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1/8/59

AIRTEL

SEE BELOW

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NORFOLK [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: FRANK ANTHONY FIORINI, aka.
~~FRANK STURGIS~~
[REDACTED]
REGISTRATION ACT

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Re Miami report of 9/23/58, captioned "FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS," and Bulet, 10/7/58, none of which are in possession Norfolk.

On 1/7/59, an article under (AP) heading appeared in the Norfolk, Va. Ledger-Dispatch, a general circulation daily, regarding former Norfolk resident FRANK STURGIS, who was fighting in Cuba with the forces of FIDEL CASTRO.

The article listed STURGIS' wife as JUANITA STURGIS, Fairfax Hotel, Norfolk. His parents are listed as divorced ANGELO FIORINI and MARY STURGIS, who live in the same apartment house, Bank Street, Norfolk.

The article furnished further background of STURGIS and described him as a former Norfolk tavern manager.

Another article, appearing in the same paper, reflected that STURGIS was apparently still alive, as he was a frequent visitor at the Los Angeles Clinic, Santiago,

Bureau (REGISTERED)
Jacksonville (REGISTERED)
Miami (REGISTERED)
Norfolk (1 - [REDACTED])
(1 - [REDACTED])

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18
Englewood
18

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b7E

NP []

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Cuba, where another Norfolk man, RICHARD MEREDITH SANDERLIN, had been hospitalized after being wounded fighting for CASTRO. (Norfolk file [] Bufile [] captioned "RICHARD MEREDITH SANDERLIN, [] REGISTRATION ACT")

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On 1/8/59, BYRON MC ADOO, INS, Norfolk, advised SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER that according to Section 349, Immigration and Nationality Act, Sub Paragraph 3, both STURGIS and SANDERLIN lose their American citizenship automatically, upon recognition of new Cuban Government by United States, which recognition was accomplished on 1/7/59.

LEADS

MIAMI DIVISION

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Advise Norfolk if any investigation requested here, advise of status this case, which office is origin, and furnish Norfolk copies of any pertinent reports.

BROWNELL

1- 2/19/59 2 letters received from subject,
2 8/12/60 Signed Statement of Benjamin B. Klein.



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1959	
FBI	

File No.....

Date Received.....

Contributor.....

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Agent

To be returned Yes ☐ No ☒

Description:

2 Letters received from subject.

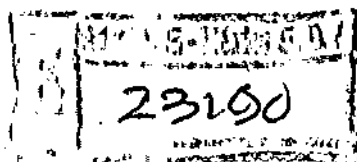
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50 CTS
CORREO
AEREO
MEXICO

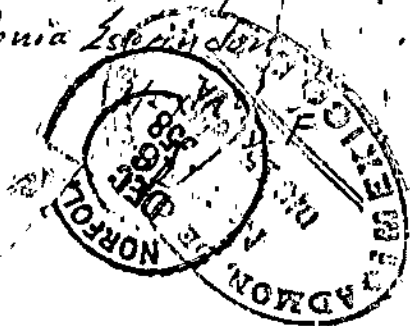


To: Mrs. Mary Sturgis
326 Bank St. Apt 13
Norfolk; Va.
U. S. A.



CORREO AEREO VIA AIR MAIL

Hotel Marti - Calle Arguie y Cast. # 63 y Ave. Martí
Colonia Esmeralda



Envelopes - Do not write
at this address

CORREO AEREO

VIA AIR MAIL

Dear Mother:

I am working
on a fishing ship.
and it comes in and
out of here and
Key West. As soon
as I can, I will
be back in Norfolk.

Enclose is a check.
Please don't tell
no one I'm here in
Ala. Say any place
but not here. Don't
tell Juanita I'm here.

Love to Francis
& you
Your Son
Frank



VIA AIR MAIL

To: Mrs. Mary Sturgis
326 Bank St Apt 13
Norfolk; Va.

Dear Mother;

I will not be home
for X mas so I am
sending you \$300.00 for
Francis and you for X mas.
As I told you before -
don't tell anyone where
I am at.

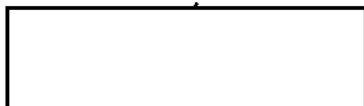
I know I have not
wrote you but I sometimes
cannot write.

You know I wish I
were home for the holidays.
Tell Francis to be a

good girl.

Love to You & Francis

Your Son
Frank



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File No. [REDACTED]

b3
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Date Received 7/25/60

Contributor Benjamin B. Klein

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Agent Samuel W. Kern

To be returned Yes ☐ No ☒

Description:

Signed Statement

Norfolk, Virginia
July 25, 1960.

I, Benjamin B. Klein, make the following voluntary statement to Lemuel W. Kew and Marvin E. Stiffen who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make this statement. I am willing to testify to these facts in ~~the~~ ^{BBK} a court of law.

I am employed as an aircraft mechanic at the Norfolk Naval ~~Station~~ ^{BBK} Air Station and my home address is [redacted] Virginia.

I have known Frank Sturgis, also known to me as Frank Fiorini, since about 1946.

The last time I saw or heard from Frank Fiorini was approximately five or six months

BBK

ago when Frank Fiorini came through Norfolk on his way to Washington, D.C. to attend hearings regarding Fiorini's citizenship.

During this visit, by Frank Fiorini, I was in contact with Fiorini during this ~~visit~~ ^{two day visit} ~~and~~ ^{BPK}. Fiorini came to my residence and I visited Frank Fiorini at the Delmar Motel where he was staying during this visit. When I went to the Delmar Motel, Jack Kessner, a reporter for the Norfolk newspapers, was present as well as my son, b6
b7C was there. Frank Fiorini talked to Kessner and myself about his experiences during the Cuban revolution when Fiorini aided Fidel Castro, ~~and also his activities after Fiorini~~ ^{BPK}.

~~break with~~ ^{BBK} ~~Castro~~.

I took Fiorini in my car to visit in my home when Fiorini was in Norfolk. I was never approached by Frank Fiorini or anyone to join a force to fight Castro in Cuba or to engage in any hostilities in any foreign country. I have never ~~BBK~~ recruited men for Fiorini or anyone. I have never approached anyone in an effort to recruit followers for Diaz Lanz, Frank Fiorini or anyone. I know of no one attempting to recruit followers for Frank Fiorini and any revolutionary group. I know nothing concerning Fiorini's efforts or proposed efforts for a counter-revolutionary movement.

against Castro.

I recall on one occasion I brought some pictures of Frank Fiorini and showed them to the other workers at the Naval Air Station. I also recall commenting to people at the ~~Naval Air~~ ^{BBK} Station that I knew Frank Fiorini very well. I have discussed Fiorini's activities among acquaintances and if anyone thinks I know anything more than ~~there appears~~ ^{there appears} ~~in~~ ^{BBK} the newspapers they are mistaken. I have entered into numerous discussions with other employees concerning ^{nothing} which I term "small talk". Some person may have gotten the idea that I or some other person was recruiting for Fiorini from this "small talk".

I do recall on one occasion that another employee named Yandel said ~~the~~ ^{BBK} ~~fact~~ Yandel's ^{BBK}

Second Norfolk Man in Cuba

NORFOLK — Marine veteran Richard Sanderlin, 23, formerly of Norfolk, was reported in critical condition in Santiago de Cuba last night from a machinegun slug received while fighting with Fidel Castro's rebels.

The Associated Press reported that the young man, son of Calvin Sanderlin of the 4300 block of Valley Ave. and Mrs. Myrtle Sanderlin of Florida, was in the Los Angeles Clinic in Santiago.

The Korean war veteran had been struck in the right shoulder by the machinegun slug two weeks ago, the dispatch said.

Sanderlin's father said today that he had not heard from his son since last winter when he was working in Florida, and had no idea that he was fighting with Castro in Cuba. He said his son had been using the name Rex M. Sanderlin.

The ex-Marine has two sisters living in the area, Mrs. Geraldine

Dehl, of Hampton, and Mrs. Joyte Golden, of Cedric St., Riverside. A younger brother, Terry, is living with his mother in Florida.

The AP story which told of Sanderlin's injury also served as concrete proof that soldier-of-fortune Frank (Fiorini) Sturgis was still alive. Sturgis was a frequent visitor at the hospital, the story said.

Sturgis's wife, Juanita, had received three letters from him during the first four months of his stay in Cuba (he left Norfolk Feb. 7 last year).

But last summer she received a cable from Batista authorities in Havana stating that her husband had been killed. That was her last communication regarding her husband.

When the Ledger-Star telephoned her the news that her husband was still alive, she sobbed. "Thank God, thank God!"

THE VIRGINIAN PILOT ✓
NORFOLK LEDGER DISPATCH
PORTSMOUTH TIMES
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Pair Helping Castro May Lose Citizenship

NORFOLK — Two Norfolkians who fought with Fidel Castro's victorious rebels in Cuba may have done so at the cost of their American citizenship.

The wife of one — who until Wednesday believed she was his widow — said she has been told her politically ambitious husband already has jeopardized his standing as a citizen.

Mrs. Juanita Sturgis, 26, quoted her ex-Marine husband, Frank Anthony (Florini) Sturgis, 34, as saying "if they (the rebels) overthrow the government, I'm going to live in Cuba."

An attorney has advised her that Sturgis forfeited his citizenship by fighting with Castro, Mrs. Sturgis said.

AP Dispatch

For months she had believed her husband dead until an Associated Press dispatch arrived Tuesday stating that Sturgis had visited Richard M. Sanderlin, 22, also of Norfolk, in a hospital at Santiago, Cuba.

Sanderlin, also a former Marine, was reported in critical condition from a machinegun bullet wound he received in the right shoulder two weeks ago.

The American adventurers' citizenship would be endangered by United States recognition of the Castro government, according to Byron C. McAdoo, federal nat-

turalization examiner here. They could be expatriated by the United States if they remain with Castro, McAdoo said. The Castro government was officially recognized Wednesday.

High Ambitions

Sturgis went to Cuba in February 1958, after an abortive previous attempt to join the rebels "mainly to make something of himself," Mrs. Sturgis said.

She said her husband had high ambitions. "He wants to be in poli-

For Further Reading See
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Frank Sturgis

Norfolkians

(Continued from Back Page)

tics. He was always seeking adventure."

About six months ago, a telegram from Cuban authorities advised her her husband was dead, but no confirmation ever was made, Mrs. Sturgis said.

"When I learned he was alive this morning, you'll never know how glad I was."

She said she received three letters her husband smuggled out through Colombia, the last about seven months ago.

Training Job

Her husband, Mrs. Sturgis said, left for Cuba intending to train guerrilla fighters.

The experience, she added, was exciting "for him . . . but for me?"

Mrs. Sturgis, a waitress at the Thomas Nelson coffee shop, lives at the Fairtax Hotel. Sturgis' divorced parents, Mrs. Mary Sturgis and Angelo Fiorini, live in Norfolk.

Sanderlin joined the Marine Corps in August, 1953, and was transferred to inactive reserves in May, 1958.

Sturgis, who wrote of receiving a leg wound in the insurrection, had had a varied career. Just before he went to Cuba he was a Main street tavern manager, and a real estate and insurance salesman.

Former Policeman

In 1946 he served two months with the Norfolk Police Division, but resigned. He served with the Army in Germany as a merchant mariner and as a Civil Air Patrol flying instructor. He also attended the College of William and Mary for two years.

In January, 1954, Sturgis caused a stir by disappearing while hunting in Dismal Swamp near Elizabeth City, N.C. He turned up 12 days later in San Diego, Calif., and explained he lost his memory when three men struck and robbed him in Elizabeth City.

Knack for Keeping Friends Key to Sturgis Personality

(This is the second of a series of articles about Frank A. Sturgis, a former Marine who became a rebel leader.)

By JACK KESTNER

NORFOLK — "He's not just a good guy. He's terrific. The best. And a born leader."

That's the answer given by a former employer of Frank (Storini) Sturgis when he was asked to describe the ex-Marine who has spent the past 10 months training Cubans for Fidel Castro's victorious rebel army.

It's an answer that you'll find seconders for wherever Frank Sturgis has been. And that includes a sizeable hunk of the world.

It would appear that the 6-foot, 200-pounder had unconsciously been in training during most of his 34 years for no other role than that of a professional revolutionary.

Courage, intelligence, personality, stamina, muscular coordination. All were his.

And he prodigiously funneled them into a "loser take nothing" gamble that Fidel Castro and a mere handful of men could tumble one of the shrewdest and toughest dictators in the western hemisphere.

Although born in Norfolk, Frank spent much of his childhood and youth in Philadelphia and Germantown, Pa., where his family had relatives.

He attended Holy Rosary School in Philadelphia (where he was president of the Altar Boys), Roosevelt Junior High and Germantown Senior High.

"And he never failed a grade," proudly says his mother, Mrs. Mary Sturgis, who lives in the 300 block of Bank St.

Frank excelled in sports — football, baseball, swimming, diving — and at an early age developed a fondness for hunting and fishing. He was at home in the woods.

This woodmanship served him well, for in September, 1942, at the ripe old age of 17, he joined the Marines and spent 30 months in the jungles of the South Pacific.

A decade and a half later he was back in the jungles again — but this time in the wilds of the Sierra Maestra in eastern Cuba.

"We all live like pigs, dirty, filthy, no proper food," Frank wrote his wife, Juanita, last summer. "I have had days when I did not eat at all . . . I have been walking for weeks."

He described Castro as "a very wonderful man," and it appears that the rebel leader returned the affection. According to Sturgis' friends, it would be strange if he hadn't.

"If you know the guy, you like him," says Phil Berger, owner of Phil's Arena Tavern which Sturgis managed for several years. "He's great, he really is. I never met anybody I liked any better."

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FRANK STURGIS
Germantown Schoolboy



PHIL BERGER AND FRIEND
Tavernkeeper Wanted Sturgis as Partner

I even offered him a partnership in my business," agrees that Sturgis was a very personable man.

Berger, a former professional fighter, says that Frank was also a handy lad with his fists. "If he had gotten out of that Main street element, he could have made a go out of anything he fellows at a time. I wish I'd tried," Baldwin says. He adds that Frank continually thought of himself as a soldier of fortune. "He told me it had always been his ambition to take part in a revolution. That was where Frank was working as man-ager when he left for Cuba, echoes his dream."

Jerry Senter, owner of the Commercial Grill on East Main street, says that Frank was working as man-ager when he left for Cuba, echoes his dream.

Well, the dream had been realized. Frank even managed to come out on the winning side, which should pay off handsomely. In one of the letters to Juanita, he wrote:

"I know when this is over, if nothing happens to me, my future is made."

James F. Baldwin, who worked for six months with Frank when other revolution pops out some-both were agents for Walker Real-where.

Sturgis Seen In Wirephoto From Cuba

NORFOLK—The whereabouts in Cuba of Frank (Fiorini) Sturgis, former Norfolk tavern manager, was established today by an Associated Press wirephoto showing him standing at the mass grave of 75 executed followers of Fulgencio Batista.

The caption identified Sturgis as Cuban rebel Capt. Frank Fiorini, an American from Norfolk, Va."



Sturgis, a native of Norfolk, was born Frank Anthony Fiorini, but changed his name in 1952 after his mother married Ralph Sturgis. He reverted to his original name when he went to Cuba.

Sturgis, 34, left Norfolk last February to join the rebel forces of Fidel Castro. His wife, Juanita—who lives at the Fairfax Hotel and works as a waitress at the Thomas Nelson coffee shop—received three letters from him since his arrival there, but none later than mid-summer of last year.

In a recent attempt to locate him, she got in touch with another Norfolk man who has been fighting with Castro. He is Richard Sanderlin, 23, an ex-Marine veteran of Korea, who is currently recovering in a Havana hospital from three bullet wounds received Dec. 19.

Sanderlin told Mrs. Sturgis that all he could say was that Frank had "gone to Santiago on an important mission for Raul." (Raul is the younger brother of Fidel Castro.)

In addition to managing three local taverns, Sturgis also was a licensed real estate agent, sold insurance, attended the College of William & Mary in Norfolk, and was a lieutenant and instructor in the Civil Air Patrol here.

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—Associated Press Wirephoto

Frank (Fiorini) Sturgis (right) at Grave of Executed Batista Followers

Norfolk Adventurer Fought With Castro's Cuban Rebels

This is the first of two stories on Frank A. (Fiorini) Sturgis, Norfolk man who was a member of Fidel Castro's victorious rebel army. The second story will appear in Thursday's Ledger-Star.

By JACK KESTNER

NORFOLK—The fall of Cuban Dictator Fulgencio Batista may have been due in no small part to the guerrilla know-how of a six-foot 200-pound ex-tavern manager who calls Norfolk his home.

His name is Frank Sturgis, or Frank Anthony Fiorini as he was born on Dec. 9, 1924, of Italian extraction, at 901 Faulkland St.

Sturgis' divorced parents—Angelo Fiorini and Mary Sturgis—live on separate floors of the same apartment house in the 300 block of Bank St. Sturgis' wife, Juanita, who is currently living at the Fairfax Hotel, works as a waitress in the Thomas Nelson coffee shop.



STURGIS AS U.S. MARINE



STURGIS, TAVERN MANAGER

Sturgis won medals island-hopping with the Marines in the South Pacific. He served a peace-time hitch with the Army in Germany. He was ice-bound on a freighter off the coast of Newfoundland as an able bodied seaman. He was a lieutenant and flying instructor in the Norfolk Civil Air Patrol. He was a licensed Norfolk real estate agent. He was a student for two years at the College of William and Mary.

Most area residents will probably remember him as the man who, on Jan. 2, 1954, left for an afternoon of hunting in Dismal Swamp near Elizabeth City, N.C., and emerged 12 days later in San Diego, Calif.

Sturgis — who has been sought by three CAP squadrons, planes, military helicopters and state policemen — told reporters that a bump on the head (acquired Jan. 2 when three men robbed him in Elizabeth City) had left his memory of those 12 days a complete blank.

And for the past 10 months, if personal letters and scattered reports can be believed, he has been training Cuban rebels in the art of guerrilla warfare.

Preliminary background for his Cuban adventure began in May 1957, in Miami, Fla., where he was on a honeymoon with his second wife, a Cherokee Indian maiden

off a Georgia reservation who had come to Norfolk when her mother married a lieutenant commander stationed at the Naval Base about 15 years ago.

One night the couple attended a political rally at a Flagler St. theater where funds were being raised to support Fidel Castro's insurrection in eastern Cuba.

Sturgis, his wife recalls, was sold on the idea. Not only for its idealistic concept, but also because he recognized in it an opportunity to realize talents bloodily acquired during 30 months of in-fighting with the Japs.

"When he came back to Norfolk, he couldn't sit still," the slender, attractive 26-year-old Juanita says. "He read everything he could find about Castro's activities. He even subscribed to a Miami paper and made up a scrap book of clippings."

After several months of establishing contacts (while he sold real estate and insurance, and worked in a Main street tavern), Sturgis left for Cuba. It was mid-July, 1957.

He made it. But he returned a couple of weeks later.

"He got in all right, but they were watching him too close," Mrs. Sturgis recalls. "He said he'd have to try again."

He did. He left Norfolk last year on February 17.

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—Staff Photo by [unclear]

Juanita Sturgis Awaits Word From Husband in Cuba

It was over a month before Juanita heard from him. Then it was only a single sheet scrawled in pencil along the green lines of a torn-out notebook page.

"High In The Mountains, April 3," was its dateline a likely reference to Castro's Sierra Maestra headquarters), and its salutation was to "My Darling Wife."

"It breaks my heart to be away from you, but I cannot undo what I started," he wrote.

* * *

"I have gotten myself a very good reputation with Fidel, and—believe it or not—he is a good friend of mine. I am trying very hard to help him . . . I have grown very near these people here in the mountains. They are dying every day . . .

"I hope this reporter (the letter was entrusted to a newspaperman from Colombia, South America) can send this letter to you if he gets out. It is very difficult to come and go."

It was over two months before Juanita received a second letter. It was written on a looseleaf binder given Sturgis by a physician who was treating ". . . a hole the size of a nickle in my left ankle."

Sturgis doesn't tell how he received the wound. He only relates that he has had ". . . poison in my leg . . . terrible pains . . . fever for 3½ days. . ."

* * *

How did Frank Sturgis' background fit him for the role he played in Cuba's successful rebellion? See the second installment of his story in the Ledger-Star Thursday.

'Guts' Enabled Rebels To Win, Sturgis Says

● Norfolk Man, Gun-Runner for Castro's Forces, Spent Time in Two Jails

SANTIAGO, Cuba (AP)—The Cuban rebels—"They had guts," says an American who has served Fidel Castro's revolutionary army for 15 months, most of it as a gun-runner.

Frank (Fiorini) Sturgis—a 34-year-old captain in the rebel forces from 1506 Winder Dr. Norfolk, Va., now is chief training officer at a rebel camp here.

His job is seeing that more than 1,000 Castro recruits get proper instruction in tactics and the use of arms. Sturgis, a dashing figure with a red scarf around his neck, admits that his Spanish is not so good. Most of his commands are transmitted through bilingual Cuban lieutenants.

Formerly in U.S. Army

Sturgis says his own military career includes hitches in the U.S. Army's 1st Division and Edson's Marine Raiders.

"I admire the Cuban people for wanting to be free," he said, adding that he got interested in the Castro movement through a Cuban aunt.

"They taught us in the United States to hate dictators," he

said. "I'm sorry the U.S. government didn't help Castro."

"The rebels were out-gunned, out-maneuvered, out-everything'ed. But they had guts. They did a remarkable job — they won."

Much of his 15 months with the rebels, Sturgis said, was spent in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Miami arranging for arms shipments.

Twice Jailed

He said he was arrested twice on arms charges and spent 15 days in jail in Florida and 12 days in Mexico. He now is out on bond on the Florida charges.

"We tried to bring in one big plane a week (with arms) to Castro," he said.

Asked about his plans, Sturgis said he probably will remain in Cuba a while. He said his understanding is that he does not face loss of U.S. citizenship since he never swore an oath to the rebel government. He added he is receiving no pay for working with the rebels.

Sturgis' parents now are at home in Norfolk. He was raised in Pennsylvania and attended high school in Germantown.

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Condones Cuban Bloodletting

Sturgis Tells Norfolkian Of 'Illegal Entry' to U.S.

By JACK KESTNER

NORFOLK — A Norfolk businessman was walking out of a Miami Beach theater recently when he bumped into a ghost.

"At least it startled me as much as bumping into a ghost," said Sidney Semel, vacationing president of the Office Supply Co. on Princess Anne road. "It was Frank Sturgis."

Semel had become acquainted with the Norfolk soldier of fortune (who has been a member of Fidel Castro's Cuban rebels for nearly a year) when his Office Supply Co. was located next door to Phil's Arena. Sturgis was manager there.

"It happened last night," Semel told the Ledger-Star via telephone late yesterday from Miami Beach. "I was coming out of 'Some Came Running' just as he was going in."

During the ensuing conversation, the current executions of Batista men were discussed.

"Frank said he'd been captured by Batista forces and thrown into prison," Semel related. "He said he still had scars from the whip they'd used on him. Four out of thirty were shot. They weren't even given any water—had to drink out of a toilet. Frank said he'd lost 27 pounds."

For this reason, Sturgis was not at all disturbed with the "swift justice" meted out to Batista men. (An Associated Press wirephoto was transmitted nationally last week showing "Frank Fiorini"—which is Sturgis' birth name—standing by the mass grave of 75 executed Batista men.)

Sturgis told the Norfolk businessman that he "had been all over" while working for Castro and had been in prison several times.

He added that he was even now



FRANK (FIORINI) STURGIS
Scarred by Whip

in the United States "illegally." No amplification of the statement was made, but an AP story several days ago mentioned that he had been engaged in smuggling arms from Mexico and other Latin American countries.

"He seemed quite proud of what he had been doing," Semel recalled. "He told me that an American writer by the name of Andrew St. George, I believe it was, is going to do a story on his activities for True or Life or some magazine."

Sturgis was evasive concerning plans for the future, but did say he was returning to Cuba to instruct troops at Columbia Barracks just outside of Havana.

The volunteer rebel said that he was in Miami on business for Castro. He was dressed in a suit, shirt and tie.

"He looked a bit out of character," Semel said.

Sturgis told Semel that Richard Sanderlin—23-year-old ex-Marine Norfolkian who has been training troops for Raul Castro—was still

in a Havana hospital as a result of bullet wounds received during a Dec. 17 clash with Batista forces.

During their conversation, Semel suggested a dinner meeting. Sturgis agreed and gave him the name of his Miami Beach Hotel.

But when Semel checked it yesterday he was told that no one was registered there under the name of either Sturgis or Fiorini.

Semel declined to speculate on whether this was due to an error or whether the ex-tavern manager, ex-real estate salesman, ex-CAP flying instructor, ex-seaman, ex-Marine, ex-GI, ex-college student was just playing it cagy.

Before Semel and Sturgis parted company, the former asked for an autograph for his eight-year-old son. Sturgis complied, and included several Cuban coins with it.

The autograph read, "Captain Frank Fiorini."

THE VIRGINIAN PILOT
NORFOLK LEDGER DISPATCH ✓
PORTSMOUTH TIMES
JOURNAL AND GUIDE
VIRGINIA BEACH SUN NEWS
PRINCESS ANNE FREE PRESS
SUFFOLK NEWS HERALD
NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS
NEWPORT NEWS TIMES HERALD
(NORFOLK DIVISION)

DATE 1/23
EDITION
AUTHOR
EDITOR
TITLE

CLASSIFICATION

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
128 1959

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~Confidential~~

REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MIAMI	DATE FEB 2 1959	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/14/58-1/21/59
TITLE OF CASE FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka.		REPORT MADE BY THOMAS H. ERRION	TYPED BY THE: mbb
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT	

SYNOPSIS:

REFERENCES: Report of SA ROBERT JAMES DWYER, 11/7/58, Miami.
El Paso letter to Director, 11/26/58.
Norfolk airtel to Director, 1/8/59.

- P -

- LEADS -

NORFOLK

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

1. Will interview subject's wife, JUANITA STURGIS, Fairfax Hotel, for information concerning possibility of return or visit to United States by subject or any information

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 7 - Bureau [REDACTED] (RM) 1 - U.S. Customs, Miami, Fla. 2 - Norfolk (RM) 2 - Miami [REDACTED] Confidential		[REDACTED] b3 b7E	
Level of Classification		SEARCHED... INDEXED... SERIALIZED... FILED... FEB 4 - 1959 FBI - NORFOLK <i>Engelmann</i>	
Classified and Extended By		b6 b7C	
Reason For Extension FBI, 1-2.4.2 2,3			
Date of Review for Declassification 7/23/89			

~~Confidential~~

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~~Confidential~~

concerning possible oath of allegiance to new Cuban government taken by subject. Will also inquire concerning automobiles owned by the subject and disposition made of them.

2. Will interview ANGELO FIORINI and MARY STURGIS who live in the same apartment on Bank Street in Norfolk. Will obtain additional background concerning subject from them and also information concerning subject's plans regarding his remaining in Cuba or returning to United States; and whether or not they have any information that he did or did not swear an oath of allegiance to the new Cuban government. Will also inquire concerning automobiles owned by the subject and disposition made of them.

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Will interview VICTOR GUTIERREZ, former operator of Cuban Motor Company, who now operates Sinclair Service Station on 7th Avenue and N. W. 20th Street, in Miami. Will ask him for records concerning sale or of the disposal of the 1952 or 1954 Chevrolets possibly sold to the subject in 1958.

- ADMINISTRATIVE -

Instant report is classified as "~~Secret~~" as it contains information from []

[] which has been classified as "~~Secret~~" by that agency and which contains information obtained from []

[]
One extra copy of instant report is being designated for the Bureau in the event the Bureau may wish to request interview of the subject by the Legat, Havana, Cuba.

- A -

- COVER PAGE -

~~Confidential~~

MM [redacted] b3
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Investigation in El Paso Division conducted by
SA LAWRENCE WIRICK.

