

THE MAN WHO DROPPED A HAMMER ON JFK

UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF FRANK FIORINI STURGIS

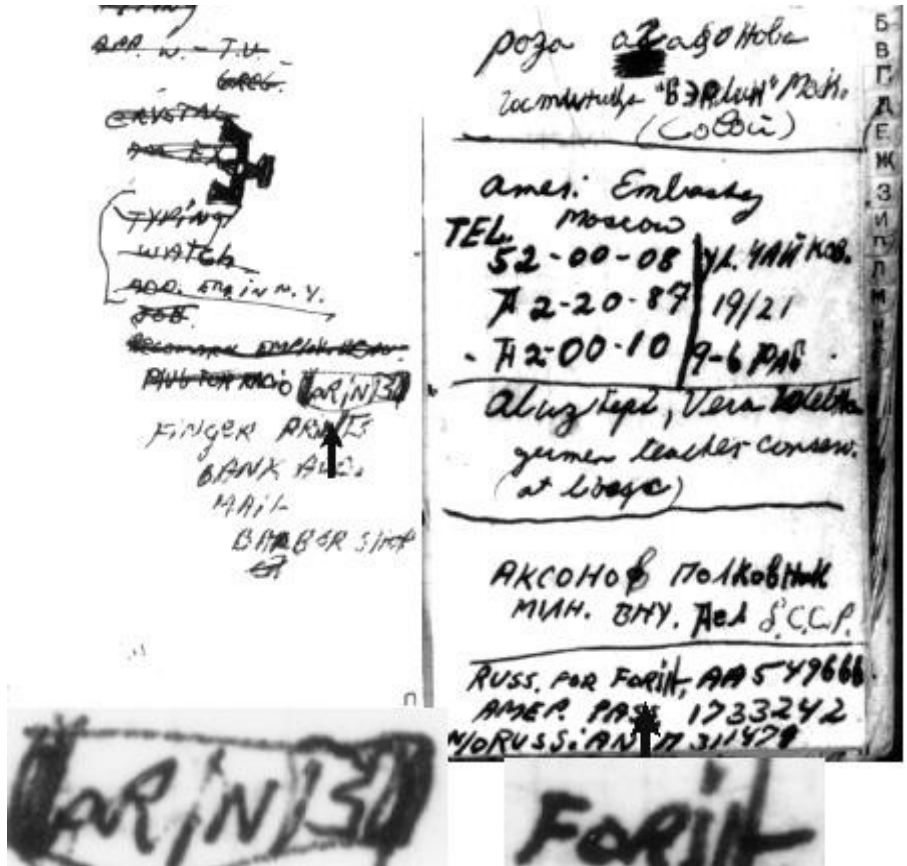
by [A. J. Weberman](#)



FRANK FIORINI STURGIS AND CHE GUEVARA IN THE SIERRA MASTRE
MOUNTAINS IN 1958

FRANK STURGIS'S REAL NAME (FIORINI) WAS IN OSWALD'S ADDRESS BOOK

The name "Forinis" appeared in Oswald's address book.



Asked to assess that entry in 1978, Sturgis responded:

A. If that name is me, I guarantee he got me in there to be set up to be killed, because at that time I was very strongly anti-Communist, my name was in the paper quite a bit, and he, supposedly by his wife's testimony, made an attempt to kill General Walker, who was an outspoken --

Q. John Connally was in the address book.

A. Whatever; and Richard Nixon, and so forth.

Q. Do you feel that you were in the same class on a hit list of Oswald's?

A. If that is my name there. I don't think that's my name there, but if that is my name, I would assume that this is his reason.

The words "Russ for Forin" also appeared. The letters "l-n" were written in a different ink. Hemming: "F-o-r-l-n. He's using a phonetic misspelling to indicate something else. You're correct."

FRANK FIORINI STURGIS 1924 TO 1945

It was unclear when Frank Fiorini's mother, Mary Vona, was born. In 1945 Mary Vona listed her age as 35 years old on her daughter's birth certificate. Frank Angelo Fiorini



wed Mary Vona in 1920 in Norfolk, Virginia; their son, Frank Anthony Fiorini was born there on December 9, 1924. Both Frank's mother and father were first generation Italian-Americans. The Fiorini family was in the produce business. Italian was spoken quite a bit in the household so Frank grew up bilingual. Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission that his father's name was Angelo Anthony Fiorini. "Both of my mother's parents were born in Italy, and both of my father's parents were born in Italy." His parents were divorced in 1926 shortly after Frank's older half sister, Carmella, age 6, was killed in a fire. Frank Fiorini moved to the home of his aunt, Kathleen Parsons, in Philadelphia. This dwelling was a former servant's quarters. Also living there were Frank's Aunt Katherine and her son, Joey, who was a few years younger than Frank. He was very close to his cousin and considered Joey a brother. Unfortunately, Joey was killed during the Korean War. Frank was deeply affected by his death which he blamed on the Communists

in North Korea and their ally, Red China. Frank Fiorini lived in Philadelphia from 1930 to 1942. In 1939 Mary Vona married Ralph Sturgis. During his deposition in *Hunt v Weberman*, Sturgis was *not* asked if his stepfather legally adopted him, but the FBI found no indication of this during its investigation. Frank Fiorini went to Catholic school then attended Roosevelt Junior High School, Philadelphia, and Germantown High School, Philadelphia. At 16, his I.Q. was 96. After two years of high school, Frank Fiorini became an apprentice machinist, and worked in a ball bearing factory. Sturgis would later claim that:

Before the war I had strong leanings toward becoming a Catholic priest. And, if the war hadn't come about, I would have. But then the war came, and I felt very patriotic and very strong in wanting to defend this country: patriotism became a substitute for the priesthood



MILITARY SERVICE



In his senior year of high school, Frank joined the Marines in Philadelphia on October 5, 1942. Because he was only 17 years old his mother had to give her written permission. His term of enlistment was for "THE DURATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY". In October 1942 he trained at Parris Island, South Carolina. His infantry weapons record listed him as a "sharpshooter." Sturgis was shipped to the Pacific jungles, where, on March 16, 1943, he volunteered for the Marine's toughest unit, the First Marine Raider Battalion, First Marine Raider Regiment, First Marine Amphibious Corps - the legendary Edson's Raiders, where he was a message center man. Sturgis said he "Went behind enemy lines and disrupted communications and supply lines, sent back intelligence information...prisoners if possible." [*High Times* Interview] He also served as an Automatic Rifleman and later as a "Rifle Gr. Lor.-(937)" He left Norfolk, Virginia, on December 15, 1942, and arrived in American Samoa in January 1943. On **March 1, 1943**, Sturgis left American Samoa and sailed to New Caladonia. In May 1943 he left New Caladonia for Guadalcanal. He participated in action against the enemy on New Georgia Island, British Solomon Islands, from July 4, 1943, to August 29, 1943. On September 4, 1943, Sturgis' unit was given this commendation:

The part played by your force, (Deleted), is a story of sacrifice and hardship that will long live in the pages of American Military History. In the face of heavy odds of weather, dense jungle, and savage resistance by the enemy, in virtually impregnable positions, your forces carried the fight to the Jap, in the (Deleted) region, relentlessly and with superb heroism, pinning the enemy to the ground and with the aid of elements of the (Deleted) Division, flanking him from the south, forced him to eventually withdraw. M. F. Harmon, Lt. General.



Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal wrote this commendation:

For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces, during the invasion of Guam, Marianas Islands, From July 21, 1944, to August 10, 1944. Functioning as a combat unit for the first time, the First Provisional Marine Brigade forced a landing against strong hostile defenses and well camouflaged positions, steadily advancing inland under the relentless fury of the enemy's heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire to secure a firm beachhead by nightfall. Executing a difficult turning movement to the north, this daring and courageous unit fought its way yard by yard through the mangrove swamps, dense jungles and over cliffs and though terrifically reduced in strength under the enemies fanatical counter-attacks, hunted the Japanese in caves, pill boxes and foxholes and exterminated them. By their individual acts of gallantry and their indomitable fighting teamwork throughout this bitter and costly struggle, the men of the First Provisional Brigade aided immeasurably in the restoration of Guam to our sovereignty.

Sturgis was in Guadalcanal in January 1944 and engaged in combat with the enemy on New Georgia Island, British Solomon Islands. On March 17, 1944, Sturgis embarked on board APD's and sailed from Guadalcanal and participated in the seizure of Emirau Island. On March 23, 1944, he was back in Guadalcanal. On **May 30, 1944**, Sturgis embarked on board an LST at Guadalcanal and sailed there from on May 31, 1944. On July 21, 1944, he disembarked at Guam Island, Marianas Group, and participated in action against the enemy. He was wounded in the right wrist in Guam on July 21, 1944, (Sturgis had a one inch scar outside his right wrist), and won the Purple Heart in August 1944. No disciplinary action was noted in his records. He had attained the rank of Corporal. His principal duties were "Machine Gun crew man, Automatic Rifleman F. T. Leader." He left Guam on March 14, 1945, and disembarked March 15, 1945, at Okinawa, and participated in action against the enemy. He left there on May 7, 1945. On May 30, 1945, Sturgis left Guam and arrived in Seattle, Washington, on June 17,

1945. Sturgis: "I was considered, with my Marine training for those years, to be an expert in all types of weapons." [Rock. Comm. Test. p25] While on leave, Sturgis fathered a son, Ronnie Sturgis, born July 1, 1944. Ronnie Sturgis advised the FBI in 1967: "My father abandoned me. My mother died when my father was overseas. I first contacted my father in 1960, after I saw an article about him in *Parade* magazine."

ALMOND KINZELL HULSEY

Sturgis' mother, nee Mary Vona, divorced Ralph Sturgis and married Almond Kinzell Hulsey, (born January 4, 1913 died April 1974) a 32 year old bus driver for the Miami Transit Company, in 1945. Sturgis told the Norfolk Police Department his mother's name was Mary Hulsey. [FBI 139-4089-146] Hulsey and Mary Vona Fiorini Sturgis had a child: The Navy reported:



To Whom This May Concern: **June 4, 1945**

Subject: Mrs. Mary Fiorini, mother of Corp. Frank A. Fiorini, USMC.

1. Subject Mrs. Fiorini is a patient under the care of medical officers at this dispensary before and since the delivery of her last baby on February 24, 1945 at the U.S. Naval Dispensary, Miami Beach, Florida. At present she is very much concerned with the care of herself and the infant who is a feeding problem.

2. According to the credited information from Subject, Mrs. Fiorini, and from Navy Relief investigators, she is a dependent-in-fact of her son, Corp. Frank A. Fiorini, who has served with the Marines overseas for three years and was wounded in action. Her present infant is the child of a civilian who disappeared five and a half weeks after their marriage. She must take care of the child and herself without help, and lives on the dependant's allowance contributed by her son in the Marines. It is therefore natural that she desires that her son be transferred to duty in this locality and she does in fact need assistance which is not otherwise available. At the same time she is very proud of her son, as a Marine, and does not wish him to leave the service.

CARMELA FRANCES HULSEY

Mary Vona gave birth to Carmela Frances Hulsey. Carmela Frances Hulsey committed suicide on February 9, 1971. [FBI 139-4089-861, 122, 911 w/h] The FBI reported:

The following investigation was conducted by S.A. Joseph O'Brien at Norfolk, Virginia: On August 10, 1972, a photograph of one Carmela Francis Moore, who is described as a white female, date of birth February 24, 1945, 5' 3" tall, weighing 103 pounds, blue eyes, blonde hair, was exhibited to Angelo Fiorini, the father of subject Frank Anthony Fiorini. Angelo Fiorini identified this photograph as being a step-sister of subject Fiorini. Angelo Fiorini advised that this girl had accidentally died in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, approximately a year and half ago. Fiorini stated that prior to her death, MOORE, whose maiden name was Hulse, had been divorced from her husband Michael Moore and had subsequently remarried. Fiorini stated that Francis was born to his former wife Mary, and her second husband, whose name was Hulse. Fiorini said he did not know what Moore's married name was at the time of her death. Fiorini indicated that Moore used to work as a photographer for one Milton Maser. Maser is deceased; however his business accounts were previously handled by one Herb Levin.

Through Levin the FBI was able to determine the Moore had remarried under the name Aubrey. Aubrey's death certificate indicated that she had died on February 9, 1971, by suicide, as Aubrey shot herself.

1945 TO 1956

Sturgis was discharged as a Corporal on **October 23, 1945** due to demobilization. Prior to his discharge from the Marines in 1945, Sturgis entered Sun Valley Naval Center, Idaho, because of "exhaustion and possible psychoneurosis" and "somnambulism." Sturgis told *High Times Magazine*:

I didn't realize that volunteering to join the service would radically change my whole concept of life. I was wounded twice. I received several medals and commendations. My last major operation was in Okinawa. I was sent back from a hospital ship with shell shock, they called it 'psychoneurosis hysteria.' I jumped ship many times to get back to my unit. I couldn't sleep. You see, the rule in the Pacific at that time was that if a man was wounded twice he was sent back to the United States automatically. Well, not only was I wounded twice, I spent over the enlisted time and even volunteered to stay longer.

High Times asked: "So they thought you were crazy?"

Well, I'd been in so many battles, I think possibly I was trying to prove something to myself by going into the service - not ever having killed a

person in my life, then being trained and brainwashed to kill people in all different aspects of warfare and hand-to-hand combat. Killing people with a knife. Silent killing. I was trained at this and I was very good at it.

Sturgis suffered from combat fatigue. Sturgis escaped three times from the Sun Valley Naval Center before he was given a medical release. [Jack Anderson *Wash. Post* 12.60] He received an Honorable Discharge. Sturgis' home was listed as Miami, Florida, on the Discharge. Sturgis had become a Marine at age 17 and engaged in combat almost immediately. If not for World War II, Frank Sturgis may have become a priest. Sturgis survived years of intensive combat including Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Guadalcanal, which was located in the Solomon Islands. He loved combat and action. He was in so many battles that eventually he began to show signs of mental instability.

BETTY FIORINI

In **1945** Sturgis moved to Miami, where he married Nora Odell Thompson, aka Betty Fiorini, born June 13, 1938 at Radford, Virginia. Nora Odell Thompson had a record of arrests for prostitution. The FBI reported: "According to the records of Norfolk, Virginia, Police Department, Thompson was last arrested at that city on August 7, 1953." Sturgis told Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission that "He started getting involved with Cuban people in Miami in about **1945**. Carlos Prio was first forced out of Cuba by Batista in 1946. Sturgis' uncle was married to a Cuban woman and was either in exile or was visiting Florida." [RCD Olsen telephone conversation with Sturgis 4.29.75] Sturgis and Nora Odell Thompson moved to Norfolk, Virginia, in June **1946**, so that Sturgis could join the Police Force there. He was employed as a Norfolk City Patrolman from June 5, 1946, to September 7, **1946**. According to his nephew Jim Hunt, "Within a few months, he found evidence of corruption in the form of a pay-off system that existed within the force which he brought to the attention of his superiors. Instead of doing something about it, they told him to overlook these illegal activities." On October 5, **1946** Frank had an open confrontation with a sergeant over this at roll call and resigned that same day. The FBI reported that he quit the Police Department, no reason given, and worked as a bartender and nightclub manager of the Virginia Tavern, in Norfolk, Virginia. James Hunt reported, "For the next 18 months he managed a Norfolk tavern called Havana-Madrid, which catered to foreigners, particularly Cuban merchant seamen. On November 9, **1947** Frank joined the Naval Reserves and was stationed at the Norfolk Air Base. Sturgis was in the United States Naval Reserve at the Norfolk Air Station from November 9, **1947** to August 30, **1948**. During this time Frank was able to continue to work at the bar in addition to learning a skill in the Navy he would use throughout his life—flying airplanes. Frank was honorably discharged from the Navy on August 30, **1948** and the next day he joined the Army, his third and final armed services branch. He was immediately deployed to Berlin where he became a member of General Lucius Clay's honor guard." During his Army tenure in Berlin and Heidelberg, Frank worked in an

intelligence unit and had a top secret clearance. As a Marine Raider, Frank had his first involvement in intelligence activities during the island-hopping campaign in that sometimes he would sneak behind enemy lines and gather data and intelligence information. In the Army, the primary intelligence target was the USSR. Frank's intelligence work consisted of collating and analyzing intelligence data.



Documents indicated Sturgis was granted a Top Secret clearance and he handled reports from Allied agents in Berlin. In May 11, **1949** Frank was granted an honorable discharge so he could help support his mother who was in financial need. In **1949** he was the owner and manager of the Whitehorse Tavern. [Dept. of Navy FOIA req. 5720 ARAD 5U000597 3.14.95 B.L. Thompson; Watergate FBI file on

Sturgis] After receiving an honorable discharge he joined the United States Merchant Marines in **1950** and traveled to and from Europe. The Norfolk, Virginia, Police Department files reflected that Fiorini was fingerprinted as an applicant for a National Defense Program on January 27, **1950**. Sturgis: "I went to Europe in the early 1950's. I was with the Army Security Agency in Heidelberg, Germany, which was EUCOM Headquarters. While I was there I met a young lady with the Israeli Intelligence that I found out later on was a Hungarian actress...I was going to Officer's Candidates School, and I declined on that." [Rock. Comm. Test.]

While stationed in Berlin, he rescued a beautiful Hungarian actress. As Frank told *High Times*:

Well, I was in Berlin with a soldier friend of mine and we heard some screaming and ruckus that was going on in an alley. We went to investigate because we heard a woman's voice. And we got mixed up with three young Germans and had a nice little battle with them. The girl was pretty well beaten. Later I found out that she was a Hungarian actress, Jewish, and the three Germans belonged to the Nazi youth party that was still operating underground in Germany. Having saved her life, I developed a very good relationship with this young lady who started visiting me in the barracks and all. I didn't realize until later that she was the girlfriend of one of the army colonels who was on General Clay's staff. The Colonel found out about us and shipped me out of Berlin. Through a fickle finger of fate I wound up with the Army Security Agency. When I returned to the States, I was still going with her. I became suspicious of some of her activities. I found out she was working very hard for the liberation of Israel and I told her I would certainly help her in Israel if I could because I was very sympathetic to the underdog. I returned to Europe, met her again and

helped her in her activities over a period of years. I assisted her as a courier in some of the work she did for Israel. As the years went by her work became more serious and there were some things I could not do, for her. Eventually, I lost contact with her, and to this day, I don't know if she is dead or alive.

He moved to Miami and found work as a taxi driver. In June **1950** he was arrested for beating Nora Odell Thompson. From 1952 to 1954 Sturgis owned and managed a bar in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In **1952** his Dependency Discharge was changed to an Honorable Discharge. On September 23, **1952**, Sturgis filed this petition:

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK

IN RE: Frank Angelo FIORINO

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To the Honorable Clyde H. Jacob, Judge:

Your petitioner, Frank Angelo FIORINO, respectfully represents the following facts:

1. That he is a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and was born in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, on December 9, 1924, and has resided and been domiciled in the City of Norfolk, State of Virginia, since his birth.
2. That he is the son of Mary Fiorino (whose maiden name was Mary Vona) and Angelo Fiorino, and that Mary Fiorino, the Mother of Frank Angelo Fiorino, divorced her husband, Angelo Fiorino, about fifteen years ago, and that his Mother married one Ralph Sturgis, and that he has been living with his Mother, ever since birth in the City of Norfolk, State of Virginia.
3. Your petitioner desires to change his name from Frank Angelo Fiorino to Frank Anthony Sturgis, for the reason that he has been living with his mother all of his life, and that she is known as Mary Sturgis, and that it is also the desire of his step-father to have his name changed from Frank Angelo Fiorino to Frank Anthony Sturgis. (Signed) Frank Angelo Fiorino. On September 23, 1952, Sturgis petition was granted.

Sturgis was questioned about this name change in the course of *Hunt v Weberman*:

Q. Did you use the name Sturgis prior to 1953?

A. No. I always used Fiorini.

Q. Did you use Sturgis prior to 1953?

A. No. No; only when my name was changed because my stepfather, because of my stepfather, his name was Ralph Sturgis.

Q. So in 1953, you adopted the name Sturgis legally.

A. Yes.

Q. And from that time forward you shifted from Fiorini to Sturgis?

A. I only use Fiorini on legal matters.

Q. Do you remember how old you were when your mother remarried?

A. God. I can't remember. I believe she was married either in Carolina, or in Virginia.

This petition contained numerous false statements. First, the name FIORINO instead of Fiorini was used. Frank signed the document "FIORINO." Frank was living with a prostitute at the time, not with his mother and father. Ralph Sturgis had either divorced Mary Vona, or left Mary Vona when she became involved with Hulsey and gave birth to his child. By the time Sturgis returned to Norfolk, Ralph Sturgis was long gone, so his story that he wanted to adopt his stepfathers name was totally false. Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission: "Well, the reason for that was that I felt there were too many Fiorinis, Frank Fiorini especially. I don't know. My mother wanted me to change the name, really, she influenced me to change the name from Fiorini to Sturgis, because she had a bad situation with my father and hated the Fiorini family. So naturally she convinced me, I want you to change your name to Sturgis from Fiorini."

On September 20, **1954**, Betty Fiorini was shot in the head and killed by Lyghia Buckwater. The FBI described both women as prostitutes. Buckwater was sentenced on October 15, 1954, to 15 years in prison for second degree murder. The FBI reported:

On instant date, Bureau agents interviewed subject's former wife, Juanita Fiorini Sturgis, presently remarried and known as Juanita Nelson...Nelson advised that she met Subject in approximately 1954 and married him at Norfolk, Virginia, in May **1956**. Subject deserted her in March **1957**, at which time he apparently went to Cuba to work for Castro as a mercenary. During the time she knew him, Subject was employed as a tavern manager at various bars in downtown, Norfolk, Virginia, also, Subject allegedly

engaged in gambling activities; however no specifics known regarding this. Also, Subject worked for an insurance company, name unknown, and at Walker Realty, Norfolk, Virginia, as a real estate salesman. Nelson stated that the Subject had been married one time before; however she did not know where Subject had married his former wife, known to her only as Betty. Nelson said that Subject's former wife, Betty, was shot and killed by another woman, but did not know the exact location or date of this incident. Nelson stated that on one occasion prior to her marriage to Sturgis, she took a trip down with him to Miami, Florida; however she did not know what her husband did at that time. After their marriage in May 1956 they returned to Miami, Florida, for a trip, at which time Subject attended pro-Castro meetings at a convention hall on Flagler Street in downtown Miami. This trip was of short duration and the last one she took with the Subject to Miami. During the time they resided together, Nelson wrote several letters to various Cubans in Miami and Cuba for the Subject. In these letters, the Subject offered his services to Castro as a mercenary. Just prior to his leaving Norfolk, Virginia, for Cuba in March 1957, Sturgis started a check-kiting scheme so that he could finance his trip to Cuba. Subject was never prosecuted for this, nor did he ever repay the money. Nelson was not sure at which bank this scheme was perpetrated. Nelson stated that she divorced the Subject sometime in the early 1960's; however, she could not remember the date. After the Subject returned from Cuba, she remembers seeing him on three different occasions in Norfolk, Virginia. On the first occasion, Subject was still in the employ of Fidel Castro and was passing through Norfolk en route to New York City on official business for Cuba. The second time she saw him was in the home of James Kestner, a writer for the *Virginian-Pilot and Ledger Star*, daily newspapers in Norfolk, Virginia. Nelson thought that this meeting took place in 1960 and believed it was after Sturgis had left Castro. Nelson said she saw Sturgis one other time in Norfolk, Virginia, and thinks it was around 1965, however, she could give no details regarding this meeting. Nelson said that while the Subject was working for Castro she met him on two or three occasions in hotels in Washington, D.C. and New York City. During the last meeting in New York, Sturgis told Nelson he was disenchanted with Castro's activities and was thinking of talking to the CIA...On instant date, records of the Circuit Court, Norfolk, Virginia, indicated that Subject's wife, Juanita Fiorini was granted a divorce from Subject under the name Frank Anthony Fiorini (Sturgis) on May 2, 1961. She was awarded a decree vinculo matrimonii and divorce was based on desertion. Instant date (Deleted) advised Subject, under name Frank Fiorini, attended the college of William and Mary College at Norfolk, Virginia, as a part time student during the spring semester, 1954 and fall semester 1954 and 1955. Subject was dropped on January 24, **1955** for non-attendance. [FBI 159-4089-474]

CUBAN AFFAIRS 1956

Sturgis traveled to Miami in **1956**, where he met Carlos Prio Socarras. Sturgis: "I had family on my mother's side living in Miami. One of my uncles lived there married a

Cuban woman. My uncle's name was Angelo Vona. And this is how I got involved in the Cuban situation. She lived here in exile during the time of Fulgencio Batista. She was one of President Carlos Prio's people." At this time, Carlos Prio Soccarras was funding Fidel Castro, who allegedly had promised to restore him to the presidency, should his revolution against Fulgencio Batista prove successful. No one ever questioned Sturgis' uncle, Angelo Vona, who was allegedly married to a Cuban exile. We have to take his word that this was how he first became involved in anti-Batista activity. Former U.S. Customs agent **Wallace Shanley** recalled the Frank Fiorini of the late 1950's:

Frank was trying to bring arms into Santiago, Cuba. He and another soldier-of-fortune had gathered up a collection of this and that, without any clear mandate from Fidel or anybody. They didn't seem to have any real connection. They just wanted to get it in, and use these arms as an entrée and so forth. They usually obtained the arms from Interarmco, but as I remember, it was such an assortment of gun shell type materials, I can't see this as a clear shipment from Interarmco. It was an amateur effort. Now a young man came to me and he said, 'I am working with this guy named Frank Fiorini, he's down in Cuba now. I have kinda lost my stomach for this business, and besides, I've fallen in love with a girl. I need \$500, and I want to get the hell out of here and see no more of Frank Fiorini.' I sent him to someone at the Cuban Consulate who was very skilled in security matters. He promised the kid \$500. The kid gave me an affidavit whereupon I searched Frank's house and in the house I found what I expected - an arms cache. The Consul said, 'We nailed that guy Fiorini down in Santiago and we have him down there. We're kind of done with him. We kinda of weakened him, and we don't think he wants any more of it. What would you do if he came up here?' I said 'I would arrest him.' When he returned I gave Frank a preliminary hearing. He wasn't represented, so the Commissioner asked him if he had anything to say. He said, 'Oh yes' and he pulled up his loose shirt and his back was a mass of welts. It was all colors of the rainbow. But Frank always had this wonderful smile. Fidel was very much indebted to him. It was hard to get arms in there.

When Sturgis returned to Norfolk from Miami, he was arrested for immoral conduct: cohabitation with Juanita K. Terrell. On May 11, **1956**, he and Juanita K. Terrell were married. The family of Juanita K. Terrell was close to Carlos Prio Soccarras, and she had been the Subject of an FBI investigation. He met with Juanita K. Terrell in Washington, D.C., just before a flight to Cuba in March **1957**. Sturgis told *High Times Magazine* about when he first met Fidel Castro: "It was in Miami at the Flagland Theater, [in **1957**] where he had a meeting with the Cuban colony. One of his principal underground chiefs in the Miami area was the owner of the Pollack Restaurant in

downtown Miami. So, through Mr. Pollack, who I got to know, I met Fidel. I was introduced and Fidel says, 'I can use people like you. With your past experience, I can use people like you in the revolution.' Fine, when you need me, call me, I told Fidel. In **1957** Frank sold his interest in the Norfolk bar he owned called The Top Hat to his partner, Sam Bass, and moved to Miami.

INTERARMCO

Sturgis obtained weapons from International Armaments Company - INTERARMCO - of Alexandria, Virginia. Samuel Cummings, the President of INTERARMCO had been associated with the CIA in Guatemala in 1954. Many of the rifles that Sturgis obtained from Interarmco were surplus 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcanos. Sturgis was asked about this coincidence. Sturgis:

I possibly could have purchased Mannlicher-Carcanos, if they had them, yes I could have. As a matter of fact, you are recalling something for me which is...

In 1964 the FBI speculated Oswald's ammunition came from four million rounds of 6.5 millimeter ammunition that had been sold to the Marines in 1954. When the FBI ascertained the Marine Corps did not use this caliber, the agents conjectured that the Marines were merely a CIA cover used to make the purchase. Hemming told this researcher: "INTERARMCO was selling tons of that shit in 1963."

1957 TO 1958

In late **1957** Sturgis met Pedro Diaz Lanz, then a young rebel air force pilot stationed in Santiago de Cuba, and established contact with the CIA at the United States Consulate there, and at the U.S. Embassy, Havana. In On January 28, 1958 the FBI generated a document about Sturgis titled: "Richard Meredith Sanderlin, Miami, Florida" [*Allen v. DOD #04490*] Sturgis was picked up in Miami for "Illegal Possession of Munitions of War" on July 24, 1958. [FBI 2-1499, serials 1-20] The FBI reported:

On July 24, **1958**, United States Customs Service raided two residences in Miami, Florida, and seized large quantities of rifles, machine guns, ammunition and dynamite. One of these residences was rented to Frank Sturgis. Sturgis returned from Cuba on July 30, 1958, and on his arrival in Miami he was arrested by the United States Customs Service for violation of Federal law.

Sturgis was charged with violations relating to the conspiracy to illegally ship arms from the United States. United States Customs Agent Wallace Shanley recalled:

Frank and I go back a long ways when he was running guns for Carlos Prio Soccarras. He was an interesting kid. When he first showed up on the surface there, I visited his house. He was going by the name of Frank Sturgis 'cause his real name had a mafia twang to it. He had a lot of pictures of himself in boxing poses. And I thought, this kid's going to be interesting. He proved to be, over a long period of time. Frank is a survivor. The whole problem was these hit and run attacks against Fidel. Castro was going to respond excessively. He had these damn missiles cocked and loaded. He wanted no more attacks from the United States. He called them invasions. Kennedy took a paralyzed oath that no more of that would go on. Border Patrol moved in 200 men. The FBI had its 'tamale squad' in the area.

On July 29, **1958**, the Miami FBI generated a document about Sturgis: "26th of July Revolutionary Movement." (no file #) On July 30, 1958 the FBI Field Office in Washington, D.C., generated a Letter Head Memorandum about Sturgis. Frank Anthony Sturgis (true name) with aliases Frank Attila, Fred Attila, Fred Frank Fiorini Washington DC (no file #) On July 30, 1958 CIA generated a document about Sturgis. A few months later the federal charges against Sturgis were dropped and Sturgis never went to trial. The FBI reported:

On March 19, 1959, Pat Moller, United States Attorney's Office, Miami, Florida, advised that the office contained no report regarding arrest of the Subject. She stated that a card file reflected that the 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.

A report on Sturgis dated **October 8, 1958**, by the CIA, stated: "Subject is in custody of Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service on suspicion he acted as a 26th of July Movement courier between Miami and Santiago de Cuba. Details of activities in Cuba contained in DBF 8393, July 30, 1958." [CIA FOIA F810351D01854] On October 10, 1958, the CIA generated an Index Card (deleted)-02765) that stated Sturgis was a "suspected courier for the 26th of July Revolutionary Movement, Cuba." According to Sturgis, CIA Agents in the American Embassy, Havana, affected his release from detention.

SMUGGLING GUNS TO CUBA FROM MEXICO

The CIA reported that on **November 4, 1958**,

Sturgis left Mexico for San Francisco to meet Richardo de la Lorie and Pedro Diaz Lanz, Cuban rebel pilots...Called Gustavo Arcos from Yuma, Arizona, saying not able to locate de la Lorie. Arcos gave him de la Lorie phone number in Phoenix. De la Lorie, in conversation (phone) w/Silvio Pena on November 8, 1958, said he had reserved hotel room, Hotel Roosevelt, San Francisco for subject. Pena told Lorie regarding contents Subject's car that he took everything." [Deleted 2754, IN 25120 TDCS-3/377,361 11.10.58]

In **December 1958** the CIA became aware that Sturgis purchased a Curtis C-46 for \$85,000 from Aerovias Sud Americano with a certified check drawn against the First National Bank, Phoenix, Arizona, on or about November 7, 1958. FBI documents concerning this purchase were heavily deleted [FBI 2-1499-34; FBI 2-1499 NR 176 12.10.58] probably because the information originated with the CIA. On November 7, 1958, the FBI Miami generated a report on Sturgis 2 - 192 (field) and 2-1499 (Bureau). On November 15, 1956, Fiorini filed a Declaration of Temporary Sojourn with the Collector of Customs, El Paso, Texas. On or about November 13, 1958, the C-46 left the United States. On November 25, 1958, the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* reported 11 persons were arrested on November 20, 1958: "A news clipping from the Mexico City daily newspaper, *Excelsior*, of November 25, 1958, entitled "Actions Against Cuban Rebels at Apatzingan - Judicial Action at Morelia Against the Eleven Smugglers," reported that 11 persons had been arrested at Uruapan at dawn on November 20, 1956 when they were discovered endeavoring to send arms to the rebels of Fidel Castro in Cuba." The article listed the following as having been arrested: Jose Martinez Machados, Enio Leyva Fuentes, Manuel Carbowell Duque, Orlando Ventura Reyes, Pedro Luis Diaz Saenz, Frank Fiorini, Manuel Hernandez Turro, Gustavo Arcos Dercles, Jose Alberto Mendez, Isaldo E. Rodriguez Lopez, Armando Franco Maynez, and Roberto Willarte. The article concluded by stating that Frank Fiorini "the pilot of the plane" and Pedro Diaz Lanz had requested permission to be interviewed with an attorney present and that this request had been granted. The CIA reported: "One Frank Fiorini arrived in Mexico City by car with Richardo de la Lorie and Pedro Diaz Lanz, Cuban Rebel pilots. November 25, 1958. Subject was arrested in Michoecan, Mexico." [TDCS-3/376,555; TDCS-3/379,043] The CIA noted "Frank Fiorini (American) was released by Mexican authorities c/a December 5, 1958, but must report regularly to Mexi authorities until case is dismissed. [TDCS-3/380,304] Pedro Diaz Lanz had been smuggling materiel to Fidel Castro since 1957. Wallace Shanley stated:

Alan, just the feeling for the man and the situation: Frank was doing something clandestine. Frank did no snitching during 1957 to 1959. The place to do that, and get money for that, was the Cuban Consul, Eddie Hernandez. Not the FBI. The FBI had little money. Eddie would have laid some real money on you. He was not snitching on Fidel. Afterwards, when

we head into the complex game of the CIA, FBI and everybody else, Frank played all the different parts.

By the end of 1958, Sturgis had won the trust of Fidel Castro: "I'd go buy guns and equipment. I'd package them up, bring them to the air field, load them on the plane, run over and back to Cuba. I had to do all these things myself, personally, in order to get close to him. I had to show him that I had the intelligence to get him equipment that he needed very badly. I spoke to him while I was in Mexico, over one of the clandestine radio transmitters we had in Ecuador that would transmit directly to Cuba. And I knew him. The things I did to get close to that man. I got very friendly with him...I infiltrated the 26th of July Movement. Nobody knew that. That's why Fidel said I was the most dangerous agent the CIA ever had. Because he found out." Due to the efforts of Pedro Diaz Lanz, Sturgis rose from captain to first deputy commander in the Cuban rebel air force.

KEEPING THE FEDS BUSY

September 23, 1958 with aliases Frank Fiorini, Fred Frank Fiorini, Frank Attila, Fred Attile, Frank Campbell Miami Florida (no file #)

November 7, 1958 Frank Anthony Sturgis Miami Florida File no 2-192 (field) 2-1499 (bureau)

February 2, 1959 Frank Anthony Sturgis Miami Florida File no 2-192 (field) 2-1499 (bureau)

April 6, 1959 Frank Anthony Sturgis Miami Florida File no 2-192 (field) 2-1499 (bureau)

April 7, 1959 Frank Anthony Sturgis Saint Louis Missouri File no 97-109 (field) 2-1499 (bureau)

April 13, 1959 Frank Anthony Sturgis Norfolk Virginia File no 97-13 (field) 2-1499 (bureau)

Sturgis described how in **January 1959**, he "came down from the mountains and went to Havana and talked to my old friend, Pedro Diaz Lanz, who became Chief of the [Cuban] Air Force. Now he's Commander Pedro Diaz Lanz and I had him appoint me Security Director and Intelligence Director of the Cuban Air Force. I also recruited a number of people in Havana for intelligence..." On January 6, 1959 the Director of the CIA received this message from the CIA Station in Havana:

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

323 DMCL/LSB/LSB/ File 201-242256

TO: Director

FROM: (Deleted)

ACTION: WH 6

INFO: COP, FI, FI/OPS, S/C 2

To Dir. Info. Havana Cite (Deleted) 335

RE: (Deleted) 334 (IN 44099)

OPERATIONAL

(Deleted) will try to develop Fiorini.

On January 7, 1959 the Director of the CIA received this message from the CIA Station in Havana:

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

362/GHS/CG File Number 201-242256

Date: January 6, 1959

To: Director

From: (Deleted)

Action: WH 6

Info: COP, CI, CI/OPS, FI, FI/OPS, S/C 2

PRITY DIR HAVANA CITE (Deleted) 337

REF: (Deleted) 334 (IN 44099) and 335 (IN 44124).

OPERATIONAL

1. Frank Fiorini of Norfolk, Virginia claims was chief 26 July arms buyer Miami. Arrested and booked there for rebel activities. Claims has confidence, friendship Fidel Castro and

other top commanders. Personal friend Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz chief, rebel air force. Says latter wants to make him unofficial civilian advisor to general staff new army. Claims present position in chief training officer. January 7, 1959 flying to Guantanamo to discuss training plans with Raul Castro who there inspecting area.

2. Subject willing to cooperate 100 percent supplying info. Hesitant however continue on and reveal all for fear loss American citizenship.

3. Known background is Subject made several trips to the Sierras. July 1958 arrested imprisoned SACU by SIM and taken to Havana. Possible he may lose value to rebels but believe worthwhile KUBARK endorse his staying on.

4. Cable priority answer.

C/S Comment: Will try develop Fiorini.

CIA Headquarters replied: "Base should deal with Fiorini under strict Consular cover Sturgis was in contact with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1959, just as he told the Rockefeller Commission. The CIA withheld the names of the personnel he was in contact will nor has the CIA released any reports based on information furnished by Sturgis. On July 25, 1958 Customs Agent Wallace Shanley confiscated an arms cache belong to Cuban Revolutionary exiles:

Shanley stated that a packaging operation apparently was carried on and that he estimated there were 50,000 rounds of ammunition and 250 guns, 130 rifles, 10 hand grenades and some dynamite. He said Richard Meredith Sanderlin, also know as Rex, had been arrested in connection with the above ammunition and that one of the persons who rented one of the above residences was Frank A. Sturgis also known as Frank Campbell. Shanley said Sturgis and Sanderlin were Marine Corp veterans who had connections with the action group of the July 26 revolutionary movement in Miami.

