

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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TO :
TITLE : FBI INFORMATION
DATE : 02/07/68
PAGES : 61
SUBJECTS : SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE UNIDENTIFIED MIDDLE EAST
RULER

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; PRINCE AHMAD A. AL SAUD - VICTIM

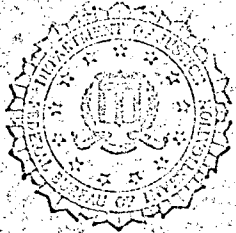
ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS

DOMINICAN SITUATION

ALEX WILSON

MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBEL, III

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
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DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/08/97
OPENING CRITERIA : COMPLETION OF REVIEW BY FBI
COMMENTS : COORDINATION WITH FBI HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND
DETERMINED TO BE RELEASABLE WITH DELETIONS PER MEMO
DTD 12 FEB 98.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

MM 103-6243

Miami, Florida

FEB 7 1966

Title SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY
(SNFE)
(OPERATION ALPHA 66)

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
NEUTRALITY MATTER

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
above at Miami, Florida

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

MM T-1 - with whom insufficient contact has been
had to determine reliability.

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DATE 4-2-96 BY 57668 SLW/KSL

(JFK)

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ON 10/8/97 ds

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1171a

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your agency.

RE: ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
UNIDENTIFIED MIDDLE EAST RULER

the victim upon being kidnapped would then be assassinated. Wer Bell further advised that Gray was extremely cautious in his phone call, in that he would not name names, places, or other details surrounding this plot. Gray requested Wer Bell to furnish this information to some of those persons employed by the U. S. Government, with whom Wer Bell has had previous contact so that they might arrange for Gray to be interviewed promptly.

Wer Bell stated that on the day following receipt of the phone call from Gray, he furnished this information telephonically to an acquaintance in Miami, Florida, who is employed by a Federal Government agency, which conducts intelligence investigations.

Wer Bell advised that since this initial call was received from Gray, he has had several additional telephone conversations, the last being early on the evening of February 21, 1967. During this conversation, Gray expressed concern over his not being contacted to date by Federal authorities and intimated his position in this matter was "pressing him" and that if not contacted by Federal authorities by February 23, 1967, he, Gray, would refer this matter to local police authorities.

Wer Bell advised that during the initial conversation with Gray, he urged him to report this planned kidnapping to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, however Gray declined to follow this suggestion.

Wer Bell by his own statements in the past has indicated an interest in Cuban affairs, the struggle in the Dominican Republic, and other Latin American matters.

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(JFK)

RE: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

MM T-1 also made available for examination an envelope which was addressed to "Mr. RON AUGUSTINOVICH, 17 N.W. 5th St., Miami, Florida", which bore the return address "S. AUGUSTINOVICH, 16833 N. 17th Pl., Phoenix, Arizona 85022".

MM T-1 also made available for examination a handwritten notebook which he said was the property of RONALD LEE AUGUSTINOVICH. Examination of this notebook revealed the following:

The front cover bore the printed inscription "II Frente, Alpha 66, Lt. RONALD AUGUSTINOVICH". Inside of the front cover there appeared the name "ALPHA 66" and below that the name "MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III, Atlanta-Georgia". Below that appeared "P.O. Box 2727, Phoenix, JIM KARIS". The first page of the notebook was headed "Class - Mines, Booby Traps, Demolitions, Saturday - Dec. 24, 1967". There followed three pages of handprinted notes relating to various types of mines and booby traps, their use and handling. Thereafter the notebook contained handwritten notations relating to various abbreviations for military use, such as "AC" to indicate airplane cargo, and "AO" to indicate airplane observation. Several pages were devoted to aircraft identification, setting forth vital statistics concerning the MIG 15, MIG 17, MIG 19, P-51 Mustang, AT-6, and the B-26, Martin Marauder. The notebook also contained handwritten outlines on demolitions and parachute jumping. Along with the notebook was a loose sheet of paper bearing what is apparently an excerpt from the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1965, Volume 17, pages 776-780, relating to white phosphorus, its characteristics and behavior. It was noted that this material glows in the dark and takes fire spontaneously upon exposure to air.

MM T-1 said that AUGUSTINOVICH had told him that

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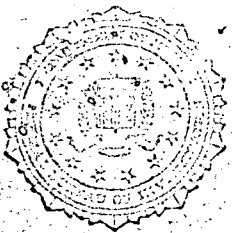
RE: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

the SNFE has a place where all of its arms, ammunition and explosives are stored, but he did not disclose the location at that time.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. MM 105-6243

Miami, Florida

FEB 7 1968

RE: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY
(SNFE)
(OPERATION ALPHA 66)
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
NEUTRALITY MATTER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4-2-96 BY 5668 SLD/KSR

(JFK)

The SNFE is an anti-CASTRO Cuban revolutionary organization which maintains its headquarters at 109 S. W. 12th Avenue, Miami, Florida. The military leader of the SNFE is ARMANDO FLEITES DIAZ.

On January 29, 1968, MM T-1, a person who recently arrived in the Miami, Florida, area, advised that he had become acquainted with one RONALD LEE AUGUSTINOVICH, an American from Phoenix, Arizona. AUGUSTINOVICH was then residing at Room 111, Tip Top Hotel, 17 N. W. 5th Street, Miami. He is about 30 years of age, and claims to be a veteran as well as a helicopter pilot. AUGUSTINOVICH appears to have considerable knowledge concerning the handling and operation of explosive devices. MM T-1 advised that on January 28, 1968, AUGUSTINOVICH took him to the office of the SNFE and introduced him to various members and officers of that organization.

On January 30, 1968, MM T-1 advised that AUGUSTINOVICH had introduced him on that date to ARMANDO FLEITES, leader of the SNFE. In conversation with FLEITES, it was learned that the SNFE has been collecting money from the Cuban exiles on the premises that the organization will take some type of military action against the CASTRO Government in Cuba. FLEITES said that in order to justify accepting this money, the organization was going to have to perform some such action in the near future. With this in mind, FLEITES remarked that he was now accepting

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RE: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

guidance and assistance from qualified American personnel such as AUGUSTINOVICH. MM T-1 said that AUGUSTINOVICH is apparently participating in some sort of a military training program for the SNFE as he had in his possession a manual concerning demolition devices. MM T-1 said he had learned that in addition to AUGUSTINOVICH, other Americans connected with the SNFE include CHARLES STEELE from Boston, who recently married a Cuban girl in Miami, and BILL MC ----- (last name not recalled), who is a waiter at Chandler's Restaurant, Miami Beach. AUGUSTINOVICH said that STEELE is presently in the Dominican Republic, but he did not reveal the purpose for STEELE's trip. AUGUSTINOVICH said that a man named MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III, of Atlanta, Georgia, is in charge of making arrangements to obtain necessary arms and ammunition.

On January 31, 1968, MM T-1 reported that on the night of January 30, 1968, ARMANDO FLEITES and AUGUSTINOVICH had a meeting with an unidentified person from whom they purchased 1000 rounds of "Western 380 Automatic" ammunition. AUGUSTINOVICH did not reveal for what purpose this purchase was made. AUGUSTINOVICH also mentioned that the SNFE had some old type hand grenades which could be filled with yellow phosphorus.

MM T-1 made available a slip of paper bearing the caption "Traffic Receipt", Form 770 of the Mobil Chemical Company, Industrial Chemicals Division, which bore the date January 10, 1968. It was indicated on this form that Mr. RONALD AUGUSTINOVICH with address shown as Miami, Florida, purchased one 200-pound drum of "elemental yellow phosphorus" with a net weight of 200 pounds and a gross weight of 290 pounds. The receipt indicated that the material was "Shipped from: Charleston, S.C.". Under the caption "Shipped via:", it was indicated that the material had been picked up in "customer's truck". This receipt was stamped as follows: "Dangerous Articles" and "Dangerous Placards Applied". The receipt was signed "RONALD LEE AUGUSTINOVICH".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence

are the subject of current investigation by the Bureau of Customs, Department of the Treasury. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is conducting no investigation in this regard but is maintaining close liaison with the Bureau of Customs and is furnishing promptly to that Bureau all pertinent information obtained.

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ON 10/8/97 *ds*

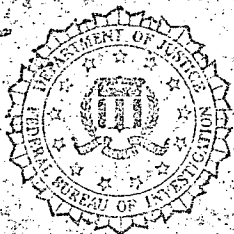
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DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

February 24, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PRINCE AHMAD A. AL SAUD - VICTIM

**CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR,
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

**KP 1-15-78 SJD/KSR
1-22-98 (JFK)**

A Federal Government Agency which conducts Intelligence investigations advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. that on February 20, 1967, Mitchell Wer Bell of Powder Springs, Georgia, had advised that Chester Grey, Los Angeles, had recently mentioned to Bell that he, Grey, had been approached to participate in an assassination of an unidentified middle east ruler or member of his family. Bell claimed he had urged Grey to report this to the FBI but Grey refused.

Government Agencies conducting Intelligence investigations have described Bell as unreliable, a "wild man", a name dropper, of unsavory reputation, who lives by his wits, fast dealing and smooth talking. Grey has furnished information to the FBI in the past which has been both reliable and unreliable.

On February 22, 1967, Bell was interviewed by FBI Agents in Powder Springs, Georgia. He advised he has had contacts with Grey in the past and on the evening of either February 17 or 18, 1967, Grey telephonically advised him that he, Grey, had been contacted by persons (he did not identify) for the purpose of participating in a plot to kidnap either the son or brother of a political figure in a middle eastern country. Bell was of the opinion the country had large resources from oil. Grey had also mentioned to Bell that the person to be kidnapped either resides in the United States or is visiting and the alleged plot is to be implemented within ten days. Grey also stated that the conspirators plan to kidnap the victim and Grey desired Bell to furnish these facts to any Government contacts that he, Bell, may have so Grey would subsequently be contacted by these Government contacts. Bell advised he furnished this information the following day to a Government Agency handling Intelligence investigations and located in Miami, Florida. Since then Bell received several additional calls from Grey probably from California, and Grey inquired when

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DATE 3-29-96 BY 5668 SJD/KSR

(JFK)

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This memo hand carried by Bob Hayes 5-14-69
to replace LA FBI report of the same date
(follows next).

cmk

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ON 1-23-78 dcl

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UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PRINCE AHMAD A. AL SAUD -
VICTIM

he could expect to be contacted. Bell's last contact with Grey was the evening of February 21, 1967. At that time Grey stated he is in a "bind" and will contact local authorities on February 23, 1967 if the Federal people failed to contact him before then. Bell urged Grey to be cautious in phone conversations and did not furnish any names of individuals or countries involved in the telephone conversation.

On February 22, 1967, Chester Grey was interviewed by FBI Agents in Los Angeles. At that time Grey alleged the FBI owed him money for services as an informant and claimed he should be paid for past expenses. He added that he would furnish no information unless paid on a C.D.D. basis. He then claimed that he had been contacted approximately one week ago by an individual he refused to identify and approached to participate in a plot to kidnap an un-named relative of an "unknown" middle east ruler. No definite dates were known for this alleged kidnaping, and he refused to furnish further information since "the FBI would then know as much as I do and would have no further use for me". He stated if the FBI did not desire to pay him for this information and to follow up on this matter, he would then furnish information to interested local authorities on February 23, 1967. The interview was terminated at this point.

