

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : INSCOM/CSF  
RECORD NUMBER : 194-10014-10115  
RECORDS SERIES : DOD AFFILIATED PERSONNEL AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : AA851401WJ - PAGES 15-19  
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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : USA  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE : INFORMATION REPORT  
DATE : 04/14/66  
PAGES : 5  
SUBJECTS : CHARLES, CLEMARD J

UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : ~~SECRET~~  
RESTRICTIONS : ~~REFERRED~~  
CURRENT STATUS : ~~POSTPONED IN FULL~~  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/15/98  
OPENING CRITERIA : COMPLETION OF REVIEW BY CIA FOR RELEASABILITY  
COMMENTS : DOCUMENTS DECLARED "NOT BELIEVED RELEVANT" BY THE CIA  
AND AGREED TO BY THE ARRB, PER MEMO DTD 14 AUG 98.

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	OO-E-34/06340-66
SUBJECT	Clémard Joseph Charles Believed to be President Duvalier's Personal Financial Manager/Biographical Data on C J Charles	DATE DISTR.	14 Apr 66
		NO. PAGES	5
		REFERENCES	
DATE OF INFO.	Feb - Mar 66		
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	Port-au-Prince/Feb - Mar 66		

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### SOURCE:

US national, sales representative of a US tobacco manufacturing company who has had 40 years' experience in the industry. Source makes frequent business trips to Latin America and recently returned from a six weeks' visit to Ecuador, Panama, and Haiti. He has excellent contacts in the areas he visits, speaks moderate Spanish and French, and is a shrewd observer.

1. During the period 1952-59 I tried to establish business association with certain Haitians including such characters as Eric Tippenhauer, Colonel M Prosper, Senator Louis De Joie, George Léger, and many others. On the occasion of my first visit to Port-au-Prince in five years, I encountered a new set of characters, but they are obviously of the identical "cut" as my previous acquaintances.
2. A reportedly privately-owned tobacco company known as Le Tabac Haitien, S. A. is directed by Clémard Joseph Charles, a black Haitian who also happens to be President of the Commercial Bank of Haiti. This cigarette manufacturing firm is the direct descendant of the long defunct Haitian-American Tobacco Co. Some six months ago Le Tabac Haitien began ordering moderate quantities of leaf tobacco and providing letters of credit to pay for the leaf. When I held my first series of conferences with Mr Charles, he immediately attempted to impress me with his political, social, and economic influence in Haiti and then proceeded to enlist my principal's financial participation to the small sum of US\$300 thousand. Fully cognizant of the Haitian style of business, I deferred the offer and proceeded to discreetly inquire of Mr Charles' status in Haiti.
3. As a matter of convenience Mr Charles provided me with a curriculum vitae which I quote as follows:

**CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES:** President & General Manager of the  
'BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAITI'  
President of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAITI

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**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Born in Gonaïves, Haiti, on April 21, 1923, from a peasant family. Had his primary schooling at the 'Ecole des Freres des Gonaïves,' and his secondary schooling at the 'Lycée Géffrard' in the same town.

Upon his father's death, did various jobs to support his family. Was in turn schoolmaster at the rural school of Verrettes, at \$15 a month, free lance teacher at \$0.40 per month per child, time-keeper, plantation supervisor, photographer, sanitary clerk, free lance journalist. In the latter capacity, founded 'L'Intrepide' and 'L'Aurore' in cooperation with the late Emmanuel C. Paul.

Phyto-Pathologist.

In 1946, was appointed Controller General of the Banana Development Company (BADECO), of which he became the General Agent in 1948. The following year, established himself as Manufacturer's Agent, and created an Import-Export trade house.

Married in 1952, Sophie Lherisson.

In 1953, went to London as a Member of the Economic Mission sent to England by the Haitian Government, and in 1954, negotiated, on behalf of the Government, a contract with The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry, England. This contract was in connection with the extension and modernization of the Telecommunication System in Haiti.

In 1957, was appointed as a member of the Economic Mission to the International Conference held in Brussels, Belgium.

Created in 1960, the 'BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAÏTI,' of which he is the President and Director General. Is also the President of the following firms he himself created:

Universal Enterprises Co. S.A.	(USACO)
National Deutsch Associates, S.A.	
Nahecorp d'Haiti, S.A.	(Kenaf Cultivation)
Mugéco Enterprises, S.A.	
Société Haitienne de Peaux & Cuirs	(Leather & Skins)
Le Tabac Haitien	
Administration Portuaire de Port-au-Prince	
Caribbean Cordage Mill	
Corporation Philatélique d'Haiti	
Shada Division, Montrouis	
Automobile Insurance Division - Third Party Liabilities	
Les Essences Aromatique d'Haiti	(Essential Oils)
Produits Nationaux, S.A.	
Assurance Vieillesse Obligatoire	(ONA)
Entrasa, S.A.	
Société Général de Matériaux de Constructions	(SOGEMACO)
Société Nationale de Fruits et de Légumes	(SONAFRUCO)