STURGIS COMMANDS THE FIRING SQUAD AT SAN JUAN HILL

On **January 7, 1959**, an Associated Press article appeared in the Norfolk, Virginia, *Ledger Dispatch*, a general circulation daily, regarding former Norfolk resident Frank Sturgis. The article listed Sturgis' wife as Juanita Sturgis, Fairfax Hotel, Norfolk. His parents were listed as divorced Angelo Fiorino and Mary Sturgis, who lived in the same apartment house, Bank Street, Norfolk. Another article in the *Ledger Dispatch* reflected that Sturgis was a frequent visitor to a clinic where another Norfolk man, Richard Meredith Sanderlin, who had been hospitalized after being wounded fighting for Castro,

was recovering. On January 8, 1959 (Deleted) INS, Norfolk, advised 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 January 7, 1959." [FBI 2-1499-14] On January 13, 1959, Sturgis, the CIA reported, was "under investigation probably registration act violations." [DIR-80002 OUT-61839 1.13.59] The CIA reported on January 14, 1959,

2. Rebels plan recruit 3,000 men to make up for those wishing separation and to fill positions in Army. Source (Deleted). (Deleted) reports separation staging and training camp established old Army firing range, San Juan Hill, Vista Allegro section. Frank Fiorini in charge. (Deleted) appr 3 informed 4:00 p.m. at this camp. People this area report almost daily arrival new recruits from countryside." [CIA DOO2068]

On **January 15, 1959**, the wire services carried a story that Sturgis, previously believed dead, was in Cuba. Evidence of this was a photograph of Sturgis standing on a mass grave of 59 of Rolando Masferrer's Tigres, machine gun in hand. The photograph gave the impression he had just massacred the Tigres in their stronghold of San Juan, Santiago de Cuba. Another CIA document stated: "Subject claims he is under orders of Raoul Castro and awaiting orders to begin training 1,000 militia members in SACU (Santiago, Cuba) area. Source (deleted) Appr 2. FC: Number may be exaggerated." [TDCS 3/383,32 1.6.59] Another document stated: "In charge of a separation center, training camp and staging area SACU area." [TDCS 3/384,56 1.15.59] On January 20, 1959, Vice Consul Bernard Femminella of the U.S. Consulate, Santiago De Cuba, advised that he was informed that an individual known as Frank Fiorini was with the revolutionary forces in the vicinity of Santiago De Cuba. On January 30, 1959, the CIA received information Sturgis

had a falling out with Raoul Castro over incorporating Army officers in the training program. Reportedly left SACU for Havana, where he is working with Air Force Chief.

On **January 30, 1959**, the Legat, Mexico City sent a highly deleted cable to the Director of the FBI.

Subject: CHANGED (Deleted) IS - CUBA. ReBullets to Miami dated November 20, 1958, and December 5, 1959, in captioned matter; also Mexico letter to the Bureau dated January 26, 1959, in case entitled Frank Anthony Sturgis aka -RA. The title of this case has been marked CHANGED to reflect the addition of the maternal surname of the subject (Deleted) Available details concerning these arrest were set forth in my

letter of January 26, 1959, in the Sturgis case. The information is as follows. [page deleted 2-1499 NR 1.30.59]

Sturgis was the commander of the camp in San Juan, Santiago Province, Cuba, where the 59 men were killed. He gave the order to the firing squad. Sturgis claimed he needed permission to allow St. George to photograph a mass execution. Sturgis did not need permission to do anything at the base since he was the highest ranking officer there. St. George arrived too late, so Sturgis posed on the grave of the men he had sent to their death. This act of mass murder, and Sturgis' early gun running activity, was why Fidel Castro trusted him. Sturgis could never have admitted to ordering or approving this mass execution - not with the relatives of the victims living in Miami. This photograph linked Sturgis indelibly with Fidel Castro's revolution. It also linked the 26th of July Movement with mass murder.

STURGIS' CIA CONNECTIONS IN CUBA IN 1959

Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission:

Well, when I was on my way the first ten days of the revolution was over with I told (deleted) that I was on my way to Havana and he suggested that I contact Colonel Nichols and a Major Van Horne.

Both of these men were at the American Embassy. Sturgis continued:

And I believe (deleted) was at the (deleted) at that time, in 1959. And he was a CIA agent. (Deleted) was also there, the CIA. And I believe that he was Station Chief at the Agency. Contacting Colonel Nichols I was asked to recruit military people, and so forth. And through the recruiting of agents for the Embassy, many of them, naturally, recruited by me, had contact with me, and they said, 'Well, I am in touch with (deleted), or I am in touch with (deleted)' and so forth. In the close circle you know who is who, like I was trying to explain to the gentleman here. An agent doesn't come out and say 'I am a CIA agent.' You don't do those things...I am not sure sir whether I met Major Van Horne, and I am not sure that I met (deleted) and I am not sure I met (deleted). There is a great possibility that I did...The regular army was being disbanded, the weapons were being taken away from them. And Fidel needed time in order to get this raggidy muffin rebel force that he had, with no shoes, and so forth. I was in charge of the military police for the Air Force.

STURGIS AND DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS: 1959

During his *Hunt v Weberman* deposition Sturgis was asked about Phillips. Sturgis: "See, DAVID Phillips - let me go back to DAVID Phillips -- he worked in Havana. I am not sure whether I ever met him or not, because he was the man that I would be in touch with; but there is the possibility that he man have ran across me in the embassy and I didn't know who he was." From 1955 to 1957 Phillips served as a CIA undercover agent in Cuba and Lebanon. On April 1, 1955, Phillips accepted an appointment with the CIA as a Staff Employee at \$9,600 a year. On February 7, 1956, he became a Staff Agent. On January 12, 1958, his pay was raised to \$11,835 per year. On August 19, 1958, he became a contract agent at \$7,200 per year. His term ended on March 13, 1960. Since that date Phillips was a Staff Employee of the CIA. [Memo: To Chief, Contract Personnel Division Attention (Deleted) From Compensation and Tax Division, Office of Finance 6.16.66] From 1958 to 1961 Phillips ran a public relations firm, DAVID A. Phillips Associates, in Havana, Cuba. Phillips was questioned about his relationship with Sturgis in Havana:

Q. Was Frank Fiorini Sturgis working with you at the time [Havana 1959 to 1961]?

A. Never worked with me. And as far as I know, and I think I am in a position to know, never worked with the CIA.

Q. In a previous deposition Mr. Sturgis indicated he had done some work for you in Cuba in the early 1960's. Do you know why he would make that statement?

A. Yes. It's quite possible because of the fact that during the period which led up to the Bay of Pigs, I was responsible for all sorts of different operations which involved a group perhaps. And if the group were large, perhaps someone would say, uh-huh, this is Phillips that I was working for. I don't recall having worked -

Q. (Interposing) On a one-on-one basis?

A. I might very well. I met a lot of people. I certainly don't recall.

Q. Did Hunt work with Sturgis during Bay of Pigs?

A. If they were I did not know about it. As a matter of fact, based on my experience in the CIA which had a long experience in Cuban and Latin American affairs, it's my belief that Mr. Sturgis never worked for the CIA.

Q. Okay. But you --

A. (Interposing) I am not saying he didn't know Mr. Hunt and might have worked with Mr. Hunt.

Q. Okay. But as far as your personal knowledge is concerned, you don't know --

A. (Interposing) Well, it is far beyond my personal knowledge. On many, many, occasions when I was CIA Chief of Latin American Operations at CIA, it was my job to answer inquiries from Congress, and people like that, about the affiliation of Sturgis - was he also Frank Fiorini? Yes - his connections with the Agency. And I recall quite vividly that the answer always came up that he had not been on our payroll.

Sturgis also knew the Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, Paul Bethel, *Time* correspondent Jay Mallin, and Military Attaché Sam Kail. Hemming told the HSCA that Sam Kail had trained Batista's troops, and was connected with the Bureau for Suppression of Communism. Hemming stated Paul Bethel introduced him to Phillips in Cuba and in the United States. When Sturgis testified before the Rockefeller Commission he named several men who were his CIA contacts. Certain names were deleted. These might have been Ross Crozier and Sam Kail. He probably did not mention Phillips. Phillips reports generated in January 1959 would be helpful in determining if a relationship existed between the two men. Sturgis:

Going back to the first week of the revolution in Santiago, I saved the life of a man by the name of Stretch Rubin...I took Stretch Rubin away from some rebel soldiers who wanted to shoot him. He had a bag of money on him...he was like a collector for the outfit...Later on I found out that he worked for **Norman Rothman**.

During his deposition in *Hunt v Weberman* Sturgis was asked if he had contact with Rothman in the United States: A. Well, I ran across him on the Beach with my Cuban friends. "Hello," "Goodbye," "Have drink" and then leave. That's it.

STURGIS: SUPERINTENDENT OF GAMES OF CHANCE

Sturgis told Michael Canfield:

The woman who was in charge of gambling, Pastora Nunez, was up in the mountains with me. It came under her Ministry. Fidel, one day at the Prime Minister's office, asked me if I would help Pastora Nunez with the gambling casinos. I told him yes, which of course, was a short time, because I had all these other jobs, and I was involved with all this intelligence work. I was in touch with all the Havana casino operators. I knew, I met, Santos Trafficante, I met the Lansky brothers, I met Charlie 'the Blade' Tourine. [born March 26, 1906] I knew Dominick Bartone [CIA 201-269887] and Dino Cellini. I met Errol Flynn. Heh, heh. I met a lot of movie actors there. I had an office where I would issue casino

licenses...that's where I got to meet many of the gaming house operators...Fidel ordered me to close the casinos for ten days. The owners knew he was planning to shut them down permanently. They were mad. Those casinos were worth \$100 million a year to the national crime syndicate. Every important mob boss in the United States had points [a percentage] in the Cuban casinos. Each point was worth 30 to 100 grand. Meyer Lansky and Trafficante were the top men in Cuban gambling. Meyer Lansky had direct business dealings with Batista. Trafficante was in partnership with Norman Rothman. He had several casinos, including the Sans Souci. I met Mike McLaney there. He was in charge of the Casino Nacional.

Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission:

Stretch Rubin introduced me to Jake Lansky...McLaney, I believe he was operating the National Hotel gambling casino. Trafficante Jr...At one time Fidel personally told me, Frank, I am going to run all of these American gangsters out of Cuba...I am going to put them all in jail if possible...I didn't tell them at that time, at the beginning that Fidel was going to get rid of them. What I did do was make my inspection of all the casinos that came under my jurisdiction at the time, and advise them of the new laws that were being put into law, advise them of the tax stamps that had to go each piece of equipment.

An FBI document confirmed: "In **1959** Frank Fiorini was a government inspector of gambling at the Tropicana Night Club, Havana, Cuba."

THE MOB CONTRACT ON FIDEL Castro - NO GREEN LIGHT

Paul Meskil reported: "Sturgis was on friendly terms with several gambling racketeers, including Hyman Levine, a Lansky mobster who ran Havana's Comodoro casino. One evening, during a casual conversation, Levine observed that it would be 'worth a million' to the syndicate to get rid of Castro. Sturgis didn't rise to this bait and Levine changed the subject." In early 1959 Sturgis said that Charlie Tourine approached him and offered him one million dollars to assist the mob in killing Fidel Castro. Meyer Lansky had put out the contract on Castro. Meyer Lansky had left Havana shortly after Fulgencio Batista departed. Norman Rothman was to act as the go-between. Nevertheless, Sturgis still lacked the go-ahead from his contacts at the American Embassy, and discussed this with Trafficante, Charlie Tourine and John Rosselli. In February 1959, two squads of assassins waited for Sturgis to get the "green light" from the CIA before dispatching them. Sturgis told Paul Meskil:

The first discussion of assassination with my CIA contacts was in **February 1959**. I was making reports on all the Communist activity in the military. I suggested that this would be a good time to assassinate Fidel. I said I would organize it and follow through. I would arrange an important conference at Campo Libertad. All the top commanders would come to the base in their jeeps and cars. I was going to station gunners on the roofs, set up a crossfire. I would have wiped out Fidel, his brother Raul, and all the top military commanders in 30 seconds. I asked my contact in the Embassy to get a green light on this. Whether this was to come from the top level in Washington or from a lower level I don't know. The whole idea was to kill all of them at once. Unfortunately if some of the anti-Communist officers were in there at the same time, they would have to go too. The lives of some of the anti-Communist commanders would have to be sacrificed in order to get Castro and his crew.

Sturgis told Canfield:

When I was in Cuba there, I told my CIA contact, I said, look, pass the word upstairs, 'You want me to kill Fidel?' I'll kill him if he comes to the Air Force base. I'm here in control of the military police, of the security of all the Air Force bases in Cuba. I said, 'If he comes here with Ché, if he comes there with all the top military people, with many of the ministers, I can kill him in two minutes. If you people want it done, I will do it with my people...and I'll just wipe the whole three jeeps right out, just taking two minutes to do it. Or, if you want me to do it inside the base. But I am in a position to do it, see. Because I was very close with Fidel.

The green light for the assassination was never given. Sturgis told the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*:

They wanted to know what my plan was and I said I would station my men on the rooftops of a billet near the entrance to the base and delay Castro's car as it entered. Then I was going to take off my cap as a signal to my men and they would have opened fire on him with machine guns. Well, they wanted to know how many innocent people I would have to kill and I said, 'Who cares?' [*Phil. Evening Bulletin* 6.17.76]

Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission:

My excuse was for the protection of the entourage, Fidel and the military commanders that he had with him, he had a hometown bunch with him...This information was given to the American Embassy. I again did

these exercises to try to get a diversion that if I would get the nod to do the execution, that I would have some means of diversionary tactics to draw attention away from the people who did the execution...I would say about six weeks after the revolution was over with there was a great deal of discontent among many of the top ranking military officers...we all discussed the assassination then...They were split on the idea of assassinating them. So they asked my opinion. And I told them 'Well, in war, innocent people do get killed.' Nichols told me to standby." The second plan "came in the last part of February, if I am not mistaken. Things came to a fever pitch. Even the American Government, through other agents inside of Cuba, in the military and so forth, were getting a lot of information about Communist activity.

CAMELLO CIENFUEGOS

Sturgis claimed he recruited Commander Camello Cienfuegos on behalf of Colonel Nichols. Camello Cienfuegos gave him enough information "that one night when I broke into the Chief of the Army headquarters -- he was Chief of the Army. I broke into their files and I did photograph and steal documents. I turned them over to Colonel Nichols." On February 2, 1959 the FBI Miami generated a report on Sturgis 2 - 192 (field) and 2-1499 (Bureau). An FBI report entitled Richard Meredith Sanderlin was generated on February 12, 1959, at Miami. [FBI 105-1643] On February 27, 1959, a document was generated by the FBI in Norfolk, Virginia, about Sturgis. [FBI 97-13 Field] 2-1499 (bureau)

THE PANAMANIAN INVASION: FEBRUARY 1959

In **February 1959** Hemming, William Morgan and Sturgis secretly marshaled a invasion of Panama. Sturgis: "Morgan said he was preparing an invasion of Panama...he wanted me to be second in command." Sturgis told Paul Meskil:

Major Morgan spoke to me confidentially. He said he was preparing an invasion of Panama and the Canal Zone. He wanted me to be second in command of the expedition. I told him I was interested but not in a leadership position. I said, 'Bill you got to be crazy, the American Government's got a military force there. You're willing to go against your own country? He said, 'Hell, the U.S. never did anything for me.' The conspirators planned to overthrow the Panamanian Government and close the canal. They were going to send a ship, loaded with explosives, through the canal locks. They were going to blow up and sink the ship

somewhere near the locks, so that the gates and locks would be destroyed. Morgan figured it would tie up the canal for at least two months. He was all set to go. He had the men, guns, ships, planes, everything. I contacted the American Embassy in Havana and notified the CIA agent in charge. I took Colonel Erickson Nichols to the airbase and showed him the camouflaged planes that were to be used for the invasion and I named all the people who were involved in the conspiracy.

Those names included Margot Fonteyn, who was married to Roberto Arias, former Panamanian ambassador to Britain and son of a former president of Panama. The invasion was supposed to take place while Castro was visiting the United States. Pedro Diaz Lanz set up Camp Columbia, a training camp on the outskirts of Havana. Miro Cardona, a Panamanian national, called for the invasion. On March 3, 1959, the CIA received information that Miro Cardona "confirmed the fact that a group is ready to leave Cuba during the week." Roberto Arias rented a yacht and deposited an arms cache somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. On March 11, 1959, the CIA received information that the group intended to invade Panama.

Sturgis additionally expatriated himself by accepting an appointment on March 23, 1959, in the Cuban Air Force as a liaison officer with the United States Air Force in Cuba. The CIA reported: "Letter of March 23, 1959, reported Subject was appointed liaison officer between Cuban Air Force and United States; in March 1959 Subject stated to a Consular Officer that he was serving as chief security officer, Cuban Air Force, liaison officer, Cuban Air Force, and Cuban Government Inspector for gambling." [FS Telegram 1675; Havana 1.18.60] Sturgis: "Well the situation was getting very hot there. And I had to request from the Chief of the Air Force a document naming me as a go between liaison officer between the Cuban Air Force and the American Embassy. This was cover for me being in touch with American officials and the American Embassy." Sturgis presented a proclamation signed by Pedro Diaz Lanz to the American Embassy, Havana. An FBI report about Sturgis was generated on March 25, 1959, at Norfolk, Virginia. Subject: Richard Meredith Sanderlin [97-100 Field, 2-1499 (Bureau)] Sturgis visited the Miami FBI Office on March 31, 1959. During an interview with Bureau representatives, Sturgis described himself as a captain in the Cuban Armed Forces and exhibited documents to this effect which he described as credentials. [FBI 2-149941] The titles and contents of two of these reports were withheld.

An FBI report on Sturgis was generated on April 6, 1959, at Miami, Florida. On April 7, 1959, Sturgis was of interest to the St. Louis, Missouri, FBI Office. [Field 97-109] The Norfolk, Virginia, FBI Office filed a report on Sturgis dated April 13, 1959. [Field 97-13] On April 18, 1959, a ship carrying 35 of "Morgan's Raiders" sailed from Cuba toward

Panama. On April 18, 1959, after receiving a report that the invasion ship had left from a port under William Morgan's control, the Panamanian Government order Arias' arrest. Panamanian authorities found that John Wayne had deposited \$525,000 in Arias' bank account between November 19, 1957 and April 5, 1959. John Wayne said he was partners with Arias in a shrimp-exporting business. Six days later the crew landed and were taken into custody by Panamanian authorities. Sturgis associate Alexander Rorke was waiting to rendezvous with the group. Sturgis and William Morgan were arrested in Cuba. William Morgan was soon released. Sturgis stated:

In June 1959, the Cuban Intelligence did receive information that I was spying and the Second Chief of Cuban Intelligence -- who is my friend to this day -- asked to speak with me across the street from the Havana Hilton at night time, and told me to leave the country immediately because I was going to be placed under arrest for spying against, being a traitor, and this was the Second Chief of Cuban Intelligence.

The Panamanian "invasion," such as it was, was a provocation that took Fidel Castro by surprise; he was obliged to publicly dissociate himself from it. Hemming told this researcher:

The Panama thing went bad in the latter part of February 1959 and everyone was on their guard. This wasn't sanctioned by Fidel, it wasn't sanctioned by anybody. And none of the assholes that went on this invasion were rebels, they hadn't been in the mountains, they all had short hair. The guy that organized the Panama invasion was William Pawley. He suckered John Wayne's people and everybody into the thing. Pawley met him when they were making a movie about the Flying Tigers.

PEDRO DIAZ LANZ

In early **June 1959**, Fidel Castro fired 25 of his top Rebel Air Force officers, including Pedro Diaz Lanz. Pedro Diaz Lanz said he had a dispute with Fidel Castro that month over Communist infiltration of the Cuban Armed Services. An order went out to eliminate Pedro Diaz Lanz. Fidel Castro suspected him of having sabotaged a plane which crashed with Raoul Castro aboard. In 1977 Pedro Diaz Lanz told HSCA investigator Gaeton Fonzi that Fidel Castro had assassinated two of his brothers, one an artist who was apolitical, and the other an invalid.



On June 17, 1959, the FBI sent this memo to its Miami Field Office

Office Memorandum United States Government

To Director, FBI (2-1499)

From; SAC Miami (2-192)

Subject: Frank Anthony Sturgis aka Frank Fiorini

IS-Cuba- RA

ReBulet to MM, captioned as above, dated June 5, 1959, instructing Miami to furnish information regarding activities of Subject [Sturgis] and recommendation for approach to him.

On April 7, 1959 MM (deleted)-S advised SA George E. Davis, Jr. that Fiorini is a Captain in the Cuban Air Force, and that Raul Castro, Chief of the Department of Defense of Cuba was believe to be investigating Fiorini for anti-Communist sympathies. (134-(deleted) Sub A-139)

On May 6, 1959 PSI (deleted Howard Kenneth Davis) (protect) stated that Frank Fiorini had until recently, been serving as liason man by the FAR (Cuban Air Force) and U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba. The Embassy notified him, however, that he might lose his United States citizenship and that he had to decide between the United States and Cuba. Fiorini thereupon decided to remain in Miami in order to retain his United States citizenship. He is now conducting investigations for FAR but not for FAR intelligence. These investigations relate to individuals suspected of smuggling guns into Cuba, smuggling people out of Cuba and related matters. MM (deleted)-S said Fiorini is living at the Ankers Motel, Miami Beach, Florida. (134 (deleted) Sub A-144)

On May 26, 1959, MM (deleted) S advised SA DAVIS that Frank Fiorini wants to become a public relations man as a "cover" for his activities as an investigator. (134-(deleted) Sub A-146.),

By letter dated October 22, 1958, from J. Walter Yeagley, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, to the Director, FBI, and captioned, "Frank Anthony Sturgis; RA", it was concluded that from information contained in the report of SA Robert James Dwyer dated September 23, 1958, at Miami, same caption, that "The subject had acted within the United States as an agent of a foreign principal so as to require his registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 as amended. Accordingly, this Division is soliciting the subject's registration under the Act and you will be advised as to the outcome of our efforts in this regard."

On April 13, 1959, Mrs. Ruth Brady, Registration Section, Internal Security Division, United States Department of Justice, advised SA Donald Hoteing that her records failed to reflect that subject is registered as a foreign agent of a foreign principal. On June 9, 1959, J. A. Turner and Emit Phillips, Investigators, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, Florida, advised SA William A. Wrightman that that office had no current information regarding or interest in the subject.

On **June 9, 1959**, Wallace Shanley, Investigator, United States Customs Service, Miami, advised SA Wightman that his office had no pending investigation regarding subject and was in possession of no information not previously disseminated to the Miami Office.

Past investigation of subject indicates he is an opportunist who will seize upon any situation whereby his own personal gain or self-glorification can be furthered. He has become involved with highly placed figures in the present Cuban Government for these reasons and not, as he has stated in the past, in an effort to assist the United States Government.

Fiorini has made no effort whatsoever to cooperate with the FBI on an operational level, his "cooperation" in the past having been for the sole purpose of attempting to avoid prosecution by the Federal Government. Fiorini's record gives no indication that he is reliable or trustworthy. Accordingly, no approach to Fiorini is being made by the Miami Office since it is likely that such an approach would result in embarrassment for the Bureau.

Inasmuch as the Miami Office is not in receipt of a reply from the Internal Security Division regarding the letter of October 22, 1958, it is requested that the Bureau contact the Internal Security Division for an opinion regarding subject's status within the purview of the Registration Act.

By airtel dated **June 8, 1959**, captioned, "CUBAN FAIR FORCE, FPM - CUBA", the Bureau was requested to re-contact the State Department regarding Fiorini for a current determination as to his possible registration and status regarding the Cuban Government. [FBI-2-1499-29]

Date: July 6, 1959

To: Office of Security, Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS – CUBA

INTERNAL SECURITY – CUBA

On June 26, 1959 a source who is in a position to furnish reliable information advised that Frank Fiorini, a captain in the Cuban armed forces, had returned to the United States on June 25, 1959. Fiorini advised the source that five East Germans were momentarily expected by the Cuban Government to assist the Cuban military forces in some manner, most likely as instructors.

Frank Sturgis returned to the United States from Cuba on June 25, 1959. Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission that he flew a plane that was registered in his name to Miami. At first, Sturgis and his wife were living in Norfolk, Virginia. He spent much of his time in Washington, D.C., trying to renew his pilot's license and nullify the cancellation of the registration of the B-25 bomber he had left Cuba in. On July 1, 1959, Sturgis claimed he went into Cuba and carried out the exfiltration of Pedro Diaz Lanz, despite a shoot-on-sight order issued by Fidel Castro. The CIA claimed it "clandestinely exfiltrated Pedro Diaz Lanz from Cuba." Wallace Shanley recalled: "Before Pedro Diaz Lanz left he took over Radio Havana for an hour. A car was waiting, and they beat it out of there." Pedro Diaz Lanz appeared on national television, then traveled to Washington and testified before the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee. Wallace Shanley stated that Pedro Diaz Lanz supplied him with copies of Fidel Castro's letters of credit, ordering strategic items from the Soviet Union through the Bank of Nova Scotia, Canada. Wallace Shanley recalled:

Lanz was a high class guy. Of all the people I've met of the Cuban persuasion, he is the finest one. He was very pro-American, but he was also pro-Cuban. He wanted very much to believe that Fidel was the answer. Fidel was the answer, he was the blessing of that country, it needed one during Batista's day. Cuba was victimized by American capitalism. It was one big Texas border town. No housing, schools or hospitals. Tin shacks. Pedro thought: 'They got rid of the capitalists, and Fidel was giving Cuba a tremendous leap forward.' In this respect, one day, there was an airstrip in Fort Lauderdale called Prospect Hills. It wasn't used much, it was an auxiliary field during the second World War. It was now a pumping station. Well, when a meter reader went out there and discovered Lanz's Lodstar being loaded with arms, he reported it to me. I soon located the aircraft, empty, in West Palm beach. I didn't have a case. Pedro was there. He had \$200,000 in \$100 bills in a paper bag. He offered me the money and asked me not to seize his plane. He said, 'We have to

use people like Fiorini to get it registered in America. That's the hard part of it.'

In the fall of 1959 the State Department was about to honor Cuba's request for the extradition of Pedro Diaz Lanz. Pedro Diaz Lanz was viewed by many liberals as a traitor and a criminal. Hunt wrote that the attacks against him "recalled liberal attacks on Senator Joe McCarthy." After Pedro Diaz Lanz was re-subpoenaed by the Senate Internal Security Committee, the extradition proceedings were dropped.

HUNT AND LANZ

Hunt gave Pedro Diaz Lanz a job as a pilot with the Cuban Revolutionary Front, despite the objections of the State Department. The State Department considered Pedro Diaz Lanz an "unstable reactionary." In *Give Us This Day* Hunt wrote: "I saw a haggard unshaven young man in a flying jacket...his eyes burned in his gaunt face. I told him I admired his exploits. He and his friends had contributed some funds as a down payment on an old B-25. DAVID Phillips underwrote a loan of \$4,000 for an overhaul." Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission: "E. Howard Hunt gave X amount of thousands of dollars to, at least okayed this money for the B-25 bomber to be repaired and then readied in condition for any operations inside of Cuba." When questioned under oath, Pedro Diaz Lanz denied he met Howard Hunt. [Lanz Depo. *Hunt v Weberman*] Evidence existed that Diaz Lanz was over-hauling an aircraft at this time. On January 9, 1961, the CIA noted:

1. The alleged \$2,800 payment is presumed to be part of the money given to Pedro Diaz Lanz by Saralegui as a personal loan in support of Pedro Diaz Lanz's anti-Castro activities.
2. Pedro Diaz Lanz is, of course, preparing his aircraft for the *Vuelo de Verdad* and instructions given by him to aircraft technicians including the possible use of national flags on the nose of the aircraft would confirm that Pedro Diaz Lanz intends to visit a number of countries.
3. Bernard Barker says that he has met Sturgis on only one occasion with a group of people and has never seen him before or since. The alleged address of Barker provided by Sturgis is not correct.

4. It is to be noted that Sturgis has lost the confidence of Diaz Lanz and has been treating with such people as Rasco in an attempt to involve himself in anti-Castro activity. You will note that Diaz Lanz expressed concern that Sturgis "might get involved in such a way that impair the plans of anti-Castro groups."

5. Pedro Diaz Lanz alleges that he and his people are being 'hounded' by federal agents and inspectors whose interest in their plans has been piqued by plane overhauling activities and that these federal officials asked leading and provocative questions.

6. The entire Executive Committee of the Cuban Revolutionary Front, or course, as well as the propaganda commission is fully acquainted with preparatory plans for the flight and it is, therefore, not strange that the plans have become known outside that immediate group.

7. However, a review of the Customs report, together with the above, would indicate that the essential element of plausible denial still remains."
[CIA 201-259129]

Sturgis formed the International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB) on July 4, 1959.

Sturgis claimed its first action was to land 20 men in Cuba who would then compose the core of an anti-Castro guerrilla group in the Escambray Mountains. On July 6, 1959, Sturgis said that five East Germans were expected by the Cuban Government to assist Cuban military forces, probably as instructors. On July 13, 1959, a CIA Routing Slip regarding Sturgis to Mr. Kulen remarked, "CIA Official Routing Slip TO: (Deleted) See request for FBI approval! Kulen advises he has discussed w/00/C [Domestic Contacts Division or DCD]. FBI has an interest & requests 00/C delay contact w/Subject. From (Deleted)." [Unmarked CIA ref. to F 81-0351 D0349; *Allen v. DOD* 00632 521; CIA D00577] The FBI received information on July 27, 1959, that Sturgis reportedly accepted an unidentified amount of money from Rolando Masferrer for a purpose which was not stated: "Informant said that apparently Fiorini did not produce results for Rolando Masferrer, and Rolando Masferrer reportedly had his goons looking for Fiorini." [FBI 100-344127-26 p16] In September 1959 the FBI at Miami, Florida, generated a document about Sturgis. [Date illegible]

LEAFLETING RAID OR BOMBING RAID?

On **September 29, 1959**, the FBI generated File #97-227, subject, Albert Henry Lopez Lopez. Sturgis was mentioned in this report. [CIA FOIA F81-0351 D0532] The CIA reported: "Subject [Sturgis] left for the Dominican Republic on weekend October 10, 1959, traveling with Enrique A. Garcia, registered Dominican Agent. [CIA DBF 35573

10.26.59] On October 27, 1959, Sturgis and Pedro Diaz Lanz began flying a series of "leafleting raids" over Havana. The Cuban Government reported:

INVESTIGATION:

Republic of Cuba.

Ministry of National Defense. Army.

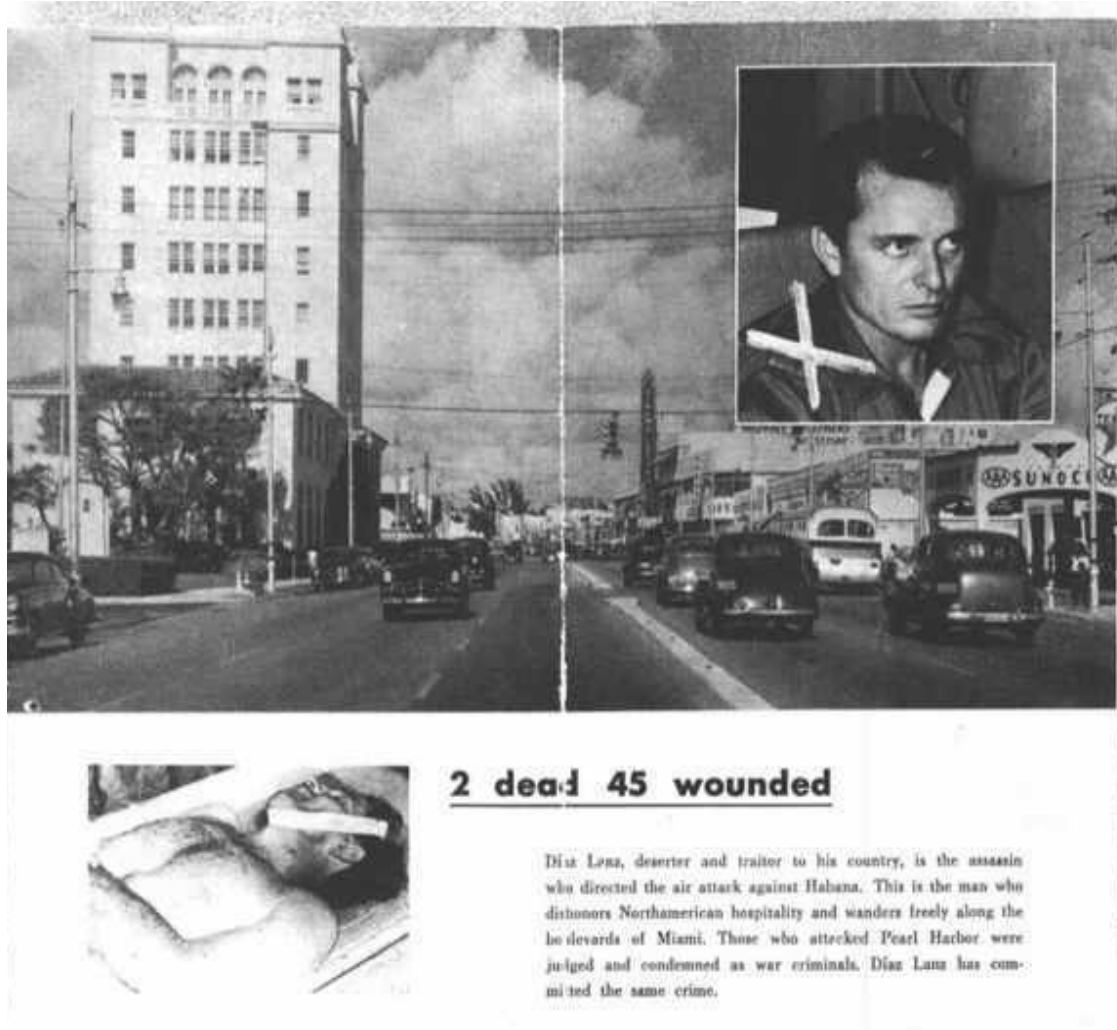
Headquarters of the DIER (Department of Investigation of Rebel Army).

Ciudad Libertad. October 27, 1959.

To His Honor the Judge of Investigations of the Sixth Section. Havana. Sir. The undersigned, Abelardo Colome Ibarra, Commander of the Rebel Army, Chief, Department Investigations, Rebel Army, has the honor to inform you that, by reason of events which took place on October 22, 1959 in the city of Havana, wherein airplanes or small light aircrafts participated, which vessels, according to existing news supposedly came from some part in the North American territory; said planes having dropped manifestos and shrapnel over defenseless people, I delegated on the Police Agents of this body Ramon Rodriguez Acuna and Luis Cambrana who, in the course of their investigations learning the following: That on the said date, in the afternoon hours, two or more airplanes or small light aircrafts dropped from above the city some subversive propaganda slips whereby defamation was made of the Cuban Government and its Revolutionary Laws. Also they dropped shrapnel where the greatest concentration of public was found at the said time; especially where people assemble to get off buses, thus causing a sad balance of numerous persons wounded to different degrees, also two dead, about which occurrence the proper authorities are already aware of through the actuations carried out at the various stations of the National Revolutionary Police. Likewise, the said Agents have known that the attacking planes were piloted by individuals disaffected to the Revolutionary Government under the direction of Ex-Commander Pedro Diaz Lanz, who was formerly, and until very recently, Chief of the FAR (Revolutionary Air Force)...they managed to know that as the site known as 'Esquina de Tejas' was one of the places most effected by the throwing of shrapnel from airplanes or small light aircrafts, the result was several persons wounded and a man killed in consequence of the wounds suffered of which fact the Judge of the Sixth Investigation Section, Havana, is already informed, this being the court where case number 3007-59, was established, duly informed

regarding the crimes of Imperfect Homicide, Infraction to Law 425-959, Serious Injuries and others.

The shrapnel was later identified as fragments from a grenade. In all, 40 people were wounded and two were killed during the "leafleting mission."



Sturgis: "The CIA gave me the money for the plane. Lanz was pilot, I was co-pilot. The big guns at the Navy Station and the Cabana fortress opened up, but the angle of the guns was such that they were firing from the heights, into the city. At least 36 people were killed or wounded. When we returned to Miami, the Customs Service took the plane."

STURGIS' B-25

The FBI reported:

On October 27, 1959, (Deleted), Aircraft Review Section, Federal Aviation Agency, Washington, D.C. made available to S.A. (Deleted) for review, the file for the North American Model TB-25N, Serial Number 44-288874A, Registration Number 9876-C. A bill of sale dated October 6, 1958 described the seller and purchaser, respectively, as the U.S. Air Force, Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California, and Aviation Rental Service, Fleming Field, South St. Paul, Minnesota. The B-25 was sold for \$2,190. By bill of sale dated April 13, 1959, Aviation Rental Service sold same to Ben W. Widtfeldt, in care of Biegert Aviation, Sky Harbor, Phoenix, Arizona. On May 12, 1959, Widtfeldt sold same to Frank A. Fiorini, 2160 Southwest 4th Street, Miami, for \$1 and other valuable consideration. Fiorini, as owner, applied for certificate of registration on May 12, 1959, and received same on July 13, 1959. At this point McDaniel advised that Fiorini in the company of an unidentified male, appeared personally at the Federal Aviation Agency, Washington, D.C. to receive the certificate of registration for this aircraft.

By letter dated September 4, 1959 Carlos B. Fernandez, attorney, Congress Building, Miami, Florida, who on his letterhead described himself as "Vice Consul, Uruguay (Hon.)," wrote the Federal Aviation Agency regarding the above aircraft stating he represented the Government of Cuba, which is the true and rightful owner of said aircraft. Fernandez said at the time of the purchase of the aircraft, Fiorini was acting on behalf of the present Government of Cuba and the funds which were used to purchase it were provided by the present Government of Cuba. Fernandez said on behalf of the Government of Cuba he was filing a suit in the Circuit Court of Dade County to determine the true owner of said aircraft." [FBI 2-1499-45]

Sturgis: "I suspect that the man who sold me the airplane did work for the CIA." On October 21, 1959 Sturgis and Pedro Diaz Lanz flew a leafleting mission to Cuba. On October 30, 1959 U.S. Customs impounded Sturgis' B-25 on the grounds the owners did not obtain an export license for the leaflets.