The FBI does not owe Grey any money for services or expenses.

On February 23, 1967, the FBI, Washington, D.C. was advised by the United States State Department, Washington, D.C. that Grey was reporting to the Los Angeles FBI Office an alleged kidnaping plot involving "Ibn Saud" brother of King Fisal of Saudi Arabia, presently attending the University of Redlands, Redlands, California.

Investigation at Redlands, California, determined that Ahmad A. Al Saud is presently attending the University of Redlands, Redlands, California, and resides at 1300 West Palm, Redlands, California, unlisted telephone number 793-1078.

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UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PRINCE AHMAD A. AL SAUD -
VICTIM

He resides at this residence with his wife, two children, and two maids. He has been a resident of Redlands, California, for three years. Prince Ahmad A. Al Saud, born 1941, is a half brother of King Faisal Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia.

On February 23, 1967, Prince Al Saud, James Paisley, Dean of Students, University of Redlands, Chief of Police Stanley R. Bowan, Redlands Police Department, were advised of the unsubstantiated allegation regarding the above matter. All were advised of the FBI's jurisdiction and the fact the FBI could not offer protection. Chief of Police Bowan advised Prince Al Saud that the Redlands Police Department was using the cruising patrols in the area of Prince Al Saud's residence and would be alert to any suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

On February 24, 1967, Hibbard Lamkin, Chief of Security, United States State Department, was advised of the above information.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Los Angeles, California
February 24, 1967

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
UNIDENTIFIED MIDDLE EAST RULER

On February 22, 1967, Chester Gray also known as Chester Zochowski, 324 North Oakhurst Drive, Beverly Hills, California, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at Jay's Coffee Shop, corner of Highland Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood, California.

Gray stated that he was contacted about one week ago by an individual whom he refused to further identify and was approached to participate in a plot to kidnap an un-named relative of a well known Middle East ruler. He said his contact with this individual had been insufficient for him to have knowledge as to the date for this planned kidnapping.

Gray refused to furnish any further details regarding this alleged kidnapping plot and stated as his reason, "The Bureau would then know as much as I do and would have no further use for me!" He was adamant on this point. He steadfastly refused to identify the Middle East ruler.

Gray stated that if the FBI did not desire to pay him money for this information now and agree to pay him on a "COD basis" for his efforts to follow up on this matter, he would then furnish information regarding the kidnap plot to "interested local authorities" on February 23, 1967.

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DATE 4-2-96 BY 5668 SLO/KSR
(JFK)

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ON 10/8/97 *JS*

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*g A 7 b I report
of some date
replaced this one*



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia
February 28, 1967

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
UNIDENTIFIED MIDDLE EAST RULER

On February 21, 1967, Mr. William Hughes, Customs Agent, U. S. Bureau of Customs for Georgia, Savannah, Georgia, was contacted and advised of the contemplated contact and interview of one Mitchell Wer Bell, Powder Springs, Georgia, who may or may not be of interest to the Customs authorities. Mr. Hughes interposed no objection to this contact.

On February 21, 1967, Mr. Mitchell L. Wer Bell, III, Dallas Road, Powder Springs, Georgia, was interviewed at which time he advised in the past he has met and had some contact with a person known to him as Chet Gray, who resides at 324 North Oakhurst Drive, Beverly Hills, California, and has telephone number 213-274-4922. Wer Bell advised his initial contacts with Gray related primarily to Latin America or the Caribbean area affairs of the recent past.

Wer Bell advised that on the evening of either February 17, or February 18, 1967, he was telephonically contacted in Powder Springs, Georgia, by Chet Gray, ostensibly from California. On this occasion Gray stated he had been contacted by persons, not otherwise identified by Gray, to participate in a plot to kidnap either the son or brother of a prominent political figure of a Middle Eastern country. According to Wer Bell, Gray did not identify the victim further by the name of individual, and neither did he identify the Middle Eastern country other than to describe it as a country having large oil resources. Wer Bell did not know whether the victim was now residing in the United States or whether he was visiting or proposed to visit in the near future in the United States.

Wer Bell advised that as a result of this phone conversation, he concluded the plot was to be implemented within ten days of receipt of phone call, and further that

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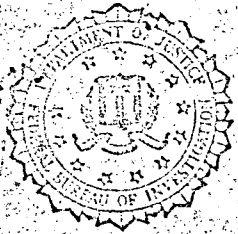
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DATE 4-1-96 BY 5668 SLD/KSR

(JFK)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
October 28, 1966

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas
Internal Security - Haiti
Registration Act - Haiti - Cuba
Neutrality Matters

NY T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on October 13, 1966, that Rolando Masferrer was currently in Miami, Florida, and continuing his preparation for an alleged invasion of Haiti. NY T-1 stated that the proposed filming of Masferrer's preparations by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) have been completed with the exception of the transfer of the military equipment from the Miami area to a boat which would take the weapons and some personnel to the Dominican Republic.

NY T-1 advised that closely associated with Rolando Masferrer in the Miami area are his brother, Rodolfo "Kiki" Masferrer and his cousin, Antonio Rojas Masferrer. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer's support comes from a certain segment of the Cuban exiles in the Miami area who were formerly members of Brigade 2506 which participated in the invasion of Cuba in April, 1961.

NY T-1 advised that from the Haitian position, Masferrer's support comes from the group headed by Father Jean Baptiste Georges. NY T-1 also stated that closely connected with Rolando Masferrer in the New York area with his plans to invade Haiti are two Cuban exile Roman Catholic priests, namely, Reverend Diego Madrigal and Reverend Manuel F. Colmena.

NY T-1 stated on October 13, 1966, that Mitchell Livingston Wer Bell III, who is commonly known as "Mitch",

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Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

is still connected with Masferrer's plans to overthrow Haiti and continues to be an important link in the whole operation due to his alleged "good connections" in the Dominican Republic. NY T-1 said that Wer Bell has not made any personal contact with individuals in the Dominican Republic to obtain a base from which Masferrer could initiate his invasion of Haiti. NY T-1 stated that Wer Bell has sent Ricardo Adolis Cobos, a Cuban exile from Miami, to Santo Domingo but that the trips made by Cobos were for personal business reasons for Wer Bell. NY T-1 stated that Wer Bell is very much interested in talking to the Dominican Government about the possibility of his taking over the San Cristobal factory for the manufacturing of weapons. NY T-1 stated that on the last trip of Cobos to the Dominican Republic, Cobos carried with him 12 gyrojet rocket hand guns to be given out to influential people in the Dominican Government in order to pave the way for Wer Bell's attempt to take over the operation of the San Cristobal factory. NY T-1 stated that on this trip Cobos was arrested by Dominican authorities at the airport for carrying these guns into the country. It was the opinion of NY T-1 that the matter has been completely straightened out with the Dominican Government concerning the arrest of Cobos.

NY T-1 advised on October 13, 1966, that during the previous week Mitchell Wer Bell had visited New York and, during this visit to New York NY T-1 introduced Wer Bell to General Leon Cantave and Louis Justin Elie both Haitian exiles residing in New York City. NY T-1 stated that General Cantave is in no way connected with the planned invasion of Haiti by Masferrer but that Cantave would be willing to assist if anything concrete would be developed relative to Haiti. NY T-1 also stated on October 13, 1966, that in a conversation with Louis Justin Elie, Elie informed him that he, Elie, had contacted his cousin, Andre Elie, the Haitian Consul General in New York, and had asked his cousin to see if President Francois Duvalier could put him, Louis Justin Elie, on the pay roll of the Haitian Government.

NY T-1 further advised that recently Masferrer's group had come across a yacht in the Miami area in which

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Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

Masferrer expressed great interest. NY T-1 stated that this boat in which Masferrer was interested was a 57 foot yacht called the "Poor Richard" which belonged to Richard Harvey of Miami, Florida. NY T-1 described Richard Harvey as a former wealthy individual who has fallen on hard times and who was delinquent in his payments on his boat. Due to lack of funds, Harvey had dismissed the captain and his crew from this boat and the total indebtedness owed on the boat by Harvey is \$6,500. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer requested that CBS pay up the notes due on this boat and make this boat available for Masferrer's plans to invade Haiti. NY T-1 stated that CBS declined to make any payment and refused to get involved in this matter.

NY T-1 further identified Richard Harvey, mentioned above, as the owner of a chain of hot dog stands in Florida called "Poor Richard's".

NY T-1 also advised on October 13, 1966, that he was very skeptical of the completion of Masferrer's plans to invade Haiti. NY T-1 stated it was his personal belief that there would be no invasion of Haiti as Masferrer lacks the necessary transportation and most important, the necessary funds. NY T-1 stated that it was his conviction that in order to successfully invade Haiti the minimum sum required for such an operation would be \$50,000. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer and his associates do not have this amount of money nor do they have sources to whom they can go to to get it.

NY T-1 stated that he was also concerned about this alleged invasion of Haiti due to the activities of Mitchell Wer Bell. NY T-1 stated that Wer Bell is a very heavy drinker and when he gets drunk he becomes an obnoxious individual and already due to his heavy drinking there have been several fights and misunderstandings between Wer Bell and Masferrer.

NY T-1 also said that closely connected with Mitchell Wer Bell is one Ralph Serrano (Phonetic) who is a Dominican residing in Miami Beach who goes under the name of Bill Baird (Phonetic) when he is in the Miami area. NY T-1 stated that

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Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

Serrano is always short of funds and he would not be above selling information concerning Masferrer's activities and plans to the Haitian Government representatives in the United States. NY T-1 stated that another individual closely connected with Wer Bell is an American whom he knows only by the name Chet Gray. NY T-1 stated that he has seen Gray in Miami on two occasions and has seen him once in New York. NY T-1 stated that it was his impression that Gray may be working for the Haitian Government supplying information to Haiti.

NY T-1 advised on October 13, 1966, that CBS conducted interviews in New York of Haitian exiles which would be used by CBS in its projected film of an invasion of Haiti. NY T-1 stated those interviewed in New York were General Leon Cantave and Louis Justin Elie on one occasion, and on another occasion, Father Jean Baptiste Georges and his military leader, Colonel Rene Leon. NY T-1 stated that CBS has completed as much of their film work as they can and that all the film which has been completed is being maintained by CBS in their film library for future use in the event there is an invasion of Haiti and an overthrow of the Government of President Francois Duvalier.

1171p



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida

September 14, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS
INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI - CUBA
REGISTRATION ACT - HAITI - CUBA
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

DOMINICAN SITUATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

It was previously reported on September 7, 1966, that an informant advised that ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS, a former Cuban Senator and notorious Cuban exile currently residing in the New York area, had been recently in the Miami area and had been cooperating with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) in filming a documentary relative to a possible invasion of Haiti. It was reported that this CBS documentary film was in two parts, the first of which had been already completed and the second was to record the transfer of weapons from the Miami area by boat to a larger ship at sea for delivery to the Dominican Republic and then to a base in the Dominican Republic from which the invasion against Haiti would be reportedly launched. It was reported that a key member of this plan was MITCHELL WER BELL, III, from Atlanta, Georgia, whose importance to this operation stemmed from his high contacts in the Dominican Republic. WER BELL was to make a trip to the Dominican Republic in September, 1966, in order to talk with Commodore (first name unknown) JIMENEZ of the Dominican Navy, who, WER BELL indicated, was a "close friend" and had offered facilities to WER BELL for the proposed invasion of Haiti. It was also reported that WER BELL stated this invasion of Haiti had been discussed with President JOAQUIN BALAGUER of the Dominican Republic and that BALAGUER was "willing to assist." It was reported that WER BELL was the key man in this entire operation because if he failed to obtain the necessary facilities in the Dominican Republic through Commodore JIMENEZ, the whole plan of MASFERRER would be terminated.

