

T-1 advised that as of January 12, 1955, Subject was still detained by Immigration authorities and that in view of his failure to provide funds for a "voluntary departure," he probably would be deported by the Mexican Government in the not too distant future.

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III. ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECT

The following narrative of Subject's recent activities in Mexico and Central America was furnished by him to T-1 and T-2; however, it was the opinion of T-1 that Subject exaggerates greatly and that he appears to be either a pathological liar or to be slightly mentally deranged.

BROWDER claimed that following his escape in Mexico in June, 1954, he had made his way to Costa Rica and Guatemala and eventually had flown a P-47 airplane in the interests of the CASTILLO ARMAS revolution in Guatemala. He claimed he had been paid \$1,000 (U.S.) in connection with those services but that CASTILLO ARMAS still owes him a substantial sum of money which he claimed to be unable to pay immediately because of the complete depletion of the Guatemalan Treasury by the deposed ARBENZ Government.

BROWDER also stated very confidentially that he had been contacted by leaders of a group which was organizing a revolutionary attempt against the regime of Costa Rican President JOSE FIGUERES FERRER and that he had been requested to obtain arms, equipment and to do staff work in connection with that revolution. In connection with the foregoing, T-3, of unknown reliability, but who has furnished accurate information in the past, and who is known to be closely associated with Costa Rican revolutionary leaders, advised categorically that the group had no confidence whatsoever in BROWDER and that under no circumstances would they entrust him with funds or responsibility of any kind in connection with a possible revolutionary attempt against FIGUERES.

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T-1 advised that at the time of his arrest, BROWDER had in his possession copies of several letters from one CHUCK TAYLOR, 124 1/2 S. Park Drive, Los Angeles, California, which indicated an exchange of communications between BROWDER and TAYLOR relating to the possible sale of a "C-47 airplane." In this connection, BROWDER stated TAYLOR is an airlines pilot whom he had known when they were both flying for the Royal Air Force during World War II and that he had intended to effect the sale of a C-47 transport airplane which he claimed to "have access to" in Nicaragua.

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Also in Subject's possession at the time of his apprehension was a copy of a telegram from "Vision" magazine in New York offering him a contract to write articles for that

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magazine at a very nominal sum. BROWDER explained that he had hoped to write some articles concerning his "revolutionary activities and the Costa Rican Revolution" in order to earn some money but that the sum offered by the magazine had been so meager that he had not considered it worth while.

No Locality

At the time of his arrest, BROWDER was also in possession of a telegram from HENRY ~~X~~ LUCE dated November 19, 1954, and with respect thereto, BROWDER stated he had proposed to the owner-editor of "Time" and "Life" magazines that he would furnish complete facilities to a reporter and photographer from those magazines to cover the expected Costa Rican revolution at close range. He stated that he had been unable to complete arrangements with LUCE because of his arrest.

It was advised by T-1 that at the time of his detention the Subject had no clothes or personal effects whatsoever, that he was sleeping on the couch in the boardinghouse because of his inability to pay for a room and that he was absolutely destitute. T-1 expressed the opinion that all of the foregoing "business ventures" as described by BROWDER were merely desperate attempts by him to obtain advances or downpayments on proffered services or material even though the possibility of his delivering in connection with any of them was completely negligible.

BROWDER stated that at the time of his arrest he had been in Mexico City for more than two months and that he had resided at Calle Asturias #46, Altos, Colonia Alamos, and later at Calle Tehuantepec #200A, Colonia Roma, prior to moving to the Alvaro Obregon address.

T-1 stated Subject's former landlady had appeared at Immigration headquarters in an effort to collect rent and board which she claimed was due her for Subject's residence at Calle Tehuantepec #200A.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

A copy of this report has been disseminated on a circulation basis to the Embassy and [CIA, Mexico, D. F.] (S)

(C) As the Bureau was advised by airgram dated [December 2, 1954] Subject was arrested by Mexican authorities on the basis of information furnished them by this office concerning his whereabouts. Subject's presence at Calle Alvaro Obregon #51-A was verified by [MEX-46] and [MEX-58] following receipt of this office from the local CIA representative, Mr. ROBERT L. BROWN of data relating to Subject's letter to HENRY R. LUCE, the full text of which was subsequently furnished this office by the Bureau. (u) (S)

NO LOCALITY

Mexican authorities were advised of Subject's whereabouts after [CIA Representative ROBERT L. BROWN] advised that he perceived no objection to that procedure as long as the original source of the address was never divulged to either Mexican authorities or the Subject. It is pointed out in this connection that Subject's financial difficulties with his several landladies could easily have resulted in his denunciation to Immigration authorities and there is no reason to believe that he has any idea of the manner in which he was located by Mexican authorities.

SOURCES:

T-1 is the Chief of the Investigative Service of the Mexican Ministry of Government, Mr. DEMETRIO FLORES FAGOAGA.

T-2 is SA ROLF L. LARSON, who interviewed Subject in the presence of Mexican Immigration authorities.

T-3 is MANUEL E. CABALLERO, confidential source and Costa Rican revolutionary.

LEAD:

THE MEXICO CITY OFFICE

At Mexico, D. F.

Will follow and report action of the Mexican Government in connection with deportation of Subject.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (cont'd)

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REFERENCE:

Mexico City airgram dated [December 2, 1954.] (c)

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TITLE EDWARD BROWDER, JR., with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>1-10-95 Classified by <u>SPE/mac/lac</u> Declassify on: OADR (JFK)</p> <p>Subject was rearrested on November 26, 1954, by Mexican Immigration authorities and is being held for possible deportation on the basis of his illegal entry and presence in Mexico. BROWDER claims to have participated in the recent Guatemalan revolution on the side of Colonel CASTILLO ARNAS and to have been involved in the organization of a revolution against the government of Costa Rican President JOSE FIGUEROA FERRER.</p> <p>- P -</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-23-94 BY <u>SPE/mac/lac</u> (JFK)</p>			
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