He is the exclusive Agent for the following firms:

The General Electric Co., Ltd. of Coventry  
Siemens Schuckertwerke A. G. Erlangen, Germany

Presently: President of the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti

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Member of: Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Rural Sections of Haiti  
Commerce & Industry Association of New York  
Rotary Club of Port-au-Prince  
Tennis Club of Port-au-Prince  
Action for Latin American Unity, Mexico  
Academia de Derecho International, Mexico

Awards & Distinction:

Knight of the National Order 'Honor & Merit' (HAITI)  
Officer of the Labor Order  
Commander of the Civil Merit Order  
Commander of the International Order for Public Welfare - France  
Commander of the National Order for Agricultural Merit  
Commander of the Order 'Petion & Bolivar' - for services rendered to the cause of Pan Americanism  
Honorary citizen of the City of Longbeach, L. I., New York  
Honorary citizen of the City of New York  
Honorary citizen of the City of Berlin  
Medal of His Holiness Pope Paul-VI.

4. In addition Mr Charles made available two other papers that are likewise of interest. One is a list of correspondents for the Commercial Bank of Haiti and the second consists of enterprises controlled by that bank which were not included in the latest balance sheet. I quote these papers as follows:

**BANKS - LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS**

U. S. A.:

- (1) Bank of America (International)  
P. O. Box 3415  
Rincon Annex, San Francisco 20, California
- (2) First National City Bank  
399 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10022
- (3) Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company  
44 Wall Street  
New York 15, N. Y.
- (4) Irving Trust Company  
One Wall Street  
New York 15, N. Y.
- (5) First National Bank of Boston  
Boston 6, Mass.
- (6) Pan American Bank of Miami  
P. O. Box 831  
Miami 30, Florida

FRANCE:

Crédit Lyonnais  
19 Boulevard des Italiens  
Paris, France

SWITZERLAND:

- (1) United Overseas Bank (Banque Unie pour les Pays d'Outre-Mer)  
3-5 Rue du Conseil Général  
Genève, Suisse

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- (2) Union de Banques Suisses  
8, Rue du Rhône  
Genève, Suisse

ENGLAND:

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED  
(Overseas Branch)  
P. O. Box 831  
60 Gracechurch Street  
London, B. C. 3

ENTERPRISES CONTROLLED BY BANQUE COMMERCIALE D'HAITI

Not Included in the Balance Sheet

(1) SHADA - St. Marc Division (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 500.000.-
(2) PORT AUTHORITY - PORT-AU-PRINCE (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 600.000.-
(3) THIRD PARTY LIABILITY - VEHICLE INSURANCE (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 1.000.000.-
(4) ESSENTIAL OILS (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 300.000.-
(5) SEAFOOD - EXPLOITATION (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 250.000.-
(6) MODERN TANNERY (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 350.000.-
(7) PHILATELIC CORPORATION (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 300.000.-
(8) ENVRASA (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 150.000.-
(9) U.S.A.C.O. (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 275.000.-
(10) TOYOTA SALES DIVISION - C. J. Charles Import-Export (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 150.000.-
(11) SEGUIN - LUMBER DIVISION (Yearly Income) .....	\$ 100.000.-
(12) O.H.A. - RETIREMENT INSURANCE (Yearly minimum income expected) .....	\$ 2.000.000.-

5. Since my previous commercial associations in Haiti dated prior to 1959, I found it extremely difficult to locate old acquaintances, for most are dead or in voluntary exile. I did manage to assemble some data on

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Mr Charles that I regard as reliable. He is specifically referred to as "Papa Doc's" banker and financial manager. Mr Charles, as would be expected is "very close to the Palace" and has ready access to President Duvalier. As for his character, he is described as "a crook and a poor liar." In other words, Mr Charles is truly a Haitian political character and not to be trusted under any conditions.

6. I noted that Mr Charles mentions his activity in 1954 as a negotiator on behalf of the Haitian Government with the General Electric Co of England for modernization of the country's telecommunications system. As a result of this contract Haiti experienced one of its greatest political scandals for the contract was for US\$4 million, and the actual delivery of products was only US\$1 million. I, likewise, observed that Mr Charles is president of the Haitian Banana Corp which was originally operated by Eric Tippenhauer and Colonel Prosper, and subsequently was bankrupt because of financial mismanagement. Still further, Essential Oils Co was at one time the exclusive domain of Senator Louis De Joie, and since his death the company is headed by Mr Charles.
7. I am personally satisfied that Mr Clémard Joseph Charles is President Duvalier's personal financial manager, and the companies directed by Mr Charles are in fact owned and/or controlled for the benefit of Haiti's chief executive. At the moment Mr Charles' principal assistant in the tobacco industry is Henry Siclait, who just happens to be Director of the Haitian Tobacco Monopoly and Secretary-Treasurer of Le Tabac Haitien, S. A. Siclait is believed to be Mr Charles' "hatchet man" but I was not able to verify this allegation.

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