- INFORMANTS -

<u>IDENTITY</u>	<u>LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INFORMATION</u>
MM T-1 is [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	
MM T-2 is [redacted]	
MM T-3 is [redacted]	
MM T-4 is [redacted]	

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report and T-symbols were utilized only in those instances where identities must be concealed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Customs, Miami, Florida

Report of: SA THOMAS H. ERRION

Office: Miami

Date: FEB 2 1959

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File Number: MIAMI [REDACTED] BUREAU [REDACTED]

Title: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS

Character: REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis: MM T-1 advised in 11/58, that one FRANK FIORMI, probably from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., arrived in Mexico City, Mexico, on 10/27/58. with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MM T-2 advised that FRANK FIORINI and seven Cubans were arrested at Apatzingan, Mexico; sometime around 11/21/58, for instigating a plan to carry arms by air from Mexico to the Cuban Rebel Leader FIDEL CASTRO. On 11/13/58, C-46 airplane # N1849M landed Juarez, Mexico, with FRANK FIORINI, who stated he owned plane; 2 Cubans with him. Mexican Immigration Tourist permits that date show 2 Cubans as [REDACTED] Declaration of temporary sojourn filed U. S. Customs, El Paso, 11/13/58. Filed by FIORINI stated plane would be away from U. S. 60 days. Plane N-1849M bought by FIORINI from Aervias Sud Americano for \$85,000 on about 11/7/58, at Phoenix, Ariz. Article appearing in Norfolk, Va. newspaper 1/7/59, states FRANK STURGIS, former Norfolk resident who fought in Cuba with FIDEL CASTRO was alive and still in Cuba. INS, Norfolk, advised that subject could lose American citizenship automatically upon recognition of new Cuban government by U. S. 1954 Chevrolet, MN 031580T54Z and 1952 Chevrolet, MN KAD450800 sold to Cuban Motor Co., Miami, now out of business. Photo, Miami newspaper,

~~SECRET~~

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1/13/59, shows "Rebel Captain FRANK FIORINO" holding weapon over mass grave in Cuba. In 1/59, MM T-1 advised that FIORINO was in charge of a training camp and staging area in Santiago de Cuba and is waiting orders to train 1,000 men for Rebel forces.

- P -

DETAILS: MM T-1, []

[] advised on November 4, 1958, that on October 27, 1958, FRANK FIORINO of 310 N. E. 5th Street, Port Lauderdale (probably Fort Lauderdale), Florida, arrived in Mexico City with []

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[] MM T-1 on January 15, 1959, advised that FRANK FIORINO, a United States citizen who had been a gun runner for the rebels was in Santiago de Cuba awaiting orders from RAUL CASTRO RUZ to begin training 1,000 members of the militia in the Santiago area and was in charge of a staging area, training camp and separation center in Santiago de Cuba for the rebels.

On November 24, 1958, MM T-2 stated that an article in "Novedades de Mexico" a Mexico City newspaper dated November 21, 1958, said that FRANK FIORINO and seven Cubans were arrested when they landed a C-46 airplane, Number N1849M at Apatzingan, Mexico, and were under arrest for instigating a plan to carry arms by air from Mexico to Cuban Rebel Leader FIDEL CASTRO via Venezuela. MM T-2 stated also that the November 22, 1958 issue of "El Fronterizo", a Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico newspaper, contained an article stating seven Cubans and one North American were arrested at Apatzingan, Michoacan, Mexico, by Mexican government agents.

MM T-2 said that above airplane landed at Juarez for Mexican Customs inspection and to obtain gas on November 13, 1958, and was piloted by IVAN R. BEISEL, Commercial Airman Certificate Number [] The plane had two Cubans as passengers along with one FRANK FIORINO, who stated that he owned the airplane. The plane was listed as a private plane with

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flight origination, El Paso, Texas, and ending Vera Cruz, Mexico. MM T-2 stated that a search of the plane by Mexican Customs Agents disclosed no cargo on board on that date, November 13, 1958. MM T-2 stated that FIORINI had large sums of money and paid for the gas.

On November 25, 1958, the Tourist Permits issued by Mexican Immigration authorities on November 13, 1958, disclosed that the permits were issued to FRANK A. FIORINI, Permit Number 1657791, born Norfolk, Virginia, an American citizen with residence at 422 Glenridge, Miami, Florida; PEDRO L. DIAZ, Tourist Permit Number [] born Havana, Cuba, Cuban citizen, same address as FIORINI and RICARDO L. LORIE, Tourist Permit Number [] born Santiago de Cuba, residence same as above.

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The Declaration of Temporary Sojourn filed with Collector of Customs, El Paso, Texas, on November 13, 1958, reflected that aircraft C-46 (Curtis) Number N1849M departed on or about November 13, 1958, from the United States and would return in approximately sixty days. This Temporary Sojourn was signed FRANK FIORINI, 2160 S. W. 4th Street, Miami, Florida.

United States Immigration Border Patrol advised on November 26, 1958, that aircraft Number N1849M was sold to FRANK FIORINI about November 7, 1958, for \$85,000.00 by Aerovias Sud Americano. Sale was made at Phoenix, Arizona, at Sky Harbor Airport and negotiations were handled by MAX BIBGERT and BEN WHITSELDT. Payment was made by certified check against the First National Bank, Phoenix, Arizona, and the check was signed by FIORINI.

United States Immigration Border Patrol advised November 26, 1958, that IVAN RALPH BEISEL resides at [] Phoenix, Arizona, and was formerly employed by CRIS D. STOLTS, Lima, Peru, as a pilot.

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On January 7, 1959, an article under Associated Press heading appeared in the Norfolk, Virginia "Ledger Dispatch"

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a general circulation daily, regarding former Norfolk, Virginia resident, FRANK STURGIS, who was fighting in Cuba with the forces of FIDEL CASTRO and who was still alive. The article furnished background describing STURGIS as a former Norfolk tavern manager and another article in the same paper reflected that STURGIS was a frequent visitor to the Los Angeles Clinic, Santiago de Cuba, where another Norfolk man, RICHARD MEREDITH SANDERLIN, was hospitalized after being wounded fighting for CASTRO.

On January 8, 1959, BYRON MC ADDO, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Norfolk, advised SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER that according to Section 349, Immigration and Nationality Act Sub Paragraph 3, both STURGIS and SANDERLIN lose their American citizenship automatically upon recognition of the new Cuban government by the United States, which recognition was accomplished on January 7, 1959.

The "Miami News" a general circulation daily newspaper published in Miami, Florida, in its issue of January 13, 1959, contained two photographs, one below the other, with the caption entitled, "Trial to Grave". The upper picture ~~showed~~ four individuals described as followers of former "Dictator" FULGENCIO BATISTA appearing before a rebel tribunal in Santiago. The caption states that they were convicted and sentenced to death before a firing squad. The caption continues, "Below a few hours later Rebel Captain FRANK FIORINO right, an American from Norfolk, stands on covered mass grave of 75 Cubans who were executed."

MM T-3 on January 6, 1959, advised that FRANK FIORINI was in Cuba with the rebel forces.

MM T-4 on January 21, 1959, advised that FRANK FIORINI was still in Cuba with the rebel forces. He stated he believed FIORINI was with RAUL CASTRO, but was not sure.

On November 6, 1958, SA JOHN A. GUTOWSKI ascertained from D. W. BAKER, Manager, Orlando Auto Auction, 1928 South

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Division Street, Orlando, Florida, that 1952 Chevrolet, Motor Number KAD450800 was sold to the Cuban Motor Company, 2410 N. W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida.

On December 22, 1958, VAN LAWSHE, Orlando Auto Auction, 1918 South Division Street, advised SA GUTOWSKI that 1954 Chevrolet, Motor Number 031580T54Z was sold March, 1958, to Cuban Motor Company, Miami, Florida.

On December 30, 1958, JOSE MANUEL GOVIN, [redacted] [redacted] Miami, Florida, advised that VICTOR GUTIERREZ had operated the Cuban Motor Company at that address and had moved over one year ago. He stated that GUTIERREZ could be located at the Sinclair Gas Station, 7th Avenue and N. W. 20th Street, Miami.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Miami, Florida

FEB 2 1959

RE: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka.

Reference is made to report of Special Agent THOMAS H. ERRION dated and captioned as above, at Miami.

Miami Informants T-2, T-3, and T-4 have furnished reliable information in the past.

Property of FBI - This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

Date: 1/26/59

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To: Director, FBI [REDACTED]

From: Legat, Mexico [REDACTED]

Subject: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka
RA

Level of Classification CONF

Classified and Extends to [REDACTED]

Reason For Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 2+3

Date of Review For Declassification 2/23/89

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Re Havana letter dated 12/15/58 and report of
SA ROBERT JAMES DWYER dated 9/23/58 at Miami.

By report received 1/7/59, [REDACTED] advised that a
check of the files of the [REDACTED]
had disclosed no information concerning the name FRANK
FIORINI or the alleged arrest of FIORINI and a group of
Cubans in connection with an alleged smuggling of arms. X

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[REDACTED] made available a news clipping from the
Mexico City daily newspaper, "Excelsior," of November 25, 1958,
which was entitled "Action Against Cuban Rebels at Apatzingan -
Judicial Action at Morelia Against the Eleven Smugglers."
The article reported that eleven persons had been arrested
at Uruapan at dawn on 11/20/58, when they were discovered
endeavoring to send arms to the rebels of FIDEL CASTRO RUZ
in Cuba. The article listed the following as having been
arrested:

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JOSE MARTINEZ MACHADOS

ENIO LETYA FUENTES

MANUEL CARBONELL DUCCASSIFIED CONF

ORLANDO VENTURA REYES

PEDRO LUIS DIAZ SAENZ 9/25/79

FRANK FIORINI

MANUEL HERNANDEZ TURRO

GUSTAVO ARCOS DERCLES

JOSE ALBERTO MENDEZ

ISALDO E. RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ

ARMANDO FRANCO MAYNEZ

ROBERTO WILLARTE

PER BUREAU F/S

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION MATTER X

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The article concludes by stating that a North
American, FRANK FIORINI, the "pilot of the airplane," and the

8 - Bureau

1 - Mexico City

RLI:DU

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Engelmeier

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Cuban, PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ had requested permission to be interviewed with an attorney present and that this request had been granted.

[redacted] in Mexico City, furnished the following information which he said had been forwarded to [redacted] with respect to the activities and associates of FRANK FIORINI:

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Inquiry at the Office of the Federal Attorney General, Mexico, D. F., developed information to the effect that all investigation in this case was conducted by the prosecutive and judicial authorities at Morelia, Michoacan. In view of the fact that investigative informants of this office have considerable difficulty in checking official records in the State of Michoacan, any effort to take this action has been delayed until it is possible for this investigation to be conducted by personnel of this office or an investigative informant who has adequate credentials for that purpose. ~~X~~

From the foregoing data concerning FIORINI, it appears that he is probably identical with subject FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS. It also appears possible, in view of FIORINI's reported presence in Cuba, the question of his identity may already have been fully clarified. ~~X~~

LEAD

MEXICO CITY

AT MEXICO, D. F. AND MORELIA, MICHOACAN

Will explore the possibilities of obtaining the results of interviews of FIORINI by Mexican authorities and any information which can be obtained concerning the outcome of the arrest of FIORINI and the group of Cubans. ~~X~~

~~Confidential~~

Copies of this letter are provided for transmittal to the Miami Office [redacted], the office of origin in this case, two copies for Legat, Havana, who requested the investigation in Mexico, and one copy for the information of the Jacksonville and New York Office, in view of the fact that these offices have conducted investigation in this case.

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(S)

~~Confidential~~

Director, FBI

January 30, 1959

Legal Attache, Havana [redacted]

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FRANK ANTHONY FIORINI, aka
Frank Sturgis

[redacted]
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b7E

REGISTRATION ACT

Re Norfolk airtel January 8, 1959, and Havana letter
December 15, 1958.

On January 20, 1959, [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he was
informed that an individual known as FRANK FIORINI was with the
Revolutionary Forces in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba. It
is believed this individual is identical with captioned subject.

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Extra copies of this communication are being made
available for the Norfolk Office.

RUC

4 - Bureau
1 - Havana
JTH:lg
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Engineer for E.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NORFOLK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MIAMI	DATE 2-27-59	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/9/59 - 2/17/59
TITLE OF CASE FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka		REPORT MADE BY SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER	TYPED BY S
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA	

XXXXXX
SYNOPSIS

REFERENCE

Report of SA THOMAS H. ERRION, 2/2/59, at Miami.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Legat, Havana, advised Bureau by letter dated 1/30/59 that on 1/20/59, [redacted] advised that he was informed that an individual known as FRANK PIORINI was with the Revolutionary Forces in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba. It was believed that this individual was possibly identical with the subject.

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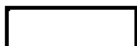
LEADS

MIAMI

APPROVED COPIES MADE:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE [redacted]	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
7 Bureau [redacted] (Registered)	1 U. S. Customs	[redacted]	b3 b7E
3 Miami [redacted] (Registered)			
2 St. Louis (Registered)			
② Norfolk [redacted]			

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At Miami, Florida

1. Will, through logical sources, attempt to locate Mrs. RAMON SANCHEZ and interview her concerning her knowledge of the subject's activities and statements.
2. Will request St. Louis to discontinue if subject's Service files have already been reviewed.

ST. LOUIS

At St. Louis, Mo.

1. Will, at Federal Records Center, attempt to locate subject's three Service files, USN, USMC, and USA. It is noted that serial numbers are not known, however his date of birth and other background is set forth in instant report.
2. Will furnish requested information to Miami and an extra copy for the Bureau in report form so that Legat, Havana, can be forwarded copy.

NORFOLK

At Norfolk, Va.

1. Will contact R. DRAKE DORMAN, telephone MA-75277, to determine results of his conversation in Cuba with subject.
2. Will review subject's personnel file at Norfolk PD.
3. Will conduct credit and criminal checks of subject.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: U. S. Customs, Miami (Registered)

Report of: SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER
Date: 2-27-59

Office: NORFOLK

File Number: Norfolk Bureau b3
b7E

Title: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS

Character: REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

Synopsis:

Subject's mother, father, wife, and acquaintance interviewed at Norfolk, Va., and none could definitely state whether subject had pledged allegiance to Cuba. None could definitely state whether subject planned to return to the United States. Subject's wife advised she believed subject would not return, and she furnished information regarding automobiles in possession of the subject while she knew him. Subject's mother furnished limited description of subject.

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DETAILS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate February 26, 1959

Mrs. MARY STURGIS advised she has not seen her son FRANK FIORINI for approximately one year. She advised she has not heard directly from her son and her only knowledge concerning his present welfare is that information which appears in the newspapers. She advised she wrote a letter to her son about two weeks ago, but advised she has not had an answer. She also stated she wrote a letter on January 9, 1959 to FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba and inquired as to her son's welfare, however she has not received an answer. Mrs. STURGIS stated she therefore has no knowledge as to whether her son has pledged allegiance to Cuba and she has no information as to whether her son will return to the United States or when. Mrs. STURGIS advised that she could furnish no information regarding automobiles owned by the subject, except that he once owned an Austin about 7 or 8 years ago. She did not know what disposition was made of this car.

Mrs. STURGIS stated that her son, the subject, was born on December 9, 1924 at Norfolk, Virginia. She advised that he was brought up in both Norfolk, Virginia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She stated that FIORINI is the son of ANGELO FIORINI, her first husband. She advised she had divorced ANGELO and has been twice married since then. She stated she is now a widow. Mrs. STURGIS stated that JUANITA STURGIS is the second wife of her son. She advised he had a divorce pending from a BETTY JOHNSTON about 1952 when JOHNSTON was shot and killed. She advised that her son never confided in her and she was never aware as to his activities. She advised she did not know he had gone to Cuba when he left about a year ago. She was under the impression that he was going to Miami, Florida to seek employment. Mrs. STURGIS could not locate a photograph of the subject other than those which have appeared in print. She could not furnish any service serial numbers for the subject, although she advised her son

- 2 -

Interview with Mrs. MARY STURGIS File # NF
326 Bank Street,
2/9/59 Norfolk, Virginia 2/10/59
on _____ at _____ Date dictated _____
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER/srt

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was in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, was subsequently in the Army and Navy, and was also a merchant seaman.

Mrs. STURGIS stated that when her son left Norfolk it was because he was very deeply in debt, which was caused by his wife. She advised he and JUANITA STURGIS were then living on Winder Drive in Norfolk.

Mrs. STURGIS furnished the following description of the subject.

Name	FRANK ANTHONY FIORINI, also known as Frank Anthony Sturgis
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	December 9, 1924
Place of birth	Norfolk, Virginia
Height	6 feet
Weight	220 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Medium dark
Mother	MARY STURGIS, Apartment 13, 326 Bank Street, Norfolk, Virginia
Father	ANGELO FIORINI, Apartment 7, 326 Bank Street, Norfolk
Education	3 years college
Occupation	Tavern manager, Insurance salesman
Wife	JUANITA STURGIS, Fairfax Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia
Children	None

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate February 26, 1959

ANGELO FIORINI, 326 Bank Street, Norfolk, Virginia, advised he last saw his son FRANK about one year ago, when his son dropped in to visit him. He advised he had no knowledge that his son planned to go to Cuba and he did not know he was in Cuba until about two months later, when a letter arrived at his home for FRANK's wife. FIORINI stated he had no knowledge of the subject's intentions of returning to the United States and he did not know whether or not the subject had pledged allegiance to Cuba. He stated he did not know anything about the cars his son might have had, but that he believed the subject had a late model Chevrolet just before he left Norfolk. FIORINI stated he was not sure whether his son had this car at the time he left Norfolk.

FIORINI advised he has been divorced from the subject's mother for about 30 years and it is coincidental that they reside in the same apartment building. He advised he did not follow his son's activities closely, but was visited by his son fairly often.

- 4 -

Interview with ANGELO FIORINI File # NF b3
on 2/10/59 at Norfolk, Virginia Date dictated 2/10/59 b7E
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER/srt

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate February 26, 1959

JUANITA STURGIS, Fairfax Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that she has not seen nor heard from the subject, her husband, since about February, 1958. She advised she knew he was going to Cuba. She advised she also saw him off for Miami, Florida at the Norfolk Airport about 8:30 p.m. on February 11, 1958. She advised that they were then living at 1509 Winder Drive, Norfolk, and her husband was employed at the Commercial Grill as manager. She stated she has received about two letters from her husband since he left and has written several letters to him. She advised the last letter received from him was about 8 months ago.

Mrs. STURGIS advised she knows that her husband is now at Columbia Barracks, Havana, and this is where she has addressed the most recent letters. She stated she understands he is teaching troops there. Mrs. STURGIS said that she had no information to indicate that her husband had taken the oath of allegiance to Cuba, but she believed that he possibly had. She stated she had no information to substantiate her assumption, but merely believed he had taken the oath due to his becoming involved with FIDEL CASTRO.

Mrs. STURGIS advised she met her husband 6 years ago in Norfolk. She stated he had been in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, and he had since then been in the Army and Navy. She stated she could not furnish the dates of any of her husband's military service, nor could she provide any serial numbers.

With regard to the automobiles owned by her husband, Mrs. STURGIS stated that when her husband left Norfolk, he left her a 1956 Chevrolet, which the National Bank of Commerce, Norfolk, repossessed shortly thereafter, as she could not maintain the payments. She advised that when she met the subject he owned an English Austin, which he traded about 1953 in Norfolk for a 1950 Ford.

- 5 -

Interview with JUANITA STURGIS File # NF b3
on 2/11/59 at Norfolk, Virginia Date dictated 2/16/59 b7E
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER/srt

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He kept the 1950 model until about 1956, when he traded it on the 1956 Chevrolet purchased at Kline Chevrolet, Norfolk.

Mrs. STURGIS continued that when the subject left Norfolk he worked a check kiting scheme in order to get enough money to go to Cuba. She advised her husband, through a check kite on the National Bank of Commerce, Norfolk, obtained \$600, which he used to go to Miami, Florida, and thence to Cuba.

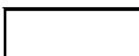
Mrs. STURGIS advised that her husband was not coming back to Norfolk, to the best of her knowledge, because he had nothing to come back to Norfolk for, and was in trouble with local law enforcement officials. She stated she did not know whether he would return to the United States, but that she did not believe he would, as he made a statement to her when he left to the effect that if CASTRO won, he would be "riding a gravy train" in Cuba.

Mrs. STURGIS recalled that she heard someone whose identity she could not now recall mention having once seen STURGIS in Miami driving a Cadillac. She could not furnish any information as to the approximate date nor the model or year of the car.

Mrs. STURGIS advised she had considered going to Cuba to live and attempting to locate the subject, however she advised she had not formulated any definite plans in this regard. She stated she could not understand why the subject has not written to her and has not been concerned about her welfare. She stated she and the subject have no children and she does not receive any money from him. She pointed out that a local businessman had recently seen her husband in Miami and the subject made no inquiries about her, according to this man. She identified the man as SIDNEY SEMEL.

Mrs. STURGIS also stated that she had a friend who was at the present time in Cuba on business and was

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attempting to contact the subject. She identified this man as R. DRAKE DORMAN, telephone MA-75277. She stated that he had not yet returned from his business trip and she did not know if her husband had been contacted by him as yet.

Mrs. STURGIS advised that the only thing she knew about her husband's activities was the fact that a Mrs. RAMON SANCHEZ, Miami, Florida, was one of her husband's contacts. She could provide no further information regarding Mrs. SANCHEZ and did not know where she lived or what she did.

Mrs. STURGIS advised she is not on good terms with the subject's mother and occasionally sees the subject's father. She advised she once took a trunk of the subject's belongings to his father's apartment, this being since the subject left for Cuba.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate February 26, 1959

JUANITA STURGIS, Fairfax Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that she had received a post card that morning (February 12, 1959) from Mr. R. DRAKE DORMAN in Cuba, stating that he had seen her husband and REX SANDERLIN, another Norfolk man who fought with CASTRO. She stated the card bore no details other than the contact was made on the previous Friday, and she advised she would have to await the return of DORMAN for details.

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Interview with JUANITA STURGIS File # NF
on 2/12/59 at Norfolk, Virginia Date dictated 2/16/59
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER/srt

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate February 26, 1959

SIDNEY SEMEL, Office Supply Company, Monticello Avenue and Princess Anne Road, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that he had been visiting in Miami, Florida on either January 21, 1959 or January 22, 1959, and upon leaving a theater on either of those dates he noticed the subject, who was about to enter the theater. He advised that he knew the subject, as the subject at one time managed a bar which was located next to his (SEMEL's) business establishment. SEMEL stated that he engaged in conversation with the subject and the subject mentioned that he had been captured by BATISTA Forces and had been thrown in prison, and the subject told him that he had been working for CASTRO quite a bit. He said that at that moment he was in the United States "illegally," but he made no further statements in this regard or as to how he had entered the United States. SEMEL stated that he appeared to be quite proud of the work he had been doing and that the subject told him he had not received any money for the activities he had been engaged in. SEMEL stated that he did not believe the subject was going to return to the United States, although the subject did not make any definite statement in this regard. SEMEL stated he based his assumption on the fact that he had mentioned that he (the subject) had something working in the Dominican Republic. SEMEL assumed that this meant possibly gambling, however FIORINI did not amplify this statement. SEMEL stated that FIORINI advised him that he believed he was still a citizen of the United States in view of the fact that he did not pledge allegiance to the Cuban Government. SEMEL stated that there was no amplification of this statement by the subject. SEMEL advised that he suggested a dinner meeting with the subject on the following day, and the subject furnished the name of a Miami Beach hotel where he was staying. SEMEL stated that he checked this hotel under the names FIORINI and STURGIS and was advised that there was no one by either of those names staying there.

SEMEL advised that he had no information concerning

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Interview with SIDNEY SEMEL File # NF b3
on 2/12/59 at Norfolk, Virginia Date dictated 2/18/59 b7E
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER:srt

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automobiles owned by the subject prior to his leaving Norfolk, as he stated he had only a passing acquaintance with the subject at that time.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office MIAMI	Office of Origin MIAMI	Date APR 6 1959	Investigative Period 2/17 - 3/25/59
TITLE OF CASE FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka.		Report made by THOMAS H. ERRION	Typed By: THE: hna
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA	

REFERENCES: Report of SA THOMAS H. ERRION dated February 2, 1959, at Miami.
Legat, Havana letter to the Bureau dated January 30, 1959.
Legat, Mexico letter to the Bureau dated January 26, 1959.
Norfolk report of SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER, dated February 27, 1959.

Level of Classification _____

-P-

Classified and Extended By _____

LEADS

Reason For Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2: _____

Date of Review For Declassification _____

NORFOLK: (INFORMATION)

A copy of instant report is furnished to Norfolk for information in view of the pending investigation there.

CLASSIFIED _____ PER BUREAU R/S

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION MATTER

Approved _____	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below
Copies made:	13 - Bureau [] (RM) (1 - Legat, Havana) (1 - Legat, Mexico) 1 - INS, Miami (RM) 1 - U. S. Customs, Miami (RM) 1 - Norfolk [] (Info) (RM) 1 - St. Louis (Info) (RM) 2 - Washington Field (RM) 3 - Miami []	b3 b7E SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ APR 9 1959 FBI NORFOLK <i>Engelmeier</i>

MM []

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ST. LOUIS: (INFORMATION)

One copy of instant report is being furnished St. Louis in view of pending investigation there.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington Field Office is requested to check the Foreign Agents Registration Section, Internal Security Division, United States Department of Justice, and ascertain whether or not the subject appears registered as the agent of a foreign principal.

MIAMI:

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Will follow and report the activities of the subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Instant report is classified ~~secret~~ in view of the fact that it contains information furnished by [] (MM T-2) [] the disclosure of which might prejudice the operation of []

Information from the [] was furnished by Legat, Havana, in letter dated January 30, 1959. Information attributed to [] was furnished to Legat, Mexico City, by [] per Legat, Mexico letter to the Director dated January 26, 1959.

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A.

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[Redacted]

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Two additional copies of instant report are forwarded to the Bureau for transmittal of one copy each to the Legat, Havana, and the Legat, Mexico City, for their information.

INFORMANTS

IDENTITY OF INFORMANT

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INFORMATION

MM T-1 is

[Redacted]

MM T-2 is

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

MM T-3 is

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report, and "T" symbols have been utilized only in those instances where identity must be concealed.

B.

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~~SECRET~~
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - INS, Miami (RM)
1 - U. S. Customs, Miami (RM)

Report of: SA THOMAS H. ERRION
Date: APR 6 1959

Office: MIAMI

File Number: MIAMI BUREAU

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Title: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS,

Character: REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

Synopsis:

Subject is Captain in Cuban Army and also a government inspector of gambling at the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba. Subject reportedly made numerous trips by automobile taking arms and ammunition from Miami to Cuba. The trips reportedly were made in cars purchased by Cuban Motor Company in Miami for export to Cuba. INS, Miami, advised that Section 349, sub-paragraph 3, of Immigration and Nationality Act provides for loss of nationality by U. S. nationals serving in armed forces of foreign state without authorization by Secretaries of State and Defense, and that provisions of that Act would apply to subject.

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DETAILS:

On January 7, 1959, MM T-1 made available a news clipping from the Mexico City daily newspaper, "Excelsior", of November 25, 1958, which was entitled "Action Against Cuban Rebels at Apatzingan - Judicial Action at Morelia Against the Eleven Smugglers". The article reported that eleven persons had been arrested

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MM [REDACTED]

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at Uruapan at dawn on November 20, 1958, when they were discovered endeavoring to send arms to the rebels of FIDEL CASTRO RUZ in Cuba. The article listed the following as having been arrested:

JOSE MARTINEZ MACHADOS
ENIO LEYVA FUENTES
MANUEL CARBONELL DUQUE
ORLANDO VENTURA REYES
PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ
FRANK FIORINI
MANUEL HERNANDEZ TURRO
GUSTAVO ARCOS DERCLES
JOSE ALBERTO MENDEZ
ISALDO E. RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ
ARMANDO FRANCO MAYNEZ
ROBERTO WILLARTE

The article concludes by stating that a North American, FRANK FIORINI, the "pilot of the airplane", and the Cuban, PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, had requested permission to be interviewed with an attorney present, and that this request had been granted.