STURGIS AND PEDRO DIAZ LANZ VISIT GUATEMALA

Sturgis stated: 'In December 1959 he "went to Guatemala with Diaz Lanz for a meeting with the President, to arrange for bases there for the invasion forces. And naturally, there were Cuban and Russian agents there, so there were big headlines in all the newspapers. All over Latin America on the television and on the radio, that I was there trying to get bases, to invade Cuba. I had to leave the country because of all the publicity. In order for the United States Government to protect itself, when I got back a

(unintelligible) grabbed me and lifted my citizenship, which was a ploy on their part to appease Fidel."

CIA documents verified the fact Sturgis and Pedro Lanz did try to approach Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes.

COUNTRY CUBA/GUATEMALA Report No. TDCS-3/424,841

SUBJECT: Activities in Guatemala of Marcos Diaz Lanz, Cuban Exile

DATE DISTR. January 19, 1960.

DATE OF INFO: December 1959 to January 1960.

(Deleted) January 18, 1960.

Appraisal 2 (AS TO REPORTORIAL ACCURACY)

This is UNEVALUATED information. Source of gradings are definitive.

Appraisal of contents is tentative.

SOURCE: American Resident of Mexico in contact with anti-Castro Groups.

1. According to Marcos Diaz Lanz, former Deputy Chief of the Cuban Rebel Air Force in exile since July 1959, prior to his trip to Guatemala he and an unidentified companion met with Arturo Ramirez Pinto, Guatemalan Ambassador in Washington, D.C. Ramirez granted Diaz a visa and scheduled a meeting between Diaz and Guatemalan President Miguel Ydigoras for December 29, 1959, the day that Diaz was supposed to arrive in Guatemala. Diaz described Ramirez as extremely outspoken concerning Guatemalan support of anti-Castro activities. On arrival in Guatemala Diaz found out Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes was out of town. On December 30, 1959, Diaz Lanz met Lt. Eugenio Perez Cowley in his hotel lobby. Diaz Lanz described Eugenio Perez Cowley as an agent in Guatemala of Ché Guevara, leftist head of the National Bank of Cuba, and after meeting Eugenio Perez Cowley, he was not disposed to meet Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes. A few days later, Pedro Diaz Lanz was told by a police agent that he should leave Guatemala, as pressure was being put on the Guatemalan Government. TDCS-3/421,283 reported that Eugenio Perez Cowley had been assigned to the Cuban Embassy, Guatemala, to engage in covert activities on behalf of the Cuban Government.

2. Diaz Lanz blames Jorge Garcia Granados, personal advisor to President Ydigoras, and the Communists for his expulsion from Guatemala. According to Diaz Lanz, this purpose of this trip was to move anti-Castro operations out of the United States, utilizing the sympathy of other Latin Americans to foster support to take the pressure off the U.S. in the eyes of Latin America. While in Guatemala, Diaz Lanz said that he spoke with (FNU) Gonzalez Simi...and other high ranking figures in the Guatemalan Army, who appeared to be sympathetic toward the anti-Castro cause. (Headquarters Comment: Carlos Gonzalez Simi is private secretary to President Ydigoras. Ruben Gonzalez Simi is Minister of Defense).

A follow up report stated:

Ramiro De La Fe, Cuban exile who had helped Diaz Lanz while in Guatemala, and the brother of Ernesto, who is imprisoned in Cuba, said that the real reason for Diaz Lanz mission to Guatemala was to ask Ydigoras permission to use Guatemalan territory as a base of operations for a campaign to overthrow Castro. According to De La Fe, Diaz Lanz brothers claimed that they had visited (illegible) and everything there was arranged. They also claimed to have all the money, arms and men necessary. De La Fe said that Sergio Diaz Brui and Frank Sturgis, who had accompanied Marcos to Guatemala, had returned to Miami, but he did not mention the departure plans of Marcos Diaz. [CIA Report Nos. TDCS 3/423,897 1.8.60, 3/423,455, 3/424,841 1.19.60]

A CIA index card reported: "Arrived in Guatemala December 30, 1959, and contacted Colonel Oscar Morales Lopez who chief of Aviateca (Guat airline); also with Subject was Captain Sergio Diaz and Captain Pedro Diaz Lanz. They wished to talk with President Ydigoras to explain Castro intends to control CA; they desire obtain moral support of Guatemala and impress need to unite CA against Castro." [CIA CS 3 423455]

LOSS OF PASSPORT & THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

On March 21, 1960, file #2-192 (Bureau File #2-1499) was generated. It concerned Sturgis. On April 25, 1960 (Deleted) Office of Security, United States Department of State had decreed that Frank Anthony Sturgis was held to have expatriated himself under Section 349 (A) (3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by accepting, on March 23, 1959, an appointment by the Cuban Air Force as Liaison Officer between the Cuban Air Force and the United States Air Force. A certificate of loss of nationality was approved **January 29, 1960**. [FBI 2-1449-49] The FBI reported that on "**January 7, 1960** (Deleted) INS, Miami, advised that Frank Fiorini, INS, reported to that office on January 7, 1960, and furnished a statement under oath concerning his connection with and membership in, the Cuban Armed Forces, denying any membership or association which would in any way jeopardize his citizenship status." The FBI Office in Miami advised the INS that this was untrue: "In response for a request for any pertinent

admissible evidence concerning this matter, your office in Miami was advised that Subject had voluntarily appeared at this Bureau's headquarters on March 31, 1959, at which time during an interview by Bureau representatives he described himself as a captain in the Cuban armed forces and exhibited documents which he described as credentials to this effect." [FBI 2-1499-41] On January 14, 1960 the FBI reported:

Today, Joseph Therman, investigator for the INS advised State Department interested in Fiorini case and was making inquiry, central office, INS, which office phoned Therman directly instructing him to expeditiously prepare detailed brief of proposed presentation of facts before hearing. Vincent J. Hannard, registered agent of the Cuban Government, advised Special Agent William B. Holloman on January 14, 1960 that he is aware a hearing will be held concerning Fiorini on January 20, 1960. Hannard says he feels sure he will be able to have one or two officials of the Government of Cuba come to Miami for the INS hearing to testify that Fiorini was a member of the Cuban Army subsequent to January 1, 1959. He said these officials would be able to bring documents with them to substantiate their testimony. Hannard said he was going to talk with Fidel Castro during the coming week end and would be able to advise this off on January 18, 1960 definitely whether these officials would be able to testify. Thurman was advised of the information from Hannard without divulging Hannard identity, on January 14, 1960, and was asked whether the testimony of these Cuban officials was desired. Thurman said that he could not give any assurance that an INS meeting is going to be held because this matter is being handled on the Washington level and is a hot potato. He indicated that proceedings against the Subject did not depend so much on available evidence as it did on the feelings of the State Department. When Hannard again contacts this office he will be told that no definite date for a hearing has been set. Hannard has requested that his identity be concealed in this matter.

On **February 24, 1960**, Thurman INS, advised that a hearing was held in the office on February 23, 1960, for the purpose of determining whether Subject was subject to deportation on the basis that he entered the United States illegally without a visa, being an alien, upon return from Guatemala. The hearing was to provide evidence showing Subject to have expatriated himself due to service in the Cuban Armed Forces, subsequent to January 1, 1959, as provided in Section 349A of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. Thurman explained that the U.S. Department of State had already issued a Certificate of Loss of Nationality to Subject, thereby placing the burden of proof on him to show that he had, in fact, not lost his citizenship through such service. Thurman said that Subject recited the 5th

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution when asked pertinent questions regarding his connection with the Cuban Armed Forces, but that a decision formerly rendered by the Board of Appeals of INS held that at such a hearing, should the defendant remain mute or claim the 5th Amendment, material bearing upon that point could be duly entered into evidence." [FBI Miami 2-1499-45]

On **April 26, 1960**, Thurman Investigator, INS, Miami, Florida, advised that Luke White, Special Inquiry Officer for INS, had just handed down a decision regarding the expatriation hearings being held by that office concerning Fiorini. Fiorini was held to have voluntarily expatriated himself through service in the Armed Forces of Cuba, subsequent to January 1, 1959, and has been ordered excluded from admission to the U.S. Consequently, through loss of U.S. citizenship, Fiorini would have needed alien documents to properly enter the U.S. on his return from Guatemala on January 6, 1960. Thurman said that Fiorini holds citizenship in no other country and is therefore a stateless person. Thurman said that Fiorini would theoretically be ordered to return to Guatemala, but that no decision had yet been reached in this concern.

Senator George Smathers intervened and another hearing was scheduled.

On **May 5, 1960**, an informant for the United States Border Patrol reported that "he went to Fiorini's residence evening of May 5, 1960, and was issued a military uniform and boots. (Deleted) related this source said 28 individuals scheduled to participate in an invasion against Cuba, but Fiorini himself would not go. Two M-1 rifles and two carbines were shown to this source by Fiorini, and source said these men are being trained for rifle practice in the Everglades." [FBI 2-1499-48, 49] On May 10, 1960 the Headquarters of the FBI generated a document about Sturgis entitled "Neutrality Matters." On May 10, 1960, the FBI sent a memo to the State Department Office of Security about Sturgis. This Memo concerned Juan Bautista Perez Mendez (File #100-93178). On May 13, 1960, a document about Sturgis was generated by the Miami Field Office of the FBI.

On **August 4, 1960**, Sturgis' appeal was pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington, D.C. On August 4, 1960, Tyler C. Winton, Special Details Officer, U.S. Border Patrol, Miami advised the FBI that a source informed him that Fiorini was inactive in the anti-Castro field. [FBI 2-1499-50] On August 11, 1960, FBI File # Norfolk 97-13 (Bureau file #2-1499) was generated about Sturgis. Subject: (Deleted). On August 18, 1960, the FBI generated an addition to Miami Field Office File #2-192 about Sturgis. Another FBI document on Sturgis was generated on August 24, 1960, at Norfolk, Virginia. On August 30, 1960, the CIA reported: "Subject's pilot's certificate has been revoked by FAA and his appeal of the order expatriating him is still

pending." [CIA DBF 56442(?)] FBI reports were generated on Sturgis in Norfolk on September 28, 1960, and Miami, **October 27, 1960**, Washington December 16, 1960, Neutrality Matters, Miami, December 28, 1960. Howard Osborne of the CIA's Office of Security reported to Arnold Parham of the FBI that "In December 1960, an informant of the FBI who lived with Subject at that time said subject claimed he was working with and being sponsored by the Agency for some future military action against the Government of Cuba."

STURGIS AND THE JUAN ORTA PLAN TO KILL Castro 1960

Sturgis was still determined to kill Fidel Castro. One of his plots utilized the personal secretary of Fidel Castro, **Juan Orta** (born May 27, 1906), to plant a bomb in the office of the Prime Minister. Sturgis told Paul Meskil that he had recruited Juan Orta for anti-Castro espionage in post-revolutionary Havana:

I had access to the prime minister's office, I knew Fidel's private secretary, Juan Orta. I recruited him to work with the Embassy. I planned to go to Fidel's office with a briefcase full of explosives which I would leave there. When Fidel entered the office a signal would be given and the bomb would be set off by an electronic device across the street.

Juan Orta had entered the United States in July 1955. In 1957 he became President of the 26th of July Club in Miami and was charged with making false statements to a Federal Grand Jury in U.S. District Court there. Judge Emmett Choate accepted the guilty plea of Juan Orta and levied a fine of \$400 against him. Juan Orta and Carlos Prio Socarras were the Subjects of Federal indictments for Neutrality Act violations in 1958. Orta and Prio were ordered to appear in Federal Court in New York City. [FBI 109-430-2202 10.29.58] Juan Orta had been serving as an intermediary between Fidel Castro and Carlos Prio Socarras. When their case came to trial in 1959, both Carlos Prio Socarras and Juan Orta received suspended sentences, after obtaining a change of venue from New York to Miami. In January 1960 Juan Orta was in charge of the Castro plan to kidnap Pedro Diaz Lanz. The CIA noted: "In 1959 and 1960 Sturgis was very closely connected with Pedro Diaz Lanz." In April 1961 Juan Orta sought, and was granted, political asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy, where he remained until 1964, when he was granted safe conduct to the United States. [FBI 109-430-2316, 105-57681 NR 10.16.59; FBI FOIA Req. #59,998] Hemming told this researcher:

The kidnap attempt was a cover for flying in and out of the country. You have to have a plan. Otherwise Fidel is going to hear that you're moving around talking to strange people.

A 1977 CIA Task Force Report on assassination schemes against Castro "recognized that Sturgis, through his gambling activities and relationships with various casino operators, may quite possibly have known Juan Orta, and also raised the question of whether Sturgis may have been a source of information to Castro regarding Juan Orta's participation in any assassination plot." The Task Force Report admitted its information was based on "newspaper stories" that

Are not necessarily reliable sources of information. However, because the statement by Sturgis in 1975 indicated a familiarity with Juan Orta's availability to play the role of assassin in **1960**, additional attention was given the statement in the press, to see how it might fit into other things that are known. What follows is subject to reservations that one must attach to the reliability of newspaper stories. The New York Daily News stories (20-25 April 1975), and another story by the same author on 13 June 1976, refer to possible relationships between Sturgis and Trafficante, also mentioning a Norman Rothman as a gambling partner of Trafficante. The Office of Security wrote a memorandum in 1975, in conjunction with the first set of New York Daily News stories, noting that there was a connection between Sturgis and Rothman in 1960, citing FBI reports. It is pertinent to note here that in addition to the role Sturgis is reported to have had with the Castro Government in relation to the gambling activities, Juan Orta's availability for the assassination assignment was understood to be due to his having lost payoffs that he once received from gambling interests. One can deduce that Sturgis and Juan Orta could have known one another because of their connections with gambling activities as well as having contacts with the men heading the gambling organizations.

[CIA FOIA #1057] The CIA acknowledged that Sturgis was the first individual to publicly link Juan Orta with Fidel Castro death plots:

9. Of extreme pertinence to instant memorandum is that information contained in the April 21, 1975 article by Paul Meskil which is apparently based on an interview with Sturgis to wit: The third (assassination) scheme involved planting a bomb in Castro's office."I had access to the Prime Minister's office, I knew Fidel's private secretary, Juan Orta. I recruited him to work with the Embassy. (American Embassy in Havana)." To the writer's knowledge, the name of Juan Orta was never publicly linked to an assassination plot against Castro before the above-noted article. It is also highly interesting that Juan Orta was in fact the assassin to be utilized in the Agency operation, Phase One. It is of note that even the November 1975 Senate Select Committee report "Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders" did not identify Juan Orta

by name as a participant in Phase One, nor did this report identify Rolando Cubela by name as being a participant in Phase Two. However, the Paul Meskil article of April 24, 1975 outlines Phase Two and does identify Cubela as a participant.

In 1993 the CIA admitted: "Juan Orta was a Castro Government official circa 1960 to 1961 and was a contact of Santos Trafficante. Juan Orta was originally selected by Trafficante to make an assassination attempt against Castro." [CIA D000136 9.7.76] In discussing the possible methods of accomplishing this mission, mobster Sam Giancana suggested some type of potent pill that could be placed in Castro's food or drink: "Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official who had been receiving kickbacks payments from the gambling interests, who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind. Technical Services Division was requested to produce six pills of high lethal content. Joe O'Connell delivered the pills to Juan Orta. After several weeks or reported attempts, Juan Orta apparently got cold feet and asked out of the assignment." [CIA OS Osborne Memo for DCI 12.9.70 CIA D-000149] The CIA reported "Poison pills were transported to Cuba in late February or March 1961, and delivered them to the man who was to administer them. That man, however, had already lost his position with the Prime Minister's Office and returned the pills after a couple of weeks." [E.H. Knoche to David Belin 3.7.75] In October 1960 CIA Headquarters was advised by a source that Sturgis and Aquiles Chimza "departing Miami Night October 7, 1960, for Cuba to engage in sabotage activities on behalf of Allanza. Western Hemisphere Division Comment: Above information reported today (deleted) by Cuban Revolutionary Front contact in N.Y. (deleted) for Jake Esterline C/Western Hemisphere Division/4 D. Phillips WHW/4/PROP R. Seehafer C/WH/1/FI (deleted)." [CIA FOIA D0022072] Ralph Gilbert Seehafer was in Peru from 1954 to 1959, Ecuador from 1962 to 1963, the Philippines from 1963 to 1968, the Dominican Republic in 1971 and Nicaragua from 1971 to 1973. The FBI generated a report on Sturgis on October 27, 1960, File #MM 2 129 (Bureau File #2-1499).

January 20, 1961, the FBI generated a report that was File #2-41, subject, Frank Anthony Sturgis - Neutrality Matters, Seattle, Washington as a result of WILLIAM BEAN having furnished the following letter received in the mail on January 14, 1961.

Jan 10, 1961 my old dear companyero BILL, This is the 'Tongue,' your old soldier of fortune buddy from Pathfinder. How be thy body? I'm doing good. Since I've been out I've received \$100.00 a month from Uncle Sam, 50% wartime disability for my back and leg. I told you I'd make out. Now dig! I belong to an anti-Castro counterrevolutionary force here in Miami. We are going to go into the _____ mountains in Cuba as a guerilla force. There are twelve of us Americans the rest of course, Cubans. COME AND JOIN UP! enclosed is the address. I am under Frank Fiorini (my leader).

Our group is called 'Brigade internacional.' We can use good men. If we succeed in overthrowing Castro we'll be rich, if not, dead.

OPERATION 40 AND THE DOMESTIC ASSASSINATION PROPOSAL

MARCH 1961

The FBI reported that Orlando Bosch advised that Sturgis had permitted Sturgis to go on a raid with MIRR. Bosch stated that this raiding party traveled by boat but had failed to land in Cuba and that he was dissatisfied with Fiorini's performance, whom he described as a soldier-of-fortune and publicity seeker. On **March 3, 1961**, the FBI in Miami generated a document about Sturgis, "Internal Security, Cuba, Registration Act, Cuba."

ANGUS McNAIR AND THE DIVERSIONARY LANDING

In **March 1961**, Alexander Rorke, Sturgis and Frank Nelson organized a group of men who were to create a diversion by landing on a different beach during the Bay of Pigs invasion. The first step in effectuating this plan involved sending Angus McNair and others into Cuba to meet Howard Anderson, 41, a reputed CIA Agent who owned a chain of gasoline stations in Havana and commanded the American Legion post there. Anderson had been in close touch with the Humberto Sori Marin Group of high level anti-Castro conspirators. After they were captured, he was instructed to determine if other Cuban officers were in on the plot and if they would attempt to carry it out. He was also to advise the CIA of the progress of the diversionary action to be launched by Operation 40 in Pinar del Rio. Shortly after midnight on March 19, 1961, Angus McNair was captured by Castro's border patrol. Anderson was arrested on his way to meet with McNair. A Castro double-agent had betrayed the conspirators. McNair and Anderson were shot on April 19, 1961 two days after the Bay of Pigs invasion began. McNair was alleged to have been related to Senator Smathers. Seven Cubans were executed including Humberto Sori Marin. Before Angus McNair embarked, he told Sturgis: "I'm going because Fidel Castro killed an American soldier, William Morgan." On April 11, 1961, a group led by Nino Diaz (born January 25, 1925), an associate of Sturgis and Pedro Diaz Lanz, set out for Cuba on a 42-foot motor launch. Nino Diaz had joined the rebel Army of Fidel Castro on April 1, 1958, and was discharged with the rank of Major. Nino Diaz's group landed in Cuba four days later, only to discover that their contacts had been arrested. Journalist Edith Kermit Roosevelt described their situation:

“Included among the Freedom Fighters were a group of Cubans who were dispatched by a person or persons in the Kennedy Administration on a futile suicide mission during the aborted Cuban invasion attempt.” On April 17, 1961, the day the Bay of Pigs Brigade landed in Cuba, the diversionary group ran out of supplies. On April 18, 1961, Nino Diaz's men were rescued by a United States Naval vessel just outside Cuba's territorial waters. In 1976 Michael Canfield asked Sturgis to describe his reaction to the fate of the diversionary group. Sturgis: "Oh I was mad! We had people inside of Cuba. That's when I started to do...ahh, you know we were doing green light operations. Green light is permission. No problem. And after a while they cut the assistance to the underground. They did it because of the policy. The President says 'Stop all things,' and they stop them. I can't lay the blame on one man, but he takes responsibility for the whole thing. I figured he made a deal in that we had to cut back. I felt that was wrong. He deserted the people. I felt that was wrong.”

OPERATION 40 APRIL 1961

Sturgis told Paul Meskil that he was part of the CIA's OPERATION 40, an infiltration and intelligence gathering group that was to go into Cuba before the Bay of Pigs assault. Meskil stated that some former CIA agents described OPERATION 40 as an "assassination squad." Sturgis stated:

It was top CIA project. Most of the men in it were Cubans who had been trained by the U.S. Army. I am not saying that OPERATION 40 had an assassination squad. There were reports there was one, but I'm not saying so.

Paul Meskil reported that the Chief of OPERATION 40 was Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis, a former Castro aide who defected and became a CIA agent. Two of his cousins also worked for the Agency. Canfield asked Sturgis about OPERATION 40:

Sturgis: Well, I was an associate, while I participated in OPERATION 40. OPERATION 40 was formed before the Bay of Pigs invasion; it was a Top Secret Government operation; it consisted of many Cuban intelligence officers who worked for the CIA and this organization. Their job primarily was to train people to infiltrate a foreign country, to make contact with people in the political sector of the government, plus there was also a group formed, in which was the assassination section, which I was part of; that, if necessary, this assassination group would, upon orders, naturally, assassinate either members of the military in the foreign country, political party members of the foreign country that you were going to infiltrate, and, if necessary, some of your own members, who were suspected of being foreign agents. Now at the same time, I was asked by my friend, who was a CIA agent, he asked me if I was interested in participating, or doing

an assassination with the Company. I told him yes, providing that I would sit down with his case officer and go over the details, and I would do it.

Canfield: Domestic or foreign?

Sturgis: It would be domestic.

Canfield: Here in the United States?"

Sturgis: Oh yeah. The reason for that, he asked me how I would go about it. And I told him, well, if it was going to be domestic, well, I could do it several ways. I could do it either in the Everglades, I could do it by boat, or I could do it by air. But, that if it was going to be done, I did not want nobody to be part of this, I would do it by myself, but I definitely wanted to meet the officer who wanted this done, and I wanted to see him, and get it right from him, so that I would be sure that it would be someone with authority, and not just a low level agent, such as he...I told him that. He told me that he would make contact with someone higher up, and pass on that information and so forth.

Canfield: Did this come out of Operation 40?

Sturgis: This is what the Operation 40 was trained for...

Canfield: What about domestic activities, did they ever attempt a domestic assassination?

Sturgis: Not to my knowledge, no. But the only thing I can say on that is, when I was asked to do domestically, myself --

Canfield: Right.

Sturgis: Of anyone else, no, not to my knowledge; which brings the why all this stuff I've been reading in the papers where they want me to be part of an investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, I have no knowledge of anything like --

Canfield: Did anyone ever approach you about --

Sturgis: The assassination? Yeah, oh yeah.

Canfield: No, I mean, to do the assassination.

Sturgis: No, no, oh no. The Cubans were very angry with the Kennedys, they were furious with the Kennedys because of the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion. But the only thing that I had as far as the assassination was concerned, naturally, is the

investigation by the FBI. And they said, "Well Frank, this is strictly a voluntary thing, if you want to talk with us, if you don't want to talk with us' - And they told me that they felt I was one of the persons capable, if I wanted to assassinate somebody as high as the President of the United States, that I was capable of --

Canfield: You were approached though to do assassination jobs -

Sturgis: Oh yeah. Also an associate. And it can be proven that he is, or rather was, at that time, a CIA agent.

Canfield: Was he involved in Watergate?

Sturgis: Well, I don't want to go ahead and say at this point. But if I'm ever called in front of a Congressional Committee, which I assume I will be, I will tell them...

Canfield: Did they ever tell you who was to be assassinated?

Sturgis: No.

Canfield: Do you have any ideas?

Sturgis: No, no. I don't even know if it was another agent, or a double agent, or a fool or what. The only one who would know are the people involved in CIA.

Canfield: They never did assassinate anyone in the United States?

Sturgis: Not to my knowledge, no...On this assassination thing, I would figure well, it's gonna have to come up from some a little higher than this agent right here. It's gonna have to come from someone with a little authority.

Canfield: Did you tell him that?

Sturgis: Oh, yeah.

Canfield: And what was his response?

Sturgis: He told me he would make contact with someone higher up, and pass on that information, and so forth.

Canfield: Did you ever get any feedback from him or anyone else?

Sturgis: No.

Canfield asked Sturgis: "Were all members of OPERATION 40 trained in assassination?" Sturgis replied that only 20 men were.

Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission:

Sturgis: All I knew is that he was an agent, and at a latter date, it was proven that he was an agent. So my contacts with this man throughout the years, how he worked, my close contact with him, in Miami, the way of operation, the way he handles himself, the people that he was in close contact with, that the top political and military people who were in exile that he was in touch with, the formation of the Bay of Pigs itself before the invasion came through this particular man. He was part of forming this -- at least of the Revolutionary Council. And I was approached by him and I told Jose Joachim Sajennes Pardomo. I said, 'What do you think?' The idiot, I hope this never gets publicized, I said this idiot took me out and we had some lunch, and he asked me if I wanted to do an assassination attempt for the outfit. And I looked him square in the face and told him, 'Why did you come to me?' And he says, 'Well Frank, like who else? You are a man that the Chief knows your background, and I know your background, and I know you are capable. And if anybody can do it, you can do it. But the thing is would you be interested?' And I said, 'Yes I would be.' The discussion of money was not involved in it, because I would not do anything for money. I don't know [who the target was]. He said he would contact his chief, and he would --- he told me to contact him later on, and I think he gave me a certain day to contact him, and I said 'Okay.' You must remember that how I know this man as an agent, because he does the same things as I do in his life, he types away, or at least, he has a wife who types away, he makes all the reports, and stacks them in a file cabinet. I have heard him talk to his case officer on the telephone. And to me that was very stupid of him in doing that even to me who was his friend. That is a stupid way of doing things. Because he did not suspect that I was in touch with Jose Joachim Sajennes Pardomo, he cannot know. And the only time he suspected that I had anything to do with the CIA is when we were in prison, and the man on the television said, 'Yes,' he used to work for the CIA. I am talking about the agent and me who was part of the Watergate group. And he was dumbfounded and said, 'What, you work for the CIA?' And I said, 'Yes sir, you dumb bastard you, I was turning you in to my case officer.' I knew he was an agent, but I didn't know that I was in contact --- I never used the word -- or at least I don't think I did, and I hope I haven't used it today -- that I said I was an employee of the CIA or that I was connected with the CIA. I had a second meeting with him at the Ranch house, and he told me, he says, "Well, there is interest Frank.' He said 'About this assassination,' and I said 'Fine.' And then he started to questioning, how would you do it? There are several ways of trying to do assassination. The things I have to know is who the person is, that is number one, it is important, and where the person is at, which is important. And then, I will have to go ahead and go to the place where this man lives...I said I wanted to tell you something, I will do this because you are a friend of mine, and because you asked me. But I will want

more than that. And he said 'What is that?' I said I want it from somebody higher than you, from somebody with authority. If you tell me --- and you are my friend, and I believe you -- but I want it more from somebody else who has some authority. You have a case officer. I want your case officer to tell me to do an assassination plot and I will do it. But coming from you, you are my friend, my buddy, but I have got to have more than that for my protection.

Olsen: Did he ever put you in touch with his case officer?

Sturgis: I knew who his boss was.

Olsen: Who was his boss?

Sturgis: "*Eduardo*"...It either had to be "Eduardo," who I never met or it had to be possibly (deleted as of 2010) after "Eduardo" left.

Olsen: Did (deleted as of 2010) take his place?

Sturgis: I believe so, I believe (deleted as of 2010) did take his place as this party's case officer.

Olsen: And then you did not actually have any contact with his case officer?

Sturgis: When I told him what I think it kind of stung him a little bit. And he said, 'Well, okay, all right. Then you will go through with it?' And I said 'Certainly I will go through with it, I don't care who the hell it is!' I said, 'You let me know.'

HUNT, BARKER AND STURGIS 1961

On April 4, 1975, Sturgis was re-questioned about the proposed domestic assassination. He went off the record then said Barker was the CIA agent who approached him. [SSCIA 157-10005-10191]

Olsen: Yesterday we were talking about an approach which was made to you in Miami sometime after you returned to the United States from Cuba in 1959, in which you were asked if you would be willing to undertake an assassination?

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: Would you tell us this morning who it was that approached you with that subject?

Olsen: Mr. Sturgis has asked that we go off the record, during the course of which Mr. Navarro was invited to leave the room and he is now absent from the room. The only

parties present in the room at this time are Mr. Sturgis and myself. Now the question that I put to you, Frank, was: Can you identify for us at this time who it was that approached you with the question of whether you would participate in the performance of an assassination?

Sturgis: Bernard L. Barker.

Olsen: And when was it, as best you can recall, Frank, when that approach was made?

Sturgis: I believe it was approximately 1961, either before the Bay of Pigs or after the Bay of Pigs

Olsen: Was it shortly before or shortly after?

Sturgis: I would be very honest with you, I don't remember.

Olsen: Well the Bay of Pigs operation actually took place in April 1961, didn't it?

Sturgis: 1961, yes sir.

Olsen: As I understand from your testimony yesterday, when you were approached about this you indicated you were willing to do so.

Sturgis: Yes sir.

Olsen: But you thereafter checked with Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis about what the thought about it, and Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis indicated to you that he thought you should cooperate with Barker, but that you should make sure that it was going to be an authorized operation by insisting to Barker that the word come to you directly from someone who has identified himself as Barker's Case Officer. Is that a fair statement of what you have just told me?

Sturgis: Either his Case Officer or his Station Chief.

Olsen: Did you know at the time who Barker's Case Officer was?

Sturgis: I assumed at the time that it was possible that it was "Eduardo," who he was the assistant under "Eduardo."

Olsen: But, am I correct in understanding now that you do not know whether Eduardo was still on the scene or whether he had been replaced?

Sturgis: No, sir, I do not know. Now let me say this. I did ask Howard Hunt do you use the code name Eduardo while we were in Danbury, Connecticut, and present -

Olsen: Now are you talking about 1972?

Sturgis: Now we are talking about 1972. I asked him if he gave any orders to Bernie, or Barker, of MACHO, whatever -- these names -- I called him by these names.

Olsen: In other words Barker was known as either Bernie or MACHO?

Sturgis: Right.

Olsen: Okay.

Sturgis: I did ask Howard: Did you ever ask MACHO Barker to do an assassination, to approach me on an assassination. He says "Hell no."

Olsen: All right then. Did you thereafter -- going back to the 1961 -- did you have any further conversation with Bernard Barker about the subject?

Sturgis: Yes, sir. I was advised not to discuss the assassination attempt with him -- to let Bernie bring up the subject -- whenever I saw him. Bernie did bring up the subject.

Olsen: Where did you talk to Bernie the next time about this subject?

Sturgis: It was either one or two places; it was either at his home in the -- I believe the northwest section of town, or at a dinner that he invited me to at a steak house -- and I believe it was a Ranch House; this Ranch House was located on 36th Street just before LeJuene Road.

Olsen: And what happened when you next met with Barker about the subject?

Sturgis: He told me that this invitation was -- his Case Officer said "Take Frank out and have dinner."

Olsen: And what did he do? Did he explore your further willingness to undertake this?

Sturgis: Yes. Bernie asked me how I would go about it were the subject about the assassination, and he asked me how I would do it. And I told, him, I says, "It would all depend. I don't want to know the man or the victim's name at this time, but it would depend on the man, his position, for me to determine how I would get rid of the man."

Olsen: And also where.

Sturgis: Where -- the location, right. Also, in the conversation I told him -- he went into detail with me, and he said that there was a possibility that he would like to go on the thing with me. And I told him, "Well Bernie, I don't like anybody to come with me; I'll be very honest with you. I prefer to do it myself" because naturally I did not want to have a witness to something that I would do even if he is an agent or not, that I would do the thing. He said, "Well, how could I know that it was done?" I says "Well there are several ways; No. 1, the person would eventually be reported missing; No. 2, I will cut off his ear or his finger and give it to you" I says "because there won't be no body to recover." I told him -- he says, "How would you do it?" I says, "Well, I could go to the Everglades; I could dig a hole and put lye in it -- the lye will eat up the body. I could take an airplane and fly over the Gulf Stream weighted down -- I would have to cut his stomach and intestines so that he wouldn't float. Even weighted down a body will float unless you cut open the insides of his stomach and intestines. Or, I says, "I could go out with boat into the Gulf Stream and use explosives in order to destroy the body completely."

Olsen: Did you know at the time where this assassination attempt was to be undertaken in Florida?

Sturgis: No, sir. I again -- knowing how agents work because I in turn have trained some people as far as intelligence was concerned; there is such a thing called compartmentation, and even though I was willing to go on this assassination, at the time I did not want to know who the person was in case if I did not do the assassination and someone else did the assassination, at least if it was uncovered that I would not be brought in as some one who knew of the conspiracy to assassinate someone here if it was in the United States or a foreign country.

Olsen: Frank, did anything further transpire about this assassination? Other than this second conversation with Barker?

Sturgis: No sir. Nothing came about because I nailed him to the wall, telling Barker that I would want someone much higher than he who would identify himself, his position with the company, and then I would do the operation.

Olsen: Did anybody ever contact you then who was higher up in the company?

Sturgis: No sir. No one, but I still maintained my friendship with Barker throughout the years.

Olsen: So that ended the matter in respect to assassination?

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: All right, here we go back on the record. Continuing then, Frank, did you ever have any further contact with anyone who you believed had any connection whatever with the CIA about an assassination?

Sturgis: No sir. MACHO Barker was the only one at that time. Now MACHO asked me to help some other leaders who naturally were in touch with him. You must understand that because he asked me -- you can understand his position; his position was political under Eduardo; as I said before, E. Howard Hunt or Eduardo was a political officer with CIA with the planning of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Olsen: Well, what I'm getting at is this: Did anybody ever contact you -- that is anybody who had any connection whatever with the CIA, contact you about an assassination after the one that you have just described to us?

Sturgis: In the United States, no.

Olsen: How about outside the United States?

Sturgis: Well, there is a very thin line here. I have discussed assassinations of several top Cuban political and military leaders with the Havana Station.

Olsen: When you say with the Havana Station, who in the Havana Station?

Sturgis: Well, with the United States Embassy, Colonel Nichols.

Olsen: This was while you were still in Cuba?

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: Before leaving there in June 1959?

Sturgis: Yes sir. That's in the first part of January and February 1959.

Olsen: Well, these were all discussed with us yesterday on the record when you described to us the discussions that took place among officials of the Cuban Air Force and Cuban Army about plans to assassinate Fidel Castro and Che Guevara?

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: And people of their entourage.

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: And you described yesterday some exercises that were worked up, plans that were drawn up with respect to possible places to perform the assassinations?

Sturgis: Yes, sir.

Olsen: And then you described to us yesterday the fact the Colonel Nichols had on the occasions when you had discussed it with him --- Colonel Nichols had urged you to hold off on any such assassination.

Sturgis: Right...

Olsen: You mentioned to me when we talked over the telephone, Frank, that you had some contact with or some relationship with a planned assassination of Premier Castro in New York. What was that what you were referring to?

Sturgis: There was a time, I don't remember the exact date, that Fidel was in New York; there was a conspiracy or at least talk of a conspiracy to want to kill him. Now as far as the CIA is concerned, I don't believe that they were involved or any agents were involved in that conspiracy wanting to assassinate Fidel.

Olsen: Was this then something that was discussed among elements of the Cuban exiles in Florida?

Sturgis: Yes sir, New York and Florida.

Olsen: Did you have any contact or know of any contact whatever in connection with such discussions of assassinating Premier Castro in New York -- did you have any contact whatever with anybody in the Government of the United States?

Sturgis: That is very difficult to answer, Mr. Olsen, because of the dates involved. I would think that I had contact with the Agency, but again I will state that whatever they knew about, or were involved in any conspiracy, myself I do not know.

Olsen: Well, when you say you had some contact with somebody from the Agency, did you have such contact with somebody from the Agency about such an assassination.

Sturgis: No, sir. No, I did not.

Olsen: Was there any contact that you had of any nature relating to any assassination any place with any official of the United States Government, other than the ones that you have already described to me?

[OFF THE RECORD]

Olsen: All right, we are going back on the record again. Mr. Sturgis having said he was having difficulty thinking about exactly what answer he would give to the question that was posed because he didn't want to use up tape time while he was engaged in his thinking process. He has -- while we have been off the record -- explored the subject with us further and is now prepared to answer the question. Go ahead, Frank.

Sturgis: After that meeting with Barker, I, as far as I know, with the Cuban friends of mine who were working for the company or who was working under the company, there was a great deal of talk among the Cubans about wanting to assassinate Fidel Castro in New York, inside of Cuba, or in Latin America because Fidel did make several trips. There was talk, but as far as I know I don't know if CIA sponsored any of the Cubans in any attempt to kill Fidel or finance them in any attempt to kill him, nor supported any attempt by the Cubans to want to kill him, or whether these Cubans were simply patriots or were working for, or associated with, the CIA.

Olsen: You don't know then, Frank, whether any of this conversation about killing Fidel Castro was initiated or promoted or sponsored in any fashion by the CIA?

Sturgis: I do not. No, sir.

Olsen: Okay. Now, was there any other discussions about assassinations that you could tell us about that you participated in or knew of, other than what you have already described to us?

Sturgis: No, sir. At this point I cannot think of any other attempt or discussion in any other assassination attempt on any one.

Olsen: Did you ever have any conversation with anybody about assassinating President Kennedy.

Sturgis: No sir.

Olsen: Did you have any part whatever in planning or carrying out the assassination of President Kennedy or any other public figure of the United States?

Sturgis: I have not been involved in any of that sir.

Roethe: I would like to ask one more question. You indicated at the very beginning of our interview yesterday that you would tell us the truth, in whatever you answered and that there may be occasions when you might want to hold certain things back, and that you would tell us if you were doing that. I wonder if there has been any instance now

where you held anything back from us, not by telling us a lie, but by simply not telling us everything that there is to tell.

Sturgis: Where it concerns the conspiracy or assassination attempts on the President of the United States, Martin Luther King, Bobby Kennedy or any American Government official, I have told the truth; I have not held back anything whatsoever.