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ON 9-27-96

Excluded from Automatic
Downgrading and Declassification

(JFIC)

over

[REDACTED]

RE: ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS
DOMINICAN SITUATION

On September 12, 1966, MM T-1, who is closely associated with RICARDO ADOLIS COBOS Y RICARDO, a Cuban exile in Miami, furnished the following information as gleaned from COBOS:

COBOS has advised that MITCHELL WER BEL has no important contacts in the Dominican Republic and is not personally acquainted with Commodore RAMON EMILIO JIMENEZ, Chief of the Dominican Navy, who is a close friend of COBOS. WER BEL, in fact, was recently declared persona non grata in the Dominican Republic and was refused a visa to enter the Dominican Republic in September, 1966. WER BEL is depending solely on COBOS as his intermediary with Dominican officials concerning this matter and the matter has not yet been broached with Commodore JIMENEZ, although COBOS made two trips to the Dominican Republic in August and September, 1966, in WER BEL's behalf, during one of which COBOS held a thirty minute personal conversation with President BALAGUER. These trips concerned only WER BEL's efforts to establish a factory in the Dominican Republic for the manufacture of a hand weapon known as the Gyrojet Rocket Hand Gun developed by M B Associates, San Ramon, California, for which WER BEL holds the Latin American franchise.

COBOS' discussion with President BALAGUER was confined to the possibility of establishing such an enterprise in the Dominican Republic and no mention was made of MASFERRER or his proposed invasion of Haiti. COBOS is certain that President BALAGUER has not been contacted regarding this matter and that he would never entertain the idea of using the Dominican Republic as a base for invasion of another Latin American country during these initial and trying stages of his new government.

According to information furnished to MM T-1 by COBOS, COBOS was in personal contact with WER BEL on September 8 and 9, 1966, at which time WER BEL stated the second phase of this plan for the invasion of Haiti would be begun during the following week in Miami. The boat to be used in transporting the firearms from Miami to the Dominican Republic is a 75-foot sailboat, the "Poor Richard," currently docked at Dinner Key in Miami. WER BEL indicated this boat would be moved some time during the week

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS
DOMINICAN SITUATION

of September 12-16, 1966, to North Key Largo, from where it will subsequently depart for the Dominican Republic. WER BEL also indicated that the entire CBS crew would travel to Miami from New York by plane on September 13, 1966. MASFERRER and WER BEL will also travel to Miami and will bring \$40,000 to \$50,000 worth of firearms to be used in this filming. The method of transporting the firearms to Miami was not mentioned to the source by COBOS; however, COBOS indicated some of the group will travel by car from WER BEL's home in Powder Springs, Georgia, which car will be pulling a Boston Whaler boat equipped with a 90 horsepower Mercury outboard engine. This boat has no markings or name.

COBOS indicated to the source that this boat will not leave Miami until he has secured permission of Commodore JIMENEZ to store the firearms at Kainai Naval Base in the Dominican Republic. COBOS indicated that he anticipates that WER BEL will ask him to travel to the Dominican Republic for this purpose some time during the week of September 12, 1966. COBOS also indicated to the source that even if permission is obtained from Commodore JIMENEZ to store the firearms at this base and they eventually arrive there, in his opinion the operation will stop at this point inasmuch as Commodore JIMENEZ will never permit the firearms to be removed from the Dominican Republic.

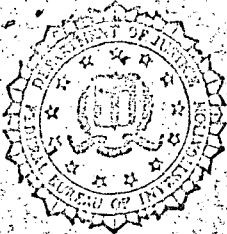
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[REDACTED]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
September 14, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI - CUBA
 REGISTRATION ACT - HAITI - CUBA
 NEUTRALITY MATTERS

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
 above at Miami, Florida

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida

SEP 12 1966

DECLASSIFIED BY

ON

5668 SLD/KSR
5-9-96 (JFK)

RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On September 5, 1966, MM T-1, who is described as a close associate of RICARDO ADOLIS COBOS Y RICARDO, Cuban exile currently residing in Miami, Florida, furnished the following information:

COBOS has been recently engaged in a business venture in the Dominican Republic with MITCHELL L. WER BEL, III, also known as Alex Wilson, Powder Springs, Georgia, an American adventurer who has long been interested in Latin American affairs. WER BEL is employed by Point-O-Sale, Inc., Powder Springs, Georgia, and holds the Latin American franchise for sale of a hand weapon known as the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun, manufactured by MBA Associates, San Ramon, California. In July, 1966, in an attempt to interest the Dominican military in the purchase of this weapon, WER BEL commissioned COBOS, who is well acquainted with key Dominican military officers, to travel with him to the Dominican Republic to introduce him to these officers and to act as his interpreter, since WER BEL's knowledge of Spanish is limited. Also scheduled to make this trip was a wealthy friend of WER BEL's, Dr. LAWRENCE MITCHELL, a veterinarian from Atlanta, Georgia, with interests in the Dominican Republic, who planned to attempt to sell some chemical chicken feed to the Dominican Government.

According to information furnished to MM T-1 by

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON

10/8/97 Jd

☐ RELEASE IN FULL

☒ RELEASE IN PART

☐ TOTAL DENIAL

~~Group 1~~
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

COBOS, COBOS traveled to the Dominican Republic on July 28, 1966, and returned to Miami, Florida, on August 14, 1966. His airplane ticket, and presumably his expenses, were paid by WER BEL. COBOS traveled alone inasmuch as WER BEL and Dr. MITCHELL had not been successful in obtaining visas to enter the Dominican Republic. *

Upon arriving in the Dominican Republic, COBOS contacted Commodore RAMON EMILIO JIMENEZ, Chief of Staff of the Dominican Navy, and received permission to enter the Hainai Naval Base to inventory equipment which originally belonged to the anti-CASTRO organization, the Junta Revolucionaria (JURE), when this organization had a base in the Dominican Republic. Responsibility for these arms had rested with JOSE RABEL, former Captain of the JURE boat, "Venus", until RABEL was captured in an attempt to infiltrate into Cuba. Thereafter, COBOS was technically responsible for this equipment. His apparent purpose in conducting this inventory was to assure himself the arms were still being held intact by the Dominican military.

COBOS indicated to MM T-1 that this inventory determined that this equipment consisted of .50 caliber machine guns, a recoilless cannon, numerous small arms, and ammunition, estimated value \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

COBOS subsequently determined that MITCHELL WER BEL would not join him in the Dominican Republic inasmuch as he had been refused a visa, this refusal being based, in part, on a complaint by one STEPHANY, owner of a small shipping company which operates boats between Miami and Santo Domingo, the nature of the complaint unknown to the source. Also possibly affecting this ✓

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RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

decision was the fact that WER BEL when previously in the Dominican Republic was somehow involved in an automobile accident in which a small boy was injured. Additionally, WER BEL had previously given a bad check in the amount of \$5,000.00 to FRANK BERMUDEZ, Dominican millionaire and President of J. Armando Bermudez Company, a rum distillery, although COBOS indicated to the source that this check was still being held by BERMUDEZ and had not been reported to the Dominican authorities. ✓

Through contact with Commodore JIMENEZ, COBOS was successful in having this restriction removed and having a visa issued for WER BEL to enter the Dominican Republic for the purpose of conducting business there. After having the way paved by a telephone call from Commodore JIMENEZ, COBOS personally contacted Mr. BOBADILLA, head of the Dominican Visa Office, and had WER BEL's visa application approved and mailed to the Dominican Consulate in Miami.

Dr. LAWRENCE MITCHELL arrived in the Dominican Republic on August 4, 1966, and joined COBOS. On August 6, 1966, COBOS and Dr. MITCHELL traveled to Santiago where they met a business associate of MITCHELL's named EDMUNDO VALLE. MITCHELL and VALLE had been in the banana business but were planning to attempt to develop a peanut oil refinery in Santiago. MITCHELL and COBOS spent the day examining an oil refinery that MITCHELL expects to lease for this business venture.

On the following day, MITCHELL and COBOS visited FRANK BERMUDEZ, previously described, whom COBOS described to MM T-1 as a long-time friend. BERMUDEZ discussed several business propositions with COBOS, including the possibility that he would purchase a farm for COBOS to operate and also

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

the possibility that he would purchase the "Venus" which would be outfitted for commercial use by COBOS.

COBOS subsequently introduced MITCHELL to Commodore JIMENEZ, and at this time advised JIMENEZ that JOSE RABEL had borrowed \$11,000.00 from Dr. MITCHELL which he had used to repair the "Venus", purchase arms and gasoline. RABEL had not repaid this money when he was captured in Cuba, and COBOS reportedly advised the Commodore he was relinquishing control of these arms to Dr. MITCHELL in order to satisfy this obligation on the part of RABEL. COBOS did not indicate to the source that he was aware of any agreement reached by Dr. MITCHELL and Commodore JIMENEZ as to disposition of these arms other than that Dr. MITCHELL indicated he was not interested in physical possession of the arms but only wanted to sell them to recover his money. ✓?

Following COBOS' return to Miami, Florida, he was commissioned by the American Engineering and Supply Company, Miami, to again travel to the Dominican Republic in an attempt to promote business with the Dominican Government. This company formerly supplied uniforms and equipment, except firearms, to the Dominican Navy. Although COBOS was not paid for these services, the company offered to furnish his round-trip transportation and agreed to give him a percentage of all business he developed in the Dominican Republic.

COBOS also indicated he planned to take advantage of this opportunity to assist MITCHELL WER BEL in establishing a business there as well as to obtain a factory site for the production of the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun. COBOS departed Miami for Santo Domingo on August 29, 1966, and returned to Miami on September 3, 1966.

In the Dominican Republic, COBOS first contacted

4.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

Commodore JIMENEZ and determined the Dominican Navy had no need for supplies at the present time from the American Engineering and Supply Company.


COBOS then contacted General DE LOS SANTOS CESPEDES, former Chief of the Dominican Air Force, regarding the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun and through him was placed in contact with EMILIO PEREZ Y PEREZ, Dominican Minister of the Armed Forces. PEREZ Y PEREZ contacted President JOAQUIN BALAGUER, who indicated interest in the weapon and its production in the Dominican Republic. At President BALAGUER's request, COBOS went to his office and discussed the matter with him. President BALAGUER requested samples of the gun and was told that COBOS did not bring samples because of the restrictions by Dominican customs. President BALAGUER instructed COBOS on his next trip to the Dominican Republic to bring samples of this weapon appropriately wrapped and labeled, and to telephone from Miami prior to his departing in order that General DE LOS SANTOS CESPEDES could meet him at the airport and escort him through customs.