MM T-2 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on January 7,
1959. advised that [REDACTED]

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On January 20, 1959, [redacted]

[redacted]
advised that he was informed that an individual known as FRANK FIORINI was with the revolutionary forces in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba.

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On March 2, 1959, MM T-3 advised that FRANK FIORINI is a Captain in the Cuban Army in Cuba, and is a government inspector of gambling at the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba.

On March 19, 1959, ABE ORESKY, Miracle Auto Sales, 4132 Northwest 27th Avenue, Miami, stated that he had no record of the sale of any 1952 Chevrolet, but he vaguely recalled selling a two-door 1952 model sometime in 1958.

He stated that he did not know the subject and could recall hearing no information concerning him.

On March 19, 1959, Mr. N. E. ROBERTS, 4167 Northwest 27th Avenue, advised that he had been a partner in the Miracle Auto Sales during 1958, and vaguely recalled the sale of a 1952 Chevrolet, but did not know the subject and had no information concerning him.

On March 18, 1959, Mrs. RAMON SANCHEZ, 1035 Southwest 14th Avenue, Miami, advised that she was not acquainted with the subject, and had no information concerning him. She stated that at that time she could think of no one else with the name RAMON SANCHEZ.

Mr. RAMON SANCHEZ, 1035 Southwest 14th Street, on March 18, 1959, advised that he did not know the subject and had no information concerning him. Mr. SANCHEZ pointed out that he was the only RAMON SANCHEZ listed in the directory for Miami, and stated that although the family name SANCHEZ was a very common last name, he could recall at the moment no other individuals in the Miami area named RAMON SANCHEZ.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate 4/1/59

VICTOR GUTIERREZ, 3081 Northwest 14th Street, Miami, Florida, advised that he is the operator of the Sinclair Gas Station at Northwest 7th Avenue and 20th Street in Miami. He stated that he is a member of the July 26 Movement, but that he has no connection with any Cuban revolutionary activity or organization in the United States.

He said that in 1958 he had been engaged in buying cars as an agent of the Cuban Motor Company, and all of the cars were purchased for export to Cuba. He stated that this was considered to have been a revolutionary army activity, and that as best he can recall it was under the direction or control of an individual named JOSE ANTONIO MULET, known by the nickname of EL GUAJIRIO.

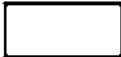
GUTIERREZ said that the cars were paid for in cash, and the money was Cuban rebel money. He stated that he had no records of the transactions; that all records would be in Cuba under the control of the army, and that the only individual who could authorize examination of those records was the present commander of the Cuban Army, CAMILO CIENFUEGOS.

GUTIERREZ stated that a large amount of guns, ammunition and dynamite, as well as other articles, had passed through his hands during the fight for Cuba's liberty. He declined to comment further concerning the guns and ammunition, stating that he was only one of many who had helped to free Cuba. He stated that he had been a middle man, and was not concerned with the origin or ultimate disposition of the items that passed through his hands other than that he knew that they were going to help the forces of FIDEL CASTRO in his fight for freedom in Cuba.

Interview with VICTOR GUTIERREZ File # MM
on 3/18/59 at Miami, Florida Date dictated 3/19/59
by Special Agent THOMAS H. ERRION:bna

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GUTIERREZ said that some of the cars which he bought and which were exported to Cuba were used in the transportation of arms and ammunition to Cuba. He declined to offer any specific instances, but stated that he recalled talking to the subject, whom he identified only as FRANK, on several occasions. He stated he could recall no specific details of the conversations, but that the subject had made many trips, taking cars with guns in them to Cuba.

GUTIERREZ stated that he considered the subject thereafter to be one of the greatest Americans that he had ever known, and one who had helped the Cuban rebel cause immensely. He stated that FIORINI is now in Cuba. He stated that with regard to cars purchased in the name of the Cuban Motor Company, that he had probably purchased most of the cars, and that while he had no records which would allow him to identify the cars purchased, he is certain that the cars so purchased had eventually wound up in Cuba. He stated that he could not be specific in stating which cars had carried arms or weapons to Cuba and which had not.

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On March 19, 1959, PAT MOLLER, United States Attorney's Office, Miami, Florida, advised that that office contained no report concerning the arrest of the subject. She stated that a card in file reflected that subject was given a hearing on July 30, 1958, and was released on \$500.00 bond. The specific charge was Illegal Possession of Munitions of War.

She said that no time for the subject's trial had been set, and that there was no notation that there is a warrant outstanding against the subject.

On March 25, 1959, Mr. JOSEPH THURMAN, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, advised that under the provisions of Section 349, sub-paragraph 3 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, any American national, regardless of whether the nationality was acquired by birth or naturalization, who accepted service in the armed services of a foreign state, unless authorized to do so by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, would lose his nationality.

Mr. THURMAN stated that Section 101, A, 22, defined nationality so as to include citizenship thereunder.

Mr. THURMAN stated that the provisions of the above Act would apply to the subject, and it would appear that he had lost his nationality. Mr. THURMAN stated that the procedure which would be followed would be to detain the subject upon his attempted re-entry into the United States, and at that time, hold a hearing with regard to the matter.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Miami, Florida

APR 6 1959

FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS

Reference is made to report of SA THOMAS H. ERRION, at Miami, dated and captioned as above.

MM T-1 and MM T-3 have furnished reliable information in the past.

PROPERTY OF FBI - This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

[REDACTED]
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Date: April 7, 1959

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey
Director
Office of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES
[REDACTED]

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On March 31, 1959, a source who stated he was serving in the military forces of Fidel Castro furnished a list of eight names of officials and leaders of the Cuban Government whom he stated were commonly referred to as communists in Cuba. The names of these individuals, together with the source's comments, are as follows:

Alfredo Guevara: The source described him as a "teacher" of military officers of the Cuban Armed Forces. He recently gave an indoctrination speech to Cuban Air Force officers which was openly procommunist.

Baco Alonso: The source described him as a member of the National Fine Arts Commission.

CLASSIFIED Conf PER BUREAU R/S
9/25/19 DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION MATTER

Level of Classification Conf
Classified and Extended By [REDACTED]
Reason FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 3
Date of Declassification 1/24/89

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 9 - 1959	
FBI - NORFOLK	

Eugene R. [Signature]

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Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

Antonio Munoz Jimenez and
Enil Roig de Leuschenroig:

The source described these individuals as authors who were indoctrinating the military and school personnel with communist propaganda.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara:

The source described him as an Argentine medical doctor who has been with Castro since the early days of the revolution. According to the source, Guevara is being kept out of the political limelight. It was the source's opinion that because of Guevara's known communist beliefs, he is intentionally keeping out of the public eye and awaiting developments which might present a better opportunity for him to press his beliefs upon the Cuban Government.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Carlos Franqui:

The source described him as editor of the newspaper, "Revolucion."

Antonia Antuna:

The source described him as an official of the National Institute of Culture, which is under the Education Ministry.

Casals Perez:

The source described him as the chief of the "Rebel Radio."

Concerning Fidel Castro, it was the source's opinion that Castro is not a communist. The source stated that he and other anti-communists in the Cuban Government are concerned and alarmed over the fact that known communists are being appointed to positions of power in the Cuban Government. The source pointed out that Castro, at meetings over which Castro has presided, has permitted procommunist and anti-American utterances to be made without protest. It was the source's opinion that Castro could have cut off such talk merely by indicating that he disapproved of it. The source felt that there was a possibility, because of the growing unemployment and accompanying unrest, that the political situation may get out of the control of Castro and that the communists might take over the Government. The source stated that Castro, in his opinion, is a socialist and that Castro has the best interests of the Cuban people at heart. The source noted that Castro was somewhat

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Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

of an idealist and the source feared that Castro might be swayed by the communists to the belief that communism might be necessary to fulfill the purposes and ideals of the revolution.

The source advised that there were various revolutionary groups in Havana, Cuba, all of which were trying to contact Fidel Castro for assistance. He stated that these groups were having a difficult time contacting Castro as Castro was too busy with Cuban affairs to deal directly with them. Accordingly, representatives of these groups have been referred to other officials. The present procedure, according to the source, is to establish a general staff and to lay plans for an invasion of a particular country. When the staff is organized and the plans formulated, the general staff goes to Castro to seek financial and military aid and personnel to carry out the plans. The source stated that the ultimate objective of all revolutionary groups in Cuba was the overthrow of the Dominican Republic. He stated the general plan is to neutralize Central America by ridding that area of present dictators and utilizing Central America and Cuba as bases of operations against the Dominican Republic. He stated that these plans call for the elimination of President Somoza of Nicaragua first and the establishment of an "honest" government there. With the help of the Costa Rican Government, the plan is then to unite Central America against the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic. X

The source stated that the revolutionary groups intend to overthrow the Government of Panama. The source stated that these groups felt that the American Government would aid in this endeavor inasmuch as the present Panamanian Government was not considered to be pro-American. X

With the neutralization of the hostile governments in Central America, the revolutionists intend to place guerrilla troops in the northern mountains of the Dominican Republic. The intent of the revolutionists is to divide the Trujillo forces in this manner. In order to secure another base for operations, it is planned to overthrow the Government of Haiti. The source stated that the revolutionists are aware of the power of Trujillo and that at the present time the revolutionists cannot count upon the help of the "peasants" of the Dominican Republic. He stated that if the Trujillo military forces could be divided, then the Dominican Government could be overthrown. The source advised that all of these plans were in the talk, planning or formative stage and that no concrete dates had been set for any invasion. The source emphasized that the individuals connected with these plans were at the present time without funds, personnel or equipment to initiate operations. X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tamlin Bailey

The source advised that at the present time there was no group in Cuba powerful enough to overthrow Castro. He noted that Castro, in a recent speech, indicated there was anti-Castro activity in the Miami area. The source could only advise in this connection that he had heard that the Rolando Masferrer group in Miami was active against Castro and that a boat allegedly had been purchased in Miami for an invasion of Cuba. *X*

The above is for your information.

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1 - Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence
Department of the Army

Attention: Chief, Security Division

1 - Bureau of Customs

1 - Director of Naval Intelligence

1 - Office of Special Investigations
Air Force

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 7, 1959

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Level of Classification

Classified and Extended By

Reason For Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2

Date of Review For Declassification

Enclosed for each of the offices receiving this communication is a copy of a letter dated 4-7-59 captioned "Cuban Revolutionary Activities." The subject is the source of the information contained in this communication. ✓

For your additional information, the subject was interviewed on 3-31-59 at the Bureau by Bureau representatives. At that time he exhibited a letter from the Director of Inspections of the National Lottery Institute, Havana, Cuba, which appointed him Chief Inspector for all gambling casinos and cabarets in Havana. The subject described himself as a Captain in the Rebel Army and exhibited a document which he described as a credential of his rank. He furnished his local address as the Mayflower Hotel and indicated he planned to return to Havana by way of Miami on 4-1-59. He gave his Havana address as the Inspector General's Office, Camp "Tte Brihuega," Ciudad Militar, Havana. He advised that his father resides at 326 Bank Street, Norfolk, Virginia. X

Florini stated that he had served with Castro's forces for the past two years. He stated that he had been engaged in the raising of funds and arms in Miami, Mexico, and in other countries of Latin America and that he had been engaged in the fighting in the mountain provinces of Cuba. Upon the victory of Castro's forces, Florini was appointed to the position of the Chief Inspector of the gambling casinos and as Captain of the Cuban Air Force. His duties with the Air Force involved his acting as liaison officer between the U. S. Air Attache, Havana, and the Cuban Air Force. In connection with this position, he had, within the past week, presented his credentials to the American Air Attache, Colonel Nichols (phonetic). During the course of his conversation with

Enclosure CLASSIFIED ~~TOP SECRET~~ PER BUREAU R/S
9/25/99 DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION MATTER

① - Norfolk
2 - Miami

(Enclosure)
(Enclosure)

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Letter to Havana
Re: Frank Florini

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Colonel Nichols, he mentioned that he was concerned regarding the present status of his American citizenship. The subject explained that while he had been involved with the Cuban Rebels for the past few years, he cherished his American citizenship and intended to protect it at all costs. He was referred in this connection to the Legal Attache, James Haverly. Florini indicated he planned to recontact Haverly upon his return. The subject was not advised that the Legal Attache was an FBI representative. X

With reference to his appearance at the Bureau, the subject stated that recently there was held in Havana a Ministers Conference, attended by the heads of state of the Cuban Government. Florini's military superior, Commandante Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, Chief of the Cuban Air Force, was in attendance at this meeting. According to the subject, Diaz Lanz became concerned during this meeting and afterward at the degree of control which communists in the Cuban Government were able to exercise upon the policy making functions of the Government. Diaz Lanz discussed this with his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, who is the Inspector General of the Cuban Air Force and, as such, is the Number Two Man in that organization. The subject described the Diaz Lanz brothers as sincere and ardent anticommunists. He stated that as part of his duties as liaison representative with the American Embassy, he had attempted to arrange social gatherings between the Embassy staff and the Ambassador and the Cuban Air Force officials. His efforts in this regard had been thwarted in view of the strong anti-American feelings rampant in Havana. Florini attributes this anti-Americanism to communist infiltration of all phases of the Cuban Government. He advised that the Diaz Lanz brothers are acutely aware of the situation. He suggested to them that contacts be made and maintained with the American Embassy in Havana in order to secure leadership or advice in fighting communism in the Cuban Government. Not only was this suggestion turned down, but all attempts at social contact between Air Force officials and the American Embassy were expressly forbidden. In fact, a dinner engagement arranged between the American Ambassador and the Diaz Lanz brothers was called off upon orders from higher authorities. As an example of communist power in the Government, Florini described a recent incident in which an unnamed Cuban Air Force officer had publicly made an anticommunist statement. Pressure was brought to bear upon the Commander of the Air Force by Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who was able to immediately have this Air Force officer removed from the service. X

Letter to Havana
Re: Frank Florini

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As a result of the above incident and the growing communist threat in Cuba, the subject was sent by the Diaz Lanz brothers to the U. S. specifically to seek an interview with the Director. The main purpose of the visit was to further acquaint the Director with the growing power of the communists in their country, and to state affirmatively their own anticommunist feelings and beliefs. At the same time, they desired to offer to the U. S. their services in the fight against communism in Cuba. The subject emphasized that his visit to the Bureau was strictly unofficial and only known to the Diaz Lanz brothers. The subject noted that this visit was without the approval of Fidel Castro and that if the visit became known to Castro, Castro would probably take serious action against all of them. In addition, the subject transmitted the desire of the Diaz Lanz brothers for FBI aid in the fight against communism in Cuba. It was tactfully explained to the subject that any requests for such assistance would have to be made officially and emanate from the Cuban Government and that the Bureau could not offer advice as to how communism should be fought in Cuba. For his own part, the subject offered to serve as an "agent" for the U. S. Government in the battle against communism. The subject noted that his position as an American citizen was unique in that he held a high position, had fought the Batista Government with Castro, and presently enjoyed the trust and confidence of the Castro Government. The subject was also advised that while the Bureau has no jurisdiction overseas, his offer of cooperation would be made a matter of record and any information he desired to volunteer would be accepted. X

The subject indicated a desire to furnish further information to the Bureau concerning communism in Cuba and the plans of the other revolutionists to invade various Caribbean countries, which he stated he would either transmit by letter to the Bureau or furnish the Legal Attache on his next visit to him. X

The subject indicated that the Cuban Government was extremely anxious to have an FBI identification check made of the gamblers in Cuba and he believed that such a request would be officially made through the Embassy. He added that regulations concerning the gambling industry in Havana were chaotic at the present time. He stated that while he had been appointed Chief Inspector of the gambling casinos, he had only a rudimentary knowledge of gambling, particularly as it is applied in casinos. Florini noted that the ruse used in making his trip was an ostensible trip to Miami for the purpose of purchasing military clothing for the Cuban Air Force. At the time of his visit to the Bureau, Cuban officials in Havana were of the belief that he was visiting relatives in Norfolk, Virginia. X

Letter to Havana
Re: Frank Florini

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The subject stated that he has been one of the officials personally contacted by representatives of the various revolutionary groups in Havana. He stated that he is presently assisting in the organization of a general staff which includes General Ramirez, a Dominican, and a Colonel Gomez, a Nicaraguan, the ultimate purpose of which is the overthrow of the Nicaraguan Government. The subject advised that he took the position on the general staff so that he would be in a position to furnish information to the U. S. Government. He stated that he had been asked to accept this position by Dr. Enrique Henriquez, brother-in-law of former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras, who was presently in Cuba. The subject indicated he would be most willing to continue his work on the general staff planning invasions if he could be of use to the U. S. Government. He was advised that this was a decision that he himself would have to make. ~~X~~

Havana is requested to submit its comments and recommendations in this matter as to the development of Florini as a possible source. There is no objection to Havana accepting any information the subject may volunteer. However, caution should be exercised in dealing with the subject in view of his position with the Cuban Government and his background. ~~X~~

Miami, the office of origin in this matter, will, upon the completion of the outstanding leads, place this case in a closed status and so advise the Bureau.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office NORFOLK	Office of Origin MIAMI	Date 4/13/59	Investigative Period 2/21/59-3/30/59
TITLE OF CASE FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka		Report made by SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER	Typed By: JG
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA	

~~XXXX~~
Synopsis:

REFERENCE

Report of SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER dated 2/27/59 at Norfolk.

-RUC- *JS*

ADMINISTRATIVE

The original of the FD-302, interview of R. DRAKE DORMAN, is located in Norfolk file

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An extra copy of instant report is forwarded Bureau for eventual transmission to Legat, Havana.

Approved: <i>RJA</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 5 - Bureau (Registered) 3 - Miami (Registered) (1-U.S. Customs, Miami) 1 - Norfolk <i>JS</i>			b3 b7E
			<i>JS</i>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: U.S. Customs, Miami (Registered)

Report of: SA RALPH W. ENGELMEIER
Date: 4/13/59

Office: NORFOLK

File Number: Norfolk Bureau File b3
b7E

Title: FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS

Character: REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA

Synopsis:

Acquaintance of subject's wife attempted to reach subject in Cuba during February 1959 but could not locate him. Same acquaintance while in Cuba talked to RICHARD SANDERLIN, of Norfolk, Va., who also fought for Cuban rebels, and SANDERLIN explained some of subject's activities. Subject was Norfolk Police Department patrolman from 7/5/46 to 9/7/46 and resigned. Subject's arrest record at Norfolk Police Department set forth.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORTDate March 23, 1959

R. DRAKE DORMAN advised that he resides at 402 Freemason Street, Norfolk, Virginia, and is employed by the Norton-Lilly Company, steamship agents, Royster Building, Norfolk.

DORMAN stated that he left Norfolk, Virginia, on January 29, 1959, for Cuba for a combination business-pleasure trip, and he stated that he carried with him about seven or eight letters addressed to Captain FIORINI, in care of RICHARD SANDERLIN, Medical Hospital, Havana, Cuba. DORMAN explained that he had obtained these letters for delivery to FIORINI through SANDERLIN from JUANITA STURGIS, FIORINI's wife, with whom he (DORMAN) is acquainted. He stated that JUANITA STURGIS resides and works in Norfolk, Virginia, and when she heard he was planning a trip to Cuba, she requested that he carry some letters to her husband.

DORMAN stated that when he arrived in Cuba, he made his headquarters at the Presidenti Hotel in Havana, and it was his impression that FIORINI could be reached through the medical hospital at the Columbia Military Barracks in Havana. He stated that he attempted through some Cuban friends to contact FIORINI, but was unsuccessful.

He advised that on the second day of his stay in Cuba, while attempting to make contact with FIORINI at the Habana Hilton Hotel, which he described as rebel headquarters, he met a rebel major whose name he could not recall, and he indicated that he wished to contact FIORINI. The major advised that he did not know FIORINI, but that he did know REX SANDERLIN of Norfolk, Virginia.

DORMAN continued that on the third day of his Cuban stay, he received a telephone call from this major, who advised him that he had SANDERLIN with him. DORMAN requested that he bring SANDERLIN to his hotel room, and he recalled

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Interview with R. DRAKE DORMAN File #
on 3/9/59 at Norfolk, Virginia Date dictated 3/16/59
by Special Agent RALPH W. ENGELMEIER/smc

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that on February 3, 1959, at 9:00 a.m., eight rebels entered his hotel room and completely went over the room, looking in the closets and under the bed. Shortly thereafter, SANDERLIN entered the room, and DORMAN noted that he had his left arm in a cast. SANDERLIN told DORMAN that FRANK (FIORINI) was not in town but that he was at Santa Clara with FIDEL CASTRO's brother. He said that FRANK had seen no fighting and was working with the underground in Mexico and the Dominican Republic and that he was training some troops.

DORMAN asked SANDERLIN if he was making any money, and SANDERLIN replied that he was not. DORMAN then asked why an idealist was working without pay, and SANDERLIN answered that they were working for a good cause. SANDERLIN indicated, according to DORMAN, that officials of the American Embassy at Havana had been in touch with him and told him that if he signed with CASTRO when CASTRO's new Government was formed, he would "be in hot water."

SANDERLIN continued, according to DORMAN, that he had broken bond in Miami, Florida, after his arrest by Government officials, and he said that it was impossible for him to go to the Embassy in Havana, as he could be arrested if he set foot on that property. DORMAN noted that the eight rebels who had accompanied SANDERLIN to his room remained during the entire conversation, and SANDERLIN indicated that he always had rebels with him.

DORMAN asked if he could carry a message to SANDERLIN's family, and SANDERLIN stated that he did not wish this done, as his family did not care about him.

SANDERLIN advised that as soon as he recovered from his arm wound, he planned to "go further South." DORMAN explained that he did not know what significance this statement had.

DORMAN asked SANDERLIN if he was in the Cuban Army, to which SANDERLIN replied, "No." SANDERLIN stated that he did not wish to lose his American citizenship.

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DORMAN asked if FIORINI would be in Havana soon so that he could see him, and SANDERLIN set up a meeting at the Columbia Barracks for the following Sunday. DORMAN stated that his Cuban friends had mentioned to him that they thought it best he not keep the appointment the following Sunday. DORMAN explained that he therefore did not do so.

DORMAN stated that SANDERLIN did not discuss FIORINI's background, his marital status, or his family, but he stated that he did ask SANDERLIN why FRANK did not get in touch with JUANITA. SANDERLIN replied that maybe he did not want to.

DORMAN stated that SANDERLIN would not allow his photograph to be taken, and at one point of the conversation SANDERLIN stated that he was not coming back to the United States for a long time. DORMAN advised that there was no conversation between him and SANDERLIN concerning automobiles SANDERLIN might have had in his possession.

DORMAN advised that SANDERLIN told him he had been shot in the left shoulder from a distance of five yards by a .40 caliber machine gun, and the slug almost tore off his arm. He stated that he had received excellent care in the hospital.

DORMAN concluded his explanation of conversation with SANDERLIN by advising that he talked to SANDERLIN about two hours; however, the bulk of the conversation pertained to places in Cuba where SANDERLIN had been which were known to DORMAN. They also talked about places SANDERLIN had fought, and DORMAN advised that he did not recall any other portions of his conversation with SANDERLIN which might be pertinent to an official investigation.

DORMAN explained that he returned to the United States on February 11, 1959, and advised JUANITA STURGIS that he had not seen her husband.

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DORMAN explained that one ANNA MARIE (LNU), who is employed as a waitress at Carl's American Tavern, Norfolk, Virginia, had talked to FIORINI by telephone within the past several weeks, according to information he had received. He said that the context of ANNA MARIE's conversation with FIORINI was unknown to him.

He stated that he also had learned that JUANITA STURGIS planned to fly from Norfolk to Key West, Florida, about May 1, 1959, from where she planned to continue a trip to Cuba. He advised that a friend of hers, whose identity is unknown to him, plans to fly her to Key West.

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On March 9, 1959, Lieutenant R. C. ANDREWS, office of Chief of Police, Norfolk Police Department, made available the personnel file of FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, the subject, who according to the file was hired as a patrolman on July 5, 1946, and resigned on September 7, 1946. He was listed as a fourth class patrolman, and the file reflected that he attended Holy Rosary Elementary School in Pennsylvania from 1931 to 1938 and attended St. Mary's Academy, place not shown, from 1938 to 1940. According to the file, he attended Blair Junior High School, Norfolk, Virginia, during 1941 and attended school at Germantown, Pennsylvania, during 1942. His marital status was listed as single. His residence was listed as 326 Bank Street, Norfolk, Virginia. He was listed as having been born December 9, 1924, at Norfolk, Virginia, and he listed Marine Corps service from October 5, 1942, to October 23, 1945. There was a notation in the file that he spoke Italian, and his mother was listed as MARY HALSEY and his sister as FRANCIS HALSEY.

On February 27, 1959, Mrs. EDITH NICHOLSON, Norfolk Retail Merchants Association, advised RCO BOBBY S. BULLOCK that she could locate no credit record identifiable with the subject.

On February 27, 1959, Officer C. E. CARLSON, Identification Division, Norfolk Police Department, advised RCO BOBBY S. BULLOCK that the subject had the following arrest record under ID #28664:

<u>Date of Arrest</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
4/9/47	Whisky in cab	\$25.00 fine 4/9/47
10/24/49	Violation Section 4455, Virginia State Code	Dismissed 10/25/49
6/30/50	Aggravated assault on wife	Dismissed 7/3/50
5/10/56	Living as man and wife with JUANITA K. TERRELL	Fined \$100.00, no date shown

The occupation shown for the subject on the first arrest listed was cab driver; for the second, clerk; for the June 30, 1950, arrest it was again shown as cab driver; and for the May 10, 1956, arrest, occupation was listed as tavern manager.

NF

On March 26, 1959, ANNA MARIE SANDINO, 7616 Victory Avenue, Norfolk, advised that she is a Cuban by birth and stated that she worked until recently at Carl's American Tavern, Tazewell Street, Norfolk. She stated that she knew FRANK STURGIS fairly well, due to the fact he was a tavern manager prior to his leaving Norfolk for Cuba. She stated that she never actually worked for him but has worked in close-by taverns. She stated she has not seen the subject for more than a year, and she has received no letters from him and has not written any letters to him.

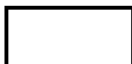
She denied that she had talked to STURGIS by telephone in Cuba, and she stated that she does not know his actual location in Cuba. She stated that she knows STURGIS' wife, JUANITA, but has a very limited acquaintance with her. She stated STURGIS' wife has never requested her to attempt to contact the subject by telephone. She stated that she was unable to furnish any information regarding STURGIS' background.

On March 30, 1959, GEORGE ROHANNA, 9432 Granby Street, Norfolk, was interviewed by SA's W. MARVIN BAKER and OSBORN LEON DOBBS regarding another matter. ROHANNA admitted that he is a former Norfolk night club operator and advised that he is well acquainted with persons in the gambling profession. He also advised that he was momentarily in town, and that he planned to follow the horse race circuit in the East and did not know when he would again be in Norfolk.

ROHANNA advised that he had recently returned to Norfolk from Cuba, where he had been in contact with the subject. He stated that he attempted to locate the subject by telephone for approximately two weeks and finally reached the subject and spent several nights with him. He said that he saw the subject about the middle of February 1959 and stated that he knew the subject as a tavern manager in Norfolk. He said that he attempted to contact the subject about entering the gambling picture in Cuba, but that the subject "did not have any larceny in his heart", and he and the subject could not get together on a "deal".

He said the subject was a "big man" in Cuba, but that STURGIS told him he would be even bigger if he would pledge allegiance to the Cuban flag, which so far he has refused to do.

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ROHANNA did not furnish any information as to whether the subject was planning to return to Norfolk, and he did not furnish any information regarding the subject's future plans.