In an April 23, 1975 Memo for File, Robert Olsen wrote:

While Sturgis claims that he was asked by Barker in 1961 if he would be willing to undertake an assassination attempt, he acknowledges that he did not even know who was involved or whether it was inside or outside the United States...I intend to check out the claim Sturgis makes that he was asked in 1968 by a CIA agent (allegedly Jose Joachim Sajennes Pardomo) to organize an operation for the hijacking of a Russian ship...I also intend to check out his claims to take on an assassination of some unknown person. Incidentally, there is a possible connection on this matter. In 1960 and 1961 Hunt was active in the organization of a Cuban government-in-exile in the United States. In this role he had contacts with Bernard Barker, who was under contract with the Agency. Hunt states in his book that he had recommended to the Agency that an assassination of Castro be carried out before or contemporaneously with the Bay of Pigs invasion. It is not inconceivable that Hunt would have asked Barker to check out the possibilities of finding an assassin to carry out such a job if approval were ever given to his recommendation.

OPERATION 40 was created as an adjunct to the Bay of Pigs invasion, and was to continue as a subsidiary intelligence agency if the invasion proved successful. OPERATION 40 intelligence officers were to supply the names of suspected Communists to the assassination section. The suspects would then be terminated. During his deposition in *Hunt v Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Did you understand that Operation 40 contained an assassination section?

A. Operation 40 consists of a bunch of Cuban officers some of whom I have been familiar with, some are my friends, and their job training by the United States Government were this: When the Brigade landed in Cuba, Operation 40 was to follow. The officers involved in this operation were to make contact with Cuban political elements inside Cuba, both political, military and so forth, who would give assistance to the Brigade and to the underground because Operation 40 was an intelligence organization who had this contact in Cuba. So naturally, in order to make the invasion successful you had to co-ordinate the activities of the Brigade and, also, of the help that it could receive from both the political and the military elements that were in Cuba to

assist, you know, in the invasion; and if necessary, if an assassination had to be part of it, naturally it would be part of it.

Q. Do you know if the Diaz Lanz brothers were associated with Operation 40.

A. I doubt it very much. Pedro Diaz Lanz, Marcos and myself included were part of a special air group that was formed and I was associated with that air group because the B-24 bomber was in my name, registered under, at that time it was FAA, and this same B-24 bomber, which the CIA was given money to, was the same bomber on October 25, 1959, that flew over Havana, Cuba, and the pilot was both myself and Pedro Diaz Lanz, Marcos Diaz Lanz and another Cuban was in the bomb bay, where we dropped hundreds of thousands of leaflets over the City of Havana, accusing the Castro Government of being a Communistic government.

In subsequent interviews, Sturgis was far less candid: "I am not saying that OPERATION 40 had an assassination squad. There were reports that there was one, but I am not saying so...I don't recall when I was approached to commit a domestic assassination. Artime did know the people in OPERATION 40 though..." The SSCIA questioned Hunt about OPERATION 40:

Baron: Senator Schweiker, who is a member of our Committee, has expressed an interest in a quote by Frank Sturgis that you might be quite familiar with, where he granted an interview to the author of a book called *Coup D'Etat In America* and he said that he was in some sort of assassination group within what he called OPERATION 40 at the CIA, which was supposed to, upon orders, be capable of assassinating foreign military and political leaders, or suspected double agents. What light can you shed on that?

Hunt: I think Frank Sturgis has become a captive of his own imagination. It has finally been established, I think to everyone's satisfaction, that he never was a CIA employee. While I am fond of Frank personally, I don't think a lot of credence ought to be accorded his fantasies.

The HSCA interviewed Marcos Diaz Lanz. He said that although he and Pedro Diaz Lanz refused to join the Bay of Pigs invasion, they were told that they would be in charge of a Special Air Group. That group never coalesced and the Lanz brothers never went to Guatemala.

On March 7, 1961, Alexander Rorke was approved for contact with the CIA Domestic Contacts Division by Sheffield Edwards and William A. Osborne: "Inasmuch as Subject is a reporter, any classified information released to him during contact with him, should be carefully identified as such." Hunt reported "Frank was certainly involved in the

recommendation of various exiles, who he knew personally, to be included in the Bay of Pigs invasion, but he was not part of the Brigade itself. There's a chance he may have infiltrated the island at one point and scouted the territory, but he was not with the invading force. [*American Spy Hunt* p119]

Prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1961, Hunt made **Bernard Barker** his chief assistant. The CIA: "As a result of his excellent record with the CIA in Havana, and favorable assessment by a senior CIA official in Miami in January 1960, Barker was hired under a contractual relationship with the CIA Miami Office effective April 4, 1960, at the rate of \$300 per month for full time service." Barker was asked about this in the course of *Hunt v Weberman*: "I worked for Mr. Hunt in the Bay of Pigs invasion. This training I received with the rest of the Cubans from a government agency." Aside from Hunt, Barker's Case Officers were Joseph S. Piccolo of Western Hemisphere Division/4 and Jacob D. Esterline. The CIA: "Mr. Hunt was assigned to the Agency's Cuban Operations in Miami Florida area from June 1960 through October 1961. In that connection he was Mr. Barker's supervisor as of September 1961." Barker would soon be viewed by the CIA as a security problem since he was strongly associated with the CIA in the exiles thinking and "statements or opinions expressed by him concerning various individuals or exile groups were either mistaken for 'official leaks' or 'policy.'" A recently released handwritten CIA document, titled Bernard Barker, reviewed his early activities for the CIA:

1. April 1960 (deleted) in contact on station orders with (deleted) who was to give (deleted) a monthly accounting of Agency support.
2. April 1960 (deleted) in contact on station orders with (deleted) ordered to obtain report of (deleted) Latin American trip, including his diary & paper on (deleted) thinking on and current status of PM activities. Knows (deleted) is station asset.
3. Worked with Frank Bender in handling (deleted) .
4. POA granted (deleted) on May 9, 1960, for use in political action opa in (deleted).
5. In contact with Tony Varona. Acted as go-between with Varona/Bender.
6. Also knows (deleted) by his true name.
7. (Deleted) his wife Clara, worked on (deleted) Project. Wife was translator. (Illegible) Feb 1961 POA granted on Clara on March 15, 1961.
8. (Illegible) Howard Hunt (deleted) was being handled administratively by (deleted) June 20, 1961.

9. (deleted) involved with ransoming Brigade prisoners from Cuba.
10. Considered to work with (deleted) intelligence service (WAVE 335 February 13, 1962 (deleted)).
11. Knows (Daniel Carswell, Eustace Danbrunt and Edmund Taransky) under true names.

Alexander Irwin Rorke Jr. (born August 9, 1926) was a close associate of Frank Sturgis. [FBI 97-4623-46- 9.12.61] Alexander Rorke was the son of a New York City



Assistant District Attorney. In 1919, Alexander Rorke Sr. (born June 29, 1877; died January 1967), prosecuted and convicted the founders of the Communist Party of the United States. He then became a New York State Appellate Judge. Alexander Rorke Jr. was a graduate of St. John's University and attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. At the age of 17, he

enlisted in the U.S. Army. Alexander Rorke served as a military intelligence specialist during World War II, responsible for the security of five German provinces. He participated in the capture of SS men, and in the first postwar roundup of Communist agents in the Allied military zones of Germany. Returning to college after the war, Rorke who was 6' 3" tall and weighed 200 pounds, became a track star and Forensic Commissioner of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, and an undefeated inter-collegiate debating champion. He was an FBI clerk from February 5, 1951, to May 11, 1951. In 1952 he married Jacqueline Billingsley. The father of Jacqueline Billingsley, Sherman Billingsley, was a former bootlegger with several convictions, who owned a Manhattan night club known as *The Stork Club*. *The Stork Club* was frequented by numerous organized crime figures as well as by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Alex Rorke was acquainted with Dominick Bartone.

DOMINICK BARTONE & WILLIAM MORGAN

When Fidel Castro came to power mobster Dominick Bartone attempted to win his favor by smuggling him several plane loads of arms. Dominick Bartone worked out a deal with Jimmy Hoffa in which the Teamsters Union would lend a "Cleveland Group"\$300,000 to

buy several surplus cargo-aircraft. Then Dominick Bartone would supply the arms and the pilot who would fly the plane to Cuba. Dominick Bartone was indicted for this activity. [FBI 105-70973]

Sturgis claimed that circa May 1959 he set up a meeting between William Morgan and national crime syndicate associate Frank Nelson. Frank Nelson had been a friend of Fulgencio Batista, and had previously owned a good deal of Cuba's lobster industry. Sturgis said Frank Nelson informed William Morgan he represented the interests of Raphael Trujillo, and could offer William Morgan \$500,000 for his cooperation in organizing a Cuban invasion from the Dominican Republic. William Morgan allegedly accepted the offer.

On May 1, 1959, the FBI received a report of funds being funneled to William Morgan: "Within the past few days \$25,000 was delivered to William Morgan...William Morgan has reportedly agreed to establish a new revolutionary anti-Castro front in the Escambray area...Carlos Prio...and the Dominican Republic are supplying the other arms and equipment...According to the source, Fulgencio Batista and Orlando Piedra are making large contributions." [FBI 105-70973 - Morgan] The anti-Castro forces in the Dominican Republic were led by General Jose Pedraza, who had served under Batista.

Alexander Rorke told the FBI that Dominick Bartone supplied a plane "which was used by the Cubans and Dominicans for the invasion of the Dominican Republic which took place on June 19, 1959." [CIA OS 8.24.62 Sheffield Edwards] On June 25, 1959, the Miami FBI was instructed to clarify "the statement in retel to effect that William Morgan was with Dominick Bartone, who was arrested May 22, 1959, by Customs, Miami, relative to seizure of plane loaded with arms for Dominican Republic. Miami should advise statements source and basis for allegation that William Morgan visited Miami in order to receive \$10,000 from Dominican Consul Ferrando." Headquarters was advised that according to a source of the Miami Field Office, William Morgan met with [FNU] Ferrando in Room 1133R of Dupont Plaza Motel in Miami, a room registered to Dominick Bartone. The FBI received information that William Morgan was awaiting "arrival in the Dominican Republic of \$200,000 worth of guns" which allegedly had been purchased in England by Amadeo Barleta, who had been the Subject of a Bureau investigation during World War II for being a "rabid pro-Fascist." [FBI 100-344127-NR 7.2.59] On August 10, 1959, a CIA source reported that William Morgan met with Dominick Bartone and several anti-Castro Cubans at Dominick Bartone's home in Miami. William Morgan was given \$140,000 in cash. The CIA discovered that Dominick Bartone was sending William Morgan money through a Panamanian bank. When William Morgan returned to Havana he publicly declared that he had received \$75,000 from counter-revolutionaries. Had Sturgis introduced William Morgan to Dominick Bartone, rather than to Frank Nelson? Peter Clapper of the Rockefeller Commission noted on May 6, 1975: "Bob: It may be of interest that Dominick Bartone, a mafia

member in Cleveland, has told the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reporter Mary Wogel that he was hired in 1959 by Sturgis to help with assassination plotting against Fidel Castro. Ms. Wogel called to volunteer the information." [CIA RCD 5.6.75 mistakenly labeled by Archives as HSCA 180-10107-10419] In August 1959 Alexander Rorke flew to Cuba to finalize the plans for the invasion of Cuba from the Dominican Republic with William A. Morgan. When he arrived at the home of William A. Morgan, he was arrested by the G-2. Alexander Rorke was incarcerated from August 9, 1959 to August 14, 1959. Alexander Rorke criticized the State Department for not having gotten him released quickly enough. The reason he was arrested was that William Morgan had reported the plot to Fidel Castro, so when a plane-load of Trujillo's men landed in a sugar cane field outside Havana the next day, the militia arrested them. An FBI informant explained:

In mid-August 1959 an anti-Castro group in Cuba began fighting, but William Morgan double-crossed the anti-Fidel Castro forces and through his actions entrapped a plane that was sent from the Dominican Republic in answer to a false broadcast by William Morgan for aid by the anti-Castro forces then fighting. (Deleted) other forces from the Dominican Republic which were prepared to leave to fight in Cuba were canceled..." [FBI MM 2-225]

The CIA reported: "Rorke recently returned from Cuba where he was held without charge from August 9, 1959 to August 14, 1959. Had gone to photograph invasion of that country by a force from U.S. and had made arrangements by a friend in Miami to be advised two days prior to invasion. The friend was Dominick Bartone." The FBI reported that Rolando Masferrer met with "Norman Rothman, hoodlum and gangster, Miami Beach, August 1959, concerning double cross of William Morgan, but Rolando Masferrer reportedly does not want anything to do with any plot to assassinate William Morgan...Informant said that also they discussed having an American crime syndicate sign a contract to produce the assassination of Morgan on behalf of Raphael Trujillo, Dominican Dictator, who would furnish money. (Deleted) Masferrer does not want to take part in any plans to assassinate Morgan, and does not plan to become a party to such a plot...Rothman is in contact with Enrique A. Garcia, an employee Dominican Republic delegation to the United Nations, who is also in contact with Masferrer." [FBI 100-344127-26 - pages 11 to 14 w/h]

THE YANKEE WHO SAVED THE REVOLUTION

William Morgan told Fidel Castro that Alexander Rorke had no part in the Dominican plot; Alexander Rorke was released and deported, having spent nine days in a Cuban jail. William Morgan became "the Yankee who saved the revolution." As a reward, he was given a frog leg farm outside Havana. Alexander Rorke returned to New York City. Rorke told the FBI about his experiences as a prisoner of Castro: "Rorke advised that in August 1959, he had gone to Cuba on a T.V. news assignment and to participate in

counter-revolutionary matters. He stated that while there he was arrested on orders of Raul Castro, was shot at, subjected to round-the-clock interrogation and 'brainwashing attempts.' He stated he was held for nine days at the Cuban Army Base, Camp Libertad, located outside Havana."

On September 17, 1959, the CIA generated an index card about Dominick Bartone titled "Regarding Association with William Alexander Morgan, 201-251145, and Information Concerning a Plot to Assassinate Castro." In November 1959 Rorke was interviewed by radio station WABC in New York City:

Rorke indicated he had received many threatening telephone calls at his home after his initial interview with WABC regarding his derogatory remarks concerning Fidel Castro. He stated that while he was held prisoner in Havana he was told that he would be taken care of by Castro agents working in the United States if he spoke out against Castro's regime. He indicated there was a large Castro espionage ring working in the United States with personnel operating on diplomatic passports. His information, Rorke claimed, came from such persons as Major William Morgan. Rorke further advised that he had been approached in the United States by one Frank De Llundu who had worked for Castro in the United States during the revolution. De Llundu advised Rorke to stop criticizing the Castro regime. The report went on to indicate the details of Rorke's meetings with various other individuals, including Frank Nelson, an American who formerly operated a frozen food business in Cuba, and Dominick Bartone, President of the International Trading Company. According to Rorke, Bartone was apparently involved in arms and plane sales and one of these planes had delivered revolutionaries into Nicaragua. Rorke believed that Bartone also sold the plane which was used by the Cubans and Dominicans for the invasion of the Dominican Republic on June 19, 1959. Rorke indicated he had been in contact with Cuban exiles, namely General Manuel Benitez and Dr. Emilo Nunez Portuondo.

On November 17, 1959, Rorke advised the FBI that "he had received information from a source whom he considered reliable that there would be another demonstration in the Panama Canal area against the U.S. Government. His source related that, in addition to the march through the Canal Zone, riots were also expected in Panama and that they would take place before November 28, 1959. [FBI 109-12-223-273 encl. P.1 also see FBI 105-82088-14 p.1] On November 30, 1959 the NY Office of the FBI advised "that during the past two months they had been in contact with Rorke who was held by Cuban authorities in Havana during August 1959. Rorke had maintained contact with various revolutionary groups and individuals in the U.S. such as (deleted)."

As Dr. Emilo Nunez Portuondo, former Cuban Ambassador to the UN, and ex-Cuban General Manuel Benitez. "On October 21, 1959 Rorke advised that he had learned from the niece of the President of Panama that Dr. Emilio Nunez Portuondo was then in Panama talking to the representatives of the Panamanian Government trying to line up support for a provisional government for Cuba." [FBI 66-2542-3-34-5111 p.3] On December 30, 1959, Rorke told the FBI:

Detailed information concerning his anti-Fidel Castro activities during the period of July 1959 to December 30, 1959. He mentioned numerous individuals with whom he was in contact both within the US and outside the US in regard to Cuban political and revolutionary matters. The following references contain information furnished by Rorke in Miami Beach and New York City concerning his association with Dominick Edward Bartone. Rorke advised that on instructions from Bartone, in August 1959, he traveled to Cuba to participate in counter-revolutionary activities. He stated that as a result of these activities he was arrested by Cuban authorities and held without formal charges for approximately nine days. [FBI 97-3222-8 FBI 97-4623-179 pages 5, 19]

ALEXANDER RORKE AND JOHN F. KENNEDY

On June 30, 1960, J.C. King, Chief / Western Hemisphere Division, generated this Memorandum for the Record: "General Cabell called to say that he in turn had been called by Andy Goodpaster. A friend of the President's, Alexander I. Roarke, Jr. of NBC had telephoned to offer information which he thought might be of interest pertaining to Cuba and possibly the Dominican Republic... Action has been given to Mr. Reynolds and he has been authorized to use an OO man in New York to make the first contact with Roarke. I am to report back to General Cabell." In July 1960, pursuant to a request from OO/Contacts Division, CIA File EE-27955 was opened on Alexander Rorke. In 1975 the CIA described Alexander Rorke as "former witting collaborator (relationship terminated)."

July 6, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief WHD

SUBJECT: Alexander I. Roarke, Jr.

1. Pursuant to a request at the end of last week from General Goodpasture of the White House, a representative of OO/C in New York City interviewed the Subject on July 5, 1960.

2. Following a rambling narrative of this experiences over the years in Central America and the Caribbean, Mr. Roarke came to this major, which was the most capable Cuban exiled military leader, and the one who is most deserving of U.S. support is Pedro Diaz Lanz. Mr. Roarke knows Diaz Lanz and was planning to appear with Diaz Lanz on a television program...Mr. Roarke considers Diaz Lanz superior to General Pedraza, Francisco Cajigas and Antonio Varona, all of whom he claims to know.

3. Mr. Roarke said that the Somozas have agreed to give Diaz Lanz a military base in Nicaragua. Mr. Roarke himself intends to organize an American Committee to back Diaz Lanz. He will call it the Committee to Rescue Latin America from Communism or something similar..

J.D. Esterline Chief, WH/4.

On June 30, 1960, there was a telephone conversation between "Reynolds-Daniels" about Rorke:

He originally worked for the New York City Office of the FBI as clerk. Since then he has been known to impersonate federal agents, although he has not been apprehended for it. He is the son-in-law of Sherman Billingsley. Roarke was jailed in Havana last year and feels that the State Department did not spring him quickly enough --- evidently he spent a couple of days in jail. Ever since he has been viciously attacking the State Department. His father is a U.S. federal referee and this guy is now unemployed and considered a pest. The local bureau here avoids him like the plague and possibly you might want to get a rundown from the Bureau. He might use us as a springboard if he get too involved, but we will be glad to talk to him if you want us to. This information is from an unofficial contact in the Bureau who is on the Cuba desk. He, in turn, has been very helpful to us unofficially. Please protect source. To ops support. Start a 201 file. RR (illegible) July 12, 1960.

Another CIA document stated:

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Personnel Security Division, OS July 13, 1960

FROM: Chief, Contact Division, 00

SUBJECT: Request for Security Checks

1. Security checks are being requested on the U.S. citizens described in the attached Biographical Data Forms. Please furnish any information obtained as a result of your checks which relates to the security aspects of contact with them.

2. These persons are to be used for routine exploitation as sources of foreign positive intelligence. Virginia L. Thorne for E. M. Ashcraft.

Attachments: As stated above.

Rorke, Alexander I.

Carl F. Massopust [plastics engineer]

Seng Lip Lee

Sondra Kotvin

By February 1961 the CIA concluded:

Wrote article on anti-Castro activities in Cuba for *Argosy*. 00 says he appears to be an adventurer type operating on fringe of Cuban counter-revolutionary activities. He has an ability to weave a few items of limited dissemination into a fabric of open knowledge and thus sound extremely knowledgeable. 00 recommends no further contact with him. (004/180,333 February 23, 1961 (H-70).

GERALDINE SHAMMA



In early 1960, Alexander Rorke went to Havana to contact Geraldine Isabella Shamma (born March 14, 1905; died June 9, 1989). In September 1960 the G-2 arrested

Geraldine Shamma, who was on a mission for exile leader Manuel Artime Buesa. Geraldine Shamma believed Manuel Artime betrayed her:

MEMORANDUM FOR: SA/LD

ATTENTION: Mr. William Sturbitts

SUBJECT: Geraldine Isabella Shamma, with aka's

REFERENCE: Letter of March 8, 1976 from George R. Richards, Attorney for Geraldine Shamma

1. According to information in Agency files, Geraldine Shamman (sic) de Carrera, an American, was detained by the Rebel Army Investigation Department (DIER), at her home in Miramar, on November 5, 1960. Wayne Gilchrist, an Embassy Officer, visited Mrs. Shamma on November 29, 1960. She confided to him that the specific charge against her was that she was the right hand man of the Secretary General of the Cuban Revolutionary Front in Miami, Manuel Artime. Mrs. Shamma further stated that her reported role with the Cuban Revolutionary Front was that of liaison between Manuel Artime and certain Americans (not further identified) interested in the counter-revolutionary movement. Mrs. Shamma told Mr. Gilchrist that she denied to her interrogators that she had anything to do with the Cuban counter-revolutionary movement, but informed him, confidentially, that she was actually working with Artime and his group. She gave no details regarding the type of assistance she had been rendering. Gilchrist noted that for several months before her arrest, Geraldine Shamma was a contact of Major Van Horn, Colonel Erickson S. Nichols and Miss Betty Perkins of the American Embassy's Air Attaché Office. During her interrogation by the DIER, Mrs. Shamma was asked why she visited the embassy so often to see the Major and Miss Perkins.

2. There are several references in the Agency files which indicate that the Cuban Intelligence Service believed Mrs. Shamma to be an agent of the CIA. There is absolutely no indication in Agency records indicating that Mrs. Shamma was in any way involved with the CIA.

3. The Frank Fiorini who allegedly recruited Mrs. Shamma to work for the U.S. Government has never worked for the Agency. Cite Page 252 "Findings" Para 1, Sturgis testified under oath that he had never been employed by the CIA or had ever served it as an agent, informant or other operative.

4. There is no indication in Agency records that the Major Robert Van Horn and Air Force Attaché Colonel Nichols (Col. Erickson S. Nichols) cited in the referent letter ever worked for the Agency.

Chris Hopkins

LA/OO G/CIOS 201-242256

Attachment not necessary. (Deleted). [CIA Memo 3.31.76]

Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission Geraldine Shamma

Was an American woman who was married to Captain Shamma. Her marriage name was Suarez. So her name was Geraldine Suarez Shamma. They owned a tobacco business in Cuba which amounted to about \$20 million. I recruited her for the Embassy. And her contacts were several people there, or at least one major person, and that was Major Van Horne. Her job was to meet and make contact with top officials in the government, which she did. She had a fabulous home and gave parties. Many of the top military commanders went over to her home. She was the contact with the American Government with the underground organization.

Sturgis related, "Because of her activities going back and forth between Miami and Cuba with the underground and the U.S. Government, she was eventually captured and put in a Cuban prison." Geraldine Shamma had rented a safehouse on Brickell Avenue in Miami, where recruits would be screened for MRR membership. MRR, the Movement Of Revolutionary Recuperation, was the political arm of the Bay of Pigs Brigade. Sturgis told Michael Canfield: "She was the go-between for the underground in Havana and the people here. That was Artime's group, MRR. We had a place on Brickell Avenue...that was the meeting place for the MRR organization." Geraldine Shamma: "The Agency paid for it and I maintained it. The boys who came over from Cuba to go into the Brigade would be sent to this safehouse first, and there, they'd be screened by the CIA." Hunt had a nearby apartment. Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission: "The Cubans who came from Havana would come to the safehouse which she maintained herself with her own money, not CIA money, her own money. Bernard Barker would call her up, and she would tell him who was there and he would come over to pick up these Cuban exiles to be sent over to be interrogated or debriefed. This is what Bernard Barker would do. And E. Howard Hunt, I believe, may have come over there. I don't think he did, but anyway, she met him traveling back and forth from Havana, where she met him I don't know off hand. You would have to ask her." Robert Olsen asked: "You mean you have subsequently heard or learned that she possibly had some contact with Hunt?" Sturgis: "Oh, I knew that for years, because, remember, I was in Brickell Avenue in Miami, too."

In December 1960 an FBI informant who lived with Sturgis said that Sturgis claimed he was working with, and being sponsored by, the Agency for some future military action against Castro. [CIA FOIA #73-4] On December 16, 1960 the FBI sent a memo to the Office of Security, Department of State, File #2-1499, subject, Sturgis, Neutrality Matters. Geraldine Shamma was released from prison in Cuba on March 17, 1963, as a result of a deal arranged by James Donovan. When she landed in Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, she told the press: "If President Kennedy wants to welcome me, he can damn well fly down here!"

JAMES BUCHANAN



Sturgis, Pedro Diaz Lanz and Victor Paneque recruited the Buchanan brothers, James and Jerry, for membership in the International Anti-Communist Brigade. James Buchanan, (born April 22, 1937, at Brevard, North Carolina) the senior of the Buchanan brothers, was married to Edna H. Rydzik in January 1963 in Miami Beach. In 1957 James Buchanan worked for the *Hollywood Florida Sun* until he ran off with the wife of an employee of the City of Hollywood. James Buchanan then became a reporter for *The Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel*. While he was at the *Sun-Sentinel* he had an affair with one of the secretaries there and her husband came to the offices of the paper and threatened to shoot James Buchanan and the secretary. [FBI 105-82555-3787] James Buchanan was the author of a series of articles critical of the Kennedy Administration. In December 1959 Buchanan visited Cuba where he aided in the escape of Austin Young from a Cuban prison. Austin Young had been sentenced to a 30 year term for counter-revolutionary activities. The FBI reported: "Austin Young was recaptured a few days after his escape in a downtown hotel and Buchanan was arrested. Buchanan's lawyer said the reporter will probably have to spend the Christmas holiday in jail while awaiting trial. The military tribunals will be in recess from December 22, 1959 until January 4, 1960 and Cuban civil courts normally recess for about the same period. Mr. Buchanan's case now is before the Cuban Supreme Court, which will determine if he will be tried before a military or civil court. Mr. Castro said in a television speech Thursday night that Mr. Buchanan will have to be tried by revolutionary courts which could either be military or civil. Government officials scoffed at a report of a possible death sentence for the reporter. Mr. Castro himself hinted that it would be a good idea to order Mr. Buchanan 'deported, never to return to Cuba to molest us.'" [FBI 64-44828-a *Miami Herald* 12.19.59] In September 1962 James Buchanan was quoted as complaining that the Federal Government was interfering in his activities: "The Feds are driving us up the wall. They're haunting the hell out of us, knocking over our weapons shipments and raiding Miami houses."

JERRY "BUCKY" BUCHANAN

Jerry Buchanan, Jim Buchanan's brother, 22, attended Riverdale School in Norfolk, Virginia, and then served in the Army. He was stationed on the Czechoslovakian border.



In June 1959 he was the Subject of a Miami investigation for impersonation based on use of Army identification in the name of Jesse L. Murphy used to cash bad checks. The complaint, which charged Jerry Buchanan with Impersonation, was dismissed at Miami when he was located at Ft. McPherson, Georgia, in April 1959, serving a sentence for AWOL. In September 1961 Jerry Buchanan trained with Rolando Masferrer on No Name Key in

Florida: "There were 60 of us" Buchanan said, "About half Cubans and half Americans. The island was mostly swamp and we were sleeping out in the open. In November 1961 a friend of Buchanan had been shot by a Cuban in a training accident. a growing antipathy between the two groups finally led Buchanan to leave the island with the Americans, all of whom subsequently joined Fiorini's International Anti-Communist Brigade." On May 16, 1961, Jerry Buchanan told his hometown newspaper, *The Norfolk-Ledger*, "There are hundreds of Americans in Miami right now who'd like nothing better than a crack at giving Castro the boot. Cubans are nice people but, under pressure, they don't remember orders." [N-L 5.16.61] The Buchanan brothers flew supply missions from a secret base in the Bahamas to anti-Castro guerrillas in the Escambray Mountains. Victor Paneque helped locate these men. In April 1963 British authorities captured 13 of Cuban exile Orlando Bosch's men on a small West Indies island. Jerry Buchanan was the only American among the 13 arrested. The funds for this anti-Castro action had been furnished by a Chicago-based Cuban exile, Paulino A. Sierra, who collected money from Las Vegas gambling interests. [CIA 201-739652] **Dr. Paulino Alberto Sierra Martinez** was a minister in the Batista Government. He left Havana in 1960 and settled for a time in Miami, where he worked as a translator. Paulino Sierra spoke, read, and wrote, four languages. In 1962 Paulino Sierra moved to Chicago, where he was admitted to the bar and became active in exile affairs. In August 1962 the CIA requested that the FBI run an expedite check on Paulino Sierra. CIA Office of Security records came up negative. [Victor R. White 7.21.62; G. Marvin Gentile, H. K. Clayton 8.30.62] The CIA reported that on:

...March 16, 1963, Martin Pella, who is acquainted with Sierra also, said he had learned more from Ceasar Blanco about the Blanco-Sierra meeting with 'gamblers.' Blanco told him that during the latter part of February 1963 he and Sierra were approached by and met with (in Sierra's apartment) Burton M. Mold and John R. Lechner. They said 'We need your brains.' We'd like you to write a document covering the best solution as to how to put together the different political groups of Cuban refugees. They told Ceasar Blanco and Paulino Sierra that they were very familiar with the Cuban situation because they represented substantial investments in Cuba. When asked what investments they mentioned real estate, hotels

and 'other operations connected with them.' Ceasar Blanco asked for some names of people to further identify the two and they mentioned Jake Lansky. Ceasar Blanco having been in charge of Public Order in Havana, recalled Lansky as the brother of Meyer Lansky, U.S. gangster and syndicate man and told Pella that Mold and Lechner had to be from the 'syndicate.' [CIA Subject: U.S. Gambling Syndicate Interest in Cuban Matters]

A March 1963 CIA report revealed that Paulino Sierra mentioned an offer of \$10 million in backing for guarantees of Cuban gambling concessions after Castro was thrown out.

WILLIAM BROWDER

William Browder was Paulino Sierra's sponsor in Chicago. William Browder told the HSCA he recalled that a man:

...approached Sierra with an offer of substantial financial assistance to overthrow Fidel Castro, in exchange for gambling concessions. Mr. Browder said he and Sierra gave this information to the FBI because they did not want Sierra to become involved with gambling interests. As Mr. Browder was then a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Crime Commission, he was sensitive to the ramifications of such involvement. [HSCA Int. 11.29.78 Orr]

Felipe Vidal also investigated Sierra and reported this to the FBI:

Paulino Sierra addressed a group of about 80 Cubans and introduced an American, whose name was not given. The American then addressed the group and said he worked for a company whose name was not given, and that he had good contacts in the Standard Oil Corporation. The American indicated he was from Chicago and was willing to help the Cuban exiles if they could establish unity among the different political groups. The American stated he had fifteen million dollars available and would up seven point five million if the Cubans would put up seven point five million and thereafter they would attempt to overthrow the present government of Cuba.

This document contained information from a CIA report on Paulino Sierra dated May 17, 1963. In this document an FBI informant described Paulino Sierra as "a man without scruples, who has thrown aside the Cuban Liberty Alliance, and is now trying to sell the identical plan to other anticommunist organizations, such as Alpha-66." [FBI 109-584-3596] **Paulino Sierra arrived in Miami on May 15, 1963**, and invited Cuban exile

leaders of all political persuasions to meetings where unification for a Cuban military invasion was discussed. Pedro Diaz Lanz, Carlos Rodriguez Quesada and Philippe Vidal were invited to this meeting. Paulino Sierra said he represented a group of wealthy Chicagoans, along with the interests of United Fruit and Standard Oil who wished to combine its efforts with those of Cuban exiles to overthrow the Castro regime, with or without United States Government approval. [CIA IN 38659 CITE WAVE 8422] Paulino Sierra claimed his backers were willing to provide \$30 million. On May 28, 1963 the Director of the FBI sent The Attorney General a letter about Paulino Sierra. [FBI 105-121010-3]

Our Chicago Office has identified the person accompanying Sierra as William N. Trull, formerly an entertainer and currently residing in Chicago. Both Sierra and Trull have been interviewed, possibly unbeknown to each other and have told inconsistent stories. Sierra, who originally came to this country as political refugee and is presently employed by the Union Tank Car Company, claims that Trull made the original approach to Sierra. According to Sierra, Trull made the approach after reading about Sierra in a Chicago newspaper and told Sierra he represented men willing to give economic aid for the overthrow of Castro provided that all the Cuban groups were unified. Allegedly, Trull told Sierra that the people that Trull represented would be interested in loaning up to 30 million dollars on a strictly business proposition. As a result Sierra made arrangement for Trull to accompany him to Miami and speak to Cuban groups. William N. Trull advised our agents that he had been identified as a friend of the Cubans as a result of having performed as an entertainer for many Cuban groups in Chicago. He said that during March 1963 he was contacted by Sierra, who after three meetings between the two men, requested Trull to accompany him to Miami to promote attempts to unify Cuban groups looking to overthrow Castro. According to Trull, he at first decline to go with Sierra but when Sierra called him from Florida and wired him airline tickets, Trull flew to Miami, where he stayed at the Ponce De Leon Hotel. Sierra asked Trull to speak to Carlos Prio Socarras, former President of Cuba and an individual who possibly was Eusebio Mujal, former Cuban labor union leader. When assured by Sierra of personal financial benefit, Trull agreed to inform Prio and Mujal that he was representing wealthy American interests who had business propositions to make for the Cubans concerned if they could unify with Prio as President and Sierra as Executive Secretary. According to Trull, he talked to Prio and Mujal as requested by Sierra and then addressed a meeting of approximately seventy groups. Trull advised there is no truth to the statements he made but was told by Sierra that the latter had a commitment from a group of Cleveland Ohio hoodlums who have interests in gambling casinos in Las

Vegas. Allegedly this commitment is to the extent of fourteen million dollars, made with the understanding that if Castro is overthrown, then the group organized by Sierra gains power in Cuba and the Cleveland group will receive 50% of the gambling casinos to be set up. Trull advised that he does not intend to inform Sierra that he has been interviewed by FBI agents and will continue to play along with Sierra to ascertain further details of Sierra's involvement with gambling interests. Our agents will remain in contact with Trull and further developments will be brought to your attention.

1. The Deputy Attorney General

1. Mr. Herbert J. Miller, Jr. Assistant Attorney General

1. Mr. Walter Yeagley Assistant Attorney General

NOTE: Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach called Assistant Director Evans concerning the meeting at MM attended by Sierra and Trull. Katzenbach said that the AG had received a CIA report concerning the meeting and requested that the FBI look into the matter as there was an indication that the allegedly backing promised might be hoodlum or gambling money. State and CIA being advised separately. [FBI 105-121010-3 5.28.63]

The Chicago FBI Office closed its investigation of Paulino Sierra in June 1963 on the recommendation of S.A. Robert a. Baker and S.A. Walter C. Rogers, who concluded that Paulino Sierra was involved in a con job, rather than in any real activities, hoodlum or otherwise. The United States Secret Service still had an active interest in Paulino Sierra in 1963. While visiting Nicaragua in June 1963, Paulino Sierra told an associate of Manuel Artime he represented United States gambling concessions in Cuba. [HSCA V10 p98] He spoke with Luis Somoza while he was in Nicaragua. The Chicago FBI investigated Paulino Sierra under federal anti-racketeering statutes. The CIA reported on November 7, 1963:

COUNTRY Cuba / Colombia

SUBJECT Attempts of Paulino Sierra to Establish Base of Operations for Anti-Castro Activity in Colombia.

Date of Info. June 1963

Source: Paras. 2, 3, 4: a member of Cuban exile organization in Colombia who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Headquarters Comment: The information in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 is the result of queries made after receipt of the information reported in paragraph 1, which was made available by a reliable source. Paulino Sierra has not been entrusted with any mission by the CIA; the letter mentioned in paragraph 2 presumably is a figment of his imagination.

1. Ali Castro, who resides on the island of Andres, Colombia, was approached in early June 1963 by a group of Cuban exiles to support, from Colombia, a plan for anti-Castro activity. According to Ali Castro, the Cuban exiles told him that they had the sympathy of the CIA and the Colombian Government that both would agree to "look the other way" at a plan to deliver supplies to men fighting in the Escambray if the Cuban exiles would do everything themselves. Ali Castro indicated that apparently the exiles approached him with the plan because the area where they planned to transfer materials that were to be flown and dropped in the Escambray is very well known to him. Ali Castro said that there would be no problem with the Colombian Government, but is dubious about the reaction in official United States circles.

2. About June 1963, Paulino Sierra, who was visiting Bogota, Colombia, said that he had a letter from the CIA, which authorized him to discuss with Colombian officials the possibility of establishing a Cuban government-in-exile, or the use of Colombian territory as a base for operations against Cuba. Paulino Sierra was carrying all sorts of documents purporting to show that he represented a majority of the Cuban exile organizations.

3. Sierra reportedly spoke with Guillermo Leon Valencio, President of Colombia. Other Colombian officials who spoke with Sierra were expressing interest in learning something about him. [CIA Col. Sta. Report No.CSDB-3/657,755]

By July 1963 Paulino Sierra said he had built a coalition of predominantly right-wing anti-Castro groups who were willing to unify behind Carlos Prio Socarras as Cuba's President, and Paulino Sierra as Secretary of State, in a provisional military government-in-exile, known as the Junta Del Gobierno De Cuba En El Exilo. United States Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy ordered the FBI to look into the *Junta*.

PAULINO SIERRA AND HEMMING

On August 28, 1963 Paulino Sierra was investigated in connection with the American Educational League, Los Angeles. By late August 1963, Paulino Sierra contacted Richard Lauchli to purchase guns. Paulino Sierra asked Hemming associate Steve

Justin Wilson to deliver the guns to Miami. Another Hemming associate, Dennis Linns Harber, assisted Paulino Sierra in the transport of military equipment. [HSCA V10 p99] Paulino Sierra offered Hemming associate Joe Garman \$11,000 to lead a Cuban raid. [Hinckle *Deadly Secrets* p206] An FBI document generated on September 16, 1963, read: "Sierra is Subject of anti-racketeering case being handled by Special Investigative Division in view of possibility Sierra is being backed by the criminal element. This matter had been discussed with Special Investigative Division which has no objection to our proposed investigation." [FBI 105-124049-1, 5] In September 1963 Carlos Prio Soccarras announced that he was joining forces with Paulino Sierra and other exiles to form a force independent of that of Manuel Artime. [CIA TDCS DB-3/656,908 - 9.27.63] On October 11, 1963, the FBI in Miami was investigating Paulino Sierra for Neutrality Violations. [FBI 105-124049] On October 15, 1963, the CIA reported that Paulino Sierra's group "has made a pact with group of Subject 201-326634 for collaboration raid against Habana oil refinery." Hemming told this researcher in 1994:

Sierra came down and tried to recruit us and flashed a lot of money and connections. Mob / Teamster money. Sierra dealt mostly through intermediaries. He's an aristocrat. I dealt with him personally.