President BALAGUER stated he would be interested in the establishment of such a factory within the Dominican Republic provided the factory could also manufacture ammunition for conventional weapons. He set forth the following eight points regarding production which he must have answered prior to further negotiations in this regard:

1. Daily production
2. Weekly production
3. Monthly production
4. Type of weapon to be produced

5. [REDACTED]

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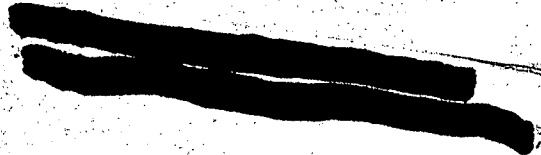


RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

5. Number of employees to be engaged
6. Ability to produce ammunition for conventional weapons
7. Salary of workers
8. Willingness to sign contract for at least ten years

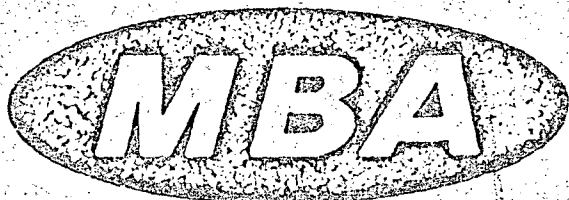
COBOS indicated to the source that he was subsequently taken on a tour of a large factory located at San Cristobal, about twenty kilometers from Santo Domingo, which factory is currently engaged in production of wire-fencing. He was told this factory would be made available to his company if this business venture is approved. COBOS expressed the private opinion to the informant that this factory is much larger than expected by MBA Associates, and he felt they would be unable to handle the volume anticipated by President BALAGUER.

COBOS indicated to the source that he was scheduled to meet with MITCHELL WER BEL and the President of MBA Associates, name unknown to the source, at Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday and Friday, September 8 and 9, 1966, to discuss this business venture and to present the eight points outlined by President BALAGUER.

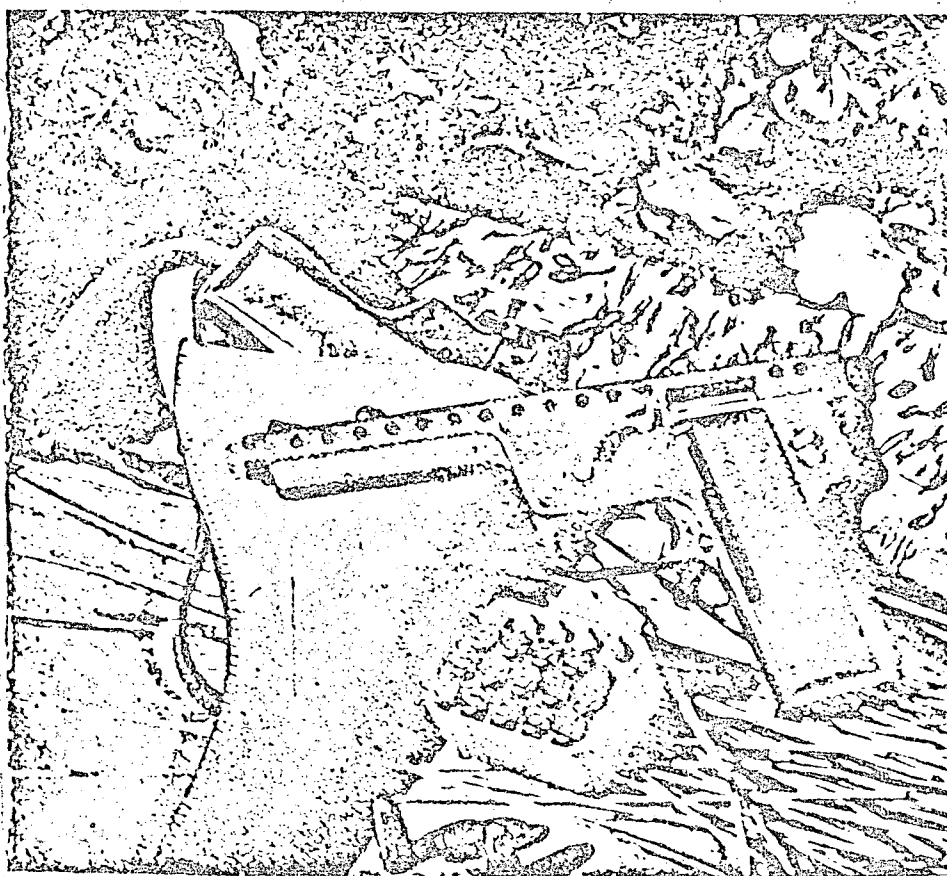
MM T-1 made available a brochure describing the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun, which brochure follows:

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REVOLUTIONARY NEW



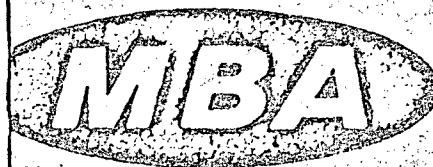
GYROJET ROCKET HANDGUN



CALIBER 13MM GYROJET ROCKET HANDGUN

MBASSOCIATES

SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA

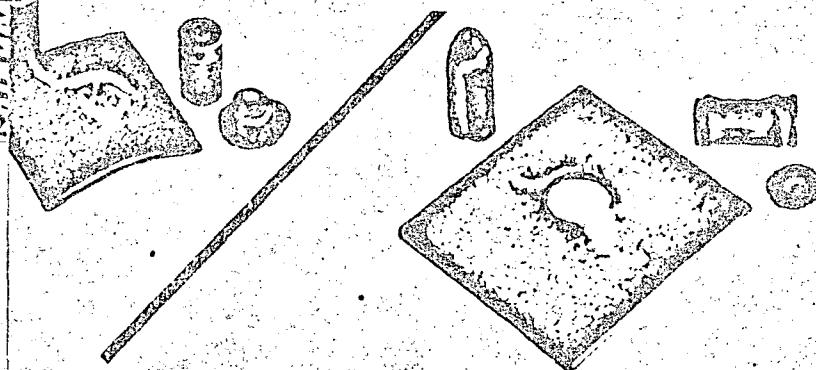


MBA GYROJET ROCKETS

Gyrojet Rockets are ignited by means of a percussion primer contained in the nozzle. The propellant is a solid grain in the form of a hollow cylinder. Total burning time for the 3mm Gyrojet Rocket is 0.12 seconds, and turnout velocity is 1250 feet per second. Kinetic energy on target is almost twice that of the conventional Caliber .45 bullet.

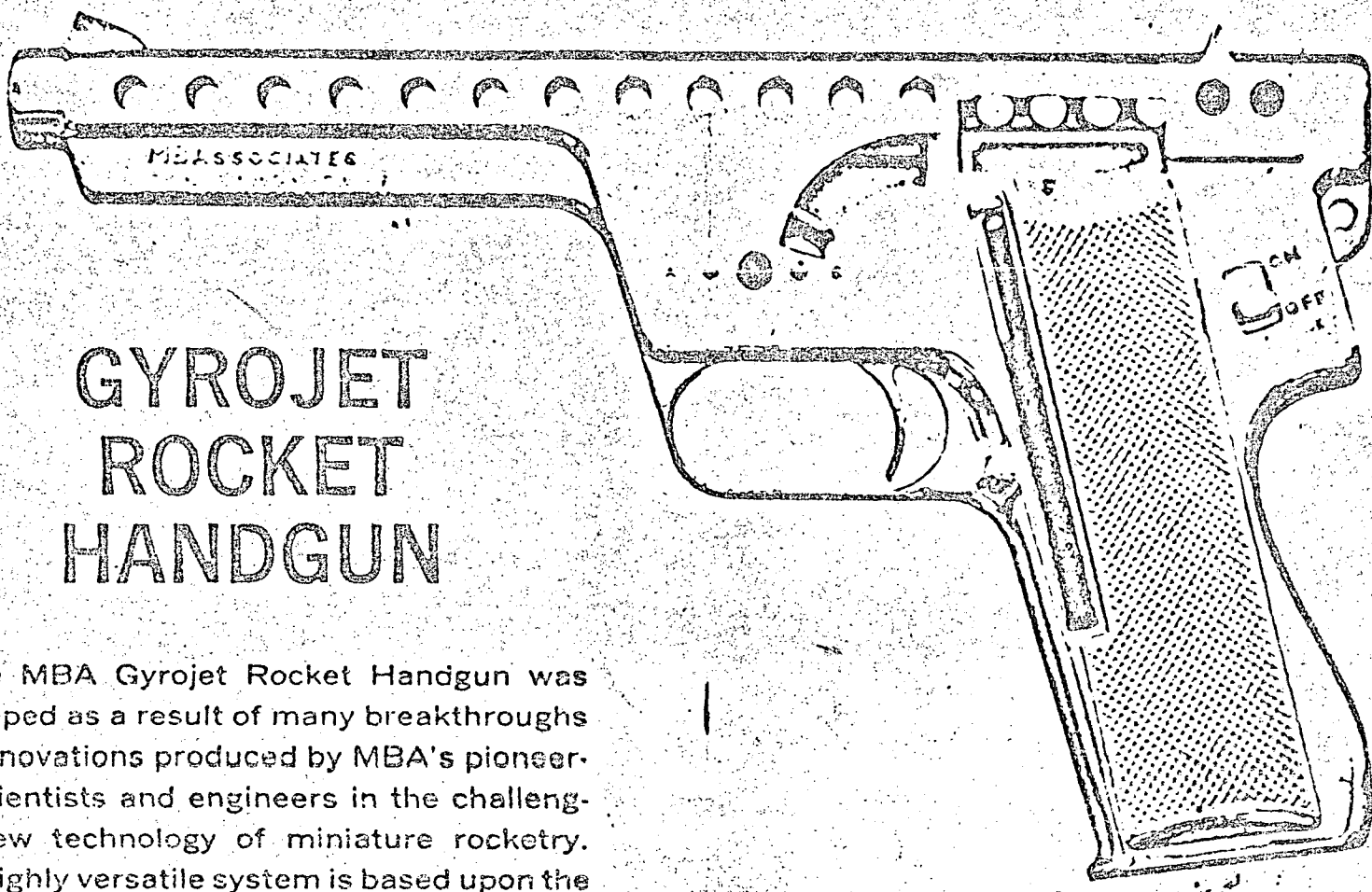
Accurate flight of the Gyrojet Rocket is obtained by gyroscopic stabilization induced by several canted ports in the nozzle. It has an effective range of several hundred yards.

The case and nozzle of the Gyrojet are made of steel. Rockets are sealed against humidity and work reliably at extreme temperatures, under arctic or tropic conditions. However, like conventional small arms ammunition, Gyrojets should not be stored for long periods at temperatures exceeding 120° F.



COMPARISON of damage samples shows that whereas a conventional Cal. 45 bullet merely distorted the metal, a 13 mm Gyrojet fired under identical conditions has punched through the target.