FD-263 (Rev. 3-8-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MIAMI	DATE 11/9/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/30 - 11/3/68				
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE (IACB), AKA ORGANIZACION EJERCITO SECRETO DE LA BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA (SECRET ARMY ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE); FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, Aka Frank Anthony Sturgis, Frank Bonelli;		REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS E. GIBBONS	TYPED BY cmr/plm				
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.		CHARACTER OF CASE 					
		CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY [REDACTED] 7/11/99					
		REASON FOR EXTENSION 11, 1-2.4.2 2 & 3					
		OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 11/19/88					
(TITLE CONTINUED COVER PAGE B)							
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO
APPROVED				SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 10 - Bureau (RM) [REDACTED] (AMSD) b3 (1 - Legat, Mexico) b7E							
① New York (Info) (cm) (COPIES CONTINUED COVER PAGE B)							
6 - Miami [REDACTED] b6 (1 [REDACTED] FIORINI) b7C (1 - 26-34692)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations			
Agency						SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED NOV 13 1968 FBI - NEW YORK	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

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TITLE: (Continued)

CHARLES WILLIAM IJAMES, Aka
Charlie Ijames:

[REDACTED]

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CHARLES ORR CONNELL, Aka
Chuck Connell:

[REDACTED]

Charles Orr Connell, Jr.:

[REDACTED]

* * * * *

COPIES: (Continued)

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- 1 - U.S. Customs, Region II
- 1 - OSI, Robins AFB, Ga.
- 1 - [REDACTED] Miami
- 1 - USAFAD, Hialeah
- 1 - 111th M.I. Group, Orlando
- 1 - U.S. Coast Guard, Miami
- 2 - Washington Field (RM)
- 1 - Newark (Info)(RM)
- 1 - New York (Info)(RM)
- 1 - Norfolk (Info)(RM)

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* * * * *

The title has been marked "CHANGED" to add names and aliases of thirteen IACB members involved in operation described in details of this report.

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REFERENCES:

Bureau airtels to Miami 11/7/68, 11/1/68, 10/22/68 and 9/25/68.
Bureau teletypes to Miami 11/1/68, 10/31/68, 10/26/68, 10/25/68 and 10/24/68.
Miami teletypes to Bureau 11/3/68, 11/1/68, 10/26/68, 10/24/68 and 9/23/68.
Bureau letter to Assistant Attorney General 10/8/68.
Bureau airtel to Miami and Legat, Mexico, 10/29/68.
Bureau letter to Miami 11/6/68.
Miami letters to Bureau 9/25/68(2) and 9/19/68 (2).
Miami airtels to Bureau 11/7/68 and 10/3/68.
Norfolk airtel to Bureau 10/12/68.

- L E A D S -

REQUEST OF BUREAU:

The Bureau is requested to have Legat, Mexico, at Belize, British Honduras, obtain from local authorities descriptive data regarding IACB weapons and ammunition seized. Any identifying numbers should be included. (X)

NEWARK, NEW YORK AND NORFOLK: (INFORMATION)

Previous mention of individuals residing in these field divisions indicates these offices may later be requested to conduct investigation in this matter. They are, therefore, being furnished information copies of this report.

WASHINGTON FIELD:

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1) Will have the
review its indices and concerning Colonel

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FRANCISCO QUESADA, described in an IACB leaflet as an Argentinian who holds dual Cuban citizenship through his parents and is approximately forty years old. He is also referred to as Dr. FRANCISCO QUESADA.

2) Will contact central records, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), for any information they may have concerning QUESADA. The above leaflet indicated QUESADA attended school in the U.S., in which event he should, if he exists, have an INS record.

MIAMI:

AT BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Page 33 of this report sets out information from regarding two carbines he purchased on or about 9/1/68, at the Boca Bait and Tackle Shop, vicinity of Boca Raton, just off Route #1, towards the beach. Obtain details of this purchase and weapon descriptions, including serial numbers.

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AT MARGATE, FLORIDA

Will recontact for information he may have obtained from subjects or associates of these individuals, since the return to Florida of IACB members.

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AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1) Will continue intensive investigation to uncover any evidence of violations of Neutrality Statutes during and prior to just-completed IACB operation. Will also continue efforts to uncover any further evidence of use of stolen cars in IACB operation.

(Investigation will include reinterview of selected subjects and associates.)

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2) Also, will have Miami Office sources who have in the past been close to FRANK FIORINI attempt to discreetly determine from him details regarding abortive IACB expedition and its objectives.

- ADMINISTRATIVE -

Interviews of thirteen IACB members were conducted at Miami International Airport, in space provided by U.S. Customs, Miami. One Miami Office Agent and one U.S. Customs Agent, Miami, participated in each interview. Each interview, however, was under the exclusive control of the Miami Office Agent, with the Customs Agent acting in an observer capacity. It is noted that the Miami Office and U.S. Customs, Miami, have cooperated closely over the years. In this instance, in order to avoid attracting news media at the airport, arrangements were made with U.S. Customs to provide space for confidential interviews of subjects. At that time, [] Acting Customs Agent in Charge, Miami, requested permission to have Customs Agents act as observers during the interviews. In order to save time and to determine if there had been any violations within the investigative jurisdiction of U.S. Customs, this request was granted.

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This report is classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~," because it contains information from [] the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably result in his identification and thereby compromise his future effectiveness. It is also so classified to conceal the identity of the [] as having furnished information herein (S)

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[] is also the subject of closed Miami file [] (Bufile [] captioned [] []

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FRANK FIORINI is also subject of pending Miami file [] (Bufile 105-165503), captioned "FRANK FIORINI; ET AL; REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ."

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MM [redacted] b3
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[redacted] is also the subject of closed Miami file 87-9326 (Bufile 95-78249), captioned [redacted] Aka; ITSP."

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Regarding the stolen car admissions of [redacted] [redacted] Miami file 26-34692 has been opened to handle ITSMV aspects of this case. It is noted that [redacted] has a previous ITSMV conviction. (X)

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The details of this report contain pertinent information from interviews of [redacted]
[redacted]

Complete results of these interviews are set out in FD-302s, maintained in appropriate case files.

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The Miami Office is removing INS F-1 stops for FRANK ANGELO FIORINI and FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS.

- INFORMANTS -

SOURCE

LOCATION

MM T-1 is [redacted]

[redacted]

MM T-2 is [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] (Referenced
Bureau teletype to Miami
10/25/68)

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MM T-3 is the [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] (Referenced Bureau
teletype to Miami 10/26/68)

(X) [redacted] who furnished information to Legat, Mexico, which he had, in part, obtained originally from [redacted] authorities. It was deemed advisable to use a T-symbol in this instance to cover the original source.

F.*
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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - INS, Miami
1 - State Department (Cuban Affairs), Miami
1 - U. S. Border Patrol, Miami
1 - NISO, Charleston, S. C.
1 - U. S. Customs, Miami
1 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U. S. Customs, Region II
1 - OSI, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.
1 - [REDACTED] Miami
1 - USAFAD, Hialeah
1 - 111th M.I. Group, Orlando
1 - U. S. Coast Guard, Miami

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Report of: FRANCIS E. GIBBONS
Date: November 9, 1968

Office: Miami, Florida

Field Office File #: [REDACTED]

Bureau File #: [REDACTED]

Title: INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE (IACB),
Also Known As ORGANIZACION EJERCITO SECRETO
DE LA BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA
(SECRET ARMY ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE);
Character: FRANK ANGELO FIORINI;

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Synopsis:

[REDACTED]

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CHARLES WILLIAM L. JAMES:

CHARLES ORR CONNELL:

[REDACTED]

Character:

[REDACTED]

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Synopsis:

Thirteen IACB members arrested by British Honduras authorities on 10/23/68, and 10/24/68. All were interviewed at Miami International Airport, Miami, Fla. following respective arrivals from British Honduras, 11/1/68, 11/2/68 and 11/3/68.

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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MM [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] admitted transportation of arms from U. S. into Mexico. None of the others admitted such. [REDACTED] also admitted renting two cars in U. S. for use in this operation and transporting them to Mexico on separate occasions with no intention of returning either car. Most of those interviewed described FRANK FIORINI as expedition leader with [REDACTED] second in command. Several believe Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA, described by FIORINI as overall IACB commander, to be fictitious. Most admitted knowledge before leaving Florida that they were embarking on a military operation against Cuba. Only [REDACTED] indicated that even training operations were originally planned for Guatemala. He added that no training actually conducted in Guatemala; others substantiated this. Most mentioned planned, uneffected rendezvous at sea with craft(s) presumably bearing others, identities unknown, who were to participate with IACB members in military action. Interviews of non-IACB members substantiate theft of cars by [REDACTED] also that he purchased weapons in Florida prior to departure from U. S.

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DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND

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The October 26, 1968 edition of the "Miami Herald,"
a Miami, Florida, daily newspaper, carried on page two
the following article:

"BRITISH SEIZE 'ADVENTURERS' IN CARIBBEAN"

"With 13 American adventurers in custody, authorities
in British Honduras Friday tried to untangle a
tale of Caribbean intrigue involving an arms
cache on an isolated island and a hijacked Mexican
yacht.

At least 10 of the 13 soldiers of fortune
being held in the British colony in Central
America first gave South Florida addresses. There
was confusion on both names and addresses, however,
as different ones were reportedly given later.

It was speculated in Miami that one of the
13 may be FRANK FIORINI, a controversial South
Florida adventurer long associated with militant
anti-CASTRO and anti-Communist activities.

A Task Force of British troops and police
arrested eight of the 13 Thursday on a lonely key
off Belize. Authorities also seized a stockpile
of weapons the group allegedly unloaded from a
hijacked Mexican yacht.

A day earlier, Customs officials in Belize
intercepted the 24-foot diesel cruiser "Amigo"
with five armed Americans, a Mexican captain and one
Mexican crewman aboard.

There were conflicting reports whether the
"Amigo" ran aground or was stopped as it entered
Belize harbor.

The five Americans, according to Customs
officials, did not have proper passports or other

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documents and were arrested when they became obstructive.

A search of the vessel turned up one pistol and anti-Communist literature, officials said.

Four of the five seized aboard the yacht were first identified as CHARLES ORR CONNELL, JR. 30, who refused to give his address; ROBERT CURTIS, 31, Pompano Beach; FRANK BONELLI, 44, Miami and MAX GORMAN, no age given, Miami.

Sources in Miami indicated that BONELLI may be an alias for FIORINI.

There have been reports in recent months that FIORINI had again been trying to organize some type of anti-CASTRO action. GORMAN had been linked to the activity.

FIORINI is mostly noted for creating an international furor October 21, 1959, when he piloted a B-25 during an anti-CASTRO leaflet raid over Havana. It came three months before the United States broke diplomatic relations with the CASTRO regime.

ALONSO CAMPOS, Mexican skipper of the "Amigo," told authorities in Belize that he chartered the boat to the five Americans in Progress, on the north coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, for a holiday voyage, but was forced to pick up eight other Americans and a load of "bundles" at a remote point near Progress.

CAMPOS told police they took command of the ship from him at gunpoint, handcuffed him and his crewman and sailed for British Honduras.

CAMPOS said the other eight left the boat at Shag Cay, an uninhabited mangrove island 12 miles east of Belize, and took the mysterious bundles with them.

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After the five Americans were taken into custody in Belize, 20 British troops and Belizean police officers boarded the "Amigo", sailed to Shag Cay and took the other eight by surprise, police said.

Six of the eight seized Thursday were first identified as JAMES EDWARD HOLTZHouser, 27, Fort Lauderdale; ERNEST RAY MANNING, 22, North Miami; MICKEY ROLAND SABB, 26, Vero Beach; CHARLES ORR CONNELL SR., 53, Miami; JAMES WALTER WELLS, 31, Vero Beach; and FRANKLIN DELANO HULBERT, 34, Vero Beach.

Authorities in Belize reported seizing an arms cache on the island that included 10 rifles, three machine carbines, two pistols, an undetermined amount of ammo and other bundles, the contents of which were not disclosed.

It wasn't immediately known what the ultimate goal of the adventurers was, but it presumably called for some type of anti-CASTRO action.

The story first began to unfold Tuesday when the Mexican Navy began a search for the "Amigo" in Yucatan waters.

Chartered by the five Americans, it had sailed Oct. 18 from Progreso for Isla Mujeres, a resort island off the east coast of the Peninsula. When it failed to show up Tuesday, the Mexican Navy initiated a search."

On October 21, 1968, MM T-1 advised that FRANK FIORINI in 1962 or 1963 had a training camp in the Florida Everglades. He is a pilot and has been attempting to obtain the release of political prisoners. He is connected with an organization known as the International Anti-Communist Brigade. He has demonstrated an interest in the release of Cuban political prisoners because he

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is of the opinion that such a program is very receptive to the Cuban colony in Miami, and would therefore afford him entrance to various Cuban groups. In these efforts he is assisted by a woman, who is a former political prisoner in Cuba. It is questionable whether or not FIORINI is sincerely interested in the release of Cuban political prisoners. (X)

On October 24, 1968, MM T-2, a confidential source abroad, advised that Mexican tourist cards showed the following information concerning four Americans believed to be among those aboard the "Amigo": (X)

[redacted] entered Mexico on August 22, 1968 at Matamoros by car, identifying himself with a birth certificate. He was described as married, [redacted] and destined for Veracruz, Mexico.

As set out below, [redacted]
was later identified as [redacted]

FRANK BONELLI entered Mexico at Ciudad Miguel Aleman on September 30, 1968 by car. He was described as 43 years of age, married, born at Jacksonville, Florida, residence 2148 Flagler Terrace, Miami, Florida; occupation, salesman; destined for Acapulco, Mexico. (X)

As set out below, FRANK BONELLI was later identified as FRANK FIORINI.

[redacted] entered Mexico at Matamoros on September 20, 1968, identifying himself with a birth certificate. He was shown as [redacted] unmarried; born at [redacted] Florida; residence [redacted] Florida. (X)

As set out below, [redacted] was
later identified as [redacted]

[redacted] entered Mexico at Nuevo Laredo on September 24, 1968 by car. He was shown as being [redacted] unmarried; residence [redacted] Florida; occupation, driver; destination, Mexico City. (X)

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MM T-1 subsequently advised that [redacted]
entered Mexico in a 1968 Chevrolet. Florida License Tag
[redacted] accompanied by [redacted]

It was previously set out that [redacted]
[redacted] reportedly ran off from Miami,
Florida with [redacted] also known as
[redacted] It was also previously set out
that the 1968 Chevrolet bearing Florida License
Tag [redacted] belongs to [redacted] Vero
Beach, Florida, who had reportedly been
interested in participating in the IACB
expedition.

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On October 25, 1968, MM T-3, a confidential source abroad, advised that FRANK FIORINI and four companions had been arrested during a refueling stop in Belize, British Honduras, on October 23, 1968, aboard the 32-foot fishing boat "Amigo", out of Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico. The Mexican captain of the boat reportedly sought the aid of British authorities at Belize and indicated that eight other men had earlier debarked from the "Amigo" on an offshore key with supplies. British Honduras authorities thereafter arrested eight additional Americans at noon, October 24, 1968, on the offshore key. They confiscated at least nine rifles, nine pistols and ammunition. All 13 Americans reportedly were being held on a technical charge of illegal entry to British Honduras and were remanded for one week.

The source continued that although the group had no papers and used false names, authorities recognized one as FRANK FIORINI from an old newspaper photograph on his person. He then admitted his identity and his IACB position.

FIORINI reportedly told the American Consul, Belize, that he had planned to meet a 63-foot boat off Turneffe Island, near Belize, on the morning of October 22, 1968, but the rendezvous was missed by the "Amigo". FIORINI reportedly gave the impression that the second boat was coming from Jamaica or the Cayman Islands. He indicated that the plan of the group was to land on the south side of Cuba and enter the mountains.

On October 25, 1968, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Florida, no telephone, telephonically advised that approximately two months ago he and [REDACTED] a friend of many years standing, responded to an ad in the "Ft. Lauderdale News - Sentinel" seeking "soldiers of fortune" to form an anti-Communist mercenary army in Latin America. Those responding to the ad were to write to Colonel QUESADA, care of Attorney RAY SANDSTROM, Ft. Lauderdale. [REDACTED] said that he went

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to see Attorney SANDSTROM and filled out an application in which he noted that he had spent 27 months in the Panama Canal Zone as a U. S. Army instructor in jungle warfare and anti-guerrilla operations. About a week later, he received in the mail an invitation to a meeting at the Democratic Club, 16 N. W. 26th Avenue, Miami. He and about 25 others attended this meeting at which FRANK FIORINI spoke, using that name, and told those present that the "army" would proceed in small groups to Mexico, then go to an unnamed Central American country for training, to conduct anti-communist guerrilla operations, and to link up with Cuban exile groups already there, the ultimate objective being to set up an underground operation in Cuba from which a revolution would be launched. FIORINI indicated it would be perhaps a year before the underground operation could be set up.

[redacted] said that he attended the above meeting with [redacted] but did not attend any further meetings of captioned group, mainly because he was arrested on August 18, 1968, by Ft. Lauderdale police for possession of stolen property. He was in jail for 11 days, was tried on September 20, 1968, and given two years probation.

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Although he attended no further IACB meetings, he kept in touch with [redacted] concerning the group and its plans. He eventually learned that a group tentatively planned to leave for Mexico in behalf of the above-mentioned IACB operation after September 15, 1968. He said that he dropped out at that point because he did not want to miss his September 20, 1968, court date; however, he continued contact with [redacted] and learned later, on September 21, 1968, that his [redacted] group of five would depart by car for Mexico on September 22, 1968. [redacted] had no specific knowledge of other groups but advised [redacted] that FIORINI had indicated that [redacted] group and others would rendezvous in Mexico. [redacted] did not know the rendezvous point.

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According to [redacted] roommate, [redacted] (phonetic), was to travel with [redacted] as was [redacted]

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a [] said that he knows [] personally but met [] only once.

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On October 28, 1968, [] above, was interviewed and furnished substantially the same information as that set out above. In addition, he recalled that at the Democratic Club meeting mentioned above, FRANK FIORINI indicated that this is an international movement, with organized groups in various countries, and that Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA, the overall leader of the organization, has deposited over \$5,000,000 in a Swiss bank to finance the movement. FIORINI also indicated at the meeting that any volunteers would receive from \$1,000 to \$10,000 monthly, plus expenses, and that they would be paid after the fall of FIDEL CASTRO. He said that the groups would be headed by Americans as officers while the enlisted personnel would be Latins, nationalities not specified.

[] further advised that before his departure from Florida, [] had indicated to him that the orders for the group going to Central America through Mexico were to proceed in automobiles belonging to members of the group. They were to take any available weapons with them, as well as fishing equipment, the latter to convince Mexican boarder officials that they were going to Mexico on a hunting and fishing trip. At that time [] also mentioned that [] had sold his furniture and used the money to buy an M-1 carbine, rifles and pistols in preparation for the expedition. [] himself had only a knife, as he was short of money and could not buy a pistol.

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On the evening of October 28, 1968, [] above, telephonically advised that he had been interviewed earlier that date concerning the IACB but had since gathered more information which he wished to furnish. He had spoken several hours previously with [] of Ft. Lauderdale, whom he described as the girlfriend of [] advised him that [] had rented a 1968 Oldsmobile from King Car Rentals, Ft. Lauderdale, prior to his departure from Florida for Mexico.

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[] had been told by [] that FRANK FIORINI assisted [] in renting the 1968 Oldsmobile. She did not know whether FIORINI had cosigned for the car rental or had merely furnished deposit money.

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She added, according to [] that according to [] the cars which were being driven by IACB members from Florida to Mexico were to switch license plates and doorjamb serial number plates. She did not know whether these changes were to be made to forestall identification of stolen cars or were merely to be changes made among owned cars in order to confuse authorities who might be trying to trace the movements of IACB members.

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On October 29, 1968, []

[] Florida, telephonically advised that she had received a Western Union telegram from the American Consul at Belize, British Honduras, dated October 26, 1968, in which she was requested to send to the American Consul a telegraphic bank draft in the amount of \$100 to cover return air transportation and incidental expenses for her son, [] who is currently being held by British Honduras authorities for illegal entry into British Honduras. It was further indicated in this telegram that [] son would be tried at the "end of the week" and the bank draft was being requested on the assumption that he would be released following the trial.

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On October 29, 1968, []

[] Florida, telephonically advised that she had received a telegram from the American Consul, Belize, British Honduras, concerning her husband, [] This telegram contained a request identical with that made of []

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[] further advised that she had telephoned the American Consul, Belize, on October 29, 1968, and had been advised by him that the trial of her husband and the other Americans arrested "last week" would be held on Friday, November 1, 1968.

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On October 21, 1968, RONALD R. SHETTLER, Counter Agent, Airways Rent-A-Car Office, 338 Northeast Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas, furnished the following information:

He made available rental agreement #4580 dated October 13, 1968, reflecting that on that date he rented a red 1969 Ford Mustang, two-door hardtop, serial #9R61F102548, bearing 1968 Texas License GZH 497, to an individual who identified himself as []

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According to the rental agreement, the vehicle was to be returned to Airways Rent-A-Car in San Antonio by 10:00 AM on October 16, 1968. [] has not returned the car to date.

[] made a \$50 cash deposit when he rented the car. He did not display any credit cards and the only identification he had were such things as a driver's license and Social Security card, together with some other nondescript identification cards which were of no value as far as verifying his credit is concerned.

SHETTLER stated that he realized he had made a mistake as soon as he let [] drive away with the car.

According to the rental agreement, [] produced Florida driver's license [] which expires November 18, 1969. He furnished his home address as Apartment 1, 275 S. W. Mc Nab Road, Pompano Beach, Florida, and furnished his employment as being a driver for the South Florida Freight Ways, 32nd Avenue and 41st Street, Miami, Florida.

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RIDEO SCHIAVON, Detective, Auto Theft Squad, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on October 25, 1968, furnished the following information:

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Offense Report Number D-50235, reflects that on October 9, 1968, FRANK CROWLY, Continental Casualty Company, 4240 N. E. 26th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, reported an auto theft which occurred on September 23, 1968.

CROWLY, who works for King Car-Truck Rental, Inc., 900 East Sunrise Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, stated that

[redacted], Florida, rented from King Car-Truck Rental on September 19, 1968, a 1968 Oldsmobile, two-door, hardtop, white over red in color, model number 5487, bearing Vehicle Identification Number 354878D118437 and 1968-69 Florida License 10E-3017. The car was to be returned on September 23, 1968..

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On September 23, 1968, a woman identifying herself as [redacted] telephoned for an extension of the rental time but it was denied.

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[redacted] listed his place of business as House of Flare, 3850 Ravenswood Road, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, but according to CROWLY this is a non-existent place. It was also determined that [redacted] did not live at the address on Mc Nab Road.

At the time of the rental [redacted] exhibited a Florida operator's license [redacted] and paid \$50 cash on the rental of the car.

The files of the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department reflects a past record of auto theft by [redacted]

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The facts in this matter were presented by the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department to the Broward County Solicitor, ANGELINE WEIR, resulting in her issuing a felony warrant charging [redacted] with grand larceny of auto.

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On October 28, 1968, [] Florida, advised that she is the girl friend of [] who has been arrested in British Honduras. She said that she attended a meeting on October 22, 1968 at Miami, Florida, probably the residence of FRANK FIORINI. The girl friend of [] was also present. FIORINI conferred privately with the four males present, including []. The four males departed the meeting in a 1968 Oldsmobile, two-door, red with white top, Florida tag, with [] driving. She was told by [] that FIORINI and [] rented the car from King Car Rental, Ft. Lauderdale.

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On November 1, 1968, [] also known as [] advised that she lived in a common law relationship with [] at [] from August 1, 1968 until the first week in September, 1968. She said that in the first part of August, 1968, [] became interested in a movement which had advertised in a local newspaper the formation of a "mercenary army to fight Communism in South America". She said that [] subsequently attended a meeting of this movement in the office of a Miami, Florida used car lot, while she waited outside. She continued that in the latter part of August, 1968, a second meeting was held at the residence of FRANK FIORINI, at which several others were present.

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She said that she had been as much interested in the expedition to South America as [] and that she and [] sold all their furniture and furnishings to finance their participation. They realized about \$600 and proceeded to Boca Raton, Florida, where [] purchased from the Boca Raton Fishing Tackle Shop an M-1 rifle with scope sight, a "cut-down #1 enforcer", and ammunition. He also purchased an Italian knife from an Army-Navy store, medicine and vitamins, as part of his supplies.

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She said that she and [] attended a third meeting at the residence of FIORINI in Miami, at which time she met the girl friend of []

She said that FIORINI told [] to rent a car at King Car Rental, Ft. Lauderdale, and not to worry about returning it as "they (King Car Rental) are only interested in being paid off", implying that the car would be junked in Mexico and King Car Rental would be paid off in cash. [] thereafter rented a 1968 Oldsmobile, red, two-door, with white top and interior. The trim from the door was removed and the weapons and supplies were secreted in the door panels, after which the trim was replaced.

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On Sunday, September 22, 1968, she continued, [] (LAST NAME UNKNOWN), departed in the Oldsmobile and proceeded to Guadalajara, Mexico. FIORINI and two others reportedly departed Miami the following day.

In Guadalajara, FIORINI stayed at the Americana Hotel, while [] stayed in a "Valley" (ph) Hotel. [] was sent back from Guadalajara to Rio Grande, Texas, to pick up some money. She learned these last details through a letter from [] who broke one of the organization's regulations by writing to her.

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She said that [] formerly had owned a small automobile shop called "The House of Flake", 3850 Ravenswood Road, Ft. Lauderdale.

She said that [] had served two years in a penitentiary on some unknown charge. She described [] as one who would take the blame and lie to shield others.

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She said that he has no respect for his personal concern.

Regarding the 1968 Chevrolet bearing Florida License Tag [] mentioned above as the automobile in which [] entered Mexico as [] the following information is submitted:

On October 31, 1968, Lieutenant JOHN MC CANTS, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Vero Beach, Florida, advised that the 1968-69 Florida License [] was issued for a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro, Vehicle Identification Number []

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[] This automobile is registered to [] and [] Florida.

Lieutenant [] advised a check of motor vehicle registration records in Indian River County had indicated that this was the only automobile registered to []

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 4, 1968

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Date _____

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DON NICHOLS, Assistant Vice President, Indian River Citrus Bank, Vero Beach, Florida, advised that the bank had repossessed a 1968 blue Chevrolet Camaro bearing Florida license [REDACTED]. The car had originally been financed by [REDACTED] on June 10, 1968, and was repossessed from [REDACTED] as a result of his failure to keep up the payments.

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Mr. NICHOLS made the automobile available for examination and it was determined that Florida license plate [REDACTED] was still on the car. The VIN was [REDACTED] and the mileage was 13,107.

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On 10/31/68 at Vero Beach, Florida File # MM [REDACTED]
by SA DAVID C. CALLAN jhk Date dictated 11/4/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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November 4, 1968

Date _____

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[REDACTED]
Florida, was contacted by telephone at his place of employment, the Standard Oil Service Station, Fort Pierce Service Plaza, Sunshine State Parkway, for the purpose of arranging an interview. [REDACTED] immediately advised that he assumed the interview was to be concerning the activities of three of his associates, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised he had read an article in a newspaper which indicated that these three boys had been arrested some place in Central America. He advised that he did not wish to make any statement concerning their activities and that he only knew what he read in the newspaper.

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On 11/1/68 at Fort Pierce, Florida File # MM [REDACTED] b3
by SA DAVID C. CALLAN jhk Date dictated 11/4/68 b7E

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II. INTERVIEWS OF IACB MEMBERS UPON THEIR
RETURN FROM BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/7/68

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FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, also known as FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, FRANK BONELLI, was interviewed at Miami International Airport upon his arrival there from British Honduras. He was advised of his rights, signed a Waiver of Rights form and furnished the following information:

He was born FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, had his name legally changed some years ago to FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, STURGIS being the surname of his mother's second husband, and used the name FRANK BONELLI during the just-completed unsuccessful operation against Cuba in which he had participated. He added that he is known to virtually all his associates as FRANK FIORINI and uses the surname STURGIS rarely, principally where it is necessary to set out his legal name as on his passport, driver's license, etc.