When the CIA did a document search on Hemming it discovered a document titled

Frente Revolucionario 68A01 B, 68A01 N Span Madrid 68A01Q Hdqs. 68A01U Agency IN 89504 200 300-58 April 11, 1968, Unable to Locate Original.

A further search turned up this additional information:

FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIO not identifiable. P.3 Hemming Gerald Patrick T 309125 temp chg to mc Holmes CI/EXO Hemming Gerald Patrick UFG 7632 February 11, 1963, - 201-351547 UFG 7619 May 1, 1963, 201-337938 IP Files.

MANUEL AGUILAR AND PAULINO SIERRA

On October 22, 1963, Paulino Sierra was in Miami where he gave Cuban exile Manuel Aguilar money to purchase weapons from Steve Justin Wilson. Steve Justin Wilson took the money and refused to give Manuel Aguilar the weapons. The Miami Police Department reported:

Received call to 135 SW 19th Avenue Apt #2 at 1:59 a.m. October 11, 1963, supposed armed robbery by Cuban Male Rafael Hernandez of 135 SW 19th Avenue Apt #2 which happened at Riviera Supermarket. Complainant Aguilar with friend, Manuel Beraza, stated that Subject Hernandez and friend Steve Wilson attempted to sell them a car. At

Riviera Supermarket complainant states after questioning that he was not really buying a car, but was completing a purchase of guns and ammunition from Subject. He states that he gave a \$400 deposit to Subject two days ago and made date to meet Subject at Riviera Supermarket to pick up guns and pay \$642.00 more to complete the deal. Complainant states that Subject came to market in car with a large wooden crate in the trunk, supposedly holding guns etc. Complainant states Subject transferred crate to his car and then he took out the money to pay Subject, but decided to open crate first. He states Subject's friend put a gun in his back and Subject took the \$642 and fled in car. Complainant opened crate and found concrete blocks, grass inside...Original owner of money was Paulino Sierra who donated it to Complainant who is head of FRAC: Frente Revolucionario Anti-Comunista. All money was recovered.

[Miami Police Report 10.15.63 CR 7906] Manuel Aguilar Alvarez, was born June 3, 1929 in Havana. He came to the United States in 1961 from Cuba in a small boat to Key West.



Dennis Harber, Isidoro Borga and Bernardo De Torres

PAULINO SIERRA AND DENNIS HARBER

In October 30, 1963, Paulino Sierra's boat was seized by government agents. The CIA reported:

Source: a member of a group of Cuban emigres trained in the techniques of information collection. This group has provided useful reports for over two years. This information was obtained from Manuel Lozano Pino. Manuel Lozano Pino, member of Dr. Paulino a. Sierra's Organizing Committee says that the group intends to institute a suit over the seizure of the *PITUSA I* by U.S. Government agents. It is the opinion of the committee members that there was no reason for stopping the craft when it was being transported by trailer to Key West by Dennis Lynn Harber. The members maintain that no offense was committed at the time the boat was intercepted." [CIA 201-737652 11.2.63] On November 7, 1963, Paulino Sierra was investigated by the Miami FBI, in connection with Alpha-66. [FBI 121010 NR 11.7.63] On November 14, 1963, the CIA reported that the secretary of Paulino Sierra's organizing committee resigned because of a disagreement over Paulino Sierra's pact with "leftist" organizations such as the 30th of November Movement: "Sierra had agreed to finance the operations of these organizations in return for which the leaders would support Sierra's aspirations to be Cuban President for 18 months [following liberation]. [CIA F82-0430/210]

STURGIS' CITIZENSHIP IS RESTORED

The FBI reported:

On **February 8, 1961**, Elmo M. Rainbolt Chief Patrol Inspector, United States Border Patrol, informed that during the late evening hours of February 3, 1961, and the early morning hours of February 4, 1961, Border Patrol Inspectors Gullede Baker and Lewis G. Finklea accompanied the Miami Harbor Patrol, at the request of the Miami Police Department, on a surveillance of the tugboat *Gil Rokie*.

About 1:15 AM, February 4, 1961 the *Gil Rokie* was taken from its location and the Harbor Boat Patrol, with Inspectors Baker and Finklea aboard pursued it immediately after the tug boat got under way. According to Rainbolt in an attempt to stop the tugboat, officers of the Harbor Patrol fired warning shots after the tugboat failed to heed the Patrol boat's siren. Several shots were fired by a .22 rifle, .38 caliber pistol, and a shot gun using regular ammunition. It is unknown whether this warning fire was returned from the tugboat, according to Rainbolt and the crew on the tugboat attempted to run close to the shore at Northeast 43rd Street, Miami, and ran aground. The men then attempted to escape by wading

and swimming ashore. Four were arrested, and one individual, whose identity is unknown at this time, managed to escape. After the tugboat ran aground, the individuals were observed throwing firearms over the side. The tugboat had field packs and ammo (M-1) in quantity aboard. On February 9, 1961 MM T-1 advised he had ascertained from conversations with individuals associated with Proctor and Fiorini's groups that three unidentified male Americans had participated in the theft of the tug boat and escaped the police. [FBI 2-1499-48]

On **February 23, 1962** the in the course of a report on MMRC, a breakaway organization that once included Pedro Diaz Lanz, the FBI reported that Sturgis, Sergio Diaz Bruel and Carlos Garcia had formed Hampton Roads Salvage and had purchased three boats. [FBI 105-108646]

On **April 24, 1961** the CIA in Miami, Florida reported:

Sturgis claimed to be a member of the anti-Castro group, FRD. Subject has camp 40 miles from Miami, with Max Villa Jr. in charge. Camp site deserted as of January 1961. On February 4, 1961, a tugboat *Gil Rokie* was stolen from Miami by group, some of whom were later arrested, and had previously stayed at Subject's Miami residence. Source reported Subject on February 26, 1961 had returned from what he described as his unsuccessful attempt to get into Cuba. Newspapers reported Subject's U.S. citizenship restored after he made appeal to INS. Some of thieves were Alex Rorke, Bob Rostallion, Dick Whatley. a Ken Proctor was also involved. [CIA DBF-75627 4.24.61 also see DBF 89191 9.22.61]

In **March 1961** Senator George Smathers obtained a hearing for Sturgis before the Citizenship Review Board of the State Department, which, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service official handling the matter, was unusual:

Technicalities on which subject's expatriation case ordered reopened deal with the fact that subject repeatedly took 5th Amendment to questions asked to him at previous hearing and Pedro Diaz LANZ did not testify on subject's behalf although he was supposed to have done so. Case was ordered reopened to hear testimony of those two persons which, according to the INS official handling the matter, is very unusual and not according to precedent. It is noted that when SA Kellogg saw subject at home of Pedro Diaz Lanz, subject was casually questioned about the status of his expatriation and without being specific he said that he was rather confident that it would be taken care of "in Washington." [FBI 2-1499-60]

The citizenship of Sturgis was restored on March 14, 1961. The INS in Miami did not appeal this determination. [FBI 2-1499-89 2 pages w/h] Under Secretary of State Christian Herter stated he had "inadvertently" signed the loss of citizenship order. [AP Dispatch 5.12.60; Messick *Hoover* p154 W/G Ex. 9913; *Miami Herald* 1.19.71 Messick *Lansky* p191]

STURGIS AND BARKER 1961 TO 1962

Barker's Operational Monthly Report for June 1962 indicated that he was contacted by the CIA on June 5, 1962, June 11, 1962, and June 18, 1962. Barker's reports, none of which were disseminated, included information on the activities of Frank Sturgis originated with Frank Sturgis and:

...possible sources of *Miami Herald* report on Manolo Ray's outshining Miro Cardona in ODYOKE's eyes. While it is hoped that in the near future Subject will develop sources of more disseminable information, his current reporting is of definite operational value and of interest for the files. Operationally, Subject's sources were scrutinized. He listed for the case officer some 180 individuals who had been the direct source of previous reports and who would give him information on request. These sources run almost the entire gamut of Cuban exile organizations. Unfortunately, however, all of these sources know, or could easily find out, that Subject was and probably still is a KUBARK agent. Pointing out the negative value of this reputation (while admitting it is not without its positive side) the case officer has Subject to submit a plan by which the more significant targets might be tapped in a more indirect fashion so that we might find out what certain groups are doing and planning that they would not want to tell someone who might be expected to report back to KUBARK... [To: C/TFW from JMWVE 7.13.62]

MEMORANDUM October 1973

SUBJECT: Frank Fiorini Sturgis

Following is information from further review of Fiorini's official file in response to Daniel E. Schultz' inquiry to the Agency dated September 27, 1973.

There are four volumes to Fiorini's 201 file, the majority of its content being reports from the FBI dated from 1958 through April 1969.

Agency information included a cable from Santiago De Cuba dated January 7, 1959 stating Fiorini claims to be chief of the 26 July Arms buyer in Miami and willing to cooperate 100 percent in supplying info. Cable stated it possible Fiorini may lose value to rebels but believe worthwhile CIA endorse his staying on. Headquarters CIA replied that Fiorini had been under FBI investigation for possible registration act violations and base should deal with Fiorini under strict consular cover and not make any commitments which might be later construed as U.S. Government approval of his activities. Wish to reiterate here that Fiorini was never employed by the CIA.

The following is worth of note. Fiorini was involved in November 1961 to December 1961 leaflet dropping flights over Cuba. The FBI queried the CIA about allegations that the flights by Fiorini and Alexander Rorke Jr. were entirely supported by CIA with CIA arranging Air/Sea rescue, and that all of Fiorini's actions were known to CIA Miami and his activities being done on CIA instructions. Headquarters CIA was satisfied allegations not true but trouble in view of fact Fiorini was in contact with CIA rep Florida who used name "Barker" who supposedly gave Fiorini phone number for CIA Miami office. Fiorini was to call this number if he was arrested or stopped on flights and the CIA would 'get him out.' These Cuban over flights were not authorized by the CIA and the FBI was alerted to the fact it was not a CIA operation. (Barker was generally known in the Miami area as a CIA source.) Since Barker was a close friend of Fiorini, Barker, shortly before the Bay of Pigs invasion, was asked by the CIA to attempt to obtain from Fiorini information concerning the activities of Fiorini. Barker met with Fiorini several times a month from fall of 1961 to July 1962. Barker reported on Sturgis on July 13, 1962, and on July 19, 1962. Barker insisted when queried by CIA case officer, that he never revealed classified information or operational data including JMWAVE phone numbers to Fiorini. Fiorini told Barker that the leaflet op was conceived by Sergio Rojas. A Headquarters cable to JMWAVE dated July 1962 stated that Rojas had been non-operational since February 1962. Chris Hopkins.

[CIA Memo 10.73 Chris Hopkins]

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

Date July 18, 1962

TO: Director

From: JMWAVE

Action: C/TFW 3

Info Cite WAVE 5891

1. In reply to FBI, please avoid possible embarrassment in attempting protect Barker who generally known in Cuban exile community as KUBARK source.

2. Barker close friend and sometime confidant of Fiorini since initial contact at KUBARK behest shortly after Cuban invasion. Barker says he admires Fiorini and speaks frankly with him on matters known or knowable his sector but insists he never revealed classified info or operational data including JMWAVE phone numbers. They have met several times a month on average since last fall.

3. Following is summary debriefing July 16, 1962 requested in reference and review all A-1 reports Fiorini contacts.

4. Investigation of reported Phantom Cell flight over Camaguey October 21, 1961 assigned A-1 who November 9, 1961, reported that all other leads having come to dead end he played hunch and approached Frank Fiorini with "Frank I know." Latter surprised and somewhat embarrassed gave reasonably full details: Sergio Rojas who called Fiorini early October from N.Y. for conference with him and Diaz Lanz brothers in Miami. Rojas agreed with Fiorini better operate without Diaz Lanz brothers who had been briefed. They later used this knowledge in attempt to claim sponsorship. Fiorini hired four U.S. pilots at \$1,000 each and two *Beechcraft* for \$2,000 took off from Miami International for Nassau with crew of three in each plane. Rorke flew with Fiorini. From Nassau they took off separately for Camaguey and Santiago but storms prevented Santiago so that both drops totaling 400,000 pamphlets made over Camaguey. Planes returned Nassau thence returned Miami. Rojas meanwhile went Nicaragua to use successful drop as trump card in play for Somozo backing in future Ops.

A-1 reported December 13, 1961, that another over flight planned for December 9, 1961, aborted when Bob Swanner, one of four pilots on previous drop apprehended on landing at Nassau since aircraft rented at Miami for legal flights only. Further British investigation revealed eight bundles prop leaflets at Roman Key with Al (LNU) who runs Key for British owners named something like Bethel. Fiorini, Rorke and Bill Johnson (last probably one of the previous crew) arrested on arrival Nassau via commercial flight where they were to meet Swanner for final phase Op. Released after questioning they provided bail for Swanner and returned to Miami. Rorke took responsibility to arrange Swanner release while Fiorini asked A-1 put in good word at KUBARK to relieve U.S.

Government border patrol pressure promising keep Barker generally apprised future activities.

C. On **February 2, 1962** A-1 reported that Robert Swanner of Miss. and Robert Thompson of Melbourne, Florida, missing in Comanche Cub after overflying Matanzas (Bodies never found) and that Rojos planning to bomb Havana electric plant with Lewis M. Leach Jr. of Ontario, California, in Mosquito bomber obtained through "Dip" Childress of Amarillo, Texas. Leach to receive \$200 per week for preparations \$2,500 for raid and \$10,000 for wife in case of his death. Alternate target two oil tanks in Havana Bay waterfront. Fiorini charged with arrangements for Ops base.

D. On **February 24, 1962**, A-1 reported that Somoza in Coral Gables February 21, 1962, to February 23, 1962, said he discussed with both Diaz Lanz and Rojos and that U.S. Government had suspended all funding of them. Somoza told Fiorini future raids could start from Nicaragua but would not be allowed to return there.

E. On **March 17, 1962**, Fiorini gave A-1 photos taken of Roman Key from Piper Comanche which was later lost in raid over Matanzas.

F. On **April 15, 1962**, A-1 reported that Fiorini, Diaz Lanz and crew of 30 had that day sailed from Biscayne Bay on 70 foot yacht for island in Bahamas where Diaz Lanz claimed he had arms for 50 men but was turned back by U.S. Coast Guard. Fiorini confided that Op was to be Cuban landing but feels Diaz Lanz did not intend to go through with it and seeking publicity attempt.

G. After reports on latest Phantom Cell Op checked on Fiorini's whereabouts with wife (common law?) Diaz Lanz and Oscar Mestre, who had been active in past with Fiorini and Rorke. On June 22, 1962 Fiorini called on A-1 and reported he had been in upstate New York procuring weapons for Diaz Lanz including 57 MM Recoilless rifle several automatic weapons with night lights (sic) and plenty of ammo which he delivered to Diaz Lanz on June 21, 1962. Fiorini also said that Diaz Lanz has backing of 68 Tampa lawyers which guarantees \$1,800 a month in addition to stipends from New York and Puerto Rico. Moreover a group of recently arrived Venezuelans talked with Fiorini and Diaz Lanz about their providing a large amount of dollars for Naval action against Cuba. Names of Venezuelans unknown to Fiorini. [This info was supplied to the FBI by the CIA as information on Sturgis' activities in FBI 2-1499-103.]

H. On **July 9, 1962** A-1 reported that Berry (illegible) used for Phantom Cell Ops base vice Roman Key with next Op scheduled July 26, 1962. That he and Diaz Lanz financially backed by group of North Americans which he is unwilling to name; and that he recently landed an 11 man infiltration team in North Oriente via Santa Domingo Key. On his arrest he claimed Mr. Fickey of immigration persecuting him; that cans of

phosphorous found in his car low volatile stuff with which he experimenting not type used as incendiary. To protect his source he told Fickey phosphorous to kill rats. Asked Barker to intercede with KUBARK for him.

[CIA 7.18.62 To: Dir. From JMWAVE]

On **July 9, 1962** the FBI requested, from the CIA,

All available information on KUBARK dealings with or approval or activities Alexander Rorke and Frank Fiorini. Inquiry based on allegations that November, December 1961 leaflet flights over Cuba by the pair were entirely supported by KUBARK with KUBARK arranging air/sea rescue and all Fiorini actions known KUBARK Miami and in fact being done on KUBARK instructions. William K. Harvey C/TFW Releasing Officer. [CIA 201-242256]

Sturgis told Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Committee: "Barker's Station Chief in early 1961 was (Deleted), who was also in (Deleted) Station, where he was pro-Fidel. (So was (Deleted))." Olsen's handwritten notes indicated: "CIA personnel Jack Stewart CIA in Havana 1958 to 1959. 1968 Merida, Mexico. Rogelio Gonzalez Corso 1959 Havana M.R.R. Chief (military) (code name Francisco) contact with me or Geraldine Shamma. Rafael Hanscom U. R. Ray Sandstrom Ft. Lauderdale lawyer for Sturgis. Richardo Lorie and Salvador Alle."

Humberto Sori Marin, Rafael Hanscom and Roger Gonzalez Corso, Manuel Lorenzo Puig Millan, Nemesio Rodriguez Navarrete, Gaspar Dominguez Trueba and Eufemio J. Fernandez Ortega were arrested by Castro's militia on April 1, 1961. Rogelio Gonzalez Corso's code name was "Francisco." He was the number one target of Cuban intelligence, who lived in safe houses and worked with CIA Agent Felix Ismael Rodriguez. [Felix Ismael Rodriguez, *Shadow Warrior*, p75; Hinckle, *Fish is Red* page 72] Major Humberto Sori Marin, a former Havana lawyer, had drafted the Castro penal code which made firing squad executions legal. Sori Marin had been adjutant General of Castro's army, presiding at the 1959 war crimes trials that sent hundreds of Battista loyalists to the firing squads, and Castro's first Minister of Agriculture. But by 1961 he had turned against the Castro regime. Sturgis told the truth about his CIA contacts and was definitely "in the loop."

ALEXANDER RORKE: SEPTEMBER 1961 TO DECEMBER 1962

On September 6, 1961, the FBI in Dallas sent a teletype to the Director and to the New York Field Office regarding Rorke and Serge R. Rohas:

Today Lionel Childress, dealer in used aircraft, Amarillo, Texas, advised owns two Mosquito Bomber stored at Alamo Municipal Airport, San Antonio, Texas, which he has been trying to sell. States about two months ago was contacted telephonically from New York City by Rorke about planes and discussed deal various times on phone since then. On September 2 Rorke called and said would be in Amarillo September 3 to talk over deal and see planes. Rorke arrived Amarillo September 3 accompanied by Serge R. Rojas, who advised he was formerly Cuban Ambassador to England under Castro but had defected. Rorke stated intended to buy bombers in name of Panamian Photography Company, fly them to Guatemala or Nicaragua arm them and use planes for bombing Standard Oil Company Refinery at Belot, Cuba, near Havana. On September 4 Childress flew subjects to San Antonio in his private plane, they viewed bombers and returned to New York City September 5 by plane stating they would let Childress know of their decision. Childress states subjects claimed to represent no group other than themselves and wished to make bomb strike to help in raising money from expropriated oil and sugar companies for further action against Cuba. Subjects indicated UNOFFICIAL approval of CIA. Childress states will not sell planes to Subjects unless Subjects furnish proof of government sanction. Rorke reportedly formerly free lance writer in Cuba and twice imprisoned by Castro. Bureau and New York requested to advise if Subject's activities known to proper authorities and if further action by Dallas desired. LHM follows. Informative Note Date September 7, 1961 Nasea advised 6:30 a.m. September 7, 1961. Indicated matter of possible interest to Sampson re Neutrality matters. Files culled re subs. BR [FBI 97-4623-4]

In September 1961 the White House ordered U.S. Customs to begin an investigation of Alexander Rorke. On September 12, 1961, J. Edgar Hoover sent a letter to Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President that concerned Rorke. This document reviewed Rorke's Standard Oil Refinery bombing plot and concluded:

Note: CIA told us Rojas had presented plan to White House officials as well as CIA. In view of the White House interest and since this matter is within the jurisdiction of Customs, we are making no further inquiries. Dissemination to State, Customs and other interested Agencies as well as instructions to field, being handled separately. CIA advised SA W. O. Cregar 9/8/61 it had no objection to Bureau stating CIA had no connection with this matter and that CIA in that CIA in this instance would be revealed as source. Rorke served as Bureau clerk for 3 months in 1951 voluntarily resigning to devote full time to his studies. He has previously been connected with anti-Castro activities. In 1960 while gathering data

concerning an illicit affair of Castro he impersonated a Bureau agent and was strongly admonished. [FBI 97-4623-3]

The CIA reported:

The latest information on Rorke is dated September 12, 1961 and indicates that he arrived in Amarillo, Texas, on September 3, 1961 accompanied by Sergio Rojas, former Cuban Ambassador to Great Britain. They planned to purchase bombers in the name of a Panamanian photography company and take them to Guatemala or Nicaragua where they would be armed for use in bombing the Standard Oil Company refinery in Havana. Such bombing they claimed, would help raise money for further action against Cuba. They claimed they represented only themselves and indicated that they had unofficial CIA approval. [Memo for DCI from Sheffield Edwards 8.24.62]

Sturgis flew another anti-Castro leafleting mission in October 1961:

In 1961 Subject headed an organization called the International Anti-Communist Brigade which he claimed had 5,000 men. He has been involved with Gerald Patrick Hemming who is head of the International Penetration Forces, another anti-Castro group. He flew an anti-Castro leaflet dropping mission over Camaguey, Cuba, in October 1961. The \$10,000 for the leaflets reportedly came from Julio Lobo who has been an Agency contact...Subject has never been recruited by the Agency but has been associated with Mr. Eugenio Rolando Martinez Careaga, an Agency contact, since the early 1960's. In 1968 Subject resided in Northwest Miami and was employed as a used car salesman by G.M. Used Cars of Miami. [CIA FOIA 73-4]

In July 1964 Julio Lobo was involved with Teofilo Babun in a plan to kill Fidel Castro.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

June 10, 1964

Memorandum For: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Plans of Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Selected Cuban Government Leaders

1. The following report was compiled from information obtained by Agency officers from persons who were parties to the actions described. Agency officers made clear to each

of the sources that the United States Government would not, under any circumstances, condone the planned actions. Presumably, the sources of the report, in submitting this information, were motivated, in part, by the belief that by disclosing the information they would obtain immunity against legal action should they succeed in implementing the plan.

2. A Cuban exile was approached on March 2, 1964, by an acquaintance who wished to discuss a plan, which was still in the embryonic state, to assassinate Fidel Castro. The acquaintance was described as a businessman and a shipowner who owns at least one ship which sails under the British flag, and who also has a legally sanctioned interest in distributing and placing slot machines in gambling houses. The involvement of the acquaintance in the slot machine business brings the man in contact with elements in the underworld, primarily through his partner, who is a former police officer from St. Louis, and through whom there is a tie-in with elements of the Cosa Nostra. The Cosa Nostra elements are alleged to have numerous contacts still available to them in Cuba and they have offered to assassinate Castro for \$150,000 no advance funds were requested. If the mission cannot be accomplished, or if the plan is unsuccessful, an amount not to exceed \$10,000 would be paid for the travel and living expenses of five men involved in the mission. The Cuban exile commented that he believed he had been approached with this plan because of his family's great wealth. He told his acquaintance that he was not interested and suggested an approach might be made to someone who has much more money.

3. Another Cuban exile reported that Byron Cameron, owner and operator of the M/V Cayman Hope, whose address is Caribe Trading Company, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, met persons attending the meeting were Teofilo Babun Franco, co-owner of the Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation, Miami, and two of Babun's employees, Oscar Fernandez Viego and Eliseo Gomez Fernandez. Babun and Cameron are friendly shipping business competitors in the Caribbean area. During the course of conversation at this meeting, Cameron mentioned that he was in contact with an unidentified group which would be willing to assassinate selected Cuban officials for cash; specifically the Cameron group is interested in assassinating Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and Che Guevara.

5...The contract for payment would be honored only upon the presentation of evidence that the three Cuban officials died at the hands of the assassins connected with Cameron's contacts.

6. In early April 1964, Eliseo Gomez Fernandez met with Jose "Pepin" Bosch. Bosch agreed to advance \$100,000 and Babun and his associates would advance \$2,500 for expenses. Julio Lobo Olavarri, a wealthy Cuban exile in New York, subsequently agreed to the terms, provided that his name was not involved. Accordingly, Babun gave

Cameron \$2,500 on April 24, 1964. Cameron then advised his group, and on April 25, 1964, he reported that his group had already called its man in Cuba and told him to proceed as planned and that "their other man" would be heading for Cuba shortly. The final comment was 'we hope to have some good news for you between May 20, 1964 and May 25, 1964.' Lobo planned to fly to Miami on May 19, 1964 to arrange for the transfer of \$100,000 to a safety deposit box, the keys to which are to be held jointly by Cameron and a confidant of Lobo.

7. The identities of the persons in the Cameron group and how they plan to proceed with this mission are not known. Babun's associates are reluctant to make any unnecessary inquiries because they have invested \$2,500 and because Cameron made it fairly clear at the beginning that the Mafia was involved. Cameron revealed during the negotiations that his contact was a police officer in the St. Louis, Missouri, Vice Squad, who was about to retire and who had numerous connections in the Mafia. Cameron implied that the other man in question was in Spain. Cameron knows that he could be indicted for conspiracy and if there is any treachery on his part, Babun and his associates would not hesitate to sink his ship, the *MV Cayman Hope*.

8. In late May 1964, a prominent Cuban exile who spoke with Jose "Pepin" Bosch reported that Teofilo Babun and Eliseo Gomez had a plan underway to assassinate Fidel Castro for the payment of \$150,000. Bosch claimed that he had committed himself to furnish \$50,000 and that he was hoping he could get the balance of the money from the United States Government or from other sources. Bosch indicated that he believes that a quick change for the better in the Cuban situation can be brought about only by the physical elimination of Fidel Castro and that his elimination is well worth \$150,000. In pursuing his attempts to raise an additional \$100,000, Bosch is planning to ask Julio Lobo to contribute at least \$50,000. Richard Helms. Note: It is requested that this agency be informed of any action contemplated in regard to the persons mentioned in this report before such action is initiated. [FBI 105-131629-5].

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

Plans of Cuban Exiles to Assassinate

Selected Cuban Government Leaders

IS- CUBA.

Reference is made to previous information concerning the alleged existence of plans involving organized crime elements in the United States and Cuban exiles to

assassinate Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba, and other Cuban leaders. On July 16, 1964, you were advised, in part, that Teofilo Babun Solman, a Cuban exile who allegedly is involved in this matter, maintained upon re-interview that Eduardo Garcia, another Cuban exile, was present during a discussion he had with Julio Lobo of New York City and that Garcia could verify that he made no requests of Lobo for funds to carry out the above-mentioned assassination plan.

On July 17, 1964, Eduardo Garcia Molina of New York City advised that when he first learned of the plan in late January or early February 1964, he telephonically contacted the CIA at Washington, D.C. from Miami, Florida, and was told at that the CIA wanted no part of the plan. He stated that the plan was explained to him by Babun and that the details were known to Babun's employees, Eliseo Gomez Fernandez and Oscar Fernandez Veiga.

According to Garcia, Babun has close business ties with Byron Cameron of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who is very sympathetic to the Cuban cause. In discussions with Babun, Gomez, Fernandez and Cameron all agreed not to disclose information concerning the plan if questioned by U.S. authorities. Garcia stated that the details as he knew them were as follows: The assassins, not Americans, would be of Spanish nationality who would go into Cuba with the proper documents and under a legitimate cover of doing business with Cuba. Cameron had an unknown contact with an unknown St. Louis, Missouri, police officer who had indirect contact with the would-be assassins. Babun was very anxious to see this plan carried out and contacted Cubans for money to pay the assassins. Garcia stated he did not recall the exact amount of money involved but it was about \$100,000 to \$150,000.

In May 1964, Babun and his wife were in New York City on a personal matter and while there Babun and Garcia went to see Lobo. During the discussions with Lobo, Babun told of the plan to eliminate the Cuban leaders. Lobo stated he would give serious thought to the plan. Garcia stated that Babun misinterpreted Lobo's statement and asked Lobo to contribute the entire amount or one third in the name of Babun who would pay Lobo after they returned from Cuba. Garcia stated there was a discussion between Lobo and Babun about a contract at the placing of money in escrow but to his recollection these matters were brought up by Lobo and not Babun.

Garcia stated that the name Jose 'Pepin' Bosch never came to his attention in this matter and the pertinent results will be made available to you. [SSCIA 157-10002-10208; FBI 105-131629-19] Copies of this report were also sent to Walter Yeagley and Herbert J. Miller.

On July 31, 1964, W. O. Cregar furnished D.J. Brennan with the following information:

Plans of Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Selected Cuban Government Leaders IS- CUBA.

The Nationalities Intelligence Section has requested Liaison to determine if the sources mentioned in CIA Memorandum, dated April 8, 1964, (disseminated locally to our Miami Office by CIA's Miami Office) and the sources referred to in the CIA's letter, dated June 10, 1964, (CSDB 3/661,353) could be made available to the Bureau for interview.

The sources of the CIA's memorandum of April 8, 1964, and CIA's letter of June 19, 1964, are identical. They are Miguel Guillermo Truyol and Oscar Fernandez Viega. CIA is of the opinion that the FBI has interviewed both individuals. In this regard it is noted that both individuals are employed by a small firm in Miami whose officers and employees are aware of the plan to assassinate selected Cuban government leaders. CIA is of the opinion that if the Bureau were to re-interview the two sources, it would suggest to them that the FBI's interest in a re-interview resulted from information received by this Bureau from the CIA. Sources have expressed the opinion to the CIA that, should it become known that they were reporting this type of information to CIA, they would immediately be fired from the firm where they are presently employed. As a result of the above CIA has asked that we not re-interview subject, however they have asked that should the Bureau deem re-interviews imperative, the following conditions be applied.

(1) FBI would re-interview all people concerned and treat all the interviewees in a like manner.

(2) Interview so conducted so that information originally furnished from CIA's sources will not appear either to sources or to others interviewed as the basis for re-interview.

(3) CIA will not be revealed as the source of information on which re-interviews are predicated. [NARA SSCIA 157-10002-10226]

The Director of the FBI sent an airtel to the Miami FBI Field Office entitled "Plans of Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Selected Cuban Government Leaders IS- CUBA" that stated: "Reurairtel July 14, 1964. On July 30, 1964, CIA furnished following information:

The sources of the CIA's memorandum of April 8, 1964, and CIA's letter of June 19, 1964, are identical. They are Miguel Guillermo Truyol and Oscar Fernandez Viega. CIA considers the above mentioned sources as valuable assets. Bufile in this matter indicates (deleted). Immediately submit your recommendations (deleted) bearing in mind results of investigation already conducted. In addition suairtel whether Byron Cameron who allegedly is involved in this matter has returned to Miami from Mexico and whether the interview with him has been conducted...NOTE: We have been conducting investigation at request of Attorney General of alleged plans to assassinate

Cuban Government leaders. Allegedly, U.S. hoodlum element and Cuban exiles are involved. We have furnished all pertinent information developed to date to the Attorney General, and other interested agencies. Investigation to date has failed to disclose any connection between hoodlum element in the United States and Cuban exiles. Miami office requested we determine CIA sources of information contained in CIA communications dated April 8, 1964, and June 10, 1964. We contacted in this connection and information set forth above is the result." [NARA SSCIA 157-10002-10227]

January 26, 1977 Jane Zerance of CIA'S LAD/JFK Task Force reported,

Findings DBA 78251 (FBI document) dated August 18, 1964 concerning plan to assassinate Fidel Castro. A person by the name of Byron Cameron reportedly had contact with someone who in turn had a tie-in with elements of Cosa Nostra. Prices allegedly agreed upon were 100K to assassinate Castro; 20K for Raoul Castro and 20K for Che Guevara. Cameron denied these allegations.

Hemming told this researcher:

They were dropping bombs, burning sugar cane fields and dropping leaflets. You just don't do one thing. Leaflets don't weigh shit.

The CIA received a Customs report stating Julio Lobo had financed Alexander Rorke:

Rorke is well known in Cuban clandestine circles and has been involved in most of the deals of Commander Diego Paneque, Luis Diaz Lanz, Sergio Rojas, now alleged to be working in the State Department, studying economics in Berlin, Germany and/or Israel. Rorke also had some dealings with Julio Lobo who is alleged to have given financial assistance to Frank Sturgis in the amount of \$10,000 for a leaflet raid in the Camaguey area some time back. [CIA D002280 11.25.62]

On October 16, 1962, Alex Rorke met with (Deleted) and told him:

(1) He is not associated with or knowledgeable of Alpha-66.

(2) He is no longer associated with Frank Fiorini or Nino Diaz.

Rorke mentioned Oscar Mestre in connection with anti-Castro activities. This information was signed (Deleted) TFW/PM.

The CIA reported December 11, 1961: "Robert Frank Swanner arrested in Nassau for break of air navigation rules and smuggling. Articles smuggled were 350 pounds anti-

Castro pamphlets for Cuba drop. Also involved were U.S. citizens William J. Johnson, Frank Sturgis, and Rorke. Smuggling charges not being pressed." On July 21, 1962, a syndicated article appeared in 40 newspapers throughout the United States, which quoted Alexander Rorke as having said the Kennedy Administration had the CIA set up "a controlled opposition movement" to Fidel Castro, and was "planting agents in all Cuban exile groups to see to it that no military action is organized..." [*Long Island Press* Edith K. Roosevelt 7.21.62] On August 26, 1962, the FBI reported that Alexander Rorke was being funded by Cuban exile Laureano Batista Falla. [FBI 97-4623-151] On August 28, 1962, Alexander Rorke made his last FBI contact when he telephoned its Miami office. [FBI 97-4110-42 encl. p.1] He was in New Orleans in October 1962, lecturing at Tulane University. On November 23, 1962 Rorke was a guest speaker before the Lyceum-Tulane Association, New Orleans. When the FBI did a search of its files for references to Alexander Rorke, this trace appeared: "On November 26, 1963, (deleted) New Orleans, Harold Alderman advised that he had engaged in no activity in New Orleans in furtherance of the aims of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, with the possible exception of the stand he took in a debate at Tulane University with the writer Alexander Rorke in October 1962." [Document containing ref. FBI 97-4623-179. Ref: 44-24016-634 p808 SI 105-82555-454 p688] Rorke had engaged in a heated argument with a Robert Reisman, a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, at the end of his lecture at Tulane: "During the lecture, Rorke made derogatory comments concerning Fidel Castro. He spoke on the current crisis between the U.S. and Cuba and was critical of the Washington Administration in handling the situation. He was particularly critical of the failure of the U.S. Government to back the Bay of Pigs invaders."

On November 23, 1962, Rorke's boat, *The Violyn III*, was towed by the Coast Guard to Key West at his request. He denied that his destination was Cuba. President Kennedy's Cuban policy had not deterred Alexander Rorke and after the December 1962 raid by U.S. Customs Agents on Hemming's No Name Key training camp, he began a series of excursions into Cuba utilizing *The Violyn III* (Wallace Shanley had confiscated Bill Johnson and Alexander Rorke's aircraft). Alexander Rorke later publicly claimed that the CIA had advance knowledge of these raids and had helped financed them. Wallace Shanley:

As a Customs Officer I started having trouble with the CIA. They tried to spirit certain witnesses out of my reach. I would pick up some guys and they would demonstrate that all the materiel they had been provided by the CIA. There came a time when I decided to stick it up their ass - they were not above the law in the United States. They just thought they could do anything.

On **July 3, 1961, and July 5, 1961**, documents which mentioned Sturgis entitled "Revolutionary Junta of National Liberation" were generated in Miami. On July 31, 1961, Sturgis was mentioned in an FBI document entitled: "Intercontinental Penetration

Force." On August 4, 1961, a document was generated by FBI Headquarters about Sturgis and on August 17, 1961, a Secret FBI document about Sturgis was generated in Miami. On **September 8, 1961**, he was mentioned in an FBI document entitled: "Alleged Recruiting Activities, Revolutionary Junta of National Liberation." Another FBI document on Sturgis was generated on September 22, 1961, in Miami. On September 25, 1961, Sturgis, Pedro Diaz Lanz and Marcos Diaz Lanz formed incorporation documents for Hampton Roads Salvage Company of Florida. On **October 9, 1961**, the CIA reported that Sturgis "has offered his services to Carlos Prio Socarras as a military advisor and planner for some future armed operation in Cuba. Prio and Subject were observed one day in September studying some maps of Cuba. Source believes Subject is employed by Prio." [Army Intelligence Report ID 2/182,837]

OPERATION CELLULA FANTASMA

In **December 1961** Sturgis launched Operation Cellula Fantasma, a leafleting operation against Cuba. He apprised Michael Canfield:

You have to remember one thing. I've jumped from airplanes. I've made bombing raids, I've bought agents, you know, threw them out of airplanes with parachutes. I took weapons behind foreign countries for the underground. I've risked my life quite a bit.

An Operation Cellula Fantasma press released stated: "Operation Phantom has continually harassed Fidel Castro with its air and sea missions to his island since the early days of his takeover. It was only ten months after the Cuban Revolution, as Castro was purging his rebel ranks of those not in step with his newly revealed Communist ideals, that the first phantom bomber buzzed Havana."