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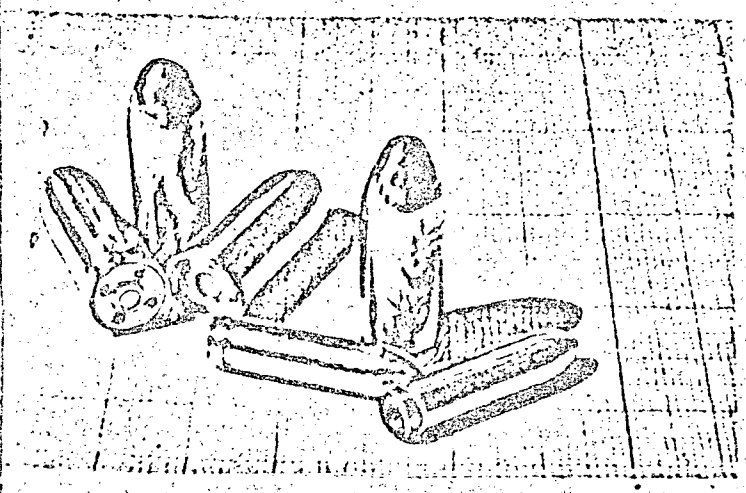


GYROJET ROCKET HANDGUN

The MBA Gyrojet Rocket Handgun was developed as a result of many breakthroughs and innovations produced by MBA's pioneering scientists and engineers in the challenging new technology of miniature rocketry. This highly versatile system is based upon the Gyrojet, a high velocity, spin-stabilized rocket with revolutionary advantages over conventional ammunition.

Because Gyrojet Rockets exert so little recoil (the 13mm Gyrojet Handgun has approxi-

MBA GYROJETS are unguided, miniature spin-stabilized rockets which exhibit a high degree of accuracy. Manufactured in sizes ranging from 7.62mm to 40mm, the 180 grain 13mm Gyrojet and the 45 grain 7.62mm Gyrojet are shown below.



mately 1/10th the recoil of the conventional Caliber .45 automatic) and require no pressurized chamber or barrel, Gyrojet weapons are lightweight, simple in design and fool-proof. The entire round is fired from the barrel of the launcher (since there is no cartridge case), eliminating problems of ejection and jamming.

Since most tolerances are not critical, Gyrojet Rocket weapons function where other guns fail. Since no lubrication is required, the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun will fire even under water. Dirt, mud and other debris, which would render other guns inoperative, seldom interfere with the simple mechanics of the Gyrojet Rocket Handgun.

Completely assembled, the aluminum model Gyrojet Handgun weighs less than twelve ounces. The handgun operates on a

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principle which is the reverse of the usual gun mechanism: a unique "forward hammer" drives the Gyrojet Rocket back against a fixed firing pin (figure 1). The firing pin initiates the percussion primer and the forward thrust of the rocket forces the spring-loaded hammer forward and down (figure 2) to clear the barrel and cock the weapon for the next round. The automatic cocking action of the hammer is instantaneous and provides semi-automatic firing operation.

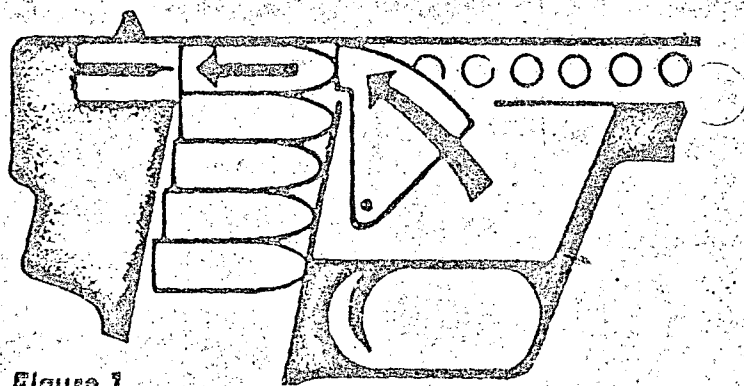


Figure 1

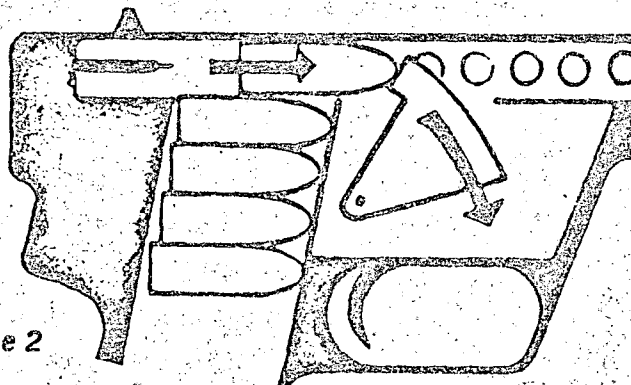


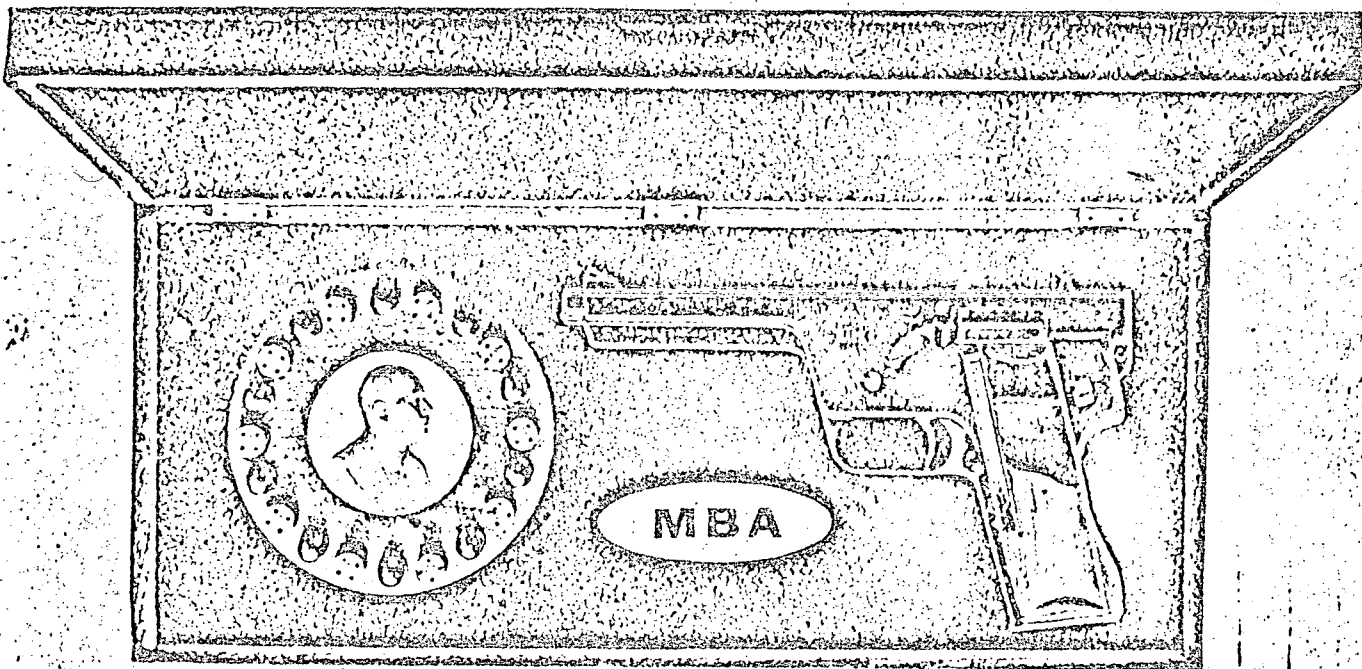
Figure 2

5 Gyrojet rounds are stored in the handle of the handgun and are spring-fed to their firing position. An important safety aspect is the fact that the rounds can be seen at all times. A "safety" switch is also provided. Since the parts are simple and easily produced and assembled, the MBA Gyrojet Rocket Handgun is economically mass produced. Critical tolerances have been eliminated so that maximum assembly-line economies can be effected in its manufacture and inspection.

Field repairs are made quickly and easily from interchangeable parts, whose small total number minimizes inventory problems.

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COLLECTORS' MODEL

A limited quantity of serially minted collectors' models, each handsomely finished and mounted in a beautiful walnut box, may be obtained by ordering directly from MBAssociates. Each Mark I gun is accompanied by a supply of Gyrojets and a large bronze medallion issued by Congress to honor the late Robert H. Goddard for his pioneering work in rocket propulsion. For information on standard production models, contact your dealer.

MBASSOCIATES

SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA (NEAR SAN FRANCISCO)

AREA CODE 415 • TELEPHONE 837-7201

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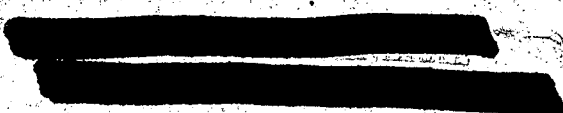
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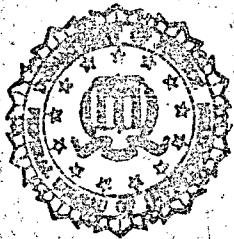
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RE: DOMINICAN SITUATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 134-1292

Miami, Florida

SEP 12 1966

Title DOMINICAN SITUATION

Character

INTERNAL SECURITY - DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

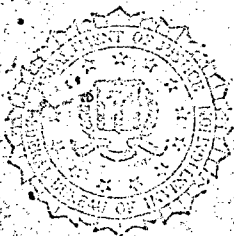
Reference

Memorandum dated and captioned
as above, at Miami, Florida

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
September 7, 1966

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas
Internal Security - Haiti - Cuba
Registration Act - Haiti - Cuba
Neutrality Matters

NY T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, on August 30, 1966, advised that Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas, a former Cuban Senator and notorious Cuban exile currently residing in the New York area, has been in the Miami area recently and has been cooperating with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) in putting together a documentary film relative to a possible invasion of Haiti and an overthrow of the Government of Haiti. NY T-1 advised that connected with Masferrer are a group of Cuban exiles and reportedly some Haitian exiles whose identities he did not know.

Concerning the CBS documentary film, NY T-1 furnished the following information:

Andrew St. George, a free lance photographer, was the one who introduced Rolando Masferrer to Jay Mc Mullen, a CBS film director in New York City, to whom Masferrer explained his ideas of overthrowing the Government of Francois Duvalier in Haiti and establishing on Haitian soil a base from which military operations could be carried out against Cuba which could possibly lead to the overthrow of the Government of Prime Minister

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REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 5/10/88

☒ RELEASE IN FULL

☐ RELEASE IN PART

☐ TOTAL DENIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-18-95 BY SP8 MPO/KSR

(JFK)

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Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

Fidel Castro. NY T-1 stated that Mc Mullen was very interested in the details as set forth to him by Masferrer and wanted to do a documentary film which, when completed, would be maintained by CBS in its film library until such time as the Haitian Government was overthrown, and at that time, CBS could then have a news scoop.

NY T-1 stated that the first phase of the documentary film had been completed in Miami in recent weeks and that this film consisted of activities relative to meeting places in Miami used by the alleged invaders and also film of places in the Miami area used to store weapons. NY T-1 further stated that the second phase of the documentary was to record the transfer of the weapons from the Miami area by boat to a larger ship at sea for delivery to the Dominican Republic and then to a base in the Dominican Republic from which the invasion would begin against Haiti. NY T-1 stated that in the first part of the documentary when the film was shot showing the removal of weapons from a hiding place for delivery to the boat, Rolando Masferrer was on film and during interview, his face was covered by a stocking and he was introduced as "Pancho".