He said that the 13 Americans detained by British Honduras for illegal entry were the American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the Secret Army Organization (SAO), which is also known as the International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB). He said that the overall IACB leader is Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA, an Argentine national who also holds Cuban citizenship through his parents. FIORINI described himself as the military aid to QUESADA and said there are no other IACB officers, although [REDACTED] another of the detained 13 Americans, had been given limited authority through FIORINI during the operation. He said that [REDACTED] known for purposes of the just-completed operation as [REDACTED] is not an IACB officer and had no real authority during the IACB operation.

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He said that he met QUESADA in Florida in 1967, and that he and QUESADA worked out this IACB operation during the intervening time. He said that QUESADA financed

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On 11/1/68 at Miami, Florida

File # Miami [REDACTED]

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by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS/fp

Date dictated 11/6/68

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the operation and personally furnished him; FIORINI, with \$2,000 in cash before his, FIORINI's, departure from the United States more than 6 weeks ago. FIORINI said that these funds were to be used for arms and supplies purchases in Mexico. He said that the whole abortive operation probably cost QUESADA between \$40,000-\$50,000. He denied that QUESADA is non-existent.

He said that the purpose of the IACB expedition was to proceed to the Southern Coast of Cuba in an effort to capture a Cuban naval vessel. Prisoners taken in this seizure would be later used for an exchange of Cuban-held political prisoners. It was felt that a successful effort surely would provide a morale boost for anti-CASTRO forces inside and outside Cuba. It was expected that the involvement of 13 Americans would increase publicity for the action and would demonstrate support of Americans for the anti-CASTRO cause. He said that in the event that no suitable naval vessel was encountered, an alternate plan was to land on Cuban territory and seize a political prisoncamp, free the inmates and capture the guards, these latter to be later used for exchange purposes. He noted that he had had in his possession a map showing the locations of all Cuban political prisoncamps. Upon the completion of the above operation, the plan was to return to Mexico and enter the mountains there with any prisoners.

He said that all of the Americans involved knew the above objectives before their departure from the State of Florida, and were aware that if the operation aborted, they might have to go into the Cuban mountains. He added that the 13 detained Americans were the only Americans involved in the unsuccessful IACB operation.

He recalled that he departed Florida for Mexico in an automobile belonging to an un-disclosed companion more than 6 weeks ago. He declined to describe his companion or the latter's automobile. He said that he and his companion entered Mexico from the

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United States about 6 weeks ago near Roma, Texas. He said that he entered Mexico as FRANK BONELLI and established this identity to Mexican border officials only by means of a West Dade Democratic Club membership card and a National Rifle Association membership card. He and his companion then drove to Mexico City where the latter went his separate way. In Mexico City he met by pre-arrangement with [redacted] and these two proceeded by bus to the IACB base camp in the mountains near Las Margaritas outside Qumitan, about one mile from the Mexican-Guatemalan border. He said that a second IACB encampment was in operation on the beach near the port city of Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico. He said that he and the others shuttled by bus between the mountain camp, known as Camp Mud, and the seashore camp, known as Camp Sand. He said that an undisclosed number of Cuban exiles, Mexican residents, were also at the two base camps but he would not say what happened to these Cubans when the Americans broke camp to board ship for ultimate transportation to Cuba.

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He denied any connection of the IACB force with the territorial dispute between British Honduras and Guatemala. He also denied any intention to conduct training or anti-communist guerrilla operations in Guatemala; however, one of several maps of Guatemala in his belongings had a penciled route traced from the approximate site of the IACB mountain base map in Mexico through the middle of Guatemala to La Union, just inside the Honduran border with Guatemala. Also, several sites inside Guatemala, described by FIORINI as "centers of Communist guerrilla activity" were circled on the map.

FIORINI noted that his group could easily have crossed the Mexican-Guatemalan border into the latter country overland from their mountain camp and would not, therefore, have boarded ship if their ultimate destination had been Guatemala. He said that to his knowledge, none of the IACB members crossed into Guatemala at any time and the group received no visitors from Guatemala or Nicaragua.

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He denied transporting any arms or ammunition into Mexico or any knowledge of such transportation by other IACB members. He said that the group had no explosives, only United States made small arms, and that these had been purchased in Mexico exclusively.

He said that it had taken several weeks to gather the IACB members into their two Mexican encampments and that as a result of several tardy arrivals, little training was conducted before the mountain base was broken up near the end of the third week of October, 1968. Those at the mountain camp joined the rest of the group at the seashore camp near Progreso, where all stayed for about five days until the group boarded the Mexican fishing cruiser "Amigo" on approximately October 19, 1968. He said that he and several other IACB members had negotiated with the Captain of the "Amigo" for the charter trip. The Captain knew that he was taking the men to a sea rendezvous with another craft and was paid generously to do this. He said that the boat was not "hijacked", that there was never any intimidation of the "Amigo" captain and that the proof of this is that the captain later indicated that he would press no charges against the Americans. He continued that the intimidation and hijack charges were part of the charter agreement with the captain in order to provide a cover story for him to forestall any action against the captain by Pro-CASTROITES upon his return to his home port, by which time it would presumably be known that the Captain had transported a group of Americans who were participating in an operation against CASTRO Cuba.

He said that he gave the captain a letter to substantiate this cover story. This letter would also serve to clear the captain with Mexican authorities who would have required an explanation of the captain as to why he had not returned to port with his "fishing cruise" passengers.

He said that the "Amigo" was to have a rendezvous with a larger craft, perhaps two, outbound from Mexico

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or Puerto Rico. The "Amigo" passengers were to transfer to the larger craft or crafts at a point approximately two hours out to sea from the site of the "Amigo" grounding on reefs at the Turneffe Islands, just outside Belize, British Honduras.

He indicated that the second craft or crafts contained approximately 25 Cuban exiles and QUESADA, all of whom were to participate in the above Cuban coastal operation. He said that he does not know the present whereabouts of QUESADA or what happened to the craft(s) with which the "Amigo" failed to rendezvous. He said that contact had been maintained with QUESADA prior to boarding the "Amigo" through an un-disclosed intermediary in Mexico.

He recalled that the "Amigo" ran aground, through the incompetence of its captain, during the night of approximately October 22, 1968. The passengers spent almost the entire night attempting to handpush the "Amigo" off the reefs. They were finally successful but had been forced to jettison the boat's fuel tanks in order to accomplish this. Eight of the passengers were left on a nearby mangrove island while the remaining five and the captain took the "Amigo" into the nearby port of Belize, British Honduras for repairs and refueling. At Belize authorities asked for their papers. These had been lost during the reef incident. As a result technical charges of illegal entry were lodged against the Americans. The "Amigo" captain, under questioning by British Honduras authorities, advised of the eight other Americans on the mangrove island. These others were picked up the following day, approximately October 24, 1968 by British marines and all 13 were jailed at Belize. On November 1, 1968, all 13 Americans were given a hearing at Belize for illegal entry into British Honduras. The hearing resulted in an order for their deportation from British Honduras. The men wired their families for return passage to Florida and made arrangements to depart by air in groups of three and four as British Honduras

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authorities feared that if all departed on the same plane a pro-CASTROITE aboard the flight might try to hijack the plane to Cuba. He said that there are Cuban exiles in South Florida, Venezuela Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and other Latin American countries, who are not IACB members and are not controlled by Col. QUESADA, but who will consider participation in any operation against CASTRO Cuba. He broadly hinted, but would not state, that the Cuban exiles allegedly aboard the craft(s) with which the "Amigo" failed to rendezvous, were from one or more Latin American countries and were not IACB members.

In his belongings FIORINI had a typewritten list of 200 male and 20 female political prisoners currently incarcerated in Cuba. He explained that this list is composed both of BATISTA supporters and those formerly loyal to CASTRO who were arrested for "counter-revolutionary activities" following the takeover of Cuba by CASTRO. He explained that this list had no reference to the just-terminated operation but had been drawn up many months ago when he and [redacted] [redacted] currently residing in Hollywood, Florida, traveled in several Latin American countries in efforts to make arrangements for the ransom or exchange of Cuba-held political prisoners. He said that those on the list were considered to be those who should be among the first ransomed or exchanged.

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He said that [redacted] is a United States citizen who was married to a wealthy Cuban and had lived in Cuba for many years prior to the CASTRO takeover of that country. She was active in the Cuban underground against CASTRO and was eventually imprisoned by the CASTRO regime for anti-CASTRO activities. In 1962 or 1963 she was one of the Cuban political prisoners freed through successful ransom negotiations carried out by New York attorney [redacted]

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He continued that he and [redacted] had traveled in Latin America early this year regarding the prisoners

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project with the knowledge of the U.S. Department of State. Among others, they had spoken with President RAUL LEONE of Venezuela and former President JOSE FIGUERES of Costa Rica. One of their principal interests in these discussions was the possible exchange of Cuban prisoners seized by Venezuela for political prisoners held by CASTRO. FIORINI indicated that these discussions had not been successful.

He said that he has no information regarding the possible use of rented or stolen cars during the IACB operation. He added that he has no knowledge of the reported issuance of blank birth certificates, U.S. Army honorable discharge certificates or Florida motor vehicle title certificates to IACB members prior to their departures from Florida.

He denied that he had transported any arms or ammunition into Mexico from the United States and said that, to his knowledge, none of the other IACB members had done so. He said that he had certainly given no instructions to IACB members to transport arms or ammunition out of the United States. He said that the arms to be used by the IACB, all American-made small arms, had been purchased and stored in Mexico before the operation began. He declined to furnish any details regarding the purchase of the arms.

He said that between 300 and 400 persons from many different areas of the United States had responded to a late August IACB classified ad in the "Ft. Lauderdale News" to the effect that a mercenary army was being formed to fight Communism in South America. He said that those who responded were screened by himself, undisclosed Cubans and "several others". He said that this newspaper ad was the only means by which prospective recruits were sought.

He said that he and [redacted] had been salesmen at G.M. Used Cars, 2480 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida

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prior to their departure on this operation that none of the other personnel at G.M. Used Cars has any connection with the IACB. He did not care to say whether or not any IACB meetings had been held on the G.M. Used Cars premises prior to departure for members from Florida.

FIORINI is described from observation and interview as follows:

Name	FRANK ANGELO FIORINI (birth name, which was later legally changed to FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS)
Aliases	FRANK FIORINI, FRANK STURGIS, FRANK BONELLI
Date of Birth	December 9, 1924
Place of Birth	Norfolk, Virginia
Height	5'10"
Weight	190 pounds
Build	Stocky
Hair	Black and wavy
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Characteristics	Beard and mustache, which he indicated he would probably later remove; smokes cigarettes heavily
Occupation	Used car salesman
Last Employment	G.M. Used Cars, 2480 N.W. 36th Street
Wife	
Residence	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Date

11/6/68

[redacted]
Florida, was informed of his rights through a Rights Form which he read, stated he understood and declined to sign. He furnished the following information:

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Approximately five months ago he was in the Half-Way Inn between Vero Beach and Fort Pierce, Florida, when he heard conversation between one [redacted] and [redacted] who was a barmaid at the inn, concerning a deal involving training, perhaps military training, which would pay the recipient \$1,000 a month. The training would take place at a place unknown for an unknown employer, and for an unknown purpose. It would probably involve jungle training. From the conversation between [redacted] and [redacted] he determined that the information came from a newspaper ad.

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[redacted] expressed interest in the matter and believed that he would have to sign a contract to insure receipt of payment. However, this was never done. Approximately three weeks later, [redacted] told him that they were ready to leave and [redacted] informed his wife, who tried unsuccessfully to talk him out of the venture. He saw no one other than his own friends and [redacted] between hearing of the newspaper ad and deciding to go. He knew they were going to South America. However, he did not know exactly where.

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He discussed the matter with [redacted] who works with him, and [redacted] indicated an interest [redacted] and [redacted] called someone in Miami from [redacted] house approximately one to one and a half weeks before they departed. They left Vero Beach in a two or three year old tan, four-door Chevrolet. [redacted] was accompanied by [redacted] and [redacted] (phonetic) [redacted] was driving. They left Vero Beach at about 12:30 AM on the 17th or 18th of September, destined for Mexico as instructed by the party in Miami contact by telephone.

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They crossed the border at Brownsville, Texas, about 3 AM on September 19, 1968. Everyone in the car used

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On 11/1/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami [redacted]
SA THOMAS P. GARVEY/vjl 11/5/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

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his true and correct name. They drove first to Guadalajara where they met [] (LNU) at the Hotel New Yorker as instructed. They arrived at the hotel on the same day that they crossed the border at Brownsville, Texas. [] showed up approximately one hour after their arrival at the Hotel New Yorker and told them that they were going to do some mountain climbing. They stayed at the hotel approximately one night and on the next day they left, [] with them, and drove to the mountains of Lake Montebello, still using the same Chevrolet. This was approximately an 8 to 12 hour trip.

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[] left them in the mountains and told them to avoid the town's people. They set up a camp and stayed there approximately two weeks. They sat around doing nothing, trying to keep from starving. [] who had left with [] returned approximately 10 days later. Perhaps two weeks after they arrived at Lake Montebello, FRANK FIORINI arrived with [] in an automobile. He gave them money to take a bus to Gobitan (phonetic). [] went in an automobile with FRANK FIORINI while [] took the bus.

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From Gobitan they took a bus to Merida (phonetic) on the Yucatan Peninsula. This was nearly a two-day trip. From Merida they went to just outside Progreso as they had been instructed and waited on the beach for FRANK FIORINI and the others. They waited on the beach for approximately one week until FRANK FIORINI arrived by taxi and picked up []

Later, FRANK FIORINI, [] came in a boat at about 1 AM. [] described [] as [] middle 30's, []

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[] medium complexion, light brown hair, cut short. The boat was named "Amigo" and FRANK FIORINI said that they had rented it. They left Progreso and went to sea. They had what appeared to be a Mexican skipper and first mate. They were at sea approximately two days when they ran into a reef off a small island. They waited for

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high tide and pushed the boat off. They traveled about one hour and went ashore at one of the islands. [] did not know the name of the island. The boat left with the captain, the mate, FRANK FIORINI, [] in an attempt to obtain more fuel. They were due back in about 8 hours. However, they never returned.

About one day later the "Amigo" came back with British police and customs. All the people on the island were ready to go with the police since they had no money and very little food [] denies knowing the purpose of the trip. He stated when they arrived at the beach in Progreso the following individuals were already there:

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[]
CHUCK CONNELL
CHARLIE L JAMES (phonetic)

[]
(LNU)

Later a blond youngster came with FRANK FIORINI in the taxi.

[] stated he observed the following weapons in possession of the individuals with whom he was associated:

3 carbines, 3 cutdown carbines, 4 .22 caliber rifles

There were two boxes of ammunition for the .22s, 50 rounds in each box and 800 to 900 rounds for the carbines. The guns were all purchased in Mexico and [] himself bought a .22 in a market in Guadalajara. No identification was required and the weapon cost \$35 to \$40 in American money. He bought ammunition for the .22 in the same place. He stated that the telephone call made to Miami indicated that they would be doing some training, thus accounting for the need of the weapons.

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[] stated positively there was never any mention made of military operations or activity. He stated that the individual contacted by telephone in Miami stated they would

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be doing some training and training some other people. [] personally felt that it might have been some sort of military training. [] believed that FRANK FIORINI was in charge, and further believes that his was the voice on the other end of the telephone call made to Miami. In FIORINI's absence, [] seemed to have charge of the activities. While in the boat he heard some reference to Colonel QUESADA. However, he never saw him nor met him and does not know why they were to meet him. He stated the car was not searched at the border and that there were no weapons in the automobile when they crossed the border into Mexico. The only money they had was money of their own that they had brought with them. [] once furnished them bus fares while in Mexico. [] had no money left when he arrived in Montebello. He stated each used his own money in paying for gas on the trip from Vero Beach into Mexico. He stated that actually no training ever began and no military activities were ever undertaken. He does not know the whereabouts of the Chevrolet which they used to travel to Mexico. He stated that insofar as he knows, everyone engaged in this junket had been arrested by the British authorities in Honduras.

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The following description of [] was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	[]
Residence	[]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Age	[]
Date of Birth	[]
Place of Birth	Florida
Height	[]
Weight	[]
Eyes	Blue, grey, green
Social Security No.	[]

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Selective Service No. [REDACTED]

Local Board - [REDACTED]

Wife

Children

Parents

Sisters

Brother

Occupation

Arrest Record

Scars and Marks

Education

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/4/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

[REDACTED] no local address, was interviewed at the Miami International Airport by J. P. HUFFORD, who identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [REDACTED] was advised of his rights. [REDACTED] remarked he had expected to answer questions upon arriving in the United States and had no objection to answering questions so long as he could refuse to answer any questions which might incriminate another member of his group.

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[REDACTED] further advised he knew what he was getting into and expected to serve time in prison. He pointed out he alone had used his true, correct name throughout the activities of his anti-communist group. He then waived his rights in writing as shown on an executed warning and waiver form and furnished the following oral statement:

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[REDACTED] advised he first contacted FRANK FIORINI through an advertisement run in a newspaper seeking adventurers. Mr. FIORINI advised him the persons answering the advertisement would form a military group for military strikes against the communists in Cuba. Mr. FIORINI appeared to be the leader of the group, while [REDACTED] and another individual, known only to him as LARRY, were Squad leaders with five to six men in the two squads.

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They were instructed to equip themselves with drugs and medicines, first aid supplies, personal clothing and related items. They received no specific instructions on

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On 11/1/68 at Miami, Florida

Miami [REDACTED]
Miami 26-34692

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by SA J. P. HUFFORD:sl

Date dictated 11/1/68

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HM 26-34692

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supplying themselves with firearms. They were told to bring along what they had, but arms and ammunition would be supplied later.

[] advised it was his impression that one Colonel QUESADA was in charge of the overall operation. He never met the Colonel or saw him although he did see a photograph of the Colonel in a book which described his activities. The Colonel was supposed to have been in charge of an operation in which hundreds of seven foot Zulu natives were killed.

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One or two meetings were held at a used car or truck sales lot at 2480 Northwest 36th Street, Miami. Mr. FIORINI was employed at the lot. The general plan of action or objective was to infiltrate into Cuba, join up with other guerrilla forces and overthrow the Communist Government in Cuba. No specific plans were made until all were aboard a boat en route to Cuba.

[] advised on or about September 1, 1968, he purchased a carbine similar to a .30 caliber M-1 semi-automatic military carbine. He also purchased a cut down carbine called "The Enforcer." He paid \$109.00 for the carbine and \$119.00 for the Enforcer. Both had to be ordered since they were not in stock and were purchased from the Boca Bait and Tackle Shop in the vicinity of Boca Raton just off Route 1 going to the beach. The weapons were not registered.

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He traveled to Mexico with two individuals he knew only as RICK and ERNIE. RICK's last name was possibly COOPER and he was in the construction business. ERNIE apparently had worked with propane gas and cylinder tanks prior to joining the operation. They traveled in a 1965-66 white Ford Convertible which belonged to either RICK or ERNIE.

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[] advised he did not know much about his companions, no one asked any questions and each man preferred it that way. He hid his two guns under the back seat and noted a couple of other guns. He did not recall the type

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weapons and did not ask who owned them. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He advised he did not know how or where the money came from to finance the operation. All the vehicles were left in Brownsville, Texas, and they were never able to conduct any military operations of any kind against anyone.

At this point, Special Agent HUFFORD pointed out several inconsistencies in [] story and advised him it would be better to refuse to answer than to continue to lie. After some reflection, [] advised certain parts of his story were incorrect. It appeared to him the FBI had him dead to rights and he might as well tell the complete truth.

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He stated on or about September 19, 1968, he rented a 1968 Oldsmobile, two door, hardtop, white over red in color, from King Car-Truck Rental in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The vehicle was to be returned in less than a week; however, he had no intention of returning it when he rented it. He did rent the vehicle under his true name.

He had previously obtained a tag from a junk yard that had a 6W- prefix. RICK and LARRY traveled with him and after they left Florida, they threw the rental tag into the water and put the 6W- tag on and continued on to Texas.

They crossed into Mexico at Laredo, Texas, and he believes they all used their true names. The 6W- tag was on the car.

They waited until after 8:00 A. M. so they could buy insurance at a Gulf Service Station near the border.

They then proceeded to Guadalajara, Mexico, to a pre-arranged hotel. The name is unrecalled; however, the hotel had been torn down. The three of them stayed one night at the Los Americana Hotel and later went to the Ontario Hotel. FRANK FIORINI, [] (Last Name Unknown), and [] (Last Name Unknown) also stayed there. He believes they were in Room 310.

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He was instructed to park the Oldsmobile in a parking lot around the corner from the Ontario Hotel. He left the keys in the car and the guns and equipment. He never saw the Oldsmobile again although the equipment did turn up later.

Shortly afterwards, FRANK FIORINI and [redacted] gave [redacted] money for expenses and instructed him to rent a Ford, Plymouth or Chevrolet in the United States. He left Guadalajara by Mexican bus for Laredo, Texas. He then took a taxi cab to the Laredo Airport and an airplane to San Antonio. Rental cars were in short supply at the airport in San Antonio, but he did manage to rent a Mustang from Airways Rent-A-Car.

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He advised the rental employee he would be staying at the Holiday Inn and would return the Mustang in about three days. At the time he rented the Mustang, he knew he would not return the Mustang at all.

En route to Mexico he realized the route he intended to use went on past the Holiday Inn so he called the rental agency and told them he would be staying at the downtown Holiday Inn. Instead, he just continued driving and did not stop at the Holiday Inn at all.

He followed what he believed to be Route 218 or 281 South and crossed the border into Mexico at what he believed to be Roma. He used his true name and went straight to the parking lot around the corner from the Ontario. The Oldsmobile was gone and he left the Mustang in the lot with the keys in it. He never saw the Oldsmobile or the Mustang after that.

He denied knowing how the cars were disposed of or who was responsible. He refused to answer further questions, stating a Mexican Official was involved. He saw the official once, wearing a khaki uniform and a gun, and heard his name. He stated he would probably recognize the name if he heard it again.

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From Guadalajara they flew by commercial airplane to Merida. They then took a taxi cab to Progreso and boarded the boat in which they were later captured. At this point there were five in the group. When the boat left the docks they went to a location on the beach and picked up the other eight. All of the equipment they had left in the car was also at the beach. They stayed at a hotel across the street from the bus station in Merida or Progreso for one or two nights.

Their plans were to rendezvous with another ship and proceed to Cuba. Prior to the objective, they got hung up on a coral reef about 300 yards off shore of British Honduras. The steering gear was damaged so they unloaded eight men in a mango grove and proceeded to harbor for repairs. The captain of the ship was well aware of the plans and destination of the group and was a willing participant. The authorities became suspicious and arrested them all, including their eight companions. He could not supply further details about the second ship they were to meet.

He continued to maintain FRANK FIORINI was the person in charge if there was such a person. [redacted] who used an alias of [redacted] seemed to be along for his knowledge of Mexico. He added that if there was any doubt about the leaders, check each person's money. He alleged only two would have any amount of money, but he declined to name them.

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He stated he realized out of the 13 there would be several who would cooperate and tell investigators all they wanted to know. He felt it would probably be every man for himself, but he had told all he felt he could tell until he could talk to Mr. FIORINI and determine what legal aid would be available to him and what course of action the others would take.

He claimed he was not concerned about himself as evidenced by his willing and candid admissions concerning the

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two cars he had stolen.

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The following description was noted through
interview and observation:

Name

[Redacted]

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Race

White

Sex

Male

Age

[Redacted]

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

[Redacted] West Virginia

Height

[Redacted]

Weight

Build

Slender

Hair

Brown

Eyes

Blue

Marks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tattoo

Selective Service -
Draft Classification

United States

Marine Reserves

Active Marines

Inactive Reserves

Discharged

Training

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MM 26-34692

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Marine Serial Number
Social Security Number
Marital Status

~~Previous Wife~~

Daughter

Previous Wife

Daughter

Son

Parents

Sister

Girlfriend

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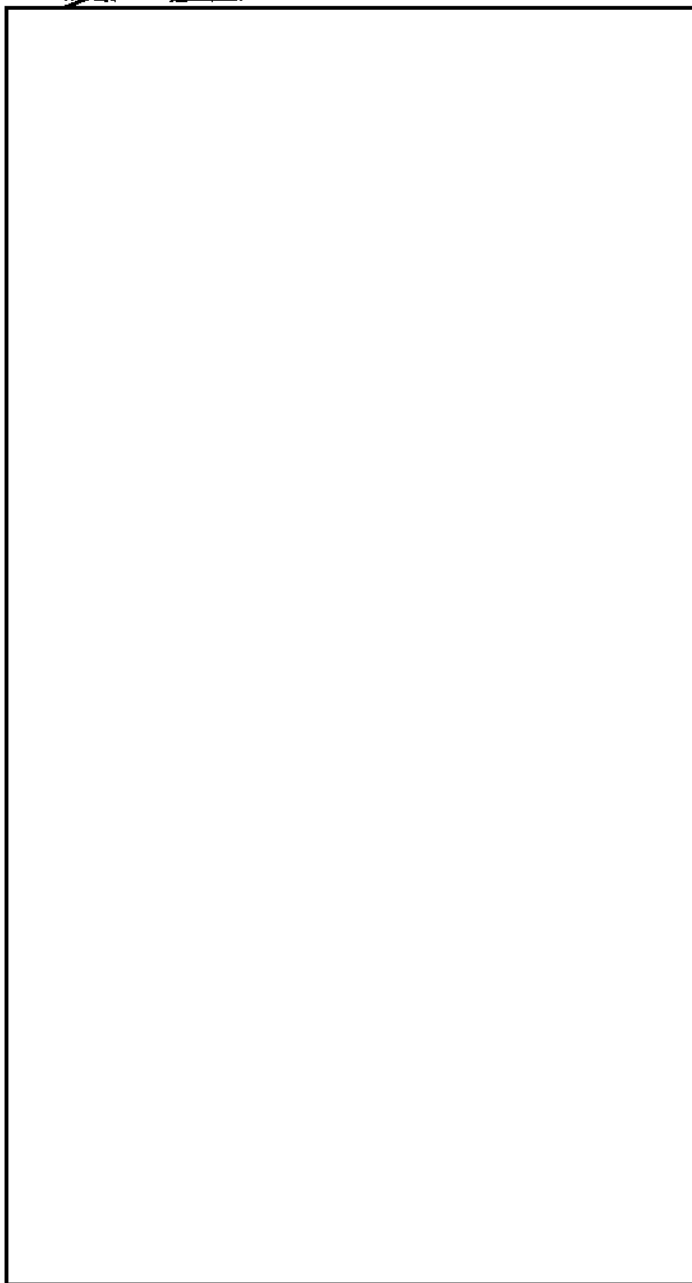
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Education

Previous Addresses

Employment



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MN 26-34692

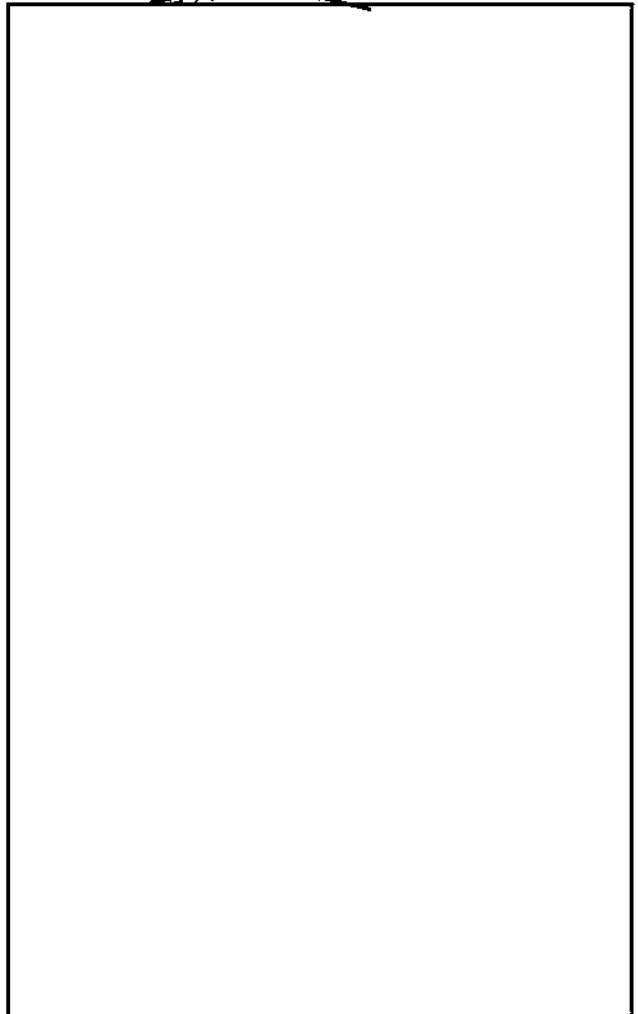
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Employment - Continued

Arrests

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date November 6, 1968

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ was interviewed at the Miami International Airport. He was advised of his rights, signed a waiver of rights form, and furnished the following information:

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He has been involved actively in the International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB), also known as Secret Army Organization (SAO), for about four years. He said that, to his knowledge, FRANK FIORINI is the only IACB leader, although he feels that for the operation which ended abortively at Belize, British Honduras, FIORINI must have been working with some group or persons outside the IACB as FIORINI does not have the finances or organizational ability to mount such an operation. Upon reflection, however, he conceded that the cash outlay for this venture had been minimal in that the men were not paid for their services, furnished their own transportation, and, for the most part, their own food, lodging and equipment. He also indicated on reflection that the organizational work for the operation had actually been very slipshod and amateurish.