SWANNER AND THOMPSON

On the weekend of December 15, 1961, to December 17, 1961, one of the Operation Cellula Fantasma leafleting flights failed to return to a commercial airstrip at Norman's Cay in the Bahamas. Aboard this flight were Robert Thompson and Robert Swanner, who had been hired by Sturgis to fly this mission. Sturgis was listed on the Agricultural, Customs, Immigration and Public Health Manifest as a crew member on a private flight from Palm Beach to the Bahamas along with Swanner and Thompson. A Bahamas Customs Baggage Declaration indicated that Sturgis entered the Bahamas on December 14, 1961. When the company which rented Sturgis the airplane tried to collect the insurance on the missing aircraft, the insurance company charged the aircraft had been used as an instrument of war, and refused to pay the insurance claim to the rental company. During a civil trial, J. David Finger of Melbourne Airways was asked about his business dealing with William Johnson:

A. At approximately 9:30 p.m. I called Bill Johnson at MU 1-5864, and was informed that Johnson was not in; he would return my call later. I kept calling him until a man by the name of Rorke answered the phone and informed me he could speak for Mr. William Johnson. And I asked him to find out from Mr. Johnson the whereabouts of the airplane and pilot, and he had informed me they had run into a little difficulty and that the airplane would be returned the following day. After completing my conversation with Rorke, I called the Border Patrol and gave them the information. On Wednesday, December 20, 1961, in a conversation with the Border Patrol, I was informed that a flight plan had been made by Robert Thompson with West Palm Beach Radio, destination Andros Island from Fort Lauderdale. That evening I again called William Johnson and spoke to Mr. Rorke again, who was very abusive; first claiming he did not know who I was and then stated to me, "Why should I tell you anything? You will only report it back to the Border Patrol." He had found out from the Border Patrol that everything he had stated to me had, in turn, been told to them. At this point I was given information [from the Border Patrol] that a Mr. Swanner, also holder of a pilot's license, accompanied our pilot from Fort Lauderdale. That is all I found out about that.

Q. When you were told by Rorke the first time you talked to him on the telephone there had been a little difficulty or the plane ran into some difficulty, did you ask him what the difficulty was?

A. Yes, but he was very evasive, he would not say. On February 3, 1962, while I was visiting Miami, I received a phone call from William Johnson who asked me if I had flown my own airplane into Miami from Melbourne. I said no. I told him I had driven down and what was it all about? He then told me that Neal Church of National Insurance Underwriters and another investigator were going to fly to Norman's Cay where supposedly the seats and door of the Apache 262 Pop were located.

Q. Were you curious about that information?

A. Yes. He also stated I should get a good lawyer.

Q. Did Johnson know this fellow Thompson, your pilot, before; do you know where?

A. Yes, they had many conversations up at Melbourne when they were up there...Whenever Johnson would come around the airport and Thompson was around, they would have a conversation.

Q. Did you know this fellow, Swanner?

A. No, sir. Never knew he existed.

Q. Did you know a fellow named Frank Fiorini.

A. Just heard of him, never met him.

Q. At the time of the flight this fellow Thompson was your employee? By your, I mean Melbourne Airways.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long had he worked for you?

A. I think Bob was with us about nine months at that point, or less. I am not sure of the exact amount of time.

Q. Had Mr. Johnson requested any particular pilot when he called?

A. Yes, he requested that Bob fly, saying that he knows his ability and qualifications to fly over water and he felt safer with him.

JAMES HAZEN JONES

In testimony, a fishing-boat captain who transported the crew to Norman's Cay recounted the downed plane had been carrying anti-Castro leaflets. James Hazen Jones had managed a fishing resort in the Isle of Pines and was in the real estate business before he left Cuba in June 1959 after he received a warning from the G-2. Jones moved in with William Johnson in Miami. Jones first met Johnson in 1958: "I met him in the Isle of Pines. Two or three other fellows came over with him in a small airplane." In Miami, Johnson introduced Jones to Sturgis. Jones also knew Swanner, who was a former crop duster from Mississippi. Jones also knew Rorke. Jones testified that he attended a meeting before the flight at which Swanner and Johnson were present. Either Thompson or Sturgis was also present. At this meeting it was determined that Jones and Fiorini would proceed to Norman's Cay by boat and Thompson and Swanner would fly there in a private plane. Johnson rented a boat from Miami Yacht rental which was piloted by Jones, who was a certified Ship's Captain. Jones testified the leaflets he was supposed to deliver to Norman's Cay consisted of stickers that read "Castro Failed," and leaflets which instructed the Cubans in sabotage and intelligence gathering. The leaflets were signed "The Phantom." Another of the leaflets read: "Set fire to transportation, Set fire to the bridges, Set fire to the

warehouses, Set fire to the factories." The caretaker at Norman's Cay, Alden Lockhart Watt, allowed Fiorini and Jones to use his pick-up truck to transport the leaflets to an area adjacent to the airstrip. Jones and Rorke then proceeded to the Bahamas by boat to officially enter the island. By the time they returned to Norman's Cay Swanner and Thompson, after several bottles of beer, had left for Cuba. Sturgis was at the landing strip. Jones testified that Sturgis came to Norman's Cay with him by boat: "Frank is very susceptible to seasickness, and he was seasick on that trip." When confronted with the customs transire he said that Frank flew over with Swanner and Thompson, and Rorke, Johnson and himself traveled by boat. During cross examination Jones was asked:

Q. Do you know who employed Rorke and Fiorini?

A. No, I can't honestly say. I don't actually know for certain.

Q. Do you know if they were working for a Cuban agency, let's say a group of Cuban refugees.

A. They could be. That's all I could say. I know that they did work at different times for Cuban agencies.

Q. Do you know whether any of these people involved -- and I would include you in the question -- had any connection with the Government of the United States?

A. That I can't say.

Q. You can't say or you don't know?

A. I don't know, I don't know.

WILLIAM JOHNSON

William Johnson testified that Robert Swanner, who lived in Johnson's home, chartered the aircraft. He said that when the aircraft left Norman's Cay it was headed for Caicos, not Cuba. Johnson did not see any leaflets aboard the aircraft. William Johnson said he had known Watt since 1960. After the plane departed Frank and himself went fishing and Rorke took photographs. According to Sturgis associate William Johnson, the leaflets consisted of instructions on how individual Cubans could interfere with the Cuban economy. In June 1993 William Johnson was contacted:

We rented the airplane for CIA. We were doin' all the raids for Pedro Diaz Lanz. He was the one raising the money from Somoza. Pedro was gettin' the credit. Sturgis, Swanner and Thompson flew to Norman's Cay. I came over in a boat with the leaflets. Sturgis

was going to fly that night, but the first takeoff was with Sturgis on the ground. Swanner and Thompson never came back. We went out lookin'. CIA took the leaflets that were left off a small key where we had put 'em. The Navy launched a search for them, but they were never found. There was a lot of complication there, nobody knew nothing, everything was quiet and hushed-up.

Swanner had previously received a letter from the State Department ordering him to stop violating Cuban sovereignty. Swanner's widow testified that she believed Sturgis and her husband were working for the CIA. Although the testimony of Sturgis (January 18, 1965) later turned up missing from the Archives of the Dade County Courthouse, newspaper accounts indicated he testified, denied knowledge of the leafleting flight and insisted he was on a fishing trip. The jury decided in favor of the rental company. [Cir. Ct. 11th Jud. Cir. Dade Country Fla. No. 63L 511 Gordon] On December 19, 1961, the press reported that two planes from an unidentified Caribbean base had flown over Cuba and dropped anti-Castro leaflets, along with two parachutists with radio equipment. When Bahamian authorities arrested members of Sturgis' group for illegal entry, they were told the drop had been authorized and sponsored by the CIA in New York. [FBI 2-1499-NR 1.4.62] On **December 22, 1961**, a Secret FBI memorandum concerning OPERATION PHANTASMA was sent to William C. Sullivan from S. B. Donohoe.

Press reported on **December 19, 1961**, that two planes from an unidentified Caribbean base had flown over Cuba on **December 17, 1961**, and had dropped over 250,000 anti-Castro leaflets and two parachutists with radio equipment. Financial backing reportedly came from former Cuban diplomat (unidentified) who defected from Castro Government. Press noted this was second such mission, the previous one having been made on October 21, 1961 by two planes which dropped anti-Castro leaflets over Camaguey, Cuba. On December 21, 1961 CIA Headquarters advised it was financing Sergio Rojas former Cuban Ambassador to Great Britain, who was engaged in this type of anti-Castro propaganda activity and that Rojas could have engineered the 12/17/61 leaflet dropping without CIA's cognizance since CIA does not oversee his detailed activities. CIA had previously advised in October 1961 that it was financing Rojas and his associated were responsible for the leaflet dropping over Camaguey in October 1961. CIA noted, however, that it was not involved in this particular operation and did not know it was to take place. On December 19, 1961 Border Patrol, Miami, which has been keeping a close watch on Florida Cuba flights advised our Miami Office that the 10/21/61 flight was apparently CIA operation and stated that planes were flown from island in Bahamas to Cuba. It is noted one of participants was Frank Fiorini, former Castro follower engaged in anti-Castro activities who, in October 1959 participated in anti-Castro leaflet-dropping raid over Cuba with Pedro Diaz Lanz, former chief of Cuban Air Force. This raid received considerable press coverage and was thoroughly investigated by us. Border Patrol further advised that another leaflet drop from the

Bahamas had been scheduled for 12/8/61 by Fiorini and his associates. However, this was not carried out apparently because of arrest of member of group by Bahamas for illegal entry. Fiorini's group claimed proposed leaflet drop had been authorized and sponsored by CIA in New York. Border Patrol learned that CIA had furnished the leaflets, however CIA stated it did not know if it had sponsored the proposed flight but thought it had. In this connection Border Patrol noted that one CIA group does not know what the other is doing with result there is considerable confusion. Border Patrol in addition, advised it believed the December 17, 1961 flight had also been sponsored by CIA and that it had been made by Fiorini and his associates in the same planes they had used in 10/21/61 flight. Border Patrol doubted that any radio operators had parachuted into Cuba. It appears foregoing flight were financed by CIA and we are conducted no investigation. It also appears that CIA is giving money to Rojas to carry out these flight as he sees fit and that CIA is unaware of and does not want to know the details. In this way CIA can – in theory – claim it was not involved in the flights and did not know why they were scheduled.

A notation by J. Edgar Hoover on the document asserted:

This jungle of irresponsibility is almost inconceivable particularly since (? Sisco) outcable a few months ago. It is (?) more reason we should not be 'sucked' Cuban invasion etc as some have been inclined to get us in. H. [FBI 109-584 NR 1.4.62 Donahoe to Sullivan]

March 20, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Stanley J. Grogan, Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT: Robert Swanner and Robert Thompson, Pilots Allegedly Shot Down over Cuba in **December 1961**.

REFERENCES: A. Articles by Al Wood in *Orlando Sentinel* March 12, 1963. Article by Al Wood in *Orlando Evening Star*, March 12, 1963. Article by James Buchanan in *Pompano Beach Sun Sentinel*, March 12, 1963.

1. On **December 19, 1961**, this Agency became aware of some aspects of the incident described in referenced reports. According to our records this was the third overflight of this kind attempted. On October 21, 1961, a leaflet drop was apparently made over Camaguey, Cuba, by U.S. citizens. On December 8, 1961, to December 9, 1961, authorities at Nassau intercepted and stopped a plane and U.S. citizens preparing to conduct a similar leaflet drop over Cuba. On the weekend of December 15, 1961, to December 17, 1961, another overflight was conducted by U.S. citizens and from this attempt two pilots and a plane failed to return.

2. Investigation by U.S. authorities of the activities cited above has been hampered by a welter of conflicting stories from second and third hand sources, as well as by inconsistent statements by the alleged participants. However, the following summary appears to be accurate. William Johnson has said that he, Robert Swanner and Frank Fiorini made the October 21, 1961 overflight. Alexander I. Rorke, a freelance newsman and photographer who has been long on the fringes of Cuban exile activity, has claimed that he flew on this mission as an observer. On December 8, 1961, Robert Swanner was intercepted in Nassau in an aircraft chartered from Sunny South Aircraft, Fort Lauderdale. Swanner was met in Nassau by Johnson, Rorke and Fiorini. This group tried to get a permit to fly to Great Exuma Island, but the permit was denied; the plane impounded and Swanner fined \$500 for illegal entry inasmuch as he had no authorization to fly the plane outside the U.S. On December 10, 1961, a search of Norman Cay produced nine packages of anti-Castro leaflets similar to the ones used in the October 21, 1961 operation. On December 14, 1961, Thompson flew from Melbourne, Florida, to Fort Lauderdale in an Apache aircraft No. 2062P, belonging to his employer, J. David Finger, and allegedly chartered by Johnson for an eventual flight to Nassau. In Fort Lauderdale, Thompson picked up Johnson. It is not clear whether Swanner and Fiorini were picked up in Fort Lauderdale, Tampa or West Palm Beach, but it is certain that at some point Johnson left the group and the Fiorini, Swanner and Thompson flew to Andros Island. On the evening of December 17, 1961, Finger reported to the FAA at Melbourne at Apache No. 2062P, with Thompson as pilot, was missing. On December 18, 1961 Rorke, Fiorini and Johnson reportedly chartered a plane in Miami for a trip to Bimini and Cay Sal. Rorke allegedly identified himself as a CBS photographer looking for photographs of pink flamingos. The plane flew a criss-cross pattern over Cay Sal and returned to Miami International Airport. There has been no information concerning the whereabouts of Thompson, Swanner and Apache No. 2062P until March 19, 1963, when the story attributed to an unidentified Cuban farmer appeared in the referenced press items.

3. As to the question of CIA involvement in the activities of the men cited herein, Johnson, Fiorini and Rorke have, at various times, claimed CIA sponsorship, although Rorke and Fiorini have also intimated they themselves, were the sponsors. In fact, none of these men had any sponsorship by CIA whatsoever. Sergio Rojas Santamarina, Castro's Ambassador to London from 1959 until June 1966, at which time Rojas broke with Castro because of conviction of the latter's communist orientation, appears to have been the Cuban exile sponsoring the operation. (Deleted) The policy which guided the Agency during the months in question permitted a great deal of latitude in dealing with Cuban exiles and, although little or no control over their activities was demanded, the authorization, funding and conduct of air operations against Cuba by this Agency were specifically forbidden. It is quite likely that Rojas, in his zeal to strike effective blows against the Castro regime, and despite this Agency's repeated expressions of disinterest in air operations, convinced at least Alexander Rorke and Fiorini that the

leaflet drops were sanctioned by the CIA. About one week before the October overflight, and about one week before the December incident, CIA began to receive reports of impending leaflet drops over Cuba. As noted above, after the October 21 operation, Rorke and Fiorini claimed they had been involved. It was not until December that this Agency became aware of the full extent of the three overflights and the details of the involvement of Thompson, Swanner and Johnson. With the exception of Rojas none of the men mentioned herein have ever been employed by the Agency in any capacity.

4. In **March 1962**, Mr. Raymond J. Dwyer, a Miami attorney representing Finger in connection with possible litigation against the insurer of the Apache aircraft, approached this Agency for information inasmuch as there were widespread rumors of U.S. Government involvement in the incident. Mr. Dwyer was informed that this Agency had no connection with the flight in question or with the individuals named by him - Finger, Johnson, Thompson, Swanner and Sturgis.

5. In **June 1962** this Agency received from State Department a query from Senator Robert Byrd on behalf of Mrs. Blanche DeBolt, Elkview, West Virginia, mother of Robert Thompson. Mrs. DeBolt was seeking clarification of various rumors concerning Thompson's whereabouts. This Agency informed State that we had no information that would substantiate any of the rumors.

6. This Agency has checked the transcripts of Castro's speeches from December 14, 1961 to December 31, 1961. He made no reference to having shot down two aircraft which were dropping bombs and leaflets on Havana and Mantanzas. As to the other elements of the incident as reported in references, this Agency can furnish no information on the following:

a. Mrs. Swanner story of having driven Swanner, Johnson and Fiorini to Fort Lauderdale to load a boat with leaflets.

B. The \$500 checks reportedly given to Mrs. Swanner and Mrs. Thompson by Fiorini.

C. Mrs. Swanner's reported trip to Andros Island with her son and a friend of her husband.

D. The mysterious phone calls to Mrs. Swanner, Mrs. Thompson and others.

E. The role of Gene Asbury and Norman Gratsky or Gradsky.

7. The John Martino mentioned in one of the referenced articles is probably John Vincent Martino who was sentenced by Cuban authorities in 1959 to 13 years in prison on the charge of counter-revolutionary activities. Martino was released and returned to

the U.S. in October 1962, not in December as reported. Martino was not, and is not, employed by this Agency in any capacity.

Desmond FitzGerald

Chief, Special Affairs Staff

THE FATE OF SWANNER AND THOMPSON

The Sun Sentinel - Fort Lauderdale News reported that two Cuban farmers testified at a trial in Miami years later that they had seen the red and white plane shot down by artillery over a sugar cane field around December 16, 1961. [*The Sun Sentinel - Fort Lauderdale News* 4.25.72] *The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* reported: "The most positive word so far on their fate came recently when a refugee farmer brought from Cuba aboard the mercy ship *Shirley Lykes*, told newsmen he saw the plane crash after it was hit by Cuban anti-aircraft fire, killing both the pilots. The farmer, who asked that his name be withheld, said he saw a Piper Apache make a low pass over the city of Matanzas on December 15, 1961, dropping anti-Castro leaflets to workers in nearby sugar cane fields. He said the plane was hit and crashed into a sugar mill." [3.29.63]

STURGIS AND PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY MARCH 1962

Sturgis:

I've taken Presidents of foreign countries to speak to our President, that was John F. Kennedy, and there are records of it...Now, I met President Kennedy. I took President Carlos Prio of Cuba to speak with Kennedy. President Prio is a good friend of mine. I go to President Prio's home...it would have been very easy to take out the President. As a matter of fact, on the second floor of the hotel, they set up a reception for 200 people and I and ex-President of Cuba, Carlos Prio were part of the 200 people who spoke to President Kennedy. As a matter of fact, it was very easy for me to take President Prio through the security set-up that was around the President. There was no problem in taking President Carlos Prio and myself to see the President...I made arrangements for Prio with telephone calls to D.C." [Combination of Sturgis' Depo in *Hunt v Weberman* and Canfield interview]

Sturgis told Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission: "Carlos Prio former President of Cuba (overthrown by Batista) was introduced to JFK by Sturgis at Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami Beach."

On **April 29, 1962**, *The New York Times* that the feeling that United States Government was moving toward some form of co-existence with the Castro regime was growing among Cuban exiles in Miami. Pedro Diaz Lanz said that "co-existence is already here." He said that not a single supply boat for the Cuban underground had been able to evade the United States authorities for many months and the Cuban underground in Cuba was without any help or support from the exiles in the United States. Lanz felt the orders to do this came "directly from Washington." Sometime in 1962 Task Force W's William Harvey generated a document that connected Sturgis to William Johnson in a 1961 smuggling indictment.

In **June, July, September, and October 1962**, Sturgis was overheard on an FBI electronic bug planted in a Miami bail bondsman's office. On October 14, 1972, the FBI reviewed its ELSUR files in connection with Sturgis:

Information regarding Sturgis is set out below. (Deleted) Frank Anthony Sturgis aka Frank Angelo Fiorini, FBI Number 948 362C. (Deleted) b) No electronic surveillance was conducted on any premises of which Sturgis was the owner, lessee or licensee. c) Electronic eavesdropping device. d) No trespass. (Deleted) The above three communications were also disseminated to the Jacksonville, New York, Tampa and Washington Field Offices. These four offices have been requested by teletype to advice of any further dissemination on their part. (Deleted) Miami electronic indices negative under known additional aliases of Fiorini, namely Joseph Di Alberto and Joseph D'Alberto.

Hemming told this researcher the Miami bail bondsman was Ed Stanton but subsequent research revealed it was Harold Solomon. On June 12, 1962, the Security Branch Chief of the Miami CIA Station received a call from the FBI:

DISCUSSION George Davis, FBI called and spoke to Chief, Security Branch. Mr. Davis wanted to know if Frank Sturgis was one of our people. He indicated that Frank Sturgis was believed to be involved in some type of operation which was to drop leaflets and also to have a bombing raid on Cuba. The writer was advised by (deleted) that as far as they knew, the Subject was not one of our people. There were, however, a number of cards in his name. Mr. Davis was called by the writer and advised that as far as the writer could ascertain, Subject was not being used by us. Mr. Davis stated that he would appreciate having any current information we

he might have or that might come into our possession in the future regarding the following: Subject's current activities; associates; proposed bombing raid; when it will take place; location of base of operations; etc. The write advised him that in the event we should come into possession of such information it would be passed on to his office. [CIA FOIA 19156]

OSWALD, STURGIS, BUCHANAN NOVEMBER 1962

MM 105-8342

RJD/gtj

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An article appeared in the November 26, 1963, issue of the Pompano Beach, Florida, "Sun Sentinel", a daily newspaper published in Pompano Beach, Florida. The article stated that FRANK FIORINI, Head of an Anti-Communist Brigade, said that LEE H. OSWALD had telephone conversations with the Cuban Government G-2 Intelligence during November, 1962. FIORINI claimed that OSWALD contacted Miami based supporters of FIDEL CASTRO, Prime Minister of Cuba, and that OSWALD had connections with the Cuban Government in Mexico and New Orleans, Louisiana,

FIORINI claimed that OSWALD handed out Pro-CASTRO literature in Miami in November, 1962, tried to infiltrate Cuban anti-CASTRO organizations in Miami and is known to have a bad temper,

MM T-1, who is personally associated with BUCHANAN and FIORINI, advised on November 27, 1963, that the author of the article is JAMES BUCHANAN who is considered by persons active in Cuban revolutionary matters as being unreliable,

This source also advised FRANK FIORINI, also known as FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, is well known as a Soldier of Fortune, adventurer and mercenary who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities for the past six years,

On November 27, 1963, FRANK FIORINI, 2505 Northwest 122nd Street, Miami, Florida, advised he had not seen the above-mentioned newspaper article but had made some off hand comments to BUCHANAN on the telephone the previous day. FIORINI said his comments were guesses, speculation and rumor based on information about OSWALD carried in the press. FIORINI

claimed BUCHANAN misquoted him and he had no information that OSWALD ever contacted the Cuban Government, was ever in Miami or Mexico, ever passed out pro-CASTRO literature or tried to infiltrate Cuban anti-CASTRO organizations.

FIORINI explained that there is much rumor and speculation in Miami by Cuban exiles concerning the possibility that OSWALD was connected with the Cuban Government. FIORINI explained he was just reporting this speculative material to BUCHANAN and he had no idea if it was true or false.

On November 26, 1963 Kennedy assassination James Buchanan, Frank Sturgis, John Martino and others launched a campaign to blame the Kennedy assassination on Fidel Castro. The propaganda operation started with an article dated November 26, 1963, which appeared in the *Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel* that quoted Sturgis:

Oswald was in Miami in November 1962 [Hemming claimed Oswald had been in Miami in December 1962] and had contact with Miami-based supporters of Fidel Castro who were agents of the G-2. Oswald gave out his Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature, and Jerry Buchanan, who was with my group, did tell me there was a possibility that Oswald was in the area, and that he had a fight with Oswald.

Buchanan claimed he knew the name of the printer where Oswald had his literature printed. Sturgis was questioned about this during his deposition in *Hunt V. Weberman*:

Q. Do you remember Mr. Buchanan giving out a news story that alleged that Lee Harvey Oswald was in Miami in 1963?

A. Oh yes! As a matter of fact, his brother, Jerry Buchanan, was one of the people that was with my group and Jerry did give me some information to the fact that he thought there was a possibility that one of the persons, now, you must remember that during that particular time there were hundreds of Americans in the area, plus Canadians, in this area here, trying to make contact with various Cuban groups in order to be involved against Cuba, and Jerry did tell me that there was a possibility that Oswald was in this area and that he had a fight with Oswald. He wasn't sure but this was what he told me.

On November 27, 1963, Sturgis told S.A. James O'Conner that his comments in the article were guesses and speculation, and that he had no hard information. S.A. James O'Conner sent a report to Washington concluding that Sturgis was unreliable, and that his story had no basis in fact. The reports of S.A. James O'Conner in which Sturgis linked Oswald to Fidel Castro were withheld. [FBI 62-109090-63rd NR 172 Hoover] On April 22, 1964, the Director of the FBI sent this message to the Miami Field Office:

Bureau also desires Jim Buchanan to be interviewed in order to pin down, once and for all, wild statements concerning alleged activities of Oswald in Florida which for the most part appear to emanate from Martino and Buchanan. If Buchanan uncooperative, set forth results in LHM form suitable for dissemination to President's Commission at which time consideration will then be given to suggesting Buchanan as well as Martino be subpoenaed before President Commission. Handle promptly and surep results. [NARA FBI 124-10035-10367]

The FBI reported:

James Buchanan, former reporter for the *Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel*, stated he has no personal or firsthand knowledge of Oswald or Oswald's activities. He stated his newspaper stories on Oswald were obtained from sources he regarded as reliable, whose accuracy he did not question. He declined to reveal the identity of a printer at Miami whom he alleges printed pro-Castro literature for Oswald. Concerning the alleged fight between his brother, Jerry Buchanan, and Oswald, he maintains this information was received from a Cuban named Sanchez, a member of the organization 'Los Pinos Nuevos,' and has never talked to his brother about this alleged fight. He says he knows no person who was a witness to the presence of Oswald in Miami, but thought his brother, Jerry Buchanan, should be contacted in that respect. When informed that his brother had been contacted and had furnished a varying account, Buchanan said he knew only what Sanchez had told him. Efforts to identify Sanchez through anti-Castro organization Los Pinos Nuevos, or through interview of one Jesus Sanchez, resulted negatively.

BUCHANAN'S SECOND STORY

A second article in the *Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel* stated:

Oswald tried to infiltrate several other major organizations in Miami, including the Anti-Communist Brigade, which is headed by Major Frank Sturgis, a former Commander in Castro's Air Force. Sturgis said his outfit turned down Oswald's application, because they could not find out anything about his background. Sturgis told me, 'We have already established that he was in contact with G-2 agents while here in Miami. We are trying to get the billing record from the telephone company. He called Havana. Oswald was known to have a bad temper while here in Miami...His other G-2 connections were in Mexico this past summer, and in New Orleans, just five weeks ago. We are in the process of checking out the leads. We already have a few names and places. Men are on the scene interviewing people who may have witnessed the meeting in Mexico City and in New Orleans...'"

The Miami FBI Office responded:

The Miami Office does not contemplate interview of Jim Buchanan inasmuch as the previous concerning an article by Buchanan, reported in Miami report dated January 25, 1964, in instant caption, reflected that

Buchanan deals in rumors an unverified information which he attributed to anonymous sources. [FBI Rep. of James O'Conner 4.4.64]



MARTINEZ AND GONZALEZ WERE WATERGATE BURGLARS

Allen Courtney suggested that S.A. James O'Conner interview John Martino, but Martino was traveling from city to city on a lecture tour for the John Birch Society. Instead, S.A. James O'Conner interviewed John Martino's associate, Nathan Weyl, who told him Oswald was a G-2 agent.

On December 2, 1963, S.A. James O'Conner interviewed Martino, who told him that a confidential source had told him Oswald was in Miami in **October 1962**, and made several telephone calls to Cuba from the home of a suspected Castro double-agent. Martino said that when Oswald distributed his Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature in Bayfront Park, Jerry Buchanan attacked him. In January 1964, Martino told one of his audiences that he had special knowledge of Oswald. According to Martino, when Oswald was in Mexico in October 1963, he caught a clandestine flight from the Yucatan Peninsula to Havana, Cuba. S.A. James O'Conner contacted Martino a few days after he made this speech. He told S.A. James O'Conner his source for Oswald's clandestine trip to Cuba was a high official in the Castro Government. On December 3, 1963, Sturgis supplied the CIA with information on a possible air strike over Cuba. [Index Card (Deleted)-04183] On February 7, 1964, Helene Finan, Chief of the Office of Security, Security Research Staff, CIA, debriefed Hede Massing regarding her knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the Kennedy assassination. [CIA 3.26.64 03681; CIA 1288-1022] Hede Massing, a former Soviet spy who was once the toast of Vienna, had once

been married to Gerhart Eisler, an agent of Moscow. Senator Joseph McCarthy used Massing to observe the behavior of American Government employees in Europe. Massing worked with Roy M. Cohen in this regard. [*Senator Joe McCarthy* - Richard Rovere, Torch Books, 1959] The FBI stated: "Massing worked, and might still work, for the Central Intelligence Agency." [FBI Dallas 100-10461-4075] Angleton'S Deputy, James Hunt, was in contact with Hede Massing. [FBI 3.31.64 Branigan to Sullivan; FBI 105-82555-2993, 2464, 2906]

Subject reported on various personalities she heard discussed while she was visiting Sylvia and Nathaniel Weyl in Florida from December 30, 1963, to January 8, 1964.

JOHN MARTINO

Mr. and Mrs. Martino visited the Weyls one evening when Massing was present. John Martino and Nathan Weyl are co-authors of the book, *I Was Castro's Prisoner*, which was published in November 1963. Massing, at this point, cautioned the writer to remember that all she was relating regarding the Weyls remarks were rumors, and or, gossip, and that source has no means of checking the truth of their statements. John Martino is the individual who carries the stories to Nathaniel Weyl and both John and Nathaniel are deeply entrenched with the Cuban anti-Castro forces. Martino claims to have a friend in Miami who keeps him well-informed on Cuban matters.

Martino and Nathaniel spoke of a trip that Martino had made to Cuba with an American newspaper woman, one Lapin and two CIA agents. Nathaniel Weyl did not accompany them. It is Massing's opinion that Nathaniel, who is a coward, just welshed on the trip, but that he did finance it. The purpose of the trip was to contact a Cuban who was serving as liaison for the four Russian Generals in charge of training and organizing the Cuban military. The Cuban, whomet the group in the water, at the edge of a beach in Cuba, told them that the four Generals wanted to escape and seek asylum in the United States. Martino is going ahead with a follow-up plan whereby on a given signal, he and a group would sail to Cuba to pick up the Generals. Weyl is going on a long lecture tour and will not be able to accompany the pick-up team to Cuba.

Lee Harvey Oswald

The Cuban friends of the unnamed individual in Miami know that Oswald contacted the Cuban MI-6 by telephone from a private home in Miami.

They also know the man who furnished the information on Oswald to the FBI.

From the reports given by the Cubans to this unknown individual, it seems very definite that RUBY went to Havana to make a shady deal with a creature by the name of Praskin, who works with the Cuban Communists and who is also tied up with call girls in Cuba.

A friend of Weyl, who ran for the Presidency of Cuba in 1958, shortly will testify before the Senate Internal Security Committee. Massing says this information may be confidential. Sourwine of the Committee, contacted Weyl to get in touch with this individual.

[Massing Debriefing 2.7.64 Helene Finan NARA 1993.08.04.18:45:23:780037]

On February 27, 1964, a memorandum from William Branigan to William C. Sullivan was generated:

CIA has furnished a memorandum through Liaison channels indicating that according to a confidential and reliable source, whose sources are unknown, Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly was telephonically in contact with MI-6 (Cuban Intelligence) from a private home in Miami, Florida. Further allegations indicate Jack Ruby, alleged assassin of Oswald, went to Havana, Cuba, to make a shady deal with 'Praskin' who works with the Cuban Communists and was a dope pusher used by the Communists; that a friend of the source claims there is more to Marina Oswald than meets the eye; that Marguerite Oswald, mother of the Subject, is an old line communist and that Oswald's return to the United States was part of a Russian 'gimmick.'

CIA has confidentially advised that source of the above data is Hede Massing, a resident of New York City known to the Bureau and CIA, and CIA has no objection to this Bureau contacting her and advising that the information furnished by her to the CIA had been furnished to the FBI.

Bureau files reveal Massing is a former Soviet agent who defected in 1938. She has been utilized by the CIA and has been a source of information of the New York Office since 1947 concerning Soviet espionage. By letter February 4, 1964, captioned 'Foreign Political Matters -Cuba - IS - Cuba. New York' submitted information furnished by Massing concerning John Martino and Nathaniel and Sylvia Weyl, which information was similar to that furnished by the CIA in the above-

mentioned memo; however, the data concerning Oswald and RUBY above apparently was not furnished to the New York Office by Massing.

Martino has previously been interviewed by Miami, at which time he pretended greater knowledge of Cuban affairs than he actually possessed. He also indicated various statements made concerning Lee HarveyOswald were based on information received from unidentified Cuban aliens, and he no firsthand knowledge or information concerning Oswald. The unnamed individual in Miami referred to by Massing on page 2 of CIA memo could possibly be Martino.

By airtel February 26, 1964, New York was instructed to immediately re-interview Massing for all the information in her possession concerning the Oswald matter, specifically ascertain basis for all statements made by her to the CIA and immediately set forth additional leads necessary to definitely pin down these allegations.

[FBI 105-82555-2464; Branigan to Sullivan 2.27.64]

J. Edgar Hoover initialed and expedited this memorandum. S.A. James O'Conner had received orders from J. Edgar Hoover:

With regard to the information furnished by Martino, Bureau desires that Martino be pressed to force production of his source in order to pin down this allegation. If he continues to be evasive and uncooperative on this point, set forth results of recontact with him in LHM form suitable for dissemination for President's Commission. Consideration with then be given to suggesting Martino be subpoenaed before President's Commission.

[FBI 105-82555-33199 - page 2 w/h]

On March 13, 1964, S.A. O'Conner interviewed Nathaniel Weyl, who said he

...was not sure of the identity of his source, with respect to the information that Lee HarveyOswald had contacted the Cuban intelligence by telephone from a private home in Miami. He said that his source for this information may have been a newspaper article written by James Buchanan. He recalled that Buchanan had quoted Frank Sturgis, described as an individual active in the Cuban situation at Miami, as stating that Sturgis knew that Oswald had made such a call from Coral Gables, Florida, to the Cuban intelligence office in Miramar, Havana,

Cuba. Mr. Weyl said his source for this information may have been John Martino, who, in turn, may have obtained the information from either Buchanan or Sturgis...With respect to the information that Jack Ruby had made a trip to Havana, Cuba, to deal with an individual named PRASKIN, Mr. Weyl stated he had been informed of this by an old friend, Carlos Marquez Sterling, resident at Washington, D.C...Mr. Weyl said he did believe that Oswald had been in Miami, Florida, in the past, and it was his recollection that Jim Buchanan, or possibly the latter's brother, Jerry Buchanan, had told him that Oswald had attempted to infiltrate anti-Castro groups in Miami, but had been rejected by these groups because he was uncommunicative as to his background. Mr. Weyl said that it was probably Jim Buchanan who told him that his brother Jerry had been involved in a scuffle with Oswald in downtown Miami, and that Jerry Buchanan had punched Oswald. Mr. Weyl said this incident was supposed to have occurred when Oswald was observed distributing some pro-Castro literature in Miami...He said he recalled that Oswald reportedly attempted to join the anti-Castro organizations known as the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE) (Cuban Student Revolutionary Directorate), and Unidad Revolucionario (UR) (Revolutionary Unity). Mr. Weyl said he had no corroborative information concerning the alleged stay of Oswald in Miami, other than the news articles by Jim Buchanan and contact with Fernando Cabada, described as a leader of UR.

S.A. O'Conner interviewed Fernando Fernandez Cabada, who said he never furnished information to the Weyls regarding Oswald. On **March 24, 1964, S.A. James O'Conner re-interviewed Martino.**

With respect to information that Cuban friends of Martino knew that Oswald had contacted the Cuban Intelligence Service in Cuba by telephone from a private residence in Miami, Florida, Martino claimed this was correct information. He refused to identify the source of such information, claiming that to pinpoint the source could conceivably result in harassment, if not more serious consequences, to the source or his family in Cuba.

Martino stated the information concerning such an alleged telephone call by Oswald to Cuban intelligence did not originate with his friend, Felipe Vidal Santiago, a Cuban exile active in anti-Castro activities. He also stated the information had not originated with Sturgis, an American citizen residing in Miami, who has been engaged in anti-Fidel Castro activities, and who headed an organization called the Anti-Communist International Brigade. Mr. Martino stated that the information in this respect had not

been received from James Buchanan, although he had discussed the information with Buchanan. Martino stated he would contact his confidential source as soon as the latter had returned from Tampa, Florida, to Miami, expected to be March 22, 1964, and would seek to obtain his consent to interview by the FBI.

With respect to the other alleged information that Cubans with whom Martino might have contact had stated that Jack Ruby had gone to Havana, Cuba, to engage in a shady deal with one (FNU) Praskin, who was also alleged to work with Cuban communists and be tied up with call girls in Cuba, Martino stated as follows:

This information came in the form of a letter from Cuba, which was shown to Martino by a Cuban whom Martino said was named Jose Madero. He said Madero, a man in his late 30's, had infiltrated back into Cuba as of December 1963, and was thus no longer available. Martino said he had known Madero when he was incarcerated in Cuba during the period July 1959 to October 1962. Martino said the letter was not directed to Madero, but to another individual not known to Martino. He said he had no idea where the letter might now be located. He said the letter related that Praskin had a business on Sanja Street in Havana, and that he supplied American girls to 'Girlie Shows' operated by Chinese in Havana. He said the letter made no mention of the nature of the shady deal alleged to occur between RUBY and Praskin, and did not indicate when RUBY had gone to Havana or how he had traveled...

Martino stated this same source had informed him that Oswald had stayed in the home of a pro-Castro Cuban in Miami, Florida, and had paid this pro-Castro Cuban the cost of a long distance telephone call made from the home of the pro-Castro Cuban to Cuba. Martino further stated that according to his source, the pro-Castro Cuban, after the assassination had occurred, made the statement, 'I didn't think it would go this far.' in referring to Oswald.

Martino said that additional information to establish that Oswald had been in Miami was received was received by him from Jim Buchanan. He said he used to give a lot of stories on the Cuban situation to Buchanan, and during the days immediately following the assassination, Buchanan, during a telephone call, told him that Buchanan's brother, Jerry Buchanan, had a fistfight with Lee Harvey Oswald at Miami, Florida, about a year prior to the assassination. According to Martino, Oswald at that time was attempting to get aboard a boat [Alexander Rorke's *Violyn III*] that was

being used by Jerry Buchanan and anti-Castro exiles in connection with their anti-Castro plans. Mr. Martino told Jim Buchanan that he intended to use this information in his speeches if it were true, and Buchanan told him to go ahead and do so. Mr. Martino stated he never used the information, however, because he considered it 'confidential to the government' and he was 'Not fighting that battle.'

Martino also told S.A. O'Conner that Oswald had secretly flown from the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, to Cuba, and that his source had the name of the printer in Miami Oswald used to run-off his Fair Play for Cuba Committee leaflets, and even had a copy of the check Oswald used to pay the printer. The funds had been withdrawn from the account of the Miami Chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The FBI:

The only hearsay readily traceable to origin is alleged fight between Oswald and Jerry Buchanan at Miami about beginning of 1963. Martino has in the past pretended greater knowledge of Cuban affairs than he actually possessed, and has declined to divulge his sources. Instructions previously furnished Miami to pin Martino down and attempt to press to force production of his source. During interview on March 26, 1964, Jerry Buchanan stated he was one of a group which fought with members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee distributing pro-Castro literature, Bay Front Park, Miami, in October 1962. Following assassination, he recognized Oswald as having been one of the members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee which his group had fought. Also stated Oswald had been in Miami in March 1963, distributing pro-Castro literature, and stated his brother, James Buchanan, a newspaper reporter, has specific information concerning Oswald's being in Miami during these periods. This should be pinned down and run out as above. [NARA FBI 124-10035-10367]

When the FBI checked Jerry Buchanan's parole records, it found that he was released from the Florida State Penitentiary on October 16, 1962, and was in Tampa, Florida, during the period October 21, 1962, to October 30, 1962. Hemming told this researcher:

Jerry Buchanan wasn't in the can. He's on the streets. How the fuck do they know where he is? He might have been down rolling fags in the Men's Room at Bay Front Park.