NY T-1 advised that another very important individual connected with this project was Mitchell Livingston Wer Bell, III from Atlanta, Georgia. NY T-1 stated that Wer Bell was so important in the entire operation because of his connections with the Dominican Republic where he had spent quite a bit of time and had made some very important contacts. According to NY T-1, Wer Bell is to make a trip to the Dominican Republic sometime around the beginning of September, 1966, in

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

order to talk with Commodore (First Name Unknown) (FNU) Jimenez of the Dominican Navy, who is a close friend of Wer Bell and who has offered facilities to Wer Bell for the proposed invasion of Haiti by Rolando Masferrer. NY T-1 stated that according to the present plans, the ultimate destination of the invasion force of Masferrer would be the island of Beata off the coast of the Dominican Republic and close to the Haitian border. NY T-1 stated that Commodore Jimenez allegedly has promised use of the island of Beata from which the invasion of Haiti could be mounted. NY T-1 also stated that Wer Bell has said that this invasion of Haiti had been discussed with President Joaquin Balaguer and that Balaguer is willing to assist.

NY T-1 stated that Wer Bell and a Cuban exile by the name of Adolis Cobos were to have made a visit to Santo Domingo to firm up all details with Commodore Jimenez, but this meeting had been cancelled due to the difficulties encountered in the Dominican Republic. NY T-1 stated that if Wer Bell does follow through and does get the necessary approval and assistance of the Dominican Government, then the weapons belonging to Masferrer will be transported outside the United States to the Dominican Republic and ultimately to the base on the island of Beata. NY T-1 stated that Mitchell Wer Bell is the important individual in the entire operation because if he does not obtain the necessary facilities in the Dominican Republic through Commodore Jimenez, then the whole plan of Masferrer will be ended.

NY T-1 stated that it was his personal conviction that Rolando Masferrer was sincere in his plan to carry out an invasion of Haiti if he could obtain the necessary

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

base and assistance from individuals in the Dominican Republic. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer is of the opinion that to topple the Government of President Duvalier of Haiti would be a relatively easy task and once this is accomplished, then the Cuban exiles could establish a base on Haitian territory from which they could easily operate against Oriente Province in Cuba. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer is very anxious to get his weapons out of the jurisdiction of the United States in order not to cause any further difficulty for himself and for Cuban exiles who are desirous of carrying out military activity against Cuba. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer is of the opinion that if he is able to obtain a base in the Caribbean, he will have many people who will join in any military action against Cuba.

NY T-1 further advised on August 30, 1966, that the sole purpose of CBS filming this activity is to have on hand a film which could easily be shown on television at such a time when the Government of Haiti would be overthrown. NY T-1 stated that it was not the intention of CBS to assist financially or materially in any way in the activities of Masferrer. NY T-1 stated that the participation of CBS in this activity consists only in compiling a record of such activity which would be of news-worthy interest in the event that a successful invasion of Haiti would be accomplished.

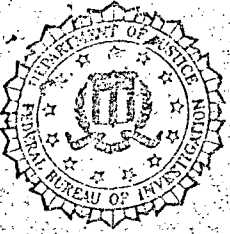
NY T-1 stated that he wanted to reiterate that in the event Mitchell Wer Bell is unsuccessful in obtaining a base of operation in the Dominican Republic, he feels sure that all the plans of Masferrer will collapse. NY T-1 stated that Masferrer has never indicated how many

Rolando Arcadio Masferrer Rojas

me he had available to him nor had he indicated what Haitian leaders were assisting him with the one exception of Father Jean Baptiste Georges, who is a Haitian exile Roman Catholic priest residing in New York City. NY T-1 stated that it was his impression that Masferrer is relying mainly upon Cuban exiles who have been associated with him in the past plus Cuban exiles desirous of engaging in military activity in Cuba.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535
July 12, 1966

Title ALEX WILSON

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI
NEUTRALITY MATTERS
Reference Memorandum dated and captioned
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

WF T-1 contacts with whom have been insufficient to establish reliability, but who is in a position to obtain reliable information.

REVIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

ON 10/8/66

- ☒ RELEASE IN FULL
☐ RELEASE IN PART
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-9-96 BY 5668 SLD/KSR

(JFK)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535
July 12, 1966

ALEX WILSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

As previously reported, WF T-1 advised on July 6, 1966, that a Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) team consisting of Mr. Andrew St. George, scriptman; Mr. Robert Funk, soundman; Mr. James Wilson, cameraman; and Mr. Jay McMullen, film editor, were in the Coral Gables, Florida, area during June, 1966, for the purpose of filming phase one of a documentary concerning the collection and shipment of arms from the United States destined for rebel forces in Haiti.

On July 10, 1966, WF T-1 learned that James Wilson planned to be in Miami, Florida, on Wednesday, July 13, 1966, for the purpose of filming phase two, and that Jay McMullen would arrive in Miami, Florida, on Thursday, July 14, 1966. The informant had no information on the itinerary of other CBS team members.

The informant understood that arrangements have been completed concerning the rental of a (not further described) "sloop" to be used in filming the documentary to effect delivery of a cache of weapons in the Coral Gables area to a "mother ship" outside the continental limits of the United States.

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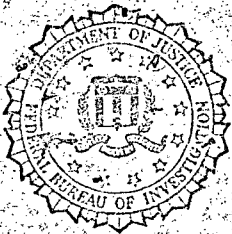
ALEX WILSON

The informant felt that members of this CBS team would domicile at the International Airport Motel at Miami, Florida, upon arrival.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535
July 12, 1966

ALEX WILSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

It has been previously reported, on July 6, 1966, by WF T-1 that a Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) team consisting of Mr. Andrew St. George, scriptman; Mr. Robert Funk, soundman; Mr. James Wilson, cameraman; and Jay McMullen, film editor, were in the Coral Gables, Florida, area during June, 1966, for the purpose of filming phase one of a documentary concerning the collection and shipment of arms from the United States destined for rebel forces within Haiti.

It has been previously reported that on July 10, 1966, WF T-1 learned that CBS team members James Wilson and Jay McMullen were to have arrived in Miami, Florida, on July 13, 1966, and July 14, 1966, respectively to commence filming phase two of the CBS documentary.

On July 12, 1966, the informant learned that McMullen advised this CBS team that filming of phase two has been postponed and those members of the CBS team not already in Miami, Florida, were not to travel there at this time. McMullen stated the postponement is due to radio broadcasts originating from Haiti, and Havana, Cuba, which accuse the United States Government of supporting a move to overthrow Haitian President Francois Duvalier.

The informant also understood that Andrew St. George is en route from Miami, Florida, to New York City, to discuss this CBS documentary further with McMullen.

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ALEX WILSON

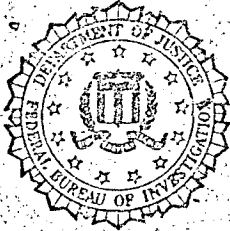
According to the informant, McMullen understood that "someone" from Washington, D. C., had gone to the Miami, Florida, area to meet with the Alex Wilson group concerning their involvement in phase one and phase two of this documentary.

The informant had no additional information.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20535
July 12, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title ALEX WILSON

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI
NEUTRALITY MATTERS
Reference Memorandum dated and captioned
as above.

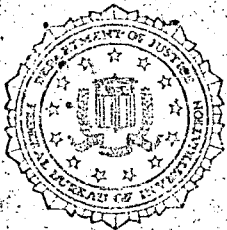
All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

WF T-1 contacts with whom have been insufficient to establish reliability, but who is in a position to obtain reliable information.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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ON 1-22-98 (JFK)

July 8, 1966

ALEX WILSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - HAITI
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

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On July 6, 1966, WF T-1 furnished the following information:

A Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) team consisting of Mr. Andrew St. George, scriptman; Mr. Robert Funk, soundman; Mr. James Wilson, cameraman; and Mr. Jay Mc Mullen, film editor, were in the Coral Gables, Florida, area during June, 1966, for the purpose of filming a documentary concerning the collection and shipment of arms from the United States destined for Haitian rebel forces, outside the United States.

The source advised that Mc Mullen was in contact with Haitian exiles in the New York City area approximately four weeks ago. Mc Mullen was advised that a Mr. Alex Wilson of Atlanta, Georgia, could be located in the Coral Gables area as the custodian of an arms and munitions cache. Mc Mullen traveled to the Atlanta, Georgia, area and met Alex Wilson, who resides on an 85 acre farm outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Mc Mullen advised that Wilson maintained a cache of arms in the basement of his house. Mc Mullen described the storage basement area as a walk-in pantry jammed with weapons. Mc Mullen advised other members of the above described CBS team (in Coral Gables, Florida) that a sampling of these weapons were test fired to show they were operational.

WF T-1 advised that Mc Mullen became interested in filming a documentary for CBS as to the eventual purpose

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ALEX WILSON

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and destination of these weapons. Mc Mullen then organized the above CBS team and instructed they should come to the Miami, Florida, area. James Wilson arrived July 22, 1966, and Robert Funk arrived in Miami on Wednesday July 24, 1966, with necessary film and sound equipment and registered under their true names at the International Airport Hotel, Miami, Florida. Mc Mullen arrived on Friday, July 24, 1966, from New York City and was met at the Miami airport by Andrew St. George. On June 24, 1966, Mc Mullen briefed this CBS team, and to insure their security instructed the CBS team to move to the Key Biscayne Hotel, Key Biscayne, Miami, Florida. This move was accomplished during the late afternoon of June 24, 1966, and this CBS team registered under their true names. During the briefing on June 24, 1966, Mc Mullen explained they were to film a documentary for CBS concerning a cache of weapons in the Coral Gables area which were parcelled out to various collection houses, thereafter, centrally gathered in a "safe house," where they were to be reloaded for transport by small boat to a "mother ship" off the coast of Florida. Mc Mullen indicated the final destination of these weapons was their delivery to rebel forces in Haiti to be used within a three month period to overthrow the government of President Duvalier of Haiti. It was further indicated that the filming would be in two parts. The first would include filming of the storage and transport of the cache from Coral Gables to the "mother ship". The second portion would include transport by the "mother ship" to a naval base in the Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, area, and thereafter reloading on small boats for transfer and delivery to Haitian rebel forces. It was thought by Mc Mullen that this two-part filming would break any chain of evidence.

On June 25, 1966, Mc Mullen and Saint George were in contact with what they described as "gunrunners." Mc Mullen

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ALEX WILSON

explained to the CBS team they would meet a Mr. Alex Wilson on June 26, 1966, and filming would commence in the Coral Gables area according to the briefing outlined on June 24, 1966. It was on June 25, 1966, that Mc Mullen revealed his visit to the Alex Wilson farm and the location and description of the cache previously mentioned. WF T-1 advised that no information was offered as to whether the arms cache on the Wilson farm was actually transported to Coral Gables, or the method of such transport from Atlanta to Coral Gables.