He said that any indication by FIORINI that the true leader of the expedition was a Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA would be, in his opinion, a falsehood. He said that he believes Colonel QUESADA does not exist but is a fictitious scapegoat upon whom FIORINI would place responsibility for this operation in the event it misfired. In support of this, he read from a leaflet concerning QUESADA which had been furnished several months ago by FIORINI to those persons who had responded to a newspaper ad calling for volunteers to fight communism in Latin America. This leaflet described QUESADA as a Latin, born in Argentina, who had seen action in four wars, had served in all branches of the services, was a pilot and an expert in conventional, guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare. QUESADA was further described in the leaflet as the "prime organizer of the underground in Latin America. A price of \$100,000 has been placed on his head by a communist government which sent agents to kill him and his

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On 11/2/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami [REDACTED]
by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS:sll Date dictated 11/5/68

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"associates. He has been captured and tortured by two foreign armies. . . At the present time he is traveling throughout Central and South America and is raising funds to form a mercenary army to fight the communists throughout the Americas."

Regarding the above alleged QUESADA background, [redacted] noted that FIORINI considers himself an expert in conventional, guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare, has claimed to have seen action in several wars, is a pilot, claims to have been captured and tortured by the Japanese while serving as a United States Marine in World War II, and again by the BATISTA government in Cuba while serving with the CASTRO forces in Cuba before the downfall of BATISTA. He further noted that FIORINI traveled in Central and South America earlier this year, reportedly in an effort to make arrangements for the exchange of political prisoners still held by CASTRO, but perhaps to also raise funds for the just-concluded unsuccessful operation against communist Cuba. He said that based on these similarities in the backgrounds of FIORINI and QUESADA, whom, to his knowledge, no one but FIORINI has ever seen, he feels that Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA is a fictitious, and idealized, FRANK FIORINI.

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He said that the IACB plan before leaving Miami was to train in Guatemala for approximately six weeks, then proceed by boat to Cuba on November 1, 1968, and to conceal themselves in a pre-arranged Sierra Maestra Mountains, Oriente Province, hideout until next January 1, when a raid to capture political or military prisoners would be carried out, these prisoners to be later exchanged for Cuba-held political prisoners. He said that he and all the others involved were aware of this general outline of the planned operation before departing from Florida individually or in small groups. He added, however, that he was not to participate in the Cuba phase of the operation. His part, he said, was to furnish his Spanish language ability during the training period in Guatemala and to give Spanish lessons

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to those in the force who did not speak Spanish. He was to remain with the volunteer group until their departure for a sea rendezvous with the craft which would take them into Cuba. He was to return to his Florida home.

He said that the plans to train in Guatemala had to be changed because it was learned, after the IACB group arrived in Mexico, that communist guerrilla activity in Guatemala was too intense at the time to permit training to be undertaken there, although he spent several weeks in Guatemala "reconnoitering," escorted by an unknown Indian guide who was paid for his services and had no connection with the IACB. He added that to his knowledge, none of the other members of the IACB group entered Guatemala.

He recalled that he departed Miami in behalf of the IACB operation alone on August 16, 1968, by Greyhound Bus, to Harlingen, Texas, where an undisclosed male picked him up, by prearrangement, in a 1968 maroon two-door hardtop Chevrolet with a Florida license tag. He and his companion, whom he declined to name, entered Mexico at Matamoros, near Brownsville, Texas, on approximately August 22, 1968. He said that he entered Mexico as [redacted] and showed the Mexican border guards a Florida driver's license in that name. He said that he had purchased this driver's license, already filled out, in Florida several weeks previously especially for this operation. He declined to furnish the name of the person who sold him the driver's license.

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He said that he and his companion proceeded inside Mexico to Ciudad Mante for about two days, then to San Andres Tuxtla for one day, then to Oaxaca, where the driver of the car went his separate way. At Oaxaca, he picked up an M-1 carbine and some ammunition from an undisclosed person, then proceeded by bus to San Cristobal Las Casas. He looked over this area for a possible base camp but did not find a suitable site. He then proceeded to Comitan, again by bus, where he met three others of the IACB group. From Comitan, he proceeded into Guatemala, accompanied by an Indian guide, as previously mentioned, and confirmed during his several weeks inside that country

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previously-received information that it would be inhospitable, because of communist guerrilla activity, for IACB training purposes. Upon his return, he found an IACB base camp already set up outside Comitan, about one mile from the Guatemalan border.

He said that the base camp near the Guatemala-Mexico border was broken up about the 23rd of October, no real training actually having been conducted, and those, number not disclosed, encamped there had proceeded to Merida, Mexico, to join other IACB members already at Merida. All 13 in the force finally converged at a beach encampment near Progreso, a port city a short distance from Merida. This encampment was called Camp Sand, in contrast to the mountain encampment, which had been called Camp Mud.

Around the 28th of October, they boarded the "Amigo," a Mexican charter fishing boat, at Progreso, and headed to sea for a rendezvous with another craft. The others were to transfer to the second boat and proceed to Cuba, while he was to return to Progreso in the "Amigo," then to return to Florida. He said he had no information concerning the identification of the second boat or its passengers.

He said that the captain of the "Amigo" was not intimidated in any way, was paid in Mexican pesos the equivalent of about \$250 American money, and cooperated fully with the IACB group in attempting to effect the sea rendezvous with a second craft. He said the problem was that FRANK FIORINI was too secretive with the "Amigo" captain about their sea destination as regards the course which had to be set to reach it. He had the feeling that they were a little early and that FIORINI was directing a zigzag course as a means of delaying their arrival at the rendezvous point. At any rate, the "Amigo" eventually ran aground on the Turneffe Islands near Belize, British Honduras. He recalled that the "Amigo" captain had warned FIORINI that he, the captain, was unfamiliar with these waters. It was obvious to [redacted] from previous course settings by FIORINI, that the vessel was off course prior

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to the grounding, but FIORINI insisted on directing movements of the "Amigo."

He said that the "Amigo" had to limp into Belize as a result of the grounding for refueling and repairs. At Belize, those aboard the "Amigo" were detained, after several inspections by British Honduras Customs and Immigration authorities. These and the expedition members who had been left near the site of the grounding, awaiting the return of the "Amigo," were eventually charged with illegal entry into British Honduras and were jailed at Belize. Their arms and ammunition were seized and, after a hearing at Belize on November 1, 1968, all were ordered deported from British Honduras.

He said that contrary to public reports, no automatic weapons were seized by British Honduras authorities, nor were any in the possession of the IACB group at any time, to his knowledge. He added that he had carried no arms or ammunition of any description into Mexico with him and knows of no other IACB member who transported arms or ammunition from the United States into Mexico.

He said that he knows of no stolen or rented cars possibly involved in the IACB operation and added that he had only seen one car in use in Mexico by the group. He declined to describe this car but said that it was not new and apparently belonged to one of the IACB members.

He said that he had not been issued, in connection with this IACB operation, a blank birth certificate, United States Army honorable discharge papers, or a blank Florida Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title, and knows nothing of any of the others being issued any of these documents.

He said that the 13 Americans arrested in British Honduras were the only persons involved, to his knowledge, in the IACB operation, outside of any participants who may have been aboard the craft with which the "Amigo" failed to rendezvous.

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He said that RAY SANDSTROM, a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, attorney, is the legal advisor for the IACB. He said that he has met SANDSTROM only once or twice and added that SANDSTROM took no active participation in preparations for the IACB operation and was not seen by [] at any of the preparatory meetings which he attended.

He said that [] who resides in Hollywood, Florida, had been associated with FRANK FIORINI and the IACB for several years in unsuccessful attempts to arrange for the ransom of political prisoners in Cuba, but had reportedly terminated her relationship with FIORINI some months ago over the latter's plans to conduct military operations against Cuba. [] reportedly felt that such efforts were futile. [] described [] as a United States citizen who had lived in Cuba for many years. She had been married to a wealthy Cuban business- man and was imprisoned by the CASTRO regime for counter- revolutionary activities. In approximately 1963, she was one of those ransomed through the efforts of a New York attorney [] and since that time has involved herself in plans to ransom other Cuba-held prisoners.

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He said that the owner of the West Side Democratic Club, Miami, where several IACB meetings were held to make plans concerning the just-terminated operation, has no connection with the IACB and was even unaware of the IACB, as such.

He said that he has considered the possibility that the whole operation was a hoax perpetrated by FIORINI as a means of obtaining publicity. However, he has been unable, since the British Honduras arrested the group, to extract any information from FIORINI which might substantiate this theory. He continued that if the operation was a hoax, he had been completely taken in as, until the past few days, he was convinced that the expedition had a landing in Cuba as its objective and that a rendezvous with a second boat would have taken place had it not been for the "Amigo" running aground.

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He said that due to his participation in the IACB operation, he had missed a Miami court date regarding non-payment of a long overdue bill for newspaper advertising in connection with a former business venture. He said he expected to be arrested by the Dade County Department of Public Safety in connection with this missed court date, but felt that satisfactory arrangements could be made for a new court date without his being jailed in the interim.

The following description of [] was obtained from interview and observation:

Name
Alias
Date of birth
Place of birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Characteristics
Residence

Occupation
Last employment

[Redacted]

Brown,
Blue

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/6/68

[REDACTED]
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was furnished a Rights Form which he read, stated he understood, but declined to sign. He stated he was willing to answer questions. [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

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Approximately four to five months ago he saw an ad in the principal paper in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which stated that interested parties should write to Colonel QUESADA in care of an attorney in approximately the South 200 block of Andrews Street, Fort Lauderdale. The ad mentioned money. However, he cannot recall the exact wording. He went to see the attorney, who told him to write a letter to the Colonel and either mail it or bring it to the attorney. [REDACTED] wrote to the Colonel, setting forth his qualification, namely, previous military experience, and brought it back to the attorney. The attorney told him he would be contacted.

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He waited approximately one month and received a postcard from an unknown person. The card stated if he was still interested he should come to Miami to meet a certain person. He did not care to name the location to which he was directed. About a week after he received the postcard he went to Miami as instructed and met FRANK FIORINI. FRANK told him that he was forming an anti-Communist force that would eventually travel to Cuba to help the Cuban people. There were four or five others at this meeting. FIORINI told them all the pros and cons of the contemplated trip. Money was mentioned in the form of a \$10,000 life insurance policy. They were told if they were still interested they could come to another meeting about a week later at the same place.

[REDACTED] attended this meeting and there were about eight others present, none of whom had attended the first one. Very little different happened at this meeting except that salary was mentioned and the people found out no money would be coming to anyone until the whole expedition was completed. They were told it might take six months to three

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On 11/2/68 at Miami, Florida

File # Miami [REDACTED]

by SA THOMAS P. GARVEY/vjl

Date dictated 11/5/68

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years to do the job. During that time salaries would be riding on the books. There was some talk by FIORINI that when the whole thing was over the individuals participating could remain in Cuba and set themselves up in business. They were told to return to the same place in another week.

He went back for this meeting and there were three or four people present when he arrived. It was at this meeting that he met [] This meeting was pretty much like the last two.

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A week later a meeting was called at the home of FRANK FIORINI and there were three people there, [] CHUCK CONNELL, and [] recalled that CHUCK had been at the second meeting and had attended every one thereafter. FIORINI told them they would have to purchase everything they needed except weapons. He told them that he did not care to have them have too much to do with procuring guns. He recommended that each man bring \$150 to \$200.

A week later there was another meeting at FRANK's house at which time he told them to prepare to leave. Departure date was set for approximately September 20, 1968, which was about three weeks after the last meeting.

[] went to FRANK FIORINI's house on the 20th, which he recalled was a Sunday. [] whom he had never seen before, was present. FIORINI told them to proceed to Merida, Mexico, and to meet him there. On the evening of September 20, 1968, [] and his girlfriend came by [] house, picked him up and took him to the bus station in Fort Lauderdale. The bus station is next to Howard Johnson's on Federal Highway. The car being driven by [] girlfriend was a 1967 or 1968 maroon fastback Ford. She left the two of them at the bus station.

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They stayed on the bus all the way to Texas and crossed into Mexico at the Laredo-Rinosa border crossing between

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5 and 6 AM on Tuesday. Both [] used their true names at the border. The bus went directly from the border to Merida.

At this point [] indicated that the story he had just furnished concerning the means of transportation from Fort Lauderdale to Merida was a lie. However, he declined to furnish or to specify in what aspects he was lying.

Upon arrival at Merida they were met by three Mexicans whose names [] refused to divulge. The Mexicans bought them bus tickets to Progreso and the Mexicans traveled with them to Progreso. They obtained a taxi cab to the hotel on the beach. Upon arrival at the beach the following were present:

CHARLIE IJAMES (phonetic)
CHUCK CONNELL

[]

[]

(LNU)
(LNU)
(LNU)

[] (LNU) showed up periodically while at the beach and one night about a week after their arrival FRANK FIORINI and [] showed up, bringing them a tub full of ice, beer, and food. This food trip was repeated three or four times while on the beach. During the period of time they were on the beach they participated in no training whatsoever.

One night FRANK came back and told them he would return at midnight and for them to be ready and to have everything around the camp site torn down. At approximately midnight FRANK FIORINI and [] returned, in a boat named the "Amigo", with a skipper and a mate. All left the beach in the boat and shortly thereafter were told they were on their way to Cuba. About two days later they went aground on a reef. They pushed the boat off the reef and again got underway. They spent one whole day fishing and moved at night.

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At about 10 o'clock the morning after going aground, approximately 8 of them were put ashore and FRANK [redacted] left in the "Amigo" to get fuel.

The next morning the British Army arrived and took them all into custody. [redacted] stated that during the whole trip he used only his true name. He stated that weapons involved in the trip were already on the beach when he arrived, and he never had a look at them until he boarded the "Amigo". He saw 8 carbines, three .22 rifles, one .303 rifle, one 30.06 rifle, and four to five .45 automatics. The ammunition for the weapons was in a suitcase wrapped in tape and rope. He stated he observed no explosives.

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During the whole trip FRANK FIORINI was in charge of all activities. [redacted] had been told that he would be participating in a Commando raid on the coast of Cuba at a place unknown and thereafter would proceed into the mountains. He was led to believe they were to meet another boat or boats at an unknown location. [redacted] stated the only Americans known to him to be involved in the expedition were arrested. He never met Colonel QUESADA nor did he ever see him. He indicated that he had heard some mention of rental automobiles being used but did not care to discuss this particular item.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through interview and observation:

Name
Residence

Age
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight

Hair
Eyes
Social Security No.
Army Serial No.

[redacted]

[redacted] Nebraska

Blond
Green

[redacted]

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Selective Service No.

[Redacted]

Nebraska

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Florida Chauffeur's
License No.
Mother

Father
Sister

Brother

Occupation
Tattoo
Acne Scars
Education
Arrests

[Redacted]

None

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/4/68

Date

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[redacted] was interviewed by SA OVIDIO CERVANTES, who identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Immediately thereafter, [redacted] was advised of his rights, as shown in the executed waiver of rights form.

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[redacted] advised that he had seen an advertisement in the "Miami Herald" newspaper sometime back in March, 1968. This advertisement stated that a Mr. FRANCISCO QUESADA, from South America, had placed this advertisement in the newspaper. [redacted] stated that QUESADA was supposedly from Argentina and that he was interested in saving Latin America from CASTRO.

[redacted] contacted a Mr. FRANK FIORINI at his residence, somewhere around 27th Avenue in Miami. [redacted] obtained an application from FIORINI which would be forwarded to Colonel QUESADA. [redacted] was advised that he was to purchase medical equipment, a bag to carry his personal belongings, and that his transportation would have to be self-financed.

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[redacted] stated the reason he was interested was because they were going to go and fight Communism. He stated that the Americans that would be going would be given the rank of lieutenant and that once in Cuba they would be earning \$1,000 a month for training Cubans in Cuba. If their mission was successful in overthrowing CASTRO they would get a bonus of \$10,000. Six months after they had joined an individual would contact the men's wives and furnish them with a certain amount of money. While in Cuba these American volunteers would get one hour of Spanish a day, to enable them to learn just enough Spanish to get by.

[redacted] stated that he had submitted his application and in this application he had stated that he knew how to handle firearms and explosives. [redacted] further advised that he had experience in explosives on a tree farm and that he also had some experience in parachute diving.

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11/2/68 Miami, Florida Miami [redacted]
On _____ at _____ File # _____
SA OVIDIO CERVANTES /jah 11/4/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

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[] stated he was not given any advance funds to transport himself and that he would get no financial help until he reached Cuba. Their instructions were to meet a Cuban at an unrecalled bar a couple of blocks away from the International Bridge at Brownsville, Texas.

[] left Vero Beach, Florida in the company of three other men. Two of these men were [] and []. The other individual in the car was the owner of the automobile, whom he refused to name. He further advised that the automobile could have been a 1967 Ford or Chevrolet. He actually does not remember even the color of the car. The driver of the car was just a friend, a local man from Vero Beach. He was not going with them to Cuba and this man thought that they were crazy for going to Cuba. The group was going to pay for the gasoline and each one in the group was going to give the driver \$14. This individual, who he refused to name, would be driving them from Vero Beach to Brownsville, Texas, and he would be returning to Vero Beach, Florida. This individual dropped them off in Brownsville, Texas, and that was the last he saw of him. The only driving of the car that was done by [] was less than 200 miles. He recalls he started driving at Pensacola, Florida.

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[] crossed the border into Mexico after having obtained a visa on September 19, 1968. To obtain this visa he used his passport and birth certificate. [] advised he entered the country of Mexico on September 20, 1968, by bus. The group traveled from Matamoros, Tamps, Mexico, to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. From Monterrey they went to Mexico City. From there they proceeded to a camp about one mile from the Guatemalan border. The group never went into Guatemala. [] was in the American Volunteer Group. This group picked up guns and ammunition at Lake Montapaloas, and they went to Merida, Yucatan. This was approximately two weeks ago from the date of this interview.

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At the camp at Merida, ~~Yucatan~~, there was no military action taken and no training took place. All they did there was wait.

On Saturday, a group of men was picked up by boat, the "Amigo". This group was supposed to meet another group.

Colonel QUESADA would meet them and give them further instructions. This boat went aground by a light-house at northeast Balicia, where they waited until the next morning to get the boat off the reef.

The following day a group of eight men, including himself, was dropped off at Bay Kay Cole because the boat was nearly out of fuel. Five men stayed with the boat and they went to obtain fuel. The "Amigo" was supposed to come back and pick them up. These eight men were at the mango swamps. The "Amigo" did not return but thirty British Marines came by to pick them up.

At British Honduras the British officials stated they had found this boat, eight .30 caliber rifles, one 30.00 Springfield, five .22 rifles, four .45 caliber guns, one MM, and 2,400 rounds of ammunition.

[] stated that FRANK FIORINI is the only leader that he knows and it was FIORINI who had advised that they would be furnished with arms in Mexico. He further advised that he never met Colonel QUESADA since he was supposed to have been in the contact boat, which boat they never contacted. He would not know if QUESADA is a fictitious name. He further advised that no military plans were made in Miami, except the general plans to go to Cuba.

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[] stated he did not carry any arms into Mexico from the United States and that they did not transport any arms from Vero Beach, Florida, to Brownsville, Texas.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

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Name
Address

Date of birth
Place of birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Scars

Selective Service
Registration

Previous employment

Wife

Children

Father

Mother

Brother

Sister

Pennsylvania

Dark brown
Brown

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 4, 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Date

[REDACTED] was advised of his rights, signed a waiver of rights form, and furnished the following information:

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A friend of his, [REDACTED] heard of an operation being formed by FRANK FIORINI to fight against communism in Cuba. [REDACTED] talked [REDACTED] into joining the venture. They were to leave Miami, going to Mexico. Somewhere in the Latin American countries a base was to be set up to train recruits. Their exact destination was unknown, but it was an anticommunist Cuban operation. They were to join with another group, supposedly already in some Latin American country. The second group was supposedly led by Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA. QUESADA was never seen nor was there any indication of any other troops. He believes that QUESADA is a completely fictitious person. He stated he would never have gone from the United States if he had thought that QUESADA was not a real person.

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The leader of this group was FRANK FIORINI, with the second in command to be probably [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED]. He is described as about [REDACTED] sandy hair, [REDACTED] was seen in Miami and later in Mexico.

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No arms were taken from the United States into Mexico.

Each man paid his own way and furnished his own money. He was out \$400 to \$500 on the complete trip.

There was no military operation undertaken at any time during this trip.

He left Miami by Greyhound bus, September 14, 1968, along with [REDACTED]. Somewhere near Orange, Texas, they met with [REDACTED] and all continued on to Monterrey, Mexico, by bus.

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11/3/68 Miami, Florida

MM [REDACTED]

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On _____ at _____ File # _____

SA JOHN C. PHELPS

jhk

11/4/68

by _____ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Date dictated _____

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In Monterrey, they took a bus to Mexico City. From Mexico City, they took a bus to Oaxaca on September 29, 1968. They took a bus from Oaxaca to Comitán near Guatemala. There they camped in a park in the mountains for approximately four days, after which they returned to Comitán, took a bus to Oaxaca, and from there a bus to Merida. They camped on the beach at Merida for approximately eight days.

FRANK FIORINI, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] picked him up, along with his seven companions, in a boat called the "Amigo." The eight who were picked up were himself, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] CHARLES IJAMES, [REDACTED] and CHARLES CONNELL. They then sailed along the coast of Mexico for three to four days, at which time they ran aground on a reef off British Honduras. They were there for approximately one day, removing the boat from the reef. Then they were placed on a mangrove island while the boat went into port. A day later, British authorities picked them up from the island.

At the beach near Merida, they had the following weapons: eight M-1 carbines calibre .30; one .303 rifle; one .3006 Springfield; three .30 calibre enforcers; two .45 calibre pistols; one suitcase of ammunition for all weapons.

These were kept buried in the sand at the camp. Three Cubans in Merida were supposed to have furnished the guns and ammo to the group.

The "Amigo" was supposed to be leased from Mexico somewhere around Merida. They were told another boat was to pick them up in British Honduras for their ultimate destination before their Cuban venture.

[REDACTED] were the only ones he had known prior to this venture. He knows the other members only by the names they told him. He insisted he did not know whether they are true or not.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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He advised that during their stay in the British Honduras jail, some of their identification papers had gotten mixed in with others and that he had some of the papers belonging to [redacted]

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The following description was obtained through interrogation and observation:

Name	[redacted]
Also known as	[redacted] (for purpose of this operation)
Born	[redacted] Florida
Height	[redacted]
Weight	[redacted]
Hair	Blond
Eyes	Hazel
Tattoo	[redacted]
Wife	[redacted]
Sons	[redacted]
Daughter	[redacted]
Father	[redacted]
Mother	[redacted]
	(no further address)
Social Security No.	[redacted]
Selective Service No.	[redacted]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 4, 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] was advised of his rights, read them from the waiver of rights form, had them read to him, stated he understood them, and signed the waiver form. He furnished the following information:

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He used the alias [REDACTED] only upon entering the port of Belize, British Honduras.

He had been in the Paratroops and was set for the Bay of Pigs invasion but did not get to go. This upset him greatly, and when he heard from a friend, [REDACTED] that FRANK FIORINI was planning a Cuban venture, he came to Miami to join. His friend saw an ad in a magazine or a newspaper and called him about it, so he contacted FIORINI when he arrived in Miami.

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FIORINI told him to leave Miami and go to Merida, Mexico. The plan was to join other groups who were already there and to hit Oriente Province of Cuba. There would be at least two other groups joining them. Their motive was to damage Castro as well as to lend moral support to other exile Cuban groups to encourage them to also attack Cuba.

At the outset [REDACTED] was probably considered second in command. However, after a little while, he, himself, took the number 2 position in the group as he felt [REDACTED] and the others were not capable of commanding the group.

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One of the groups they were to meet was supposedly led by FRANCISCO QUESADA. He never saw QUESADA. He believes that probably there is no such person. At the time he left Miami he thought QUESADA was real but since no evidence was seen and no other troops were located, he feels QUESADA is fictional.

They took no arms from the United States into Mexico. Each man paid his own way. He was out approximately \$800.00.

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On 11/3/68 at Miami, Florida File # MM [REDACTED] b3
by SA JOHN C. PHELPS jhk Date dictated 11/4/68 b7E

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

There was no military operation carried out during this trip.

He flew from Miami to Merida, Mexico, on September 15 or 16, 1968. He is not sure of the airline used but it was possibly Aeronaves de Mexico. He bought the ticket under his true name.

Upon arrival in Mexico, he went to the bus station in Merida and there was a reservation for him to Veracruz. He went to Veracruz and there met [redacted] This was September 16 or 17, 1968. The same day, he left Veracruz under orders from [redacted] for Oaxaca and Comitán. He arrived in Comitán September 18, 1968 and left for Laguna Sueno. He was supposed to contact other people for the group. However, he had very little luck. He never actually entered Guatemala.

He spent approximately two weeks in Camp Mud, which is near Laguna Sueno, but he would not tell exactly where it was. From there, he spent approximately one week in Camp Sand, which is near Merida, approximately 30 kilometers south of Progreso, Mexico.

About September 23, 1968, the boat "Amigo" was leased at Progreso. FRANK FIORINI, [redacted] picked him up in a taxi at Camp Sand and took him to Progreso, where they boarded the boat "Amigo," which was manned by a Captain RAMOS and his mate, both Mexicans. They then returned to Camp Sand where they picked up the remaining eight men and the equipment.

On the beach at Camp Sand were the following arms: seven M-1 carbines .30 calibre; one .03 rifle; two .22 calibre rifles; four .45 calibre pistols; one .38 calibre pistol; approximately 2,000 rounds of ammunition total for these weapons.

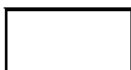
These arms were obtained from about five Latin type individuals, all across Mexico.

From Camp Sand, they proceeded south two or three days, at which time they hit a reef off British Honduras.