On **April 7, 1964**, S.A. James O'Conner questioned Sturgis again. Sturgis said he had "quit the IACB because James Buchanan had called John Kennedy a Communist." Sturgis denied hearing about a fight in Bayfront Park between Oswald and Buchanan. On **April 27, 1963**, after many visits from S.A. James O'Conner, Martino told him that

his source was coming to Miami for a meeting of Manuel Artime's group, MRR. Martino agreed to approach him on behalf of the FBI. Martino was warned that unless this matter was resolved, he would be called before the Warren Commission. Martino's response was: "What can they do, put me in jail?" The SAC of the Miami Field Office stated:

As pointed out in referenced Miami teletype, Miami considers Martino to be unreliable. It is further believed that Martino would probably welcome a subpoena before the President's Commission, as it would add to his stature, and furnish him additional notoriety on which to capitalize in his lecture engagements which he gives on Communism and Cuba. It is felt, however, he would be as equally evasive with the President's Commission as he was with the Miami Office, and there is no evidence to indicate he could furnish the Commission with anything but untraceable hearsay and speculation. [FBI 105-82555-3995]

The FBI briefly considered having James Buchanan testify before the Warren Commission. [FBI 105-82555-2993] S.A. James O'Conner conducted his final interview with Martino on May 11, 1964. Martino told him Cuban exile "Oscar Ortiz" was his source for his information on Oswald. S.A. James O'Conner had the Immigration and Naturalization Service check its files for Oscar Ortiz; it found no such person. The Immigration and Naturalization Service informed S.A. James O'Conner that Martino had previously furnished it with erroneous information based on a nonexistent source. Sturgis told S.A. James O'Conner that he personally "could not remember Oswald." In 1975 Sturgis told this to Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission:

Doesn't ever recall meeting Oswald. Doesn't know of his (Oswald) ever coming to Miami. Had no part, direct or indirect, with assassination of the President. Has made past investigation of Kennedy assassination. Thinks there could have been conspiracy...Has been in Dallas several times. Not at time of assassination. Never met Ruby. Feels it's more than just speculation. Lots of hatred vs. Kennedy among Cubans. Very good probability that there was a conspiracy. Some kooks on Tel. have something to say about Kennedy assassination. Radical left can't stand idea that it was one of their own that shot Kennedy. CIA can't control everybody connected with Agency. Could be a question about contract agents. Warren Commission was put there to write the history as government wanted it - not to tell the whole truth. Thinks there's lots of evidence, yet, of conspiracy to be found in Miami. Never met any of the Dallas Derelicts. Miami was hotter anti-Kennedy place than Dallas. Cubans there were upper class and middle class. Stole their way to wealth in Cuba and are now engaged in Cuban crime wave on East Coast. Now

have Cuban crime syndicate in U.S. This was the group recruited by Company to overthrow Castro.

When S.A. James O'Conner asked Sturgis if he had another source linking Oswald to the G-2, Sturgis referred him to Martino. Martino's source did not exist. On another occasion, when Sturgis was asked for the name of his source, Sturgis pointed to James Buchanan. When James Buchanan was asked for his source, he pointed to Sturgis. These guys were the Tweed Gang of disinformation.

DRE DISINFORMATION BACKS UP STORY

The second James Buchanan article in the *Sun-Sentinel* that linked Oswald to Fidel Castro also accused the FBI of preventing the DRE from distributing information that would have supported James Buchanan's initial article. James Buchanan claimed that certain members of the DRE knew of Oswald's visits to Miami, and knew of the Bayfront Park incident. S.A. James O'Conner went to the Miami office of the DRE. Everyone there had no knowledge of the FBI preventing the distribution of any of the DRE's information on Oswald, with the exception of DRE member Eduardo Diaz Lanz, the brother of Pedro Diaz Lanz and Marcos Diaz Lanz, who said he vaguely remembered the story. Eduardo Diaz Lanz had brought Sturgis to the DRE office several times following November 22, 1963, and said he may have given him the information during one of these visits. S.A. James O'Conner again questioned Sturgis, who told him that Eduardo Diaz Lanz told him that the FBI prevented the DRE from releasing proof of Oswald's G-2 connections. Sturgis told S.A. James O'Conner that Jerry Buchanan had told him about Oswald's visit to Miami, about his fight with Oswald in Bayfront Park, and that Oswald had tried to infiltrate the International Anti-Communist Brigade.

On **June 13, 1962**, Sturgis was the subject of a FBI report entitled "Pro Gobierno Constitutucional de Cuba." On **June 15, 1962** he was the Subject of a Miami FBI Report - "Neutrality Matters."

Subject is an American soldier of fortune who participated in pro-Castro activities prior to Batista downfall and who became anti-Castro shortly after Castro assumption of power. In October, 1959, he participated in anti-Castro leaflet-dropping mission over Cuba along with Pedro Diaz Lanz, former Chief Cuban Air Force. He has reputation of being liar and braggart. Miami informant has recently advised that Fiorini, by which name subject is more commonly known, claims to be planning three raids over Cuba, one of which will be for propaganda purposes. Fiorini also claims that he needs sulphur to make fire bombs to be dropped on Cuban sugar cane fields and that he is preparing dynamite bombs for dropping on undisclosed Cuban targets. Informant pointed out that it is difficult to

evaluate the accuracy and truthfulness of information furnished by Fiorini since he has a propensity for bragging exaggerating things in order to enhance his own importance. Another informant has reported that Fiorini claims to be preparing raid over Cuba utilizing base outside United States and that this raid should differ from previous leaflet-dropping mission in that, in addition to leaflets, bombs would be dropped and there would be strafing. Fiorini did not state when raid would take place but has indicates that considerable preparation is necessary prior to its initiation. According to informant, Fiorini reportedly told unidentified newspaperman that incident would not involve violation of U. S. laws since all activity would occur outside United States. Customs representative, Miami, advised that Subject in May 1962 contacted Alex Rorke, New York newspaperman who has been associated with Sturgis in Cuban revolutionary activities in the past, and told him he had about 40 boats in the South Florida area ready for military action against Cuba. Reportedly Rorke has formed organization in New York area to raise funds for Fiorini and Rorke has allegedly engaged in this activity. [FBI 2-1499-93]

The CIA reported that on **June 21, 1962**, Sturgis delivered an unknown quantity of weapons to Pedro Diaz Lanz. On June 23, 1962 Pedro Diaz Lanz was observed at the wheel of the boat, *Q-USA* heading in a southeasterly direction of Key Biscayne. On June 28, 1962, the Washington Headquarters of the FBI cranked out a report on Sturgis that was classified SECRET. On June 28, 1962, Inspector Willis Smithson U.S. Border Patrol advised that William Johnson had returned to Miami Yacht Rentals on that date and was making arrangements to lease a 36' foot Chris-Craft vessel known as the *Miss B*. That night the U.S. Customs Service searched the *Miss B* at a dock in front of a residence at 1985 North Hibiscus Drive, but only turned up anti-Castro leaflets. The FBI reported:

On June 30, 1962, Mr. Frickie advised that on that morning the North Miami Police Department observed a 1958 Cadillac four-door sedan, white over turquoise, bearing 1962 Florida License 1WW 647, to arrive in front of the residence at 1985 North Hibiscus Drive, Keystone Point, North Miami, Florida. It is noted previous investigation has disclosed that this automobile is registered to Frank Fiorini, which is the true name of Frank Sturgis. Within the automobile, among other things, was found three 11 lb. cans of Mallinckrodt phosphorous.

Customs seized the phosphorous and Sturgis's car but no charges were filed.

On June 30, 1962, Mr. Fickie said he received a telephone call from an individual who identified himself as William Johnson and asked what happened to Fiorini. Fickie told him that Sturgis' automobile had been seized that morning. Johnson expressed surprise and stated Fiorini had been trying to borrow his automobile that morning and Johnson was of the opinion that Sturgis was 'trying to pull a fast one on me.' Johnson did not give any additional information to Fickie.

Records of the Border Patrol, Miami, Florida, disclosed that on June 30, 1962 a telephone call was received from Sunny South, an aircraft rental company located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for check-out of a prospective customer. Subsequent investigation by Border Patrol revealed that a man came to Sunny South and represented himself as Robert Frank Swanner who wanted to rent a twin Beech aircraft for three days to go to Nassau, Bahamas. The original Robert Frank Swanner is well known to officials at Sunny South and it was ascertained from investigation that this individual was not Robert Frank Swanner III who, along with Robert L. Thompson has been missing since December 14, 1961 when they made a flight in an Apache Aircraft, believed to have been made over Cuba. The individual who had come to the aircraft company on June 30, 1962 was described as a much older man and inasmuch as this individual said he was from Oklahoma, it was their belief that he might be the younger individual's father. [Even though the person at Sunny South identified a photo of Swanner's dad as the man who wished to rent the aircraft it was ascertained that Papa Swanner was locked up at the time]

On **July 3, 1962**, Sturgis claimed that 20 of his men had landed in Cuba "to support and extend anti-Castro uprisings in the Matanzas Province of Cuba." [FBI 2-14999-99 mostly w/h] Sturgis was picked up by the Miami Police Department for questioning. [*The Miami Herald* 7.3.62] On August 15, 1962, Sturgis was the Subject of an FBI Report at Miami that was classified SECRET:

It was previously reported on **June 13 and June 15, 1962** that Frank Anthony Sturgis of Miami, Florida, is allegedly making preparations for a bombing and leaflet dropping raid over Cuba. On July 5, 1962 it was reported that Fiorini, according to newspaper reports at Miami on July 3, 1962, claimed that 20 trained, Cuban guerillas had made a successful landing by boat in Cuba's Matanzas Province. Fiorini claimed the landing of these men had been effected from a 40 foot boat. It was also reported on July 5, 1962 that Fiorini claimed that Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, former Chief of the Cuban Air Force during the Castro regime, now residing in exile in Miami, has no connection with his activities. On **June 22, 1962** [a

CIA source of known reliability] was in contact with Frank Fiorini, who had returned from upstate New York on a trip. Frank Fiorini advised the source of MM T-1 of the following: Pedro Diaz Lanz has been very active lately in raising funds...MM T-1's source continued that on June 19 or 20, 1962, Marcos Diaz Lanz, brother of Pedro Diaz Lanz informed Fiorini that the Venezuelan money had arrived and asked Fiorini to procure certain weapons that were necessary for the operation. Lanz was anxious to obtain several bazookas. Fiorini claimed he had located these weapons in New York and agreed to proceed there to obtain them. When he arrived in New York the armament had been sold but Fiorini said he was able to obtain a brand new .57 mm recoilless rifle with plenty of ammunition. MM T-1's source went on to state that Fiorini said that he had decided on obtaining this equipment since it had a much longer range than the bazookas, and at least Diaz would have, if not the same thing, something better than he had bargained for. Upon Fiorini's arrival in Miami on June 22, 1962 he delivered the equipment to Marcos Diaz Lanz. Laying it on the floor of his living room. Fiorini claimed that Marcos Diaz had commented that the equipment was brand new and that it had night light attachments. MM T-1's source was not certain what Fiorini meant but he was of the opinion that Fiorini had been able to also obtain what he termed several automatic weapons which could have been M-3's, also they may have possibly been Browning automatic rifles.

MM T-1's source also learned that Fiorini had been asked if he intended to participate in the Diaz naval project. Fiorini hedged around the question, stating that he doubted very much that Diaz would actually comply with the obligation to the Venezuelans. It was MM T-1's source's opinion that if Diaz does not decide to go ahead with the naval project, Fiorini will be involved in it. It was the source's opinion that Pedro Diaz will not do anything except something that may have publicity value. On July 5, 1962, Mr. Edward Pickie, United States Customs, Miami, Florida, advised that on July 1, 1962, a firm known as Hampton Roads Salvage Company of Florida had applied for and been granted approval to change the classification of a vessel from pleasure to commercial use. Pickie said this boat is named the *Q-USA*...According to the boat registration certificate the vessel is to be used in connection with commercial fishing.

MM T-2 also pointed out that it had been confirmed that Fiorini had purchased a .57 mm recoilless rifle through the Rich Lauchli Ordnance Experimental Company, Collinsville, Illinois. This rifle was sold to Fiorini for \$200.00 Fiorini brought the rifle to Miami and was planning to sell it to a Cuban named Oscar Pino. MM T-2 said Fiorini claims that he is the

purchasing agent for one of the anti-Castro organizations which comprises nine different segments. MM T-2 pointed out, however, that it is not known if such is true or not as Fiorini has a reputation for being a braggart and a bald liar. MM T-2 also said that he had learned that Lauchli, who sold the above rifle to Fiorini, had claimed he was given the name of Fiorini through a newspaperman named Robert K. Brown, a reporter for the *Denver Post*.

On July 24, 1962, MM T-4 advised that Fiorini was in the Miami area and had indicated interest in carrying out some type of plan to bring about the assassination of Fidel Castro, his brother Raoul, and other top Cuban government leaders. MN T-4 advised that Fiorini's plans appeared to be in the talking stages and that there appeared to be nothing imminent at that time. MM T-4 pointed out; however, that Fiorini had previously mentioned having a quantity of bombs and on July 24, 1962, discussed the possibility of storing some of them at the office of Harold Solomon, Bail Bonds. MM T-4 related that when Fiorini suggested the idea to George Levine, one of the partners in the business, he was promptly told to give up the idea.

On July 25, 1962, MM T-2 advised he had learned that on that date Fiorini had been in possession of eight bombs. These bombs were described as being made of iron pipe, each 10 inches long, two inches in diameter, and containing approximately one and one-half pounds of powder. Fiorini also claimed that he had some bomb casings which are filled with napalm. ! Fiorini said he was planning another mission over Cuba which would involve the use of these bombs utilizing Twin Beach Aircraft. Fiorini claimed that the operation would originate from somewhere in the Bahamas but did not indicate the specific location of the base, nor the island.

PHANTOM RAIDERS BOMB AND STRAFE CUBAN PORT

CARIBBEAN JUNE 25, 1962. Early Thursday morning, 3 unmarked World War II type B-25 bombers based at an undisclosed Caribbean Island here successfully penetrated Cuba's coastal defense and scored a daring raid on the port city of xxxxx. The bomber, piloted by members of BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA (IACB) flew in off the water at treetop level dropping 100 pound bombs in several passes over the harbor area. Explosives and incendiaries ripped into docks, warehouses and storage bins in the target areas. Amid the fires and confusion machine guns chattered as one of the aircraft veered off to a pre-arranged drop zone and parachuted foods, leaflets and medical supplies in the surrounding area to the hungry Cuban people.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE

TO LIVE IS TO DIE

FIDEL FAILED

Phantom Cells

OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF CUBA

The International Anti-Communist Brigade is dedicated to your liberation. The citizens of the free world are aware of your suffering under the Communist dictatorship of FIDEL Castro.

Soldiers of all nations will help you, as members of the Brigade.

SOME MUST DIE IN ORDER THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE.

"OPERATION PHANTOM

" Set fire to transportation!

" Set fire to the bridges!

" Set fire to the warehouses!

" Set fire to the factories!

"SET FIRE TO FIDEL!

" BREAD FOR THE PEOPLE!

..... Milk for our children!

..... Medicine for our sick!

..... Liberty for our brothers!

On July 3, 1962 MM T-2 said it was his personal opinion t that Fiorini is lying; that he has not been successful in any of his undertakings and he reiterated that he is of the belief that Fiorini is fabricating data to these newsmen as he is being interviewed by them. On July 5, 1962, Sturgis was the subject of an FBI Report at Miami. This highly deleted report stated that William Johnson had rented a 20 foot Chris Craft vessel on June 21, 1962. [FBI 2-1499-102] On July 13, 1962, a document was generated about Sturgis by the FBI that was illegible. On July 5, 1962, the Director of the FBI sent USAAG J. Walter Yeagley a highly deleted memo: "(Deleted) In view of this and since the Border Patrol in Miami is also conducting investigation in this matter, we are not conducting an investigation of the Subject's activities..." [No Serial - Xerox of carbon] On

July 21, 1962 U.S. Customs seized 100,000 of Sturgis' anti-Castro leaflets plus his Cadillac. [*Miami Herald* 7.22.62] William Johnson commented: "Fiorini had a Cadillac - this didn't sit well with the other troops. He and the stripper he was living with had tremendous fights over who would use the Cadillac. Cubans resented the Cadillac as they felt he should have given his all for the revolution." On **July 24, 1962**, the CIA received information that Sturgis was planning his next Cuban overflight for July 26, 1962. The fairly reliable CIA source stated: "Subject and Diaz-Lanz are being financially backed by a group of North Americans." [CIA FOIA #2-1499-103] Also in July 1962, there was information that William Johnson rented a yacht for anti-Castro activities. When the Border Patrol found and searched this vessel, it discovered a press release stating the International Anti-Communist Brigade had launched an air raid against Castro, which rained leaflets on Cuba advocating that anti-Castro elements within the country break up in small cells in order to carry out acts of sabotage. On July 31, 1962 Sturgis was the subject of an FBI Report entitled "Pro Gobierno Constitutucional de Cuba." A CIA Index Card dated **August 15, 1962**, reported: "a twin engine plane dropped food, medicines and anti-Castro pamphlets into a remote area of western Cuba's Pinar Del Rio Province early yesterday it was reported today. The food, apparently intended for the enemies of Fidel Castro, was dropped at an unspecified spot. The leaflets fell on the village of Cortes, Las Martinas and El Campo. A fighter plane from the San Julian Air Base tried to intercept the invader but was unable to do so. The flight was arranged by a Cuban refugee group headed by Sturgis." On September 11, 1962, Counter-Intelligence received information on Alexander Rorke and Sturgis. [CIA CSCI 3/772,888]

PEDRO DIAZ LANZ'S ANTI-KENNEDY PROPAGANDA SEPTEMBER 1962

September 27, 1962,

Report No. 11

Subject: Anti-Kennedy propaganda, edited and distributed by Pedro Diaz Lanz, Cuban exile leader in this area.

Source: Pedro Diaz Lanz

On Wednesday, September 17, 1962, I was visited by Pedro Diaz Lanz, who gave me the included mimeographed sheet. This paper is in tone with the constant conversation of Diaz Lanz, to the effect that Kennedy and most of his administration are communists, and are betraying Cuba and the Cubans, as well as the citizens of the United States. This paper was shown to Frank Fiorini, who told me that Diaz Lanz had edited it.

Comments: From previous conversations held with Lanz, I noticed certain similarities in phraseology that coincided with the general tenor of a conversation held with Rorke a month ago. I asked him if he had spoken to Diaz Lanz, as they both sounded the same. He admitted he had. It is believed that Rorke has influence with Diaz Lanz in this matter. B. [CIA 00078]

On **December 26, 1962**, Sturgis was the Subject of an FBI Report, Subject: Felipe Vidal Santiago at Miami classified SECRET. [FBI File 105-6466 Field] On **February 25, 1963**, Sturgis was the Subject of an FBI Report at Miami titled Pedro Diaz Lanz [FBI Filed 105-1598] On February 26, 1963, Sturgis put three exiles and an arms cache ashore in Cuba. [CIA TDCSDB 3/653, 545 3.6.63] On March 30, 1963 the FBI generated a document entitled, "Anti-Castro Strike against Cuba Scheduled for Week of March 26, 1963 Internal Security Cuba Neutrality Matter. Date March 30, 1963 Miami Florida. No file number. SECRET.

JERRY BUCHANAN: MARCH 1963

The FBI: "In connection with the investigation of the case entitled 'Lee HarveyOswald' (105-82555), Zacarias Acosta, Los Pinos Nuevos leader, advised as follows: In March 1963 Jerry Buchanan had engaged in anti-Castro operations together with 16 members of Los Pinos Nuevos. Acosta was one of the 16 Cubans who, in the latter part of March 1963, had departed in the boat, *The Violyn III*, with a load of arms and munitions. At a point off Key West Jerry Buchanan was put aboard the *Violyn III* from a small launch that was also occupied by Alexander Rorke and Frank Fiorini." [FBI 105-82555-3787 p19 - Acosta DOB 9.6.1894 died 10.80] *The Violyn III* was stopped in the Bahamas, heavily armed, and on its way to attack a Soviet freighter. The British seized the boat. Jerry Buchanan, the only United States citizen aboard, told the press he had "Presidential authorization" for the mission; as his superiors he named his brother James, as well as Sturgis and Alexander Rorke. Hemming reported Richard Lauchli sold dynamite to Los Pinos Nuevos.

The CIA reported that

As of **March 24, 1963**, Frank Fiorini with Bill Johnson and Alex Rorke were planning a strike against Cuba. The operation includes a combined boat and aerial attack, in the latter phase a Beechcraft aircraft will be used as a bomber. During the week of **March 18, 1963**, Fiorini and Johnson cached three one hundred pound bombs at a base in the Caribbean. Fiorini stated there are seven such bombs available and they will be dropped out of the side door of the Beechcraft. Bill Johnson* previously stated that he participated in a leaflet raid on Matanzas Province which involved a twin-engine Beechcraft. He operates from a landing strip on

Norman Cay. This Cay has a cove for handling boats and supplies are stored on this Cay. *Bill Johnson in full control of all MIRR ops. [CIA CSCI 3/771,919]

On **March 27, 1963**,

Wallace Shanley, U.S. Customs, advised that about one month ago Frank Fiorini contacted him concerning alleged plan under discussion by unidentified persons to drop bombs by plane over Cuba. Fiorini told Shanley he considered this plan ridiculous and would immediately notify Shanley if any attempt was made to put plan into action. Shanley has not since heard from Fiorini. It is to be noted CIA information was received by CIA sources from Fiorini and Johnson both of whom are regarded as professional adventurers of questionable reliability. On March 26, CIA Miami advised it possessed no additional information. [FBI 2-1803-4]

On **March 30, 1962**, the Coast Guard raided Norman's Key, searching for the *Violyn III*. The FBI:

Following the Interagency Conference which was held in Miami on March 30, 1963, Sterling J. Cottrell, Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, Department of State, received a telephone call from his headquarters in Washington, D.C. Following this conversation, Cottrell remarked to Harvey (Illegible), State Department representative in Miami, and a representative of our Miami Office, that the United States Coast Guard had dispatched a Patrol plane to Norman Key on the basis of information which had been furnished by the (Deleted) indicating that the Subject and others were proceeding (deleted) in connection with some anti-Castro undertaking which was to take place in the immediate future. Cottrell remarked that his headquarters had just been notified that the United States Coast Guard had not found the Subject or any of his associates on the Key, and that only one boat was there, which was occupied by United States Senator George Smathers of Florida. Later, when advised that Cottrell had received another telephone call from Washington and had been instructed to treat the information concerning Norman Key and Senator Smathers as confidential to avoid embarrassment concerning this matter, he asked the representative of our Miami office to also treat the matter in this fashion. It is not known what, if any, connection there might be between Senator Smathers' alleged presence and that of the Subject and his associates at Norman Key at or about the same time.

William Johnson reported:

I was there the whole trip. Smathers was Frank's buddy. It was funny how we were able to leave and everything else. Frank may have turned it in. There's a lot of funny things about Frank. I have some of the blackouts, and I filled them in and it shows that Frank was the one that did the snitching. His name fit right in. There's only two left. Me and him. And I don't know why he left me to hang around. If he could have thought of a way to get rid of me, he would have done it.

On April 1, 1963, the United States Coast Guard advised the British authorities captured the *Violyn III* that morning in the vicinity of Norman Key, Bahamas. The boat contained 16 Cuban nationals, and one American adventurer, Jerry Buchanan who has a known criminal record. The British authorities escorted this boat to Nassau, Bahamas, and turned the *Violyn III* over to the United States Coast Guard for escort back to the United States. [also see Szulc *NYT* 4.3.63] On April 3, 1963, JMWAVE sent this message to the Director of the CIA: "Supdata (Deleted) from Frank Fiorini. It is believed that Fiorini knows that when he gives information to Barker it does get to U.S. Government and probably Fiorini wishes alert U.S. Government agencies to pick up raiders at Anguilla." On April 3, 1963, William Sullivan of the FBI sent this Memo to W.R. Wannall, also of the FBI: "Mr. Evans' memorandum earlier today regarding Cuban matter pointed out that Mr. Guthman of the Department requested information for the President's press conference this afternoon concerning an alleged television or radio broadcast by someone named who claimed that certain students from New England colleges have engaged in week end missions to Cuba." The FBI determined that when the *Violyn III* was taken into tow by the Coast Guard, there were several college students aboard. [FBI 12-1499 NR 184 4.10.63] "It is noted that Rorke and two of his close associates, Bill Johnson and Frank Sturgis have been under investigation by the Customs Service for repeated attempts on their part to engage in forays against Cuba. No information has been received by the FBI specifically showing that students from the New England area have actually participated in raids against Cuba but the Customs Service may have additional data with regard to this matter as a result of its investigations." [FBI 2-1449 Enc.] The FBI reported:

On April 4, 1963, local newspaper, radio stations and television in Miami reported that the *Violyn III* had departed from Nassau and was en route to Miami with a U.S. Coast Guard escort. Miami Attorney Charles Ashmann made press announcements that the crew of the *Violyn III* would not be return to the United States.

In the early morning hours of **April 5, 1963** MM T-3 advised that Ashman claimed the *Violyn III* would rendezvous with the other unidentified boat and would complete its infiltration mission to Cuba.

On **April 5, 1963**, MM T-4 a representative of another Government Agency, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1963, the *Violyn III* left Nassau, Bahamas, on a general course for the United States, and at that date was on the north tip of Andros Island in the Bahamas. Because the *Violyn III* was in shallow water, the U.S. Coast Guard discontinued its surveillance of the *Violyn III* by boat, and surveillance was taken over by U.S. Coast Guard aircraft. At about 8:20 p.m. the *Violyn III* turned off its running lights and had not been seen by the coast guard since that time.

On **April 5, 1963**, Chester A. Woish, Chief Investigations Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, advised that the *Violyn III* had just arrived at the seawall, Key Biscayne, Miami. The Cubans aboard were to be taken by INS authorities to the INS detention facility at Opa Locka, Florida, where interviews were to be conducted, and any United States citizens on board were to be taken by INS authorities to INS Headquarters in Miami, where these individuals would be interviewed for any possible violations of Federal law concerning U.S. passport regulations. (The yacht was forced to put out a distress signal en route to Cuba).

The Coast Guard seized the *Violyn III*. Rorke told *The New York Times*

...that the United States Government, through the CIA, had advance knowledge of the trips. He classified the operations as re-supply missions or trips to land agents in Cuba and said the only shots fired from the *Violyn III* had been defensive, after the boat had been fired upon. Mr. Rorke contended that the CIA had financed trips of the *Violyn III*. These were leaflet raids in October and December 1961. However, Mr. Rorke said the CIA had not backed any excursions of the boat in recent months. [NYT 4.3.63]

The FBI reported:

On **April 5, 1963**, U.S. Customs Service, Miami, seized an American motor vessel, *the Violyn III*, on grounds there was probable cause to believe that arms and munitions of war had been exported or removed from the United States in violation of law, aboard this boat. This vessel had been purchased by Alexander Rorke, a United States citizen, newspaper photographer and adventurer who had been closely associated with Sturgis in anti-Castro activities. (Rorke disappeared in 1963 after departing South Florida by plane on a trip to Mexico and is presumed to be dead.)

(Deleted) advised U.S. Customs that due to arrangements made with Rorke, they had committed this boat to the use of an anti-Castro

organization known as Los Pinos Nuevos. They admitted that they had loaded the vessel with three one hundred pound bombs, and proceeded to Norman Key in the Bahama Islands, where the bombs were hidden, pursuant to a plan for a later attack against Cuba. However, these plans went awry after the *Violin III* was seized by the British in April 1963 in the Bahamas with 17 Cuban-bound anti-Castro exile raiders aboard. [FBI 2-1499-134]

On **April 8, 1963** the FBI generated a document entitled, "Anti-Castro Activities Washington D.C. No file number. On **April 10, 1963**, the FBI generated a report about Sturgis at Miami that linked him with the Second National Front of Escambray entitled "Ejereito Cubano Anticomunista (Frente Escambray) (Cuban Anti-Communist Army) (Escambray Front) Registration Act, Neutrality Matter." No file number for this document was shown on the CIA's list of FBI documents about Sturgis. On April 25, 1963, the FBI at Miami generated a document about Sturgis entitled "Anti-Castro Strike Against Cuba Scheduled for the week of **March 25, 1963.**" Again, no file number was provided.

THE NICO LOPEZ HAVANA OIL REFINERY RAID

On April 25, 1963 FBI generated a document entitled, "Anti-Castro strike against Cuba Scheduled for the Week of March 25, 1963; Internal Security – Cuba. Date April 25, 1963 Miami, Florida." No file number. On April 26, 1963, Alexander Rorke announced that on April 25, 1963, he and several other men had flown over Havana and dropped napalm and penolite bombs on the Nico Lopez Oil Refinery, however the refinery tanks failed to explode. *The Miami Herald* carried an account of the attack. Laureano Batista of Christian Democratic Movement, Geoffrey Francis Sullivan, and Steve Justin Wilson tossed homemade bombs out of a twin-engine plane Alexander Rorke piloted, only 50 feet above Cuban oil refineries. Alexander Rorke described how the men lit napalm bombs with their cigars and dropped them on installations formerly owned by Shell and ESSO, which refined most of Cuba's Soviet oil. Alexander Rorke stated: "The bombs went off but the tanks didn't blow." Rorke said the photographs he took of the raid did not develop. On April 27, 1963, the FBI interviewed Geoffrey Sullivan. He told them that on the night in question he had flown Alexander Rorke to Washington, D.C., then continued to Meridan, Connecticut, where he landed at 9:00 a.m., April 26, 1963. The FBI verified this.

THE FBI CLAIMS THE RAID WAS A HOAX

The FBI persuaded the Kennedy Administration that the bombing was a hoax:

As a matter of fact, there are indications that this whole operation as related by Rorke may have been a hoax. Persons who know Rorke

believe this to be possible. Many of the circumstances of the case are inconsistent with the premise that a bombing took place. Although Rorke said the bombs exploded, a Cuban exile advised that people living in the refinery area did not hear any explosions. Cuban newspapers contained pictures of the bombs supposedly dropped on the refinery; however the bomb casings were not dented or damaged as necessarily should have been the result if dropped from an airplane. Moreover, the Cuban radio stations apparently did not report any bombing until after the news releases in the United States. Also, the text of the Cuban Government's protest of the 'bombing' to the United States generally followed the United States news reports in describing the alleged incident.

With regard to possible grand jury action in this matter, it is the conclusion of this Division that such action is not warranted. Subject (Deleted) has refused, on the advice of counsel, to furnish pertinent information unless he is granted immunity from prosecution. We do not believe such immunity is justified in this instance. In view of the generally uncooperative attitude of subjects Sullivan and Batista it is most likely they would invoke the provisions of the Fifth Amendment and refuse to furnish testimony which might incriminate them. As to Rorke, he no doubt would repeat the story he has already given or would invoke the Fifth Amendment. Should he testify along the lines of his public statements and deny that he took an airplane from the United States in connection with the alleged bombing raid, we would not only still lack a prosecutable case but, moreover, we would not be in a position to proceed against Rorke for violation of the perjury statute. It should also be noted that the evidence is not sufficient to invoke the neutrality statutes. For the foregoing reasons criminal prosecution in this case is not contemplated. [FBI 79-29181-3, 97-4623-148]

STURGIS AND HEMMING TELL SHANLEY RAID WAS A HOAX

The FBI:

With respect to the claim of captioned individual that he had bombed Havana last night, SAC Grapp of Miami advised Mr. Belmont at 6:15 p.m. today that he had talked to Wallace Shanley, Supervising Agent of United States Customs in Miami. Shanley does not think there was a raid by Rorke. He knows Rorke personally and has interviewed him a number of times and thinks Rorke is nuts. Shanley said he has interviewed Rorke's close associates, Frank Sturgis and William Johnson, who think Rorke has flipped his lid. Shanley said Customs has conducted investigation and is

continuing investigation to determine if there was a raid or if this is a fabrication.

With respect for the motivation for Rorke fabricating this story (Deleted) pointed out that he knows Rorke is in financial distress at the present time. He observed that at the meeting in Washington today, Rorke introduced a young Cuban named Laureano Batista Falla and implied that this person participated on this raid. Batista Falla comes from a wealthy Cuban family and has a large personal allowance. Shanley expressed the opinion that Rorke, by creating favorable publicity for Batista Falla, hopes to ingratiate himself with Falla and obtain money from him.

Mr. Belmont advised Mr. Grapy that Rorke is to address the Cuban Professionals in Exile tonight at 9 p.m. at the DuPont Building here in Washington and requested Grapp to so advise Shanley so that Customs could interview Rorke at that time if they desired to do so. Grapp said Cantons wanted to interview Rorke if they could find him. [FBI 97-4623-35 also FBI 97-4623-151 8.26.63]

CIA furnished the following information relating to radio broadcasts in the Miami area concerning an alleged raid over the Havana area on April 25, 1963. On April 19, 1963 Frank Fiorini, 2515 NW 122nd St, Miami, (not further identified) reported that the planning for a strike against Cuba included Laureano Batista Falia (97-4326), Orlando Bosch Avila and Manuel Artime Buesa (not further identified). Artime was to provide seven or eight thousand dollars for the strike. Artime went to see "Chiri" Mendoza, a rich Cuban exile and asked him for ten thousand dollars. Mendoza refused Artime's request and reportedly called Bosch and told him Artime was a crook. According to Fiorini, Bosch was very anxious to obtain the money and carry out the strike on his own, as he had a promise of a very large sum of money for the next strike if he was successful on the first one. [FBI 97-4263-107 p. 90, 91, 94 SI 97-4623-36 p. 2, 3 (12, 35, 36)]

The HSCA reported:

In April 1963, Frank Sturgis supplied information that Laureano Batista Falla, Orlando Bosch, Manuel Artime and Alex Rorke were jointly planning an air strike over Havana on April 25, 1963. According to Sturgis, the strike was to originate from an airstrip in Puerto Rico and the target was a sugar refinery. The bombs were homemade, assembled by Batista. Rorke announced publically that the strike had taken place as scheduled, which

took the other planners by surprise. Sturgis claimed the strike was still in the planning stage and financial backing had not been completed.

Sturgis told the FBI that the raid never took place and was just a publicity stunt.

THE BORDER PATROL

Additionally, the FBI reported Alexander Rorke's airplane had been under surveillance by the Border Patrol.

At 7:01 p.m. (on the evening of April 25, 1963), these two men, plus an additional individual believed to be Hansruedi Tanner, a Swiss alien, took off in this aircraft without filing a flight plan. After becoming airborne, they asked for permission to head south. Four hours later, at 11:01 p.m., they asked permission of the control tower at Vero Beach to proceed to Washington, D.C. The Border Patrol further advised that some time prior to the take off from Palm Beach Airport, Sullivan, the pilot, purchased two navigation charts at the airport. One of these charts was described as being for Cuba and the other one Havana... Washington Field Office has further learned from the Federal Aviation Agency at Washington National Airport that the twin engine Beechcraft airplane arrived in Washington, D.C. at the National Airport at 8:00 a.m. on April 26, 1963, having left Vero Beach Florida at 11:00 p.m. on the night of April 25, 1963. The Federal Aviation Agency noted that possibly the plane had stopped en route since it would not require this amount of time to fly from Vero Beach to Washington. The plane departed from Washington National Airport, destination unknown, at 8:37 a.m. The plane filed no flight plan." [FBI: Note for Ray Wannall 4.29.63] The Border Patrol observed nothing loaded onto the plane before take-off. The Border Patrol advised that a check with radar station at Key West Naval Air Station reflected there were no outgoing or incoming unidentified tracks on radar on April 25, 1963, between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. however, a plane, by low level flying could possibly escape detection on radar screen. Rorke's plane had 5 gasoline tanks and had a speed of 124 knots and was believed by the FAA to be capable of making a flight from Palm Beach to Havana and return non-stop.

THE CUBAN REACTION

The FBI conducted interviews with other Cuban refugees who had been in Havana when the raid occurred. They heard gunfire and a low-flying plane during the period in question.

Mrs. Hilde Suarez Diaz, a blind Cuban who had arrived on the American Surveyor at Port Everglades, Florida on April 29, 1963 was interviewed at the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Miami. She was interviewed in the presence of her daughter, Graciela Marie Suarez Y Diaz. Mrs. Suarez stated she had resided at 14509 Central Street, Guanabcoa, which is a suburb of Havana, Cuba. Her home is located several blocks from the Shell Oil refineries. She recalled that about three or four nights prior to her departure on April 25, 1963, at about 8:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. she heard gunfire. Four or five minutes later, she heard an airplane flying overhead. She said it did not appear that the plane was flying directly over the refinery, however, she was unable to state the direction or the altitude at which this plane was flying." [FBI Miami 2-346 5.9.63]

On April 27, 1963, Cuban press and television announced the April 25, 1963, bombing attack against the Nico Lopez Oil Refinery. Cuban newspapers showed pictures of a 100 pound practice bomb which did not explode, and a quantity of one-pound Trojan Pentolite primers, which did not explode, and a container allegedly filled with Napalm, which also did not explode. There were also photographs of material appearing to be Primacord and an detonating cap. The Cuban media reported:

About 10:00 p.m. on April, 25 1963, a twin engine plane coming from the north, flew low over the Nico Lopez Refinery and dropped a 100-pound bomb and several cans of inflammable material of the napalm type that did not explode. The plane then flew off in the direction from which it had come. Later, the North American news agencies disseminated a report that one Alexander Rorke said in the city of Washington some hours after the incident took place, that he was in the twin-engine plane that bombed the refinery.