On June 26, 1966, the other members of the CBS team, including Mc Mullen and St. George were taken by Alex Wilson to what was described as a "safe house." The source stated it was located in Coral Gables, Florida, and is the third house to the east of 12th Street on the south side of 24th Avenue. Adjacent to the above was a fourth house described as a "collection house." These houses were of a brown stucco exterior, one story high, with either one-half, or three-quarter length louvered jalousie windows running the width of the houses. They were single dwellings each with a carport west of the house, as an individual faces the house. Their age is approximately twenty-five years.

The filming schedule for June 26, 1966, called for a small boat, aboard a land trailer carrier to rendezvous at the fourth house, described above, where the cache was to have been loaded. However, Alex Wilson advised the CBS team that this small boat was under surveillance by United States Customs and its scheduled pickup of the cache was canceled to safeguard the location of the "safe house" and the "collection house." Alex Wilson then led the CBS team to the "safe house" and observed therein were the following weapons:

ALEX WILSON

One 50 calibre machine gun.
Two 30 calibre machine guns.
One-half dozen sub-machine guns.
Several "Sweedish K's"
Several "grease guns"
Three or four sets 60 millimeter mortar components.
One set 80 millimeter mortar components.
One 1.25 rocket launcher.
Several canisters of rockets.
One AR 15 converted to an M-16 fully automatic weapon.
Stacks of M1 and Carbine rifles.
One rocket pistol.

With the exception of the "Sweedish K" weapon all other weapons appeared to be of English or American manufacture.

During this filming on June 26, 1966, Alex Wilson was very evasive in any attempt to obtain an explanation of the origin of this cache. It further developed that St. George and Alex Wilson were apparently well known to each other and had known each other for a number of years. Kleig lights were used inside this house as a light source to film the above described weapons.

As the filming schedule of June 26, 1966, was not completed, it was agreed that Alex Wilson and others on June 27, 1966, would film a transport run to fulfill the planned filming of the documentary.

On June 27, 1966, this CBS team went to the "safe house". Approximately three blocks away, a gray-white Dodge panel truck was parked. It was explained by Wilson the panel truck would gather weapons stored at various collection houses in Coral Gables where they are maintained by sympathetic persons. The driver of this truck was identified simply as "Gordo" who is a living prototype of the comic strip character of the same name. "Gordo" was described as a Cuban exile.

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ALEX WILSON

The source advised the CBS team actually filmed the pickup from one collection house of what were described as cases of ammunition in military-type metal canisters.

Additional filming was done at a second collection house where 50 calibre machine guns were loaded on the above described Dodge panel truck. These machine guns were loaded aboard the panel truck by two male individuals, wearing face masks for self-protection and who were described by Alex Wilson as Haitian exiles. At 6:35 p.m. a small boat aboard a land trailer was to appear at the safe house and the cargo on the panel truck, which had been placed in the safe house was to be reloaded on this small boat for delivery to the "mother ship." At 6:45 p.m. the small boat had not arrived. Alex Wilson and "Gordo" were visibly nervous. It was hurriedly decided these weapons would be reloaded aboard the panel truck and returned to the collection houses for safe storage and to avoid burning the "safe house."

Later on June 27, 1966, Alex Wilson explained to the CBS team that the small boat did not appear, as it was under surveillance by what was described as two "Falcon" automobiles with "spike antennae" traveling on parallel streets to the route taken by the small boat trailer. Alex Wilson further stated that the cache aboard the panel truck was driven "down the coast," unloaded aboard another small boat which met the "mother ship" and was then en route to Haiti.

WF T-1 noted that during various conversations with Alex Wilson on June 26 and 27, 1966, he was frequently called by the first name of "Mitch" and/or "Mitchel". The source added that on one occasion a phonetic last name of "Dale" or "Martindale" was used.

ALEX WILSON

Alex Wilson was physically described as five feet ten inches tall, approximately 165 pounds, bulbous nose, short brown hair, wearing a bushy brown upper lip mustache and at all times dressed in light tan khaki pants and white t-shirt. He is a white male and believed by source to be a citizen of the United States. Alex Wilson spoke in a "gravelly" voice and this in combination with the bulbous nose gave the impression he is a heavy liquor drinker.

Noted in the company of Alex Wilson was one "Pancho" described as a Cuban exile, residing in the Miami, Florida, area. He was wounded seven times, and displayed these scars for filming purposes. Pancho spoke good English, was approximately six feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds, wearing an upper lip mustache, a round face, curly black hair, one who fought with Fidel Castro, prior to Castro's assumption of governmental powers in Cuba, and who allegedly fought on an unknown side in the Spanish Civil War. Pancho's role in this "gun running operation" was his hope to use Haitian territory as a base to operate a counter-revolution against Cuba, realizing that such an operation cannot realistically be accomplished from United States soil. Pancho was further described as an individual who lacks formal education, but who gives the appearance of being able to mount a counter-revolution against Cuba. On June 27 and 28, 1966, the CBS team made a ten minute filmed sound interview of Pancho who expressed his above thoughts to mount a counter-revolution from Haiti against Cuba. During this interview, Pancho wore a stocking over his head and a large straw hat.

On June 28, 1966, additional exterior filming was made from the "safe house." This filming was completely open and done from the "carport" area. At the request of Alex Wilson, camera tripods and other equipment were disguised in an effort not to draw attention to the filming. All shots

ALEX WILSON

[REDACTED]

were directed away from the "safe house" exterior to avoid its being compromised on film. Alex Wilson expressed no concern over immediate persons residing in the neighborhood as he described them as all sympathetic to the operations carried on in the "safe house." Alex Wilson, Pancho and Gordo were described as legitimately "jumpy" and when exterior shooting was completed it was agreed they would hurriedly depart the area. As a test run, the CBS team with the exception of St. George, departed the area with lights off and at high speed to determine if they were being surveilled.

No surveillance was noted by this CBS team. However, later in the night of June 28, 1966, when the CBS team regrouped at the Hotel Biscayne, Andrew St. George advised he had been stopped by what were described to him as "Treasury Agents". These men flashed identity cards identifying themselves as "Treasury Agents" and after conducting a search of his trunk released St. George. St. George offered no additional details.

WF T-1 advised the above events completed phase one of this documentary.

Additional conversation on June 28, 1966, developed phase two.

Alex Wilson discussed the possibility of renting a secondary sloop as a replacement vessel for the small boat currently used by Alex Wilson, and the question was raised whether CBS would pay for its rental. Mc Mullen with the consent of other CBS team members agreed that \$500 to \$1000 dollars would be made available to Alex Wilson for such rental. However, Wilson is to make the actual rental arrangements and CBS was in no way to be identified in this transaction. Filming of phase two was tentatively established to commence between June 29, 1966, and July 8, 1966. On

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ALEX WILSON

July 5, 1966, it was established that Mc Mullen had learned the rental arrangements had been accomplished and the CBS team was put on a forty-eight hour alert to return to the Miami, Florida, area to commence filming phase two of the documentary. For the purpose of filming phase two, a rented sloop is to be used to protect the actual boat which makes delivery to the "mother ship." On the night of June 28, 1966, Alex Wilson stated "they" had lost a boat (not further described) about two months ago as it was plying the Cuban coastline. According to Alex Wilson this boat with a cache of weapons was bombed by a Cuban air force plane, and sunk with loss of all personnel aboard. No further details were offered by Alex Wilson.

It was further developed that phase two called for the CBS team to film a hidden "B-25" bomber equipped with radar, bomb bay and bomb sight. It is intended that in the actual invasion of Haiti this bomber will be used to bomb "Duvalier's" palace at Port au Prince, and signal the start of a revolution sometime within the next three months. Alex Wilson offered no information whatsoever as to whether the "B-25" is stored inside or outside the territorial limits of the United States. The invitations to film phase one and this "B-25" were extended by "Pancho." During this conversation no estimate of available Haitian rebel forces or the framework of any provisional Haitian government was discussed in detail. Alex Wilson offered only vague generalities that many Haitian factions would join forces to accomplish the demise of the Duvalier government. Mc Mullen ventured the opinion that a successor government to Duvalier would be picked by the United States government.

According to St. George, Alex Wilson had described himself as a former associate of the Central Intelligence Agency, and prior thereto as associated with the OSS (Office of Strategic Services and forerunner to CIA). St. George added that Alex Wilson is well known in Santo Domingo and is held in high respect there.

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ALEX WILSON

Phase two calls for this CBS team to be aboard the "mother ship" for its five day run to a naval base in the Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (DR), area. There, a cache of arms is to be unloaded to other small boats for transport to an undisclosed area along the Haiti coastline where rebels within Haiti are to receive these arms. Current negotiations with Alex Wilson call for the CBS documentary to terminate at this point. However, this CBS team is attempting to persuade Alex Wilson to allow them to follow the rebels into their Haitian jungle hiding area; however, no decision has been made to allow the CBS team to go on Haitian soil. It was further indicated by Alex Wilson that the "mother ship" shipment with the CBS team aboard would be the second to last shipment of arms destined for Haitian rebels. No data was available regarding prior shipments.

WF T-1 stated, to the best of his knowledge, the film and voice tape taken on phase one is now at CBS headquarters, New York City, in the care of Jay Mc Mullen or a Jewels Laventhol. This film has been processed and no other copy exists.

Jay Mc Mullen personally vouched for the trustworthiness of other CBS team members to Alex Wilson.

WF T-1 advised that Mc Mullen is known in CBS as a "wildman," "odd ball" documentary film editor. Mc Mullen was responsible for the sensational CBS show entitled "The Boston Bookie" which revealed police department involvement with "numbers" in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

No decision has been made by CBS headquarters, New York City, to show, or not to show, the completed documentary.

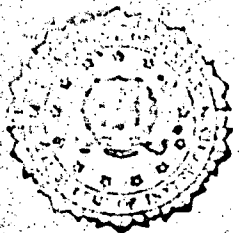
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ALEX WILSON [REDACTED]

However, it is known at this time, that the Alex Wilson group poses no objection to CBS showing the completed film prior to the three months time schedule for an alleged invasion of Haiti. The Alex Wilson group reasons, that prior CBS telecasting would not reveal to the Duvalier Government, anything they do not already know. Further, Mc Mullen cannot be dissuaded, due to the openness of the Alex Wilson operation, that United States Government agencies generally are not cognizant of this operation, and Mc Mullen is firmly convinced the operation has tacit approval by the United States Government. Other than personal opinion, Mc Mullen has offered no substantive information as to how he is convinced the Alex Wilson operation does in fact have approval by any agency within the United States Government. Mc Mullen holds the additional theory that this documentary would place its Cuban and/or Haitian participants in a very strong position to identify themselves with the leadership of a new government, either in Cuba or Haiti. Logically, these rebels could establish through a documentary film, they are the heroes who took the risks.

WF T-1 understood that at no time did Alex Wilson permit the CBS team to take a photograph of a person's head. However, in the film, the back of Alex Wilson's head appears as does his full length silhouetted body.