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They left eight men on a mangrove island and entered Belize, British Honduras. There, immigration and customs officials checked the boat, found literature on warfare and anti-communist books, etc. and detained them. They were separated and questioned and the next day the eight men on the mangrove island were picked up. They were all detained in the British Honduras jail.

The following description was obtained from interrogation and observation:

Name
Also known as
Born
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Father
Stepmother

	Minn.
Brown	
Blue	

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Local address

c/o FRANK FIORINI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 4, 1968

Date

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHARLES WILLIAM IJAMES was interviewed at the Miami International Airport immediately upon his arrival from Belize, British Honduras. He was advised of his rights. He also read his rights and signed the waiver of rights.

IJAMES advised that about three months ago, around the first of August, 1968, he read an advertisement in the "Miami Herald" newspaper about a mercenary army being assembled for South America. He wrote a card to a Colonel QUESADA, in care of an attorney named SANDSTROM (phonetic), saying that he wanted to find out more about this army. Shortly thereafter, he received a reply to this card, which said that there would be a meeting at the American Club regarding this matter. IJAMES could not recall the address of this Club nor the date of the meeting.

IJAMES stated he attended this meeting, at which about eight persons were present. FRANK FIORINI led the meeting and there was no one else there that he knew. FIORINI said they were going to form an army to fight communists in Latin America. He never said where the fighting would be. IJAMES said he attended two or three more similar meetings, including one at the American Club and another at a used car lot on 36th Street in Miami. At the other two meetings, [REDACTED] showed up. IJAMES estimates there were approximately eight persons at these other meetings. FIORINI was always in charge.

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A few days before he went to Mexico, IJAMES said he was told by FIORINI to obtain equipment and clothing for the trip. IJAMES said he bought army type dungarees, vitamins, an army type poncho and combat boots at the Army-Navy Store, Broward and 7th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He bought a sea bag to carry these items in. FIORINI told IJAMES that after the expedition was over, he would receive quite a bit of money but no sum of money was mentioned. IJAMES was to pay his own way.

The day that he left for Mexico, FIORINI picked up

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On 11/3/68 at Miami, Florida ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ File # MM [REDACTED]
by SA JOSEPH S. DAWSON jhk Date dictated 11/4/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IJAMES in a car driven by CHUCK CONNELL. This was a 1964 or 1965 white Falcon with Florida license plate. This car apparently belonged to CONNELL. Also in the car was [redacted] [redacted] They drove straight through to Mexico without stopping anywhere for sleep. IJAMES knows that they drove to Texas and then to Mexico but does not recall their exact crossing point, as he said he was asleep at the time they crossed into Mexico. He recalls hearing something about Matamoros and believes this is the area where they crossed into Mexico. He said all four then drove straight to Mexico City.

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In Mexico City, the four stayed at a hotel about two blocks from the bus station, name unrecalled. They were in Mexico City about one week. FIORINI did not say how long they were to stay in Mexico City, but after about a week, he told them to go to Merida by bus. The Falcon was left in Mexico City with FIORINI. IJAMES said that in Mexico City they met [redacted] (last name unknown) [redacted] (last name unknown). These three were staying at another hotel. He did not see any cars in their possession.

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IJAMES continued that when he went to Merida by bus from Mexico City, he was accompanied by CONNELL, [redacted] and [redacted] FIORINI told them to stay at a hotel near the AVO busline station in Merida. They did register in a hotel across the street from this busline where they stayed three or four days.

A day or so later [redacted] (last name unknown), [redacted] arrived in Merida by bus. Just prior to their arrival, FRANK FIORINI had arrived in Merida with [redacted] and [redacted] He recalls on that evening MICKEY and a big, tall boy, name unrecalled, also arrived.

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At Merida, FRANK FIORINI came to the hotel and met them. That same day, all went to the beach at Merida and camped out. They stayed at the beach for a few days. However, FRANK FIORINI, [redacted] left the beach for a few hours, went into Merida and then returned. They had gone to meet someone but the meeting had not materialized.

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The first time that IJAMES saw any weapons at all during this trip was about the first day they were on the beach. FRANK FIORINI brought the various weapons out in a car, a black 1962 Chevrolet with Mexican license plates, which car apparently belonged to some Cubans. He saw one Cuban driving this car. He said it was night and he did not get a good look at him.

IJAMES said that this group of 13 men had the following weapons: three .45 calibre automatic pistols; one .38 calibre revolver; two 9 mm. pistols; one .303 rifle; one .306 rifle; one .22 calibre rifle; and about six semiautomatic M-1 carbines.

After they were on the beach about seven days, FRANK FIORINI, [redacted] left in an attempt to rent a boat. Shortly thereafter, they arrived with a boat named "Amigo." IJAMES described this boat as a fishing type boat, 35 feet in length, with bunks, with a grey marine motor. This boat had a captain and a first mate.

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The 13 men got on this boat and they traveled what he would estimate to be about 350 miles south. Near Belize, British Honduras, they hit a reef and threw gasoline overboard in order to lighten the boat. The boat was then pushed off the reef and they pulled up to a mangrove swamp, which looked like an island. There, they unloaded all their weapons. Then the boat captain, first mate, FIORINI, [redacted] and [redacted] left with the boat to obtain fuel in Belize. The rest stayed on this island overnight, and when the "Amigo" returned on the following morning, there were British soldiers aboard and all were arrested. The weapons were impounded. IJAMES advised that there were also approximately 1500 rounds of ammunition for these weapons.

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IJAMES advised that during this entire period and up to the moment of interview, he still had no idea as to where they were going. All he knew was that this was an anti-communist army that was going into some type of action in Latin America. He said he had no idea who this Colonel QUESADA is but that FRANK FIORINI had mentioned on several occasions that he was the boss.

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As far as he knows, FIORINI is the only leader of this group.

IJAMES added that his group definitely took no arms into Mexico.

IJAMES said that he was never given one penny by FIORINI or anyone in the group and that his entire expenses were paid by him. He said that actually, they did nothing military as they never trained, were never given any instruction regarding the weapons, and no one ever fired a shot in training.

IJAMES was then told that other members of the group had mentioned that they had spent some time in a hotel in Guadalajara and was exhibited a bus ticket from Guadalajara to Mexico City. IJAMES then admitted that they had not spent a week in Mexico City but had spent that time in Guadalajara.

IJAMES said that from the United States border, they drove to Guadalajara, where they checked into the Ontario Hotel. They stayed there one week. In front of the hotel they met [redacted] and a day or so later [redacted] appeared at the hotel. [redacted] mentioned that they had been in Guadalajara one week before IJAMES had arrived there. IJAMES said that from Guadalajara, they traveled by bus to Mexico City, where they stayed a few hours and then proceeded by bus to Merida. He went to Mexico City and Merida accompanied by CONNELL, [redacted]

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IJAMES said that he last saw the Falcon in which they had driven to Mexico in the hotel parking lot in Guadalajara and at first said he did not know what happened to the car. He then said he later heard rumors among the group that this car and perhaps another one were disposed of in Guadalajara but said he has no more information regarding this matter.

Set forth below is a description of CHARLES WILLIAM IJAMES, as obtained by observation and interview:

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Born
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Complexion
Tattoos

3/11/22 Echols, Ky.

5' 9"

142 lbs.

Black, slightly greying

Hazel

Medium dark

Inside right arm -- cross with
"In Memory of Mother";

outside right forearm -- dagger;
left forearm -- butterfly

None

Military service
Education

Two years, Owensboro High School,
Owensboro, Ky.

Wife
Residence

Telephone LU 1-5568

Daughter

just moved to South Carolina,
near Waynesville
331-12-0871

Social Security No.
Florida chauffeur's
license
Employment

F-79521

Overseas Transportation Company,
also known as Florida Freight,
near Miami International Airport,
for about eight months until
recent trip to Mexico.

Arrests

Uvalde, Texas, about 28 years ago
for burglary, sentenced to two
years in Huntsville State Prison;
numerous arrests Evansville,
Indiana, about 20 years ago, for
"drunk and fighting."

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 5, 1968

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On November 3, 1968, [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami International Airport. [REDACTED] was advised of his rights, as contained in an Interrogation; Advise of Rights Form, which he executed.

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He displayed a membership card, #459, for the West Dade Democratic Club, Inc., 16 Northwest 26th Avenue, Miami. He advised that some months ago he read an advertisement in a newspaper in Fort Lauderdale, recruiting mercenaries to go to Latin America to fight communism. He thereafter went to the law office of RAY SANDSTRAM, Fort Lauderdale; did not see SANDSTRAM, but talked to his Secretary. The Secretary interviewed him and filled out personal data information, which he presumed she later sent to FRANK FIORINI.

In about May of 1968, FRANK FIORINI sent for him, and he, with his girl friend, drove from Fort Lauderdale to Miami, where he conferred with FIORINI. At this meeting was another fellow named CHUCK (last name unknown), and [REDACTED]. At this time, FIORINI advised him he was forming a group to go to Central America, receive military training, and eventually they would infiltrate Cuba and start guerrilla activities in that country.

[REDACTED] attended six or seven meetings with FIORINI and his group, at which about forty persons participated. The first meeting was at the Democratic Club; the next meeting was at a used car lot in Miami, and then there were subsequent meetings at FIORINI's home. FIORINI said that they would be paid \$1,000 per month, but later said the money would be payable after the present government of Cuba was overthrown, FIORINI indicated the money would be paid by wealthy Cuban exiles and money collected from former Presidents of several Latin American Republics.

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On about September 20, 1968, at 6:00 PM, [REDACTED] left FIORINI's house by automobile, a 1963 Ford, 4-door, white, and was driven back to Fort Lauderdale, where he obtained his

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On 11/3/68 at Miami, Florida

File # Miami [REDACTED]

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by SA ROBERT J. DWYER: plm

Date dictated 11/4/68

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luggage. [] refused to identify this person or the name of his girl friend who accompanied him in the automobile.

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From Fort Lauderdale [] and a friend went to Louisiana, where he was contacted by a representative of FIORINI, whose name [] does not know, but he presumed this contact to be an American. [] refused to say what type of transportation was used from Florida to Louisiana, or who was with him.

Thereafter, he and the friend went to Monterey, Mexico, and there was contacted by more of FIORINI's friends, whose names he did not know, but he presumed they were Latin Americans. Thereafter, they went to a beach or a shore, location unknown, and stayed there eight or nine days, living on the beach. He said he did not know the names of the persons with him.

After eight or nine days, they were contacted by FIORINI, who came personally and said they should get ready for a boat ride, and they would meet an additional group of persons. A couple days later, a fishing boat named "Amigo," operated by an unidentified Mexican Captain, took them from the beach and they went to sea for about five or six days.

Eventually, the boat struck a reef, was aground for about seven hours, and many of the mercenaries lost their personal papers, and the ship suffered a considerable loss of fuel. It was then necessary for the fishing boat to go to Belize, British Honduras, to refuel. Prior to entering Belize, eight of the mercenaries got off of the boat and entered the mangrove swamps. [] was one of these persons. In Belize, the boat was stopped, the remainder of the mercenaries were arrested, and some thirty British Marines came to the mangrove swamps and arrested [] and the eight others.

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This group spent one night in jail, appeared in court the following day; were remanded to jail, during which time an investigation was conducted, and after about six days in jail the group again appeared in court and was ordered deported. [] stayed in jail two or three more days until transportation was arranged.

[] said he did not know if Colonel QUESADA really did exist, or if he was a fictitious person. He said their group was called several different names, including Secret Army Organization, and some other names in Spanish, which he did not understand.

[] refused to comment on the identities of the other individuals involved, how he entered Mexico, what travel documents were used, or any participation in renting or stealing cars in the United States and driving them into Mexico.

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[] said he was recruited by FRANK FIORINI in Miami, Florida; military plans were made in Miami prior to their departure, and the only arms he took with him were three knives.

[] stated he has lived in Gadsden, Alabama; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Ojus, Florida; Cocoa Beach, Florida; Pensacola, Florida; Miami, Florida; San Pedro, California; New York, New York, and Atlanta, Georgia.

He said he is divorced, does not know the present whereabouts of his first wife or his father.

From observation and interview, the following physical description was obtained:

Race
Sex
Birth

White
Male

[]
Georgia

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[Redacted]

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Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Address

[Redacted]

Black
Brown

Mother

Father

Employment

Military Service

Education

[Redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/8/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHARLES ORR CONNELL was interviewed after he arrived at the Miami International Airport from Belize, British Honduras. He was advised of his rights and read a "Rights and Waiver of Rights" form, which he signed.

CONNELL said he has known FRANK FIORINI for about five years. He saw him almost daily after work, when he would go to FIORINI's house to play cards or to chat.

Around April, 1968, FIORINI told CONNELL that there would probably be some action, that some Cubans had talked to him and wanted to know if CONNELL was interested in going along on a trip to join some other Cubans. He asked CONNELL if he wanted to be a member of his army-type organization. CONNELL said that to this day he does not know the mission of this organization or where it was going. CONNELL agreed to become a member of this so-called army and was to be a photographer. He was to take pictures of training and of any action they might be in. CONNELL described this organization as an anticommunist American volunteer fighting group.

Around the middle of August, 1968, FIORINI told CONNELL to make preparations to leave the United States, destination unknown. He told CONNELL to take a camera, fatigues and boots. He did not say how long they were to be gone. CONNELL left money with FIORINI's [REDACTED] to take care of CONNELL's [REDACTED]. CONNELL said he does not know who was financing this operation. He has received no money whatsoever from FIORINI or anyone else to reimburse him for his participation in this operation.

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On 11/3/68 at Miami International Airport File # Miami [REDACTED]

by SA JOSEPH S. DAWSON:fs Date dictated 11/8/68

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On September 1, 1968, FIORINI told CONNELL they were to leave on September 15, 1968. CONNELL then resigned from his job as a truck driver for Dade County, Florida, on September 13, 1968.

On Saturday, September 28, 1968, CONNELL left Miami driving his own car, a two-door 1966 white Falcon, Florida license number 1-121234. He picked up FIORINI, CHARLES JAMES and [REDACTED]. All four drove to Mexico together. CONNELL said this car is registered in his name but he owes \$1,000 on it to the Miami First National Bank, S. W. First Street, Miami, which bank holds the title.

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CONNELL said that they drove into Mexico from Texas, but does not recall the border towns they passed through. They drove to Guadalajara, Mexico, where the four stayed at the Ontario Hotel for about seven days. Then [REDACTED] (LNU), [REDACTED] (LNU), and possibly another person, joined them at this hotel. FIORINI and CONNELL stayed in the same room and FIORINI registered under the name of FRANK BONNELLI. After he was at the hotel several days [REDACTED] appeared. He said he had taken a bus there. Then CONNELL, JAMES, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] traveled to Merida, Mexico by bus. CONNELL said he left his Falcon with FIORINI in Guadalajara, and has no idea what happened to it. He said he has never asked FIORINI about it as they are good friends.

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At Merida the four stayed at a hotel across the street from the bus station. FIORINI told them to meet him and [REDACTED] at the Merida bus station two days after leaving Guadalajara.

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A day or two later they met FIORINI, [redacted] (LNU), and [redacted] (LNU) in Merida. The following day they all went to the beach not far from Merida. The evening of the day they arrived on the beach five more men arrived, making a total of 13 men. CONNELL said he believes they were on the beach seven days.

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CONNELL said when he arrived at this beach, [redacted] and another man were there and there were apparently some weapons inside two seabags. He said that FIORINI and [redacted] did not stay on the beach and he does not know where they went. After they were on the beach about seven days, a boat named "Amigo" picked them up. This boat had a captain and mate. FIORINI was on the boat with [redacted] and possibly [redacted]. All boarded this boat and sailed south from about 4:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., at which time they were grounded on a reef. Later they were able to push the boat off the reef and went to a nearby mangrove swamp. They put all the weapons on this mangrove swamp. He had seen some of the weapons when on the boat. They included a few rifles, carbines and pistols but he does not know their descriptions or manufacturers.

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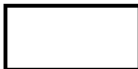
FIORINI, [redacted] then went to nearby Belize, British Honduras, on the "Amigo" and returned the following day with some soldiers, who arrested those who had remained on the mangrove swamp.

CONNELL continued that he still does not know where they were going. While on the "Amigo" he did hear they were supposed to meet some Cubans.

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CONNELL said that FIORINI was the leader of the group and  appeared to be the second in command. CONNELL said FIORINI told him that a Colonel QUESADA was using Americans on this expedition for propaganda purposes. FIORINI mentioned he thought QUESADA was an Argentinian.

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CONNELL said there was no one other than the 13 persons mentioned above on this expedition. As far as he knows there were no arms transported from the United States, and he does not know about any other cars being used other than his own Falcon.

Set forth is the description of CONNELL as obtained by observation and interview:

Name	CHARLES ORR CONNELL
Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	6/28/15
POB	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Height	5' 11"
Weight	195 pounds
Hair	Light brown, slightly graying
Eyes	Hazel
Scars and Marks	1" horizontal scar below lower lip; 1" vertical scar left forehead.
Marital Status	
Residence	(no phone)

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Employment

Dade County, Florida,
as truck driver for five
years. Resigned September
13, 1968. Worked in Public
Works Department, Road &
Bridge Section, as truck
driver

Children

None

Military Service

U. S. Army, 1944-1946,
SN 33882436, Honorable
Discharge.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/9/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami International Airport upon his arrival from British Honduras. He was advised of his rights, read his rights as set out in a Waiver of Rights form, and signed the Waiver of Rights form. He furnished the following information:

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He has been associated with FRANK FIORINI in anti-CASTRO activities since 1959. In about 1961, he, his [REDACTED] and FRANK FIORINI [REDACTED] the International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB), also known as the Secret Army Organization (SAO).

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[REDACTED] no longer is involved with the IACB. He currently resides at Lynchburg, Virginia, where he operates several automobile transmission repair shops.

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[REDACTED] and FIORINI broke off about six months ago over the insistence of FIORINI on planning military actions against the Cuban mainland. [REDACTED] felt that small scale military operations against CASTRO were futile and that the IACB should concentrate on efforts to ransom or exchange political prisoners held by CASTRO.

He said that [REDACTED] is a U. S. citizen who lived for many years in Cuba as the wife of a wealthy Cuban businessman. She reportedly supported CASTRO against BATISTA, but turned against CASTRO after he came to power. She was imprisoned for anti-CASTRO activities and was one of those Cuban political prisoners released some years ago upon payment to the CASTRO Government by the U. S. Government of a huge ransom in medicine and farm equipment.

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[REDACTED] said that he has lost several close friends over the years in operations against the present Cuban regime. For many years it was known that he held himself ready to participate in any direct action against Cuba. He is now married, with several children, and concentrates on

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On 11/3/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami [REDACTED]
by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS:cmr Date dictated 11/7/68

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his well-paid construction employment, but still feels compelled to consider participation in any well-conceived military action against the CASTRO regime. He does not consider himself a mercenary, did not enter into the just-terminated IACB expedition for financial gain, and has received a total of \$28 in cash during nine years of working against CASTRO. He has continued these efforts, despite personal and financial setbacks related to them, because he feels that it is his patriotic duty as an American to do all in his power to eliminate the foothold of Communism in this hemisphere.

He said that the abortive IACB operation which terminated in the arrest of its participants by British Honduras authorities on October 23, 1968 and October 24, 1968, was "conceived by one person and carried out by 13 persons". He did not care to go into specific identities. He did say that obviously FIORINI was in command, while he was second in command during this operation. All involved in this phase of the operation were picked up by British Honduras authorities.

Before he left Florida, he knew that the IACB group was to train for approximately six weeks in the mountains of Mexico, then was to board ship to rendezvous with another craft in the Caribbean. This second craft, which the IACB members were to transfer to at sea, was to have aboard other militants from Central and South America, nationalities not disclosed, who would participate with the IACB group in an expedition to Cuba "to fight", exact objective unknown.

He said that there were no plans to train or to conduct anti-guerrilla operations in Guatemala. As far as known to him, none of the IACB members entered Guatemala during the operation.

He said that he would not have participated in the expedition had he known of the inexperienced personnel involved. He did not see the complete IACB group assembled until just prior to departure from Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico, for the above-mentioned sea rendezvous which was not effected.

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He did not care to discuss his itinerary, means of transportation or possible companions for travel between Florida and Mexico regarding the IACB operation. He did produce a Mexican tourist card showing entrance to Mexico on August 14, 1968, at Reynosa, Tamps. S. He said that Reynosa is near Mc Allen, Texas, and that he entered Mexico alone, by bus, as [redacted] He carried no arms or ammunition into Mexico with him.

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He said that he was the advance man for the operation, that his assignment was to receive and hold IACB personnel until FIORINI arrived in Mexico. He therefore proceeded from the U. S.-Mexico border to Comitan, Mexico, near the Mexico-Guatemala border, to set up a base camp there. This area was selected because of its remoteness and because its mountainous terrain was thought ideal for training purposes.

He said that he has a superficial knowledge of certain areas of Mexico as he has done some traveling in that country with his current wife, name undisclosed, a native of Guadalajara, Jalisco State. She returned to Guadalajara with their three children after he left Florida prior to August 14, 1968.

He declined to furnish specific information concerning his travels and activities inside Mexico in connection with the IACB operation, but did say that all his travel in Mexico was by bus or taxi with the exception of one occasion, in Guadalajara, when he rode in a several-year old white or cream Ford Falcon owned by CHARLES CONNELL, one of the IACB members. He noted that he had passed some time in Guadalajara, during which he stayed with his wife and her family.

He said that the obvious disorganization in the IACB operation had been caused, not by poor planning, but by the invariably late arrivals in Mexico of IACB personnel and the lengthy period of time each small group of men consumed just attempting to locate the training site.

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He said that he had placed his reliance all during the IACB operation on the expectation of a sea rendezvous with another boat carrying additional, number unknown, troops sufficient to sustain some type of military action against the CASTRO regime. He still believes there was a second boat.

He said that he saw no reason to go into detail concerning the time period from the boarding of the "Amigo" to the inadvertent grounding of that boat on reefs outside Belize, British Honduras, the subsequent detention of the IACB members aboard by British Honduras authorities, and the ultimate expulsion of the IACB members from British Honduras following a hearing on technical charges of illegal entry to that country. These facts, he noted, have been well publicized, and he has nothing to add except that there was never any intimidation of the "Amigo" captain, who had been well paid for his efforts and was aware that he was taking his American passengers to a sea rendezvous.

He said that he first heard FIORINI mention Colonel FRANCISCO QUESADA about a year ago. No one but FIORINI has seen QUESADA to his knowledge, but he does not know whether QUESADA is an actual person or fictitious, though he previously had not doubted his existence.

He said that he purchased his own equipment, food, clothing, arms and ammunition in Mexico. He added that all the arms for this operation were bought in Mexico before a recent Mexican Government arms embargo. He did not wish to go into details regarding where in Mexico the arms were purchased or any description of the arms. He said that the arms' descriptions could be obtained from British Honduras officials, as they had seized and retained all the arms which the IACB had obtained for use in the operation.

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The tardy personnel arrivals were responsible for the lack of training at the selected base camp outside Comitán, about one mile from the Mexico-Guatemala border. For the same reason, it was decided some time after October 1, 1968, to break up the mountain base camp and proceed to Merida, Mexico, to set up a base camp near the sea, as there was a definite date for the sea rendezvous previously mentioned, and the whole operation was running late.

Those who had been at the mountain camp and those who had arrived in Mexico too late to proceed to the mountain camp were to meet at Merida. The timetable at this point was completely off. A base camp site was chosen on the beach near Progreso and the men straggled there in small groups from Merida, where they had been staying at several small hotels, names unknown.

After approximately a week at this base camp, during which time no training was conducted, arrangements were made to charter a Mexican fishing boat, the "Amigo", to carry the men to their sea rendezvous. It was his understanding that "wealthy persons in Latin America", nationalities undisclosed, had provided the craft and the personnel with which they were to rendezvous. These "wealthy persons" would finance further operations against CASTRO if this operation were successful. He said that he does not know the specific nature of the planned operation because this was not to be disclosed until the IACB group joined the other persons aboard the second craft for the final phase of the operation.

He recalled that another group inside Cuba was to carry out an unknown, simultaneous strike against the Cuban regime at the same time the IACB blow was being struck. It was also expected that the IACB action would inspire other, similar efforts inside Cuba, thereby giving a moral boost to anti-CASTRO elements within Cuba. He said that he had had no indication that the IACB operation would involve the capture of prisoners to be taken out of Cuba and later exchanged for Cuba-held political prisoners.

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He said that no military activities had been undertaken, to his knowledge, by the IACB during the operation.

He said that he knows nothing of the possible use by IACB members of automobiles stolen or rented in the U. S.

He said that he knows nothing of blank U. S. Army honorable discharge papers, birth certificates or Florida motor vehicle title certificates which reportedly had been issued to IACB recruits prior to their departure from Florida.

He said that he had met [redacted] known for purposes of this operation as [redacted] about 15 times prior to the start of the expedition. [redacted] did not have a leadership position in the operation and has no leadership qualities.

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He said that he has never met RAY SANDSTROM, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida attorney who is reportedly the IACB legal advisor. He intends to contact SANDSTROM, however, concerning information received from British Honduras authorities while incarcerated there that SANDSTROM had been contacted regarding the IACB prisoners and had expressed no particular interest in their plight.

He said that the 13 Americans detained by British Honduras authorities were the only ones involved, to his knowledge, in the IACB operation.

No Cubans, Mexicans, Guatemalans, or other Latin Americans, were known by him to have taken any part in IACB activities during that group's stay in Mexico.

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[redacted] is described from observation
and interview as follows:

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Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Characteristic

Residence

Telephone
Employment

[redacted]
White
Male

[redacted]
North Carolina

[redacted]
Brown
Blue

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/9/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami International Airport upon his arrival from British Honduras. He was advised of his rights, read these rights in a Waiver of Rights form, and signed the form. He furnished the following information:

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In August, 1968, he had been employed at the Sugar Shack Bar, 656 North Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and was residing at [REDACTED]. At that time, [REDACTED] a friend, saw an ad in a Ft. Lauderdale newspaper which asked for mercenary soldiers to form an army which would fight Communism in Latin America. He and [REDACTED] talked about joining this expedition, and [REDACTED] was in touch with FRANK FIORINI in Miami, Florida, concerning the force, which he later learned was the Secret Army Organization (SAO), also known as the International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB).

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Towards the end of September, 1968, [REDACTED] indicated that he, [REDACTED] was definitely to participate in the IACB operation. [REDACTED] had attended no IACB meetings to this point and had not seriously considered participation as he had been advised that those participating were to furnish their own equipment and transportation, and would not be paid until completion of the operation. This self-financing was not possible on his part as he had not been paid at his employment for three months.

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At any rate, he was directed by [REDACTED] to the residence of FIORINI in Miami. He explained to FIORINI that he had no money but FIORINI told him that he could participate anyway, and that he should just bring clothing. FIORINI also told him that their operation would be against Cuba, but [REDACTED] furnished no details, saying that he and the others would be told the details of the operation later. FIORINI did indicate that the IACB group would join Cuban exiles, who would also participate in the operation, in "South America".

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On 11/3/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami [REDACTED]
by SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS:cmr Date dictated 11/7/68

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MM [REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

His impression after talking to FIORINI was that the group would participate in guerrilla activities in Cuba. FIORINI indicated that the Cuban people were ready for guerrilla warfare and that such was already being carried on to a limited extent inside Cuba.

He said that he left from Ft. Lauderdale approximately the first Saturday in October, 1968, with FRANK FIORINI, CHARLES CONNELL and CHARLES IJAMES. All traveled in a several-year old white Ford Falcon owned by CONNELL, destination Mexico, site there unknown. FIORINI indicated at that time that others had already left for Mexico.

He said that they drove straight through to the Mexican border in about two days, entering Mexico at Roma, Texas. They were transporting no arms or ammunition, to his knowledge. At the Mexican border, he used his true name and showed a Florida driver's license, plus U. S. Air Force discharge papers, to identify himself.