Additional conversation during the filming determined that Alex Wilson was scheduled to depart for Santo Domingo, DR, on June 29, 1966. According to Mc Mullen, Alex Wilson actually went to the DR and returned to the Miami, Florida, area on July 2, 1966. [REDACTED]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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January 26, 1966

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MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WER BELL III

On January 25, 1966, Mr. Robert H. Fleming, Head of the Washington News Bureau, American Broadcasting Company, furnished the following information to a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

John Casserly has been the correspondent for the American Broadcasting Company in the Dominican Republic for several months. On this assignment he has become acquainted with Mitchell WerBell, who has described himself as an American citizen and has hinted that he has been connected with the Central Intelligence Agency or with its predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services. His credentials in the Dominican Republic are reportedly accepted in high Government circles. He was able to arrange for Casserly to conduct the first interview granted by Antonio C. Imbert to a correspondent from the United States.

Recently, WerBell reportedly showed some photographs to Casserly. These photographs depicted scenes in Havana, Cuba, as well as some small boats which reportedly attain speeds up to 50 knots. He also reportedly demonstrated a silencer to be used with a .45 caliber weapon to Casserly, which Casserly considered to be the most efficient silencer he had ever seen.

According to Mr. Fleming, WerBell told Casserly that he had a plan to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, which plan would be executed within the next two to three weeks (from January 25, 1966). He said that he had been in Cuba on recent occasions "as a private citizen" but that he would not enter that country in execution of his plan. He explained that he would direct the assassination from some point outside Cuba. According to Mr. Fleming, Casserly has described WerBell as a "nut" who seems to feel it is his mission to bring about Castro's assassination.

WerBell is said to have claimed that Andrew St. George, a free-lance photographer and journalist, would

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MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WER BELL III

enter Cuba to film the assassination. He asked Casserly if the American Broadcasting Company would put up \$500 on the chance that it would be the highest bidder for the St. George film. He indicated that if some other news media bid more for the film, the only thing the American Broadcasting Company would get for its money would be "an accounting."

He further told Casserly that he had seen an individual named Dick Phillips of the State Department about his plan and would see the Honorable Bill D. Moyers at the White House about it.

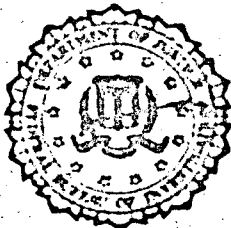
In reporting the above information, Mr. Fleming explained that WerBell's proposal that the American Broadcasting Company become involved in the matter had been turned down and that he, Mr. Fleming, had related the foregoing story to Mr. Moyers and had advised him that the American Broadcasting Company would not become involved.

The files of this Bureau contain information indicating that the individual named above as Mitchell WerBell is possibly identical with Mitchell Livingston WerBell III, who has been in the Dominican Republic during much of the past two and one half years. He has been described by individuals contacted in the past as a "wild man," a con man, a name dropper, and as having an unsavory reputation. He formerly was president of a public relations firm in Atlanta, Georgia, called Communications International, Inc. He is said to live by his wits and by fast dealing and smooth talking rather than by honest work.

Andrew St. George of Dobbs Ferry, New York, has been described as a free-lance photographer and journalist who in the past has been involved in certain anti-Castro efforts undertaken by refugee Cubans in the Miami area of Florida.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York
February 1, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
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1-15-98 SLO/KSR
1-22-98 (JFK)

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DATE 4-1-96 BY 5668 SLO/KSR
(JFK)

Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III

On January 25, 1966, Mr. Robert H. Fleming, Head of the Washington News Bureau, American Broadcasting Company (ABC), furnished the following information to a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):

John Casserly has been the correspondent for ABC in the Dominican Republic for several months. On this assignment he has become acquainted with Mitchell WerBell, who has described himself as an American citizen and has hinted that he has been connected with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or with its predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services. His credentials in the Dominican Republic are reportedly accepted in high Government circles. He was able to arrange for Casserly to conduct the first interview granted by Antonio C. Imbert to a correspondent from the United States.

Recently, WerBell reportedly showed some photographs to Casserly. These photographs depicted scenes in Havana, Cuba, as well as some small boats which reportedly attain speeds up to 50 knots. He also reportedly demonstrated a silencer to be used with a .45 caliber weapon to Casserly, which Casserly considered to be the most efficient silencer he had ever seen.

According to Mr. Fleming, WerBell told Casserly that he had a plan to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, which plan would be executed within the next two or three weeks (from January 25, 1966). He said that he had been in Cuba on recent occasions "as a private citizen" but that he would not enter that country in execution of his plan. He explained that

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Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III

he would direct the assassination from some point outside Cuba. According to Mr. Fleming, Casserly has described WerBell as a "nut" who seems to feel it is his mission to bring about Castro's assassination. J RDP

WerBell is said to have claimed that Andrew St. George, a free-lance photographer and journalist, would enter Cuba to film the assassination. He asked Casserly if ABC would put up \$500 on the chance that it would be the highest bidder for the St. George film. He indicated that if some other news media bid more for the film, the only thing ABC would get for its money would be "an accounting".

He further told Casserly that he had seen an individual named Dick Phillips of the State Department about his plan and would see the Honorable Bill D. Moyers at the White House about it.

In reporting the above information, Mr. Fleming explained that WerBell's proposal that ABC become involved in the matter had been turned down and that he, Mr. Fleming, had related the foregoing story to Mr. Moyers and had advised him that ABC would not become involved.

The files of this Bureau contain information indicating that the individual named above as Mitchell WerBell is possibly identical with Mitchell Livingston WerBell III, who has been in the Dominican Republic during much of the past two and one-half years. He has been described by individuals contacted in the past as a "wild man," a con man, a name dropper, and as having an unsavory reputation. He formerly was president of a public relations firm in Atlanta, Georgia, called Communications International, Inc. He is said to live by his wits and by fast dealing and smooth talking rather than by honest work.

Andrew St. George of Dobbs Ferry, New York, has been described as a free-lance photographer and journalist who in the past has been involved in certain anti-Castro efforts undertaken by refugee Cubans in the Miami area of Florida.

Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III

Andrew St. George, free-lance photographer and magazine writer, Dobbs Ferry, New York, was telephonically contacted on January 31, 1966, in Miami, Florida, where he is presently registered at the Everglades Hotel. St. George is in Florida at this time primarily doing research work for certain magazine articles which he is writing.

Andrew St. George stated on January 31, 1966, that he traveled to Washington, D. C. on January 22, 1966, in order to do some research work on current articles he is writing and also to conduct an interview in Washington, D. C. with Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III. St. George stated that he was asked to conduct this interview of WerBell by Jerry Hannifan, Chief, "Time" Magazine diplomatic correspondent in Washington, D. C., as WerBell was alleged to be involved in a plot to assassinate Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba.

St. George said that he had first met Mitchell WerBell in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic during late April and early May, 1965, at which time WerBell was most helpful to American newsmen covering the Dominican revolution. St. George stated that WerBell was helpful to various American news correspondents in Santo Domingo during the Dominican revolution because he had entree to important Dominican personalities. Among individuals whom WerBell helped in the Dominican Republic were John Casserly, who was correspondent for ABC, and Bob Schutz (phonetic), who was a photographer for Associated Press (AP). During the early stages of the Dominican revolution WerBell also was in contact with Richard Phillips, who was described as the Assistant Deputy Secretary, Public Affairs Office, United States Department of State, who had also made a trip to Santo Domingo.

St. George advised that WerBell came to Washington, D. C. from Atlanta, Georgia, where he resides, and WerBell was registered at the Mayflower Hotel where he was contacted by several people in the news media. WerBell, according to St. George, was seeking financial help in order to carry out his assassination plot of Fidel Castro. St. George said that among the individuals who contacted WerBell in Washington, D. C. were Howard Handelman, Washington diplomatic editor for "Time";

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John Casserly, correspondent for ABC; and Bob Schutz (phonetic), photographer for AP. As a result of the meetings with WerBell, St. George stated that ABC and AP definitely had no intentions of supplying WerBell with any funds to carry out this assassination plot, but "Time" was still interested in WerBell's story, but would not advance him any money.

St. George further stated on January 31, 1966, that while WerBell was in Washington, D. C. he had a two hour interview with Richard Phillips of the United States Department of State, and it was the opinion of St. George that Mr. Phillips tried to talk WerBell out of this assassination plot and to tell WerBell not to do so much talking.

St. George advised that Bob Schutz, AP photographer, on either January 25 or 26, 1966, told WerBell that he was going to the White House to meet the Honorable Bill D. Moyers, Presidential Press Secretary, on other business and would arrange for WerBell to meet with Mr. Moyers in order to discuss the assassination plot. St. George stated that he and Howard Handelman of "Time", finally talked WerBell out of seeing Mr. Moyers as they told WerBell that to discuss such a matter with a representative of the White House would be an embarrassing situation for the United States Government.

St. George further stated that from inquiries which he had made in Washington, D. C., he definitely received the impression that WerBell's reputation was not good, and that he was not highly thought of by individuals in the United States Government. St. George stated that it was his opinion WerBell was trying to make some money for himself and was willing to go to any extremes. St. George further stated that while in the Dominican Republic, it was the general opinion that WerBell was a "sponger", as he spent little of his own money but ate and drank lavishly on the expenses of others. St. George stated that the newsmen in Santo Domingo covering the Dominican Republic wine and dined WerBell mainly because WerBell had been such a help to them in covering developments during the Dominican revolution.

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St. George stated that he left Washington, D. C. on January 26, 1966, and drove WerBell to his home in Atlanta, Georgia. St. George said that it was quite obvious that WerBell at one time had been rather a successful businessman as he had a very large estate on which was a very beautiful home, but the estate was heavily mortgaged and it was quite obvious to St. George that WerBell presently was very much in debt.

St. George advised that from his conversations with WerBell, he ascertained that WerBell's plan of assassination of Fidel Castro called for the use of six exile Cubans to enter Cuba in teams of twos. WerBell would direct the assassination plot but would direct this plot from outside Cuba. WerBell, according to St. George, is alleged to have the necessary men, identities not known to St. George, and the necessary speedboats to carry out such a plot. St. George further noted that WerBell has silencers for .22 and .38 caliber guns and a silencer for a machinegun. St. George stated that he saw WerBell demonstrate the silencer on the .22 and he was absolutely certain that this was the best silencer which he had ever seen. WerBell is alleged to have all the necessary equipment and material which he needs in order to carry out the assassination plot.

St. George advised that WerBell did not discuss in detail the various aspects of the assassination plot, except in the most general of terms. St. George pointed out that Jay Mallin, a "Time" stringer in Miami, Florida, is supposed to have more details of WerBell's assassination plot.

St. George reiterated on January 31, 1966, that his primary reason for being in Miami, Florida, was to do research so that he could finish articles which he is currently writing for some national magazines. St. George stated that since he started out on this trip to do research work, the WerBell incident has developed and he now has instructions from "Time" to follow the WerBell matter closely. St. George advised that he had left WerBell in Atlanta, Georgia, and has no indication at the present time as to WerBell making a trip to Miami, nor does he have any indication as to when this assassination plot could be put into effect.

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Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III

St. George, on January 31, 1966, advised that he definitely was not entertaining any thoughts of leaving the United States on any anti-Castro action, and that he absolutely would not enter Cuba to film the alleged assassination plot of Fidel Castro.

The files of the New York Office of the FBI contain no information identifiable with Mitchell Livingston WerBell, III.

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