During the drive from Florida to Mexico, he received the impression that their destination was Acapulco, but once inside Mexico they proceeded to Guadalajara, where they stayed about four days at the Ontario Hotel. Here they met [REDACTED] (LAST NAME UNKNOWN). It was indicated that they were waiting for [REDACTED] whose last name he later learned to be [REDACTED] who would take them to a mountain base camp where others were already in training.

When [REDACTED] did arrive at the Ontario Hotel, Guadalajara, he conferred several times privately with FIORINI, after which it was announced by these two that [REDACTED] and three others were to proceed to Merida, Mexico, instead of to the mountain base camp. FIORINI, CURTIS and [REDACTED] meanwhile, were to proceed to the mountain base camp and direct those there to break up that camp and proceed to Merida, where the entire force would converge.

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He did not know what mission [] had at that point.

He, [] JAMES and CONNELL thereupon proceeded to Merida by bus by means of Mexico City and Veracruz.

At Merida, they stayed at the St. George Hotel for about two days before FRANK FIORINI, [] and [] arrived there in a red automobile, year, make and model unrecalled. The other four men who comprised the final 13-man IACB force arrived at Merida on their own, presumably by bus.

From Merida, they proceeded to a camp site on the beach near Progreso, Mexico, a short distance from Merida. All 13 traveled to the camp site from Merida in the red car on several trips. The only construction at the camp site was a lean-to built of poncho halves. He learned at the camp site that [] had ordered the group's arms and ammunition buried nearby in the sand inside a duffel bag. Several days later, this duffel bag was taken up to check the condition of the weapons. It was at this point that he saw the group's weapons for the first time. They included a Springfield .03 rifle, about eight carbines, apparently U. S. manufactured, and three .45 caliber pistols, apparently also of U. S. manufacturing. There was also one case of .30 caliber ammunition but no hand grenades or explosives of any description. All the weapons appeared rusted and pitted as a result of having been buried in the sand. They remained on the beach for about one week, but conducted no training.

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FIORINI and [] never stayed overnight on the beach, nor did they indicate where they were staying. The others all slept in the same lean-to.

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About a week after their arrival at the beach, they boarded a charter boat, the "Amigo," at Progreso. At this time, FIORINI and [] advised the others that the group would rendezvous at sea with another boat and would transfer to that boat, joining undisclosed number of other men. This second boat would then proceed to Cuba to conduct an undisclosed operation there.

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He said that FRANK FIORINI was the undisputed leader of the IACB operation and [] was second in command.

He recalled several mentions of a Colonel QUESADA as the ultimate person behind this operation but now has the feeling that QUESADA may be fictitious as conversations with several of the others involved disclosed that none had ever seen Colonel QUESADA and that although QUESADA was said to be very wealthy, very little money had been spent on this operation outside of the amounts expended from personal funds by those involved.

He said that he saw no Cubans, Mexicans, or, for that matter, any "outsiders" during the abortive expedition.

He said that after several days at sea, the "Amigo" ran aground on a reef near Belize, British Honduras. The 13 Americans aboard were arrested by British Honduras authorities and charged with illegal entry into that country after five of the group had taken the "Amigo" into Belize for refueling and repairs following the grounding. The sea rendezvous was never effected and he could not say whether or not there ever was a second craft.

He was unable to furnish any information concerning the second craft or its passengers, these details not having been furnished by FIORINI.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He said that the operation was obviously poorly planned and conducted in a day-by-day, slipshod manner. He said that FIORINI seemed to be groping all the way without definite aims. Because of this, he has considered the possibility that the whole affair was a hoax perpetrated by FIORINI and [] although he cannot understand why they would want to involve themselves and others in such a hoax.

b6
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He said that he knows nothing about the possible use of stolen or rented cars during the operation. He said that the only cars he saw were the Falcon, presumably owned by CONNELL, and the red car, which seemed to belong to []. He did not know the present whereabouts or possible disposition of either car.

He said that no military activities were actually undertaken by the group, to his knowledge, and that the 13 Americans arrested at British Honduras, and ultimately deported from that country to the U. S., were the only persons involved in the operation, to his knowledge, outside those presumably aboard the second craft with whom the rendezvous was to take place.

He said that he was induced to participate in the IACB operation by a patriotic desire to be part of an action against Communist Cuba. He was also taken in by the promise that all who participated would receive, upon the downfall of CASTRO, back pay of \$1,000 per month salary, plus a \$10,000 yearly bonus.

The following description of [] was obtained by observation and interview:

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MM
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[Redacted]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Name
Aliases
Sex
Race
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Residence

[Redacted]

None
Male
White

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Missouri

Blond
Blue

[Redacted]

Telephone
Employment
Arrests

-89-*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida
November 9, 1968

Title

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE (IACB),
Also Known As ORGANIZACION EJERCITO SECRETO
DE LA BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA
(SECRET ARMY ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE);
FRANK ANGELO FIORINI;



CHARLES WILLIAM IJAMES;



CHARLES ORR CONNELL;



Character



Reference Report of SA FRANCIS E. GIBBONS dated
November 9, 1968, captioned as above
at Miami.

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

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to
your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed
outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1477801-001

Total Deleted Page(s) = 16

Page 6 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 8 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 10 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 12 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 13 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 14 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 15 ~ b7D;

Page 16 ~ b7D;

Page 17 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 18 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 19 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 20 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 24 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;

Page 28 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 30 ~ b7D;

Page 31 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

June 20, 1967

J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, and others
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ
[REDACTED]

b3
b7E

This is in reply to your memorandum of June 2, 1967 in which you requested being advised as to whether the facts of the captioned matter constitute a violation of the neutrality statutes or any other statutes within your jurisdiction.

A review of the information furnished indicates a possible violation of the Neutrality Act (18 U.S.C. 956); however, additional investigation will be necessary before a prosecutive determination can be made. In addition, there may be a violation of the regulations issued under 22 U.S.C. 1934 if the explosives involved appear on the munitions list maintained by the Office of Munitions Control of the State Department.

Therefore, it is requested that we be advised as to the specific type and quantity of the explosives found by the Mexican authorities and whether or not the items conform in kind and number to those referred to by [REDACTED]. It is also requested that it be determined whether the explosives appear on the munitions control list. We would also appreciate being advised as to whether there are any records available to establish that [REDACTED] sent a \$200 telegraph money order to Fiorini in Mexico.

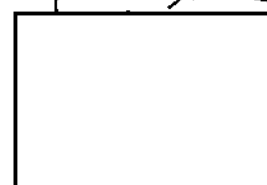
b6
b7C

Upon receipt of the foregoing information, we will advise you of our prosecutive determination in this case.

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SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED



867
F. O.
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FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, aka, et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN
SHIP IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY
(Title) VERACRUZ

(File No.)

b3
b7E
b7D

1.

Legat, Mexico City (filed 8/3/67 mc)

- furnished by

Disposition:

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

b3
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b3
b7E

File No

[Redacted]

Date Received

7-21-67

From

Director, FBI

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By

SAC, WFO

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned

Yes

☐

No

☐

Description:

[Redacted]

b7D

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

firm.
by Legat, Mex. City

b3

b7E



b3
b7E

INFC



b3
b7E

6/27/67

airtel

To: SACs, Miami [redacted] (Enclosure) b3
WFO (Enclosure) b7E
Legat, Mexico City [redacted] (Enclosure)

From: Director, FBI [redacted]

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ

b3
b7E

FRANK A. FIORINI

b3
b7E

FRANK FIORINI
num. sub.
ID

ReBulet to Assistant Attorney General J. Walter
Yeagley, 6/2/67.

Attached for each recipient is copy of Department's
reply dated 6/20/67.

Mexico determine specific type and quantity of
explosives found by Mexican authorities and determine whether
these items conform in kind and number to those referred to
by [redacted] Mexico advise Bureau, Miami, and
WFO of results of its inquiries.

b6
b7C

WFO, upon receipt of data from Mexico, determine
from Office of Munitions Control whether the explosives
recovered by Mexican authorities appear on the Munitions
Control list.

b6
b7C

Miami and Mexico City endeavor to determine whether
there are any records available to establish that [redacted]
[redacted] sent a \$200 telegraph money order to Fiorini in Mexico.

1 - San Antonio [redacted] (Enclosure)

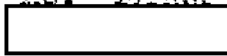
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SEARCHED [] INDEXED []
SERIALIZED [] FILED []
JUN 28 1967
FBI - WASH. F. O.
Holtz 13

received on
7/14/67
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7/100/67

Airtel to SAC, Miami
Re: FRANK ANGELO FIORELLI, et al



b3
b7E

All offices handle by airtel with letterhead memorandum for dissemination attached. Give this matter expeditious and preferred attention.

July 6, 1967

A I R T E L

TO : Director, FBI [redacted] b3
FROM : Legat, Mexico City [redacted] (P) b7E
SUBJECT: "CHANGED"
FRANK ANGELO PEORINI, aka.,
Frank Fournie; et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ
[redacted] b3
b7E

ATTENTION: CRYPT-TRANS SECTION

Title is being marked "Changed" to add the alias FRANK FOURNIE, by which name the Subject received cabled funds at Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is a four-page copy of a report prepared by [redacted]

[redacted] Also enclosed are 12 copies

b7D

Re Bureau airtel to Miami dated 6/27/67.

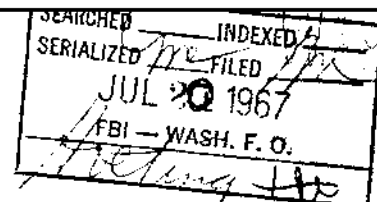
On 7/5/67 [redacted] (protect as a confidential source [redacted]) b6
b7C

[redacted] made available [redacted] which was prepared by the [redacted] b7D

8 - Bureau (Enc.-14)
(1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - Miami, [redacted])
(2 - Washington Field)

b3
b7E

1 - Mexico City
EDB:aho
(10)



b3
b7E

XXX



b3
b7E

It is requested that the report, which is in some detail, be translated at the Bureau and the translation be furnished to the Mexico City Office and at that time a letterhead memorandum concerning the material received from [redacted] will be prepared.

b6
b7C
b7D

7/20/67

airtel

To: SACs, Miami [redacted] (Enclosures - 2)
WFO (Enclosures - 2) [redacted]
Legat, Mexico City [redacted] (Enclosure)

b3
b7E

From: Director, FBI [redacted]

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ

[redacted]
b3
b7E

ReBuairtel 6/27/67 and Mexico City airtel 7/6/67,
copies of which are attached for Miami and WFO.

Attached for each recipient is copy of translation
of report prepared by [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]
in this case.

ReMexico City airtel indicates on page 2 that the

[redacted]
b6
b7C
b7D

for
On page 3 of re Mexico City airtel, Legat, Mexico
indicated that upon receipt of the translation of the report
a letterhead memorandum concerning the data received from the
above-mentioned [redacted] would be prepared.

b7D

[redacted]
b3
b7E

5-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 20 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Holmes
pin

Airtel to SAC, Miami

Re: FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, et al

b3

b7E

It is not clear to the Bureau from wording in re Mexico City airtel whether data furnished by [redacted] can be further disseminated, especially to the Internal Security Division of the Department which requested this investigation and to the Department of State with which the Department of Justice would, by necessity, have to discuss the case to arrange for appropriate testimony of [redacted]. It appears that restrictions placed by [redacted] in furnishing data to Legat, Mexico "solely for information" was possibly to emphasize the fact that the data could not be used as evidence without proper arrangements made through diplomatic channels.

b7D

When the above data (which is definitely most pertinent to the current investigation) is submitted in letterhead memorandum, clarify above in cover pages thereto and specifically advise what the Internal Security Division of the Department can be told to assist in gathering evidence and otherwise preparing its case for possible prosecution.

WFO, as indicated in re Bureau airtel, will determine from the Office of Munitions Control whether the explosives recovered by Mexican authorities appear on the Munitions Control list.

Miami endeavor to further identify [redacted] who is mentioned in the referenced Mexico City airtel.

b6

b7C

Copies of [redacted] are being made and will be furnished Miami and WFO separately. All offices handle inquiries in this matter by airtel.

b7D

Enclosed along with the above statement were the

7/21/67

airtel

To: SACs, Miami [redacted] (Enclosure)
WFO (Enclosure) *lm*
Legat, Mexico City [redacted] (Enclosure)
From: Director, FBI [redacted]

b3
b7E

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ

[redacted]
b3
b7E

ReBuairtel 7/20/67, which indicated that photographs
were being made and would be furnished Miami and WFO.

One set of the photographs is being attached for
Miami and WFO. Since the Bureau does not know whether
Mexico City has retained set of the photographs, a set is
attached for Mexico City.

59
lm

[redacted]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 21 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Hutchings

b3
b7E

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 26, 1967

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI,
also known as Frank Anthony Sturgis;

[REDACTED]
also known as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
also known as [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

On July 5, 1967, a confidential source [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which is set forth
verbatim as follows (translation from Spanish):

b7D

[REDACTED]

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Group I
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

b3
b7E

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 2 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Hetting
gm

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

b6
b7C
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

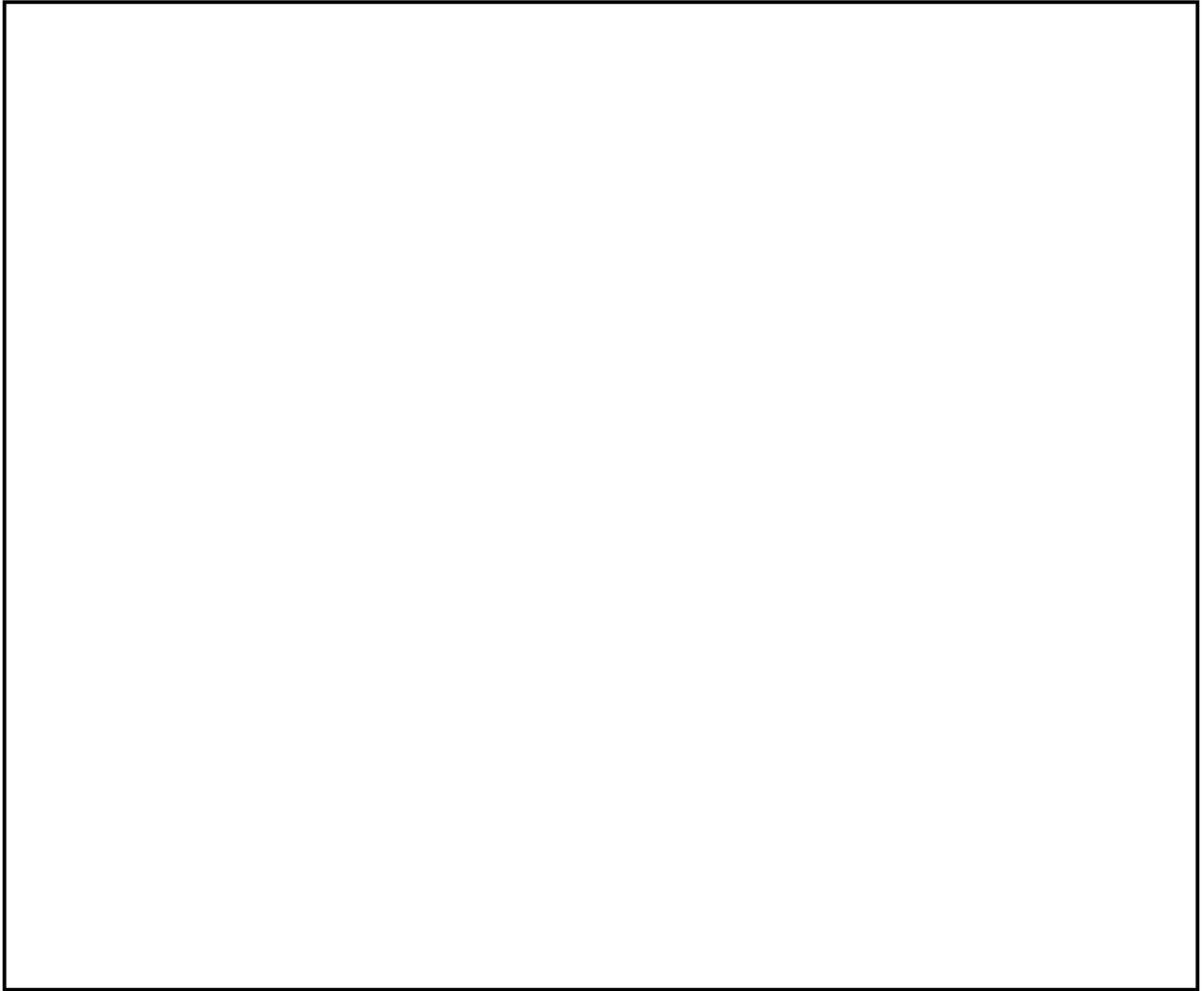
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

b6
b7C
b7D



*

On July 5, 1967, the confidential source [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] On the reverse side

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

On July 22, 1967, the above source advised that
investigation at the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] according to the source.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☒ Miami
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☐ New Haven
☐ New Orleans

☐ New York City
☐ Norfolk
☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa
☒ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date AUG 1 1967

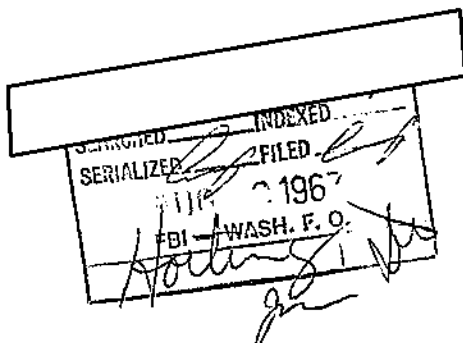
RE:

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:



Enc
Bufile
Urfile

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b7E

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED] DATE: 7/26/67

FROM: LEGAT, MEXICO CITY [REDACTED] P

RE: FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, aka; ET AL
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ
[REDACTED]

b3
b7E

ENCLOSURES:

Enclosed are 13 copies of letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above.

REFERENCE:

Miami Airtel dated 7/1/67
Mexico City airtel dated 7/6/67
Bureau airtel dated 7/20/67

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[REDACTED] has advised that, while the material he has furnished this office may be prepared for dissemination with the originating source protected, this material may not be used as evidence. However, the original copy of the [REDACTED] properly certified, the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] can be produced in court upon completion of the correct [REDACTED] by the United States government [REDACTED]. In that sense, the material presently furnished by [REDACTED] is for information only, in order that the United States government will know what evidence can be made available if [REDACTED] accedes to a request to produce it.

6 - Bureau (Encl. 13)
(1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - Miami, [REDACTED])

1 - Mexico City

RJC:gmh

(7)

b3
b7E

b3
b7E

*page 4, p. 7
Confidential per
FBI-7-2-67
JRM*

MEX []

b3
b7E

It is noted that the telephone number in Miami called by FIORINI, referred to in enclosed LHM, appears to lack one digit as it was recorded.

SOURCE:

b6
b7C
b7D

The confidential source []

[] (by request).

CLASSIFICATION:

Enclosed LHM is classified ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ to protect the confidential source.

LEAD:

MEXICO CITY OFFICE

AT MEXICO, D.F.

Will follow and report any developments in this matter.

COPIES:

Dissemination of enclosed LHM is being made to the American Embassy and [] at Mexico, D.F.

b3
b7E

SUGGESTION FOR BUREAU:

The Bureau may wish to pass copies of the photographs mentioned in enclosed LHM to the Department and other interested agencies.

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 7-1-66)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☒ Miami
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☐ New Haven
☐ New Orleans

☐ New York City
☐ Norfolk
☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa
☒ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Manila
☒ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Rio de Janeiro
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date August 3, 1967

RE: **FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, aka, et al
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ**

b3
b7E

☐ For information ☐ Retention optional ☒ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____
☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.
☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

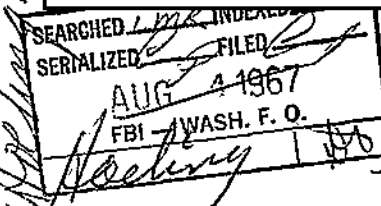
Remarks:

REMEKairtel 7/26/67 with enclosure.

done **At end of paragraph 3, page 4, of enclosure
add phrase** b7D

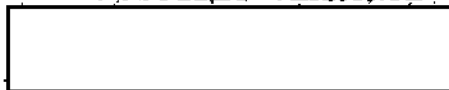
b3
b7E

Enc.
Bufile.
Urfile.



Washington, D.C. 20535
August 10, 1967

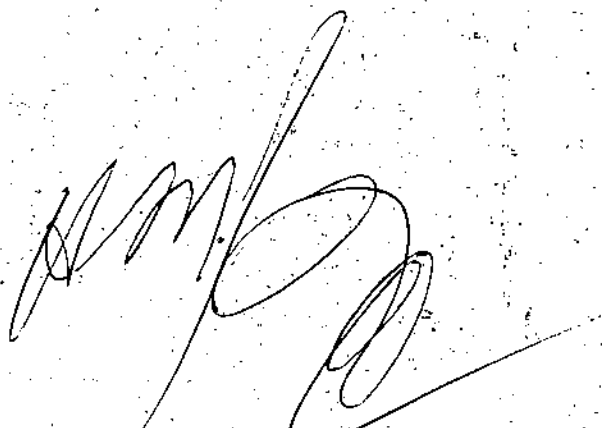
FRANK ANGELO FIORINI
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP
CUBAN SHIP IN MEXICAN PORT,
POSSIBLY VERACRUZ



b3
b7E

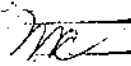
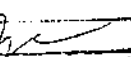
On August 9, 1967, [redacted] Security
Screening and Licensing Officer, Office of Munitions Control,
United States Department of State advised that additional
descriptive data or chemical analysis is necessary in order
to make a determination whether the explosives reported as
located near Ciudad Mante, Tamoulipas, on May 8, 1967, are
on the Munitions Control list.

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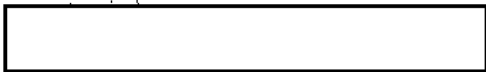
A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to a high-ranking official.

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

1*

Search 
Index 

b3
b7E



8/10/67

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

b3
b7E

FROM: SAC, WFO [redacted] (RUC)

FRANK ANGLO FIORINI, Et al;
Reported plans to blow up
Cuban ship in Mexican port,
possibly Veracruz

[redacted]
(00:DU)

b3
b7E

ReFulets 7/20-21/67.

Enclosed are ten copies of LHM's dated and captioned
as above containing information furnished by [redacted]
to SA DONALD MOETING. Additional copies of the enclosures
is furnished to the Bureau for transmittal to Legat, and
Mexico City. Miami is being furnished a copy for information.

b6
b7C

4- Bureau (Encs. 10)

(1- Legat. Mexico City) [redacted]

1- Miami [redacted] (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)

① WFO 8/10/67

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b7E

DH:dmc
(6)

AIRTEL

FILE STRIPPED

Date: 8/10/67

Ser
Soc
Index
Filed

b3
b7E

Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General

August 14, 1967

Director, FBI

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, and others
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ

b3
b7E

Reference is made to our previous communications in the captioned matter particularly to your communication dated June 20, 1967, and to our communication dated August 7, 1967, with enclosure.

Your June 20, 1967, communication requested that a determination be made as to whether the explosives recovered in this matter appear on the Munitions Control List. Our August 7, 1967, communication transmitted a

b7D

Attached is a copy of a memorandum dated August 10, 1967, at Washington, D. C., which indicates that an official of the Office of Munitions Control advised that additional descriptive data or chemical analysis is necessary in order to make a determination as to whether the explosives are on the Munitions Control List.

We are endeavoring to obtain additional information concerning the explosives. If additional data is obtained, it will be referred to the Office of Munitions Control so that a determination can be made.

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b7E

Enclosure

- 1 - Miami [redacted]
- 2 - Mexico City [redacted] (Enclosures - 2)
- ① - WFO [redacted]

b3
b7E

SEE NOTE FOR LEGAT
MEXICO CITY, PAGE TWO

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 15 1967
FBI - WASH. F. O.

b3
b7E

Mr. J. Walter Yeagley

NOTE FOR LEGAT, MEXICO CITY:

Attached for Mexico is copy of WFO airtel 8/10/67 with enclosure.

Endeavor to obtain additional descriptive data or chemical analysis of the explosive material so that further contact can be had with the Office of Munitions Control. Submit any additional pertinent data in this regard in form suitable for dissemination.

DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

8-31-67

b3
b7E

LEGAT, MEXICO [REDACTED] (P)

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI; ET AL;
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP
CUBAN SHIP IN MEXICAN PORT,
POSSIBLE VERACRUZ

[REDACTED]
b3
b7E

Re Bureau letter to Mr. J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant
Attorney General, dated 8-14-67,

On 8-24-67 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(PROTECT IDENTITY), advised that to his knowledge the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
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b7D

He stated that for such analysis to be made, the
request would have to be made through official diplomatic
channels by the United States Government directly to the
Mexican Government.

LEADS

MEXICO CITY

At Mexico, D.F.

Will be alert for further developments in this
matter.

6 - Bureau

(1 - Liaison Section)

(2 - Miami, [REDACTED])

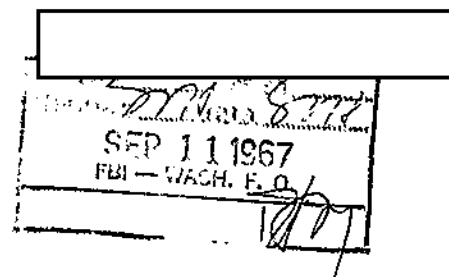
(1 - Washington Field, [REDACTED])

1 - Mexico City

b3
b7E

b3
b7E

RJG:wr
(7)



TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☒ Miami - 2
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☐ New Haven
☐ New Orleans

☐ New York City
☐ Norfolk
☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa
☒ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date SEP 8 1967

RE:

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Enc.
Bufile
Urfile

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SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....	
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
SEP 11 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

October 6, 1967

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MEXAS, MEXICO CITY [redacted]

P*

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, aka; ET AL
Reported Plans to Blow Up Cuban Ship
in Mexican Port, Possibly Veracruz

[redacted]
b3
b7E

Re Mexico City letter 8/31/67, and Miami letter 9/14/67.

On September 26, 1967, [redacted]

[redacted] (DPS), who should be
protected as a confidential source [redacted]

b6
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b7D

[redacted] again indicated that the results
of the chemical analysis desired may be obtained upon presentation
of a formal request through official diplomatic channels by
the government of the United States [redacted]

Mexico City is placing this case in a pending-inactive
status.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

The Bureau is requested to initiate necessary action
for the request of the desired chemical analysis through
diplomatic channels.

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6 - Bureau

(1 - Liaison Section)

(2 - Miami, [redacted])

(1 - Washington Field, [redacted])

Info)

1 - Mexico City

RJC:gmh

(7)

b3
b7E

[redacted]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 13 1967	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General

October 18, 1967

Director, FBI

FRANK ANGELO FIORINI, and others
REPORTED PLANS TO BLOW UP CUBAN SHIP
IN MEXICAN PORT, POSSIBLY VERACRUZ

b3
b7E

Reference is made to my letter dated August 14, 1967, with enclosure which indicated that an official of the Office of Munitions Control advised that additional descriptive data or chemical analysis was necessary in order to make a determination as to whether the explosives in this case are on the Munitions Control List.

On September 26, 1967, a confidential source

b6
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b7D

You may desire to request that a chemical analysis be made through the appropriate diplomatic channels. In the event that this is done, it is requested that this Bureau be advised.

b3
b7E

- 1 - Miami [redacted] (Enclosure) (cc MEXlet 10/6/67)
1 - Mexico City [redacted]
① - WFO [redacted] (Enclosure) (cc MEXlet 10/6/67)

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b7E

CONSOLIDATED

AUG 19 1971
Date

Initials *gr*

SEARCHED *SM* INDEXED *SM*
SERIALIZED *SM* FILED *SM*
OCT 19 1967
FBI - WASH. F. O.
Wood

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b7E