Havana media explained that the attack failed due to a faulty fuse. On May 2, 1963, Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Raoul Castro complained: "If the United States wasn't in cahoots with the raiders who bombed a Havana oil refinery, it has at least shown tolerance toward the attack [since] the criminals received great publicity without any action being taken against them." The FBI questioned Deleted about the raid:

On March 7, 1963, Batista Falla said that as head of the Military Section of the MDC, he could state that this alleged raid was not sponsored by the Christian Democratic Movement, although the official press release on April 26, 1963, was issued by the Christian Democratic Movement in Caracas, Venezuela. Batista refused to answer any questions concerning

his involvement in this matter, and called Rorke an imbecile for making a premature press announcement from Washington, D.C., April 26, 1963. Batista said the raids against Cuba would continue by Cuban exiles from the United States until either the United States jailed these Cuban exiles or deported them from the United States. [FBI 97-4110-51]

On June 8, 1965, the FBI stated: "Investigation reflected that he [Rorke] did undoubtedly participate in a bombing raid against oil refineries in Havana on the night of April 25, 1963, in company with Geoffrey Sullivan and two other individuals, with Sullivan serving as the pilot of their twin engine Beechcraft. [FBI 105-139922-3] The Nico Lopez raid was widely reported in the press. *The New York Times* called it the first air strike over Cuba since the Bay of Pigs. Alexander Rorke's actions made the Kennedy Administration appear as if it was unable live up to its agreement to curtail raids on Cuba. Rorke also made it appear that Cuba's air defenses were easily penetrated and if America gave the exiles a free hand, they could overthrow Castro. Rorke had to be stopped. On May 17, 1963, J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, noted this to J. Edgar Hoover, in relation to the Nico Lopez raid,

This Division has under consideration the possibility of instituting grand jury action in this matter. However, prior to making such a decision it is requested that the following additional investigation be conducted by the Bureau. It is requested that the texts of broadcasts by Cuban radio station RELOJ, or any other Cuban station, relating to the alleged bombing raid be obtained.

It will also be appreciated if you will attempt to ascertain whether any incendiary, explosive or other material suitable for making bombs was purchased or otherwise obtained by any of the persons reportedly connected with this matter. In this regard it is noted that Gifford Pinchot, Miami, indicated he knew Rorke and the others were going on a bombing raid over Havana and admitted he went with them to a junk yard near Miami International Airport to pick up some 10-gallon cans (apparently used as bomb casings). You may also wish to investigate the possibility that such purchases were made by Rorke, Sullivan or Wilson prior to their arrival in Florida on April 23, 1963." [FBI 97-4623-114]

The FBI: "Facts were submitted to the Justice Department and prosecution was not authorized, whereupon FBI investigation was terminated."



STURGIS AND MARCOS AND PEDRO DIAZ LANZ

On **May 2, 1963**, Sturgis told an American source he was again working with the Diaz Lanz brothers:

Frank Fiorini, American adventurer involved in anti-Castro activities for some years, told an American source on May 2, 1963, that he had been approached by Marcos Diaz Lanz to patch up differences and cooperate in an "anti-Castro activity" with Marcos and his brother Pedro Diaz Lanz. Marcos said he had received a telegram from Pedro in Washington on May 1, 1963, saying that financial assistance has been received. Marcos supposes that the money came from a Cuban in Washington who had supported the Diaz brothers in the past.

The FBI reported that on May 4, 1961 the CIA furnished:

Three page leaflet in the Spanish language entitled, Open Letter to the People of Cuba and to the Exiles in General from Commander Pedro Diaz Lanz. This leaflet consisted of a vitriolic attack upon Manuel Artime, Cuban exile leader of MRR, and upon the administration of President John F. Kennedy, which he claimed was supporting Artime as the leader of the anti-Castro movement at that time. He repeatedly referred to Artime as 'pre-fabricated' by the Administration.

OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN AND CUBAN PEOPLES

At a time when the Cuban crisis has reached its most critical moment, I feel I have the right and duty – as a free man and a tireless fighter for democracy – to make public the veiled but true facts concerning the operation which ended in the betrayed pre-fabricated invasion in which the patriots, victims of deceit, were met by Castro's Communist forces upon their arrival to our Country. International Communism must be more than satisfied! The interrogations undergone by the few betrayed patriots who were captured of those who landed in Cochinob Bay are the indisputable proofs which the Reds will wield against the United, thus corroborating each of the accusations which Castro has been making to this effect. On the 20th of March I wrote a letter to President Kennedy. Following is the letter made public, faithfully translated with certain necessary omissions due to its primary strictly confidential nature:

International Communism contemplates the Cuban situation as an advantageous step toward their takeover of cert certain areas and their strengthening in others, for their faster conquest of Latin America and even further....The sinister Communist plan may be said to be as follows:

- 1) Prevent – at any cost – the consolidation and generalization of rebellions in Cuba.
- 2) Prevent that the efficient and necessary supply support from the exiles reaches the patriots in Cuba.
- 3) Prevent the establishment of an homogeneous and competent military nucleus, not only well trained and well equipped, but also having the necessary moral conditions to lead the war in Cuba.
- 4) Create the division and discouragement among the Cubans in exile.

A certain "Agency" and its group known as the "sector of the friends" are headed by a naturalized American known as "Mr. Bender." They are responsible for the direct control of the supplies support given to Cubans to overthrow the Castro government. Manuel Artime's Deputy, known as "FRANCISCO" has been almost the only person who had arbitrarily received the equipments causing serious problems among the "braves" who work in the underground as "he" speculates with the armament to achieve subordination of the desperate patriots no matter to what organization they belonged. Just a few days ago, as if to have an excuse for himself in the face of an accusation, he has handed some arms – a very small amount – to other groups.

Mr. President I wish to call you attention to the training camps. These camps have become the preoccupation of almost all of the Cuba in exile, and the laughingstock of

Fidel Castro. These camps are where terror, anarchy and the unjustified arbitrariness through the power and influence in the “sector of friends” reign. Damp prisons, electric fences and inhumane treatment for those who – justly or unjustly – have been confined to the cells. They have to eat with their hands as they have been denied the use of knife and fork. It is incredible to know that in many cases a pistol has been taken off safety and pointed at their temples; they have been threatened with death. And so many other things on which witnesses can testify.

The leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Front through the prostitution of the management of their operations and their excessive ambitions and personal concerns. Those persons who have committed crimes in the past and present regimes are the object of the hate and repudiation of all the Cuban people. These “gangsters” are considered common criminals rather than war criminals and solely by their presence they obstruct the achievement of the unity of honest Cubans.

The leaders of the People’s Revolutionary Movement who publicly stated in a pamphlet their doctrine which in its essence, for its ideals aspirations, can be identified as the Communist doctrine. In spite of this, these organizations received – somehow – the necessary supplies support. This group might be placed with the Communist tactics as the second front after the fall of Castro.

Our principles are very simple: we do not recognize any of the “false-imposed leaders” of this crusade. We do not accept Dr. Manuel Artime, direct descendant of Communists, who is neither a doctor nor a Captain as he never fought before, who had no moral support to make the appeal he made to the Cuban people making them believe that he was broadcasting from Cuban territory so that they would unite the Pre-Sold Invasion. In this invasion many of the rebels who went had only a few weeks training, while some others who had several months experience stayed behind in the camps. Consequently Artime is one of the persons who must be directly blamed for the massacre of more than a thousand lives of young Cuban heroes. The “invasion” headquarters tried to save itself and abandoned their troops. But the widows, orphans, parents and relatives of our recent martyrs must shout treason. Pedro Diaz Lanz.

Bernard Barker reported the following to the CIA in May 1963:

2. Fiorini said that he had spoken twice during the month with General Clare Chennault, Jr. who phoned from California. Chennault indicated his desire to participate in the anti-Castro effort, and asked Fiorini about the different organizations in the Miami area and their leaders. Fiorini's reply put Manuel Artime at the head of the list and noted that lack of financial backing was Artime's most pressing problem. In the second phone call, Chennault recommended that Artime solicit aid from the representatives of the Chinese Nationalists in Washington, and urged that his (Chennault's) name be used. Fiorini

promised to pass this on to Artime when the latter returned to the U.S, from a tour of Latin American countries.

In **June 1963** Sturgis furnished Barker with information on "Planned raid on Cuba by Diaz Lanz Brothers" and "Current Activities of Frank Fiorini." According to an FBI report of June 1963 "Frank Sturgis" was a prime suspect in the murder of a Virginia casino operator. Was the FBI was referring to another "Frank Sturgis?" In July 2006 this researcher was contacted by Todd Rittenhouse of the Suffolk Virginia Police Department's cold case squad who had seen this reference to Sturgis on the Internet. Detective Rittenhouse said that the man who was killed was MEYER JACOBSON, shot dead in February 1963 and Frank, and his two half-brothers (who lived in the area and are now deceased) were suspects. The description Rittenhouse gave me fit Frank perfectly as did the fact that machine pistols were used in the robbery. The leader of the crew was described as being very polite and killed Jacobson only because he resisted. Frank would have learned about Jacobson either during the time he was a member of the Suffolk Virginia Police Department or when he was driving a taxi. Gaeton Fonzi reported that on June 13, 1963, Sturgis prepared for a raid on Cuba with Marcos and Pedro Diaz Lanz. The FBI generated three documents on Frank that month: "Subject: Intercontinental Penetration Forces (INTERPEN) Internal Security – Cuba Neutrality Matters Date: June 21, 1963, Washington, D. C. File no: 2-1693 Subject: Pedro Luis DIAZ Lanz Internal Security - Cuba Neutrality Matter,- Date: June 21, 1963, Miami, Florida File no: 105-1598 Classification: SECRET Subject: Intercontinental Penetration Forces (INTERPEN) Neutrality Matter Date: June 21, 1963, Miami, Florida File no: 2-312"

TELEGRAM ** INFORMATION REPORT ** TELEGRAM

1. On June 23, 1963, Sturgis said that he had met with Manuel Artime Buesa on June 22, 1963, and that, as a result, he was going to Dallas to inspect airplanes and other equipment available there which might be purchased by Artime.

2. Sturgis also said that within the next two weeks he would be involved in an air strike against Cuba. He said that the strike would originate outside the United States and that it was not connected with his proposed activities in Dallas for Artime. [CIA F810351D01872]

On June 26, 1963, JMWAVE sent a Classified Message to the Director of the CIA that was highly deleted.

Date June 26, 1963

To: DIRECTOR

FROM: JMWAVE AMWORLD AMBIDDY 201 IN 67993 TDCS os-3/655,239

Dir Info (Deleted) cite WAVE0246 (Deleted) Supdata: (Deleted) from Frank Sturgis. Para 3 based on (Deleted) RID: Index. Filed 25235IT Report Classified Confidential Controlled Dissemination,

Country: Cuba

Subject: Current Activities of Frank Sturgis

DOI June 23, 1963 Ref

1. On June 23, 1963 Frank Fiorini said that he had met with Artime on June 22, 1963 and that, as a result, Fiorini would be leaving for Dallas, Texas to inspect airplanes and other equipment available there which might be purchased for Artime.

2. Fiorini also said that with the next two weeks he would be involved in an airstrike against Cuba. He said that the strike would originate outside the United States and that it was not connected with his proposed activities in Dallas for Artime.

3. Field comment: The same source reported on May 3, 1963 that Fiorini had agreed to assist the Diaz Lanz brothers in planning and executing an air strike which was to take place on an unspecified date. Fiorini advised he would rent a plane through in direct channels.

4. Field Dissem: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMNAVKEYWEST, MIAMI REPS OF STATE, USCG, BORDER PATROL, NS, FBI AND CUSTOMS.

Apr. 3 Source: American Observer (c) from Frank Sturgis. Releasing IWO (Deleted). Based on UFG 3108 NP/AMCLATTER-1 [Bernard Barker]

During his deposition in *Hunt v. Weberman*, Sturgis was asked:

Q. In November of 1963, did you visit Dallas, Texas?

A. Possibly. You must understand that I was doing a series of operations in the Caribbean area and I went numerous times to Mexico, so there is a good possibility.

Q. Do you remember how many times you visited Dallas in November 1963?

A. I don't recall offhand.

Q. Do you remember the reason for the visit specifically to Dallas, other than this --

A. I was just passing through, because I went through Dallas, I went through Nuevo Laredo, I went through many different cities.

Q. Do you remember any motels that you may have stayed at in the Dallas area?

A. No. Anytime I went to Dallas, I went through Dallas. I never stayed anywhere in Dallas.

Q. Did you ever leave the airport when you were traveling?

A. I went through, I drove through, because most of the time that I went to Mexico, I drove through Texas.

Q. But you never stayed overnight in Dallas or Fort Worth?

A. Never stayed overnight in Dallas, Texas.

Q. Does the name Town and Country [ring a bell]?

A. In New Orleans?

Q. In New Orleans.

A. I stayed at the Town and Country at one time when I went through New Orleans. I was headed to Central America.

The CIA reported that Pedro Diaz Lanz and Sturgis planned a raid on the night of either **July 31, 1963, or August 1, 1963**. [CIA Daily News Summary 8.1.63] Sturgis admitted he might have been in Dallas in November 1963. CIA documents indicated Sturgis planned to go to Dallas in **June 1963**. The documents did not indicate whether or not Sturgis actually made this trip. Was his trip to Dallas for Artime an excuse to go there to arrange the details of the Kennedy assassination? Oswald was in New Orleans at this time. Did Sturgis meet with Jack Ruby?

BARKER, STURGIS

Barker's CIA Monthly Operational Report for **January 1963** indicated he supplied information on "The operations conducted by Alex Rorke and Frank Fiorini, after forays into Cuba. Both reports give information on private initiative methods of U.S. nationals involved in the Cuban revolutionary effort. Report Number 38 gives advanced information on a projected air strike against Cuba during the early part of February by Alex Rorke." [TO C/SAS from JMWAVE 2.15.63]

A CIA document titled "Barker" stated:

1. In January 1963 Barker gave his case officer a report on one of Frank Fiorini's forays into Cuba. No other details given (deleted) (deleted) February 15, 1963.
2. In February 1963 Barker reported on a caching op into Cuba by Fiorini. No further details. WAVE 5400 (deleted) March 13, 1963:

DISPATCH

TO: Chief, Special Affairs Staff [Desmond FitzGerald]

FROM: Chief of Station, JMWAVE

SUBJECT: Bernard Barker, Operational Monthly Report February 1, 1963, to February 28, 1963.

1. Subject was contacted on February 6, 1963, February 14, 1963, February 20, 1962, February 21, 1963 and February 28, 1963. He was paid \$500 salary for the month.
2. Although no dissemination was credit to Subject during the month, several of his reports were of sufficient interest as operational information to merit special attention. Forecast of an air raid on Cuba being planned by Alex Rorke was cabled in WAVE 5400 with news of an infiltration and caching operation completed in late February by Frank Fiorini and Bill Johnson. [CIA FOIA # D002278]
3. In April 1963 Barker reported information regarding an exile raid on Cuba. The information came from Fiorini. Per the subdata on the intel cable, Fiorini knew that when he gave information to Barker it would reach CIA. WAVE 6695.
4. Barker provided information re Fiorini raids in June 1963 (deleted) July 19, 1963.
5. Barker recruited a number of valuable assets for the Station (Havana) including (Deleted)."

The CIA commented:

Fiorini has previously offered information in the knowledge that this information would become available to the U.S. Government. It is believed that Frank Fiorini wished this information to get into official channels so that American authorities would be on the lookout for this second raider boat. On April 2, 1963 in the general area off the northern

coast of Cuba ranged from three to seven feet, and wind was reported in gusts up to 30 knots. The probability that Fiorini is concerned about the welfare of the raiders in possibly a small craft should not be discounted. The possibility that this might be a 'smoke screen' should also not be discounted. [CIA Report No. TDCSDB 3/654,021 4.3.63]

A CIA Index Card dated April 2, 1963, stated: "Subject stated that he has spent the better part of the weekend of March 30, 1963, and March 31, 1963, flying in the Bahama Island area in light plane looking for *Violin III*." [TDCSB-3/653,986 4.2.63]

On June 23, 1963, Barker's progress report for May indicated he had filed two reports based on information from Sturgis.

- a. UFG-2781 (cable) from Frank Fiorini and Pepin Bosch, Frank Fiorini's Agreement to Participate in Air Strike Against Cuba
- b. UFG-2901 (cable) from Frank Fiorini. Request by Venezuelan National that Frank Fiorini Purchase Arms for Him.
- c. UFG-2922 (cable) from Pedro Martinez Fraga, Possible Cooperation Between Manuel A. de Varona and Manuel Artime.

2. One item of information which Subject received from Frank Fiorini on May 28, 1963, was considered possibly of interest to Headquarters, but probably best not forwarded in reports format. Fiorini said he had spoken twice during the month with General Claire Chenault, Jr., who phoned from California. Chenault indicated his desire to participate in the anti-Castro effort, and asked Fiorini about the different organizations in the Miami area and their leaders. Fiorini's reply put Manuel Artime at the head of the list, and noted that lack of financial backing was Artime's most pressing problem. In the second phone call, Chenault recommended that Artime solicit aid from representatives of the Chinese Nationalists in Washington, and urged that his (Chenault's) name be used. Fiorini promised to pass this on to Artime when the latter returned to the U.S. from a tour of Latin American countries."

On July 26, 1963, Barker's Operational Monthly Report indicated that three disseminable reports were credited to Barker during June 1963: "UFG-2006 (cable) from Frank Fiorini, "Planned Raid on Cuba by Diaz Lanz Brothers." UFG-3108 (cable) from Frank Fiorini, "Current Activities of Frank Fiorini." A CIA document stated:

The Diaz Lanz brothers and Frank Fiorini, frustrated in their plans for a bomb-and-leaflet raid over Havana on July 28, 1963, reportedly had planned a new raid on the night of either July 31, 1963, or August 1, 1963. According to a trained observer who talked with

Fiorini, the latter will leave his house at about 7:00 p.m. on July 31, 1963, and head for Marathon Key in the Florida Keys. Fiorini's trip is to be a decoy to dray off any FBI surveillance team. Pedro Diaz and Marcos Diaz Lanz plan to leave their cars parked in front of their homes to make it appear that they are inside and their wives are under instruction to say they are asleep. However, on the night of either July 31, 1963, or August 1, 1963, the Diaz Lanz brothers will attempt to reach clandestinely the Weir Williams Ranch where the plane to be used in the raid is located. The Source reports that Fiorini said the plane will carry several bombs made from 100-pound practice bombs cut down to a smaller size and filled with nuts and bolts for shrapnel. [CIA TDCS-DB-3/655.833]

On **September 17, 1963**, the CIA reported:

TO: Chief, Special Affairs Staff

FROM: Chief, JMWAVE

SUBJECT: Bernard Barker Operational Progress Report August 1, 1963, to August 30, 1963. Ref. (Deleted) August 19, 1963.

I. OPERATIONAL

1. Subject continued his wide and varied contacts among Cuban exiles and with Americans involved in anti-Cuban activities. There was no appreciable change in his operational pattern.

II PRODUCTION

2. Subject responded to several requests for local investigations on individuals and groups, and produced eight formal reports of which five were disseminated.

a. UFG-3359 (cable) Rescheduling of Air Strike and Leaflet Raid on Havana, **August 8, 1963**.

b. UFG-3403 (cable) Creation of Junta de Gobierno de Cuba en el Exileo.

c. UFG-3414 (cable) Air Strike over Santa Clara, Las Villas on August 15, 1963.

d. UFG -3443 (cable) Plan to Bomb a Soviet-Make PT Boat in the Service of the GOC.

e. UFG-3462 (cable) Possible Raid on Cuba by Eddie Arthur

3. With the cooperation of Frank Fiorini, Subject was able to keep JMWAVE informed of the activities of the Diaz Lanz brothers in their attempts to mount an air raid over Cuba. JMWAVE in turn, was able to pass this information to local security agencies in time for them to thwart the plans.

5. Subject also turned up a possible operational lead toward the penetration of Julio Lobo's activities. [CIA FOIA D002250- Date typed 9. 17. 63. also CIA FOIA 00073] Another CIA report stated: "There was no particular change in his operational pattern. Subject also turned up a possible operational lead toward the penetration of Julio Lobo's activities." [CIA FOIA 002250 201-251689]

Rorke & STURGIS & THE WARNING FROM U.S. CUSTOMS

JUNE 1963

On **June 24, 1963**, the FBI generated a document, which was 95% withheld, Subject Alexander Irwin Rorke Jr. Miami Florida [FBI 105-107224; FBI 97-4623-NR 150 6.27.63] This document probably concerned a request for weapons made by Carlos Penin Enfante of the the MRP to the CIA for money to purchase 2 cannons and a submachine gun and ammo for a raid on Cuba. The CIA reported "Luis contact for the purchase of weapons is a relative of his. The person who sells them recently bombed an oil refinery in the city of Habana. Luis said that this person, who is now being checked by the FBI, procured the aircraft used for the raid, bought the gasoline for the aircraft and was on board during the bombing mission."

In **August 1963** a B-25 aircraft, Serial N9365-C, belonging to Geoffrey Sullivan and Alexander Rorke was spotted in Puerto Rico. In early September 1963 Frank Sturgis, Alex Rorke and Geoffrey Sullivan, were called into U. S. Customs headquarters and warned about the consequences of conducting any further raids on Cuba. Alexander Rorke told Paul Scott and Robert S. Allen that the Supervising Customs agents of Region II threatened him with fines and imprisonment if he continued helping the anti-Castro raiders. On September 14, 1963, W.R. Wannall sent a memo to William C. Sullivan, Subject, Cuban Raids: "Reference my memorandum September 14, 1963, concerning conference at office of (deleted) in order to coordinate by various U.S. agencies to curb illegal air raids over Cuba. Various steps by specified agencies were agreed on at the conference, all at curtailing raids." Rorke was mentioned in this document. When Alexander Rorke demanded to know who authorized these warnings, he was told: "It comes from the White House, from the President." Paul Scott and Robert S. Allen continued: "According to a high government source, this strong-arm crackdown on Alexander Rorke is a symbol of the new White House campaign to assure Premier Khrushchev that the U.S. will not permit [raids on Cuba]." The Border Patrol posted a 24-hour guard on Alexander Rorke's aircraft.

On **September 16, 1963**, the CIA reported:

Sturgis and Pedro de la Camera, Civilian aviator with U.S. pilot's license stated September 13, 1963, they willing to set up flight to Cuba with passenger aboard to drop Propaganda leaflets over Cuba. Fiorini's flight would leave Florida at an altitude of 150 feet, enter Cuba through Matanzas Province, flying over Santa Clara and Caribbean, and then return to Florida. They stated they rent aircraft at \$50 per hour at Opa Locka Airport. Aircraft can carry 600 pounds of cargo. Fiorini stated September 16, 1963, he was prepared to carry out offer to fly propaganda material to Cuba despite fact he had received a registered letter from U.S. authorities restricting him to the continental U.S. with a penalty of \$25,000 and/or three years imprisonment for violations of that restriction. Fiorini asked \$5,750 for overflying Santa Clara and Caribbean in Las Villas Province, Cuba; \$2,000 to be paid in advance and the balance upon completion of mission. [CIA CSCI 3/771,919]

STURGIS' BRIEFCASE: SEPTEMBER 1963

On **October 30, 1963**, a CIA report was generated:

REPORT COVER SHEET Report No. UFG-3962

FROM: JMWAVE October 30, 1963

REPORTING OFFICER Henry J. Sloman

REPORTING OFFICER Oliver P. Papock/ uta

APPROVING OFFICER: (illegible)

Background Data and Comments:

Source: September 20, 1963, AMOT Report DD-414 from AMLINT-1. Despite fact Fiorini officially missing, believe this material should get at least ODENVY dissemination, for their information and completion of records. Ref. UFG-3720.

FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: CUBA DATE OF REPORT OCTOBER 30, 1963

SUBJECT: Documents, Correspondence and Maps which were observed in a Briefcase which was determined to belong to Frank Fiorini.

DATE OF INFO: September 18, 1963.

PLACE AND DATE ACQ: United States, Miami, (September 20, 1963).

SOURCE: A member of a group of Cuban émigrés trained in the techniques of information collection. This group has provided useful reports for over two years. The information is from an individual who inadvertently came into possession of a briefcase, which upon being opened, was determined to belong to Frank Fiorini.

1. The following papers, maps and documents were observed in a briefcase which was found by chance, and which was determined to belong to Frank Fiorini when it was opened in an attempt to identify the owner.

a. Air Navigational Charts, published by the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, United States Air Force, for the following areas:

(1) Bahama Islands JN 47 N, 5th Edition USAF Operational Navigation Chart.

(2) Gulf of Guacanayabo, ONC 586. Bahamas Islands, United Kingdom-Cuba.

(3) Chetunal Bay British Honduras, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, World Aeronautical Chart.

(4) Yucatan Channel 587 Cuban-Mexico.

(5) Hispaniola 648 Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico.

(6) Virgin Island 649 Caribbean Sea...

b. List of addresses and individuals (see attachment #1)

c. List of military equipment for what appears to be a 196 man unit (see attachment #2)

d. Certificate of incorporation of Anti-Communist Crusade Foundation, Inc. which was filed with the Secretary of the State of Florida, Tallahassee on June 12, 1961...

e. List of miscellaneous weapons and purchase. This was related to a card with the following information: LOXCO (Incorporated) Lauchli Ordnance Experimental Company Collinsville, Ill. Rich Lauchli DI- 4-3195. According to this card LOXCO would produce special machinery and do general machine work. (see attachment #4)

f. Copy of a letter from Robert K. Brown Box 387, Rte 3, Boulder, Colorado, dated June 30, 1960, addressed to Pedro Diaz Lanz in care of David Rosen, Biscayne Building,

Miami, Florida. Brown claims to be a freelance journalist, who "was duped by Castro," spent several months in Cuba working part time for the Associated Press, and who, as of the date of the letter, was to contact anti-Castro movements and "help in any way possible." (see attachment #5)

The information contained in Sturgis' briefcase was sent to the FBI:

TO: Director FBI November 19, 1963

Attention Mr. Sam Papich

FROM: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Frank Sturgis, Documents, Correspondence and Maps which were observed in a Briefcase.

1. The attached copies of maps, papers and documents were received by a representative of this Agency from an individual of undetermined reliability who inadvertently came into possession of a briefcase which, upon being opened in an effort to identify the owner, was determined to belong to Frank Sturgis. The date of the information was September 18, 1963, and the following is a list of the contents of the briefcase:

CSCI-3/778,713

SAS/CI LDemos:pap (November 13, 1963)

Based On: UFG-3962 October 30, 1963.

Source: AMOT Rpt DD-414 from AM-LINT-1

File No. 19-500

201-242256 19-500

The attachments were withheld. On January 22, 1964, Angleton composed CSCI-3/779,505 which was transmitted to the Customs Commissioner. This communication failed to list the maps. It ended: "January 13, 1964, SAS/CI (Deleted) gdr Based on CSCI-3/778,713 sent to FBI only and they requested we forward copies of above listed addresses to CSCI. File (Deleted)." The CIA has not released the attachment to this document containing the names, telephone numbers and addresses of Sturgis' associates. Hemming told this researcher: "He lost his briefcase just before the Alexander Rorke flight. The stubble bum clown lost it at North Perry Airport." Sturgis did

not lose the briefcase; it was stolen from him by Cuban exiles on the instructions of someone in the CIA - JAMES Angleton.

THE DEATH OF ALEXANDER RORKE AND GEOFFREY SULLIVAN

On **September 20, 1963**, Sturgis, Alexander Rorke and William Johnson held a meeting about their next action. Hunt's former attorney, Ellis Rubin, stated he witnessed Alexander Rorke and Geoffrey Sullivan take off in a twin-engine aircraft on **September 24, 1963**. They had filed a flight-plan for Panama, but landed at Cozumel, south of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, where they refueled and took off again at 7:30 p.m. They were never heard from again. Ellis Rubin observed he was the last person to see the men alive.

HEMMING'S SEARCH PARTY: OCTOBER 1963

The FBI generated a report entitled INTERPEN, September 30, 1963, Miami, Florida. The first search and rescue expedition, organized by Ellis Rubin, departed on October 2, 1963, and returned on October 6, 1963. The FBI reported:

On **October 20, 1963**, Robert Dorsay said he had just returned from Cozumel, Mexico, Telucigalpa, Honduras; and Managua, Nicaragua. Dorsay stated that he had determined Rorke's plane arrived at Cozumel at 7:00 p.m. September 24, 1963. At Cozumel, several people recalled there were three persons aboard, two of them clearly identified as Rorke and Sullivan and the third person was described as a Latin-appearing male, 5'10", fair complexion, and about 32 years old. The airplane was refueled, and took off at 8:00 p.m., ostensibly for Telucigalpa, Honduras. Robert Dorsay said he had ascertained that Rorke's plane had no life raft, life vests, and no Very Pistol; therefore speculated that if the aircraft was down at sea en route to Telucigalpa, there is no point in searching for the occupants of the plane. He said it was possible that the airplane might have gone down between La Cieba and Telucigalpa, in which case there would be the possibility that the occupants of the plane were still alive.
[FBI 97-4123-158]

DISPATCH SECRET

TO: Chief Special Affairs Staff

FROM: Chief of Station, JMWAVE

SUBJECT: Operational/TYPIC

Re to relationships between Pauline Sierra and other Amer. Nationals

ACTION REQUIRED: Please make copy available to SAS/Intel.

REF: UFG-3871

The following information obtained from AMCLATTER-1 was not disseminated in ref.

According to Reinaldo Pico, leader of Alianza de Trabajadores Cubanos, Paulino Sierra was receiving funds from an American named Van Gorkon (phonetic) however Sierra was claiming that the funds were coming from KUBARK. According to Frank Fiorini, the latter had been permitted to read the local ODURGE files wherein he saw an accusation that Gilberto Rodriguez Fernandez of Sierra's group was an agent of AMTHUG. 201-42669 October 17, 1963 UPGT-6553

On **October 30, 1963**, Sturgis furnished the CIA with information on the Anti-Communist Crusade Foundation and organization chartered by Sturgis, Laura Norris and his bride to be, Janet Mann. [Deleted-03962] The second search party departed Miami on November 2, 1963, sponsored by Hemming:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

FROM: USAMA GUATEMALA

TO: DA

FOR: ACSI AND AFNIN...FOR G-2

On November 4, 1963, at 1:00 p.m. local, a private aircraft owned and piloted by C.F. Bush, Hollywood, Florida, landed at Puerto Barrios Mip Base with following aboard: Hemming, Howard K. Davis of Miami, Charles Collier, representative of insurance company in Dallas, Texas, Ivan Kay, attorney for Collier, Miami; Steve Justin Wilson and Roy Hargraves, Ralph Hernandez Nordase, whose professed occupations were parachutists and Allan Kennedy, student pilot of the Riddle Flying School, Miami. With the exception of Bush and Collier they all claim residence residency in Miami, Florida. DC-3 acft no NC 160455. Aircraft allegedly chartered by insurance Charles T. Collier, Superintendent of Claims, International Aviation Underwriters, Incorporated, 211 North Ervay Street, Dallas, Texas. Alleged mission of party to search for acft piloted by one Sullivan with one Rorke as passenger presumably lost on or after September 24, 1963, somewhere in Central America. Rorke is said to be son-in-law of Billingsley, owner of

Stork Club in New York City and son of Supreme Court Justice, State of New York. Alleged interest of mission was two-fold.

(1) Collier and Kay representing insurance interest were trying to locate aircraft which rumors had may not have been lost.

(2) Rest of party was engaged to search for Rorke presumably on the insistence of Mrs. Rorke and the father, out of personal friendship towards Rorke who allegedly was "One of the crowd." Party claimed to have given Guatemala previous notice of arrival by sending a wire from Belize, British Honduras. No such wire has arrived in Guatemala to date. Party consequently arrived without appropriate permission from Guatemala, without visas, and in the case of six members, without passports. Guatemala's alert intelligence posture resulted in aircraft being placed under military guard. GOG reported that on initial questioning various members of party gave conflicting stories as to their origin and destination. With this suspicion created, the Guatemalan Air Force transported all personnel to Guatemala City where they arrived at 6:30 p.m. local November 4, 1963. U.S. military personnel were advised that under other circumstances the aircraft would have been impounded and members of the party incarcerated. COP (Dr.) Jose Luis Aguilar De Leon, Secretary to the Chief of Government, made it clear to the party that only because of friendship and personal respect existing between Guatemalans and U.S. military personnel, prevented impounding of aircraft. Party was entertained at Guatemalan Air Force club and kept under loose surveillance throughout stay. Various members of the party were able to visit local restaurants and places of amusement in company of Guatemalan personnel. All their personal identification that had been previously confiscated in Puerto Barrios were returned, and acknowledged by the group before departure. The personnel were placed in the custody of U.S. military officers. GOG officials permitted party to be billeted at Motel Plaza, and Palace Hotel, Guatemala City. The following day, U.S. military was contacted by GOG to obtain opinions and assistance in order to avoid international incident. U.S. military officials were invited to the National Palace by Dr. Aguilar De Leon, and were assured every cooperation to avoid unpleasantness. Aguilar De Leon was informed by the U.S. military that the party was obviously a private venture and was not, as suspected by the Guatemalans, acting against the Guatemalan Govt. or any part thereof. Dr. Aguilar De Leon, in the presence of U.S. Army military members Bush, Collier and Kay and at another interview, interviewed rest of the party. The account which the U.S. military members had previously given to Dr. Aguilar was verified by these subsequent interviews. To further convince Guatemala that this was not an action against their government, Charles Collier provided insurance file on Rorke aircraft for duplication and file by G-2 Guat Army. At approximately 9:00 a.m. local November 5, 1963, the original file was returned to a member of the U.S. military, and in turn to Collier. U.S. military was further advised that no action against the party would be contemplated, that the chief of government had however insisted that the aircraft

leave with all personnel at earliest hour. Aircraft departed 1:30 p.m. on November 6, 1963, for Belize with one P-51 as escort in presence of U.S. military members and Dr. Aguilar. Comment by Guat 572 and 574. For your guidance, it should be expected that considerable publicity will be sought in particular by Hemming, who alleges to know Senator Strom Thurmond, as well as Hernandez, Hargraves and Wilson. End comment. Aircraft had on board one shotgun, two pistols and parachutes. Personnel in party other than Bush, Collier and Kay behaved in a slovenly manner. One member wore Army fatigue trousers and boots with old Army shirt. Some party members stated that reason for their being forced out of Guatemala so soon was that Alexander Rorke is indeed in Guatemala and Guatemala Government is deliberately detaining Alexander Rorke. Comment Guat 572 and 574. Dr. Aguilar personally assured party that if Rorke's aircraft had met with an accident in Guatemala the Guatemalan Government and he in particular would have known about it. The matter of Special Forces was of course discredited by U.S. military members. As of time of departure nothing appeared in local press regarding this incident. GOG officials indicated they intended no press release. End comment. One Ralph Hernandez Nordase, per identification, a Cuban national, behaved particularly in a belligerent manner. Those members professing interest in locating Rorke must be considered as potential fabricators when dealing with the press which they indicated they intended to do. Hemming professed to have this operation. Ivan Kay said he intended to prepare official statement on entire trip in which he hoped to neutralize any unfavorable press releases in this regard. Mr. Kay upon request by Mr. Aguilar turned over undeveloped photographic film which Dr. Aguilar promised to develop, examine and return to Mr. Kay via U.S. military. The whole party was handled by the Guat Govt in a most courteous and at no time were any individuals abused. Comment U.S. Army Attache. Operations of this nature by irresponsible U.S. citizen do not tend to improve relationship with GOG. [FBI 97-4623-161]

The FBI reported that in October and November 1963, "(deleted) soldier-of-fortune participated in search for two lost Americans." The party returned to Miami on November 6, 1963. On November 20, 1963, the FBI noted: "(Deleted) Subject was described as similar to Alexander Rorke who is missing in flight to Central America. (Deleted)." [FBI original filed in 105-113149-2] In March 1987 the FBI released one highly-deleted page on Alexander Rorke dated November 29, 1963. This document could have shed some light on the fate of Alexander Rorke, but the only part of the page not blocked out stated: "On November 29, 1963, we received the following information from a source whose reliability has not yet been established." [FBI 97-4623 NR 12.20.63] On December 4, 1963, the CIA sent the FBI information on Alexander Rorke which was still withheld as of 2010. [FBI Brennan/Papich 105-82555-NR 154 -3 (?)] On December 20, 1963, the FBI reported: "Sources and informant advised they have different ideas what might have happened to Rorke and Sullivan. All sources and informant's believe Rorke and Sullivan are dead and did not go to Cuba. They feel that if

Rorke would have been captured in Cuba the Castro Government would have used the incident for propaganda." [FBI 97-4623-168]

During *Hunt v Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Where was the last time Alexander Rorke was seen alive?

A. I had a meeting with Alex, I believe with Bill Johnson, one or two other persons with Alex the day or possibly two days before he disappeared.

Sturgis told Michael Canfield: "And if you remember there was a big search by the United States Coast Guard, both air and sea, a number of years ago, when Alexander Rorke left Opalocka Airfield and he was going to Nicaragua, and supposedly it is rumored that he was shot down near Cuba, into the water, there were reports that Alexander Rorke was captured, but there was nobody inside of Cuba that was captured by the name of Alex Rorke. I assume he got shot down over water, and his body and the plane disappeared. I, with a number of other people which I will get to at a later date, sat with Alex Rorke where his airplane was parked at Opalocka Airfield which is close by here, the day before he made his ill-fated trip. And I will get the names of everybody that knew about the trip and so forth, that the FBI investigated. I believe even the CIA investigated that, I'm not sure, but they may have been in on the investigation, plus other agencies of the United States Government, (unintelligible)...of his disappearance."

William Johnson reported: "Rorke had a falling out with Frank." William Johnson was asked if the falling out concerned the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He responded, "That could be part of it. But you gotta remember something. Rorke said that if he ever disappeared, it was the CIA or the FBI would knock him off. And that trip was a funny trip because I think somewhere down the line Frank had something to do with the disappearance of Rorke and Sullivan."

Marita Lorenz stated: "Alex wouldn't go along with the Kennedy assassination; he was a former Jesuit priest. Alex disappeared about two months before the assassination. He had warned me to go home and stay away from Frank. Years later I asked Frank, 'Did you kill Alex Rorke?' Frank said, 'Come on. You know who killed him. The CIA killed him. He didn't want to go along with the plans they had.' He kept telling me, 'The Company did it.' I told him, 'Listen asshole, you're the Company, right?'" She claimed that Sturgis, not Ellis Rubin, was the last person to see Rorke alive and that she was contacted by the FBI about the disappearance of Alexander Rorke and asked if she thought Sturgis did it. The FBI reported: "The following references in the file captioned Frank Anthony Sturgis concern information concerning the activities of Alexander I. Rorke during the period 1961 to 1963." Sturgis' file contained 25 references to Rorke.

On **October 6, 1963**, Pedro Diaz Lanz appeared on Channel 10 Television Station, Miami. During this program Diaz Lanz criticized Manuel Artime, saying that Artime had U.S. sponsorship and that he had been indoctrinated in Communism in Cuba by his father. [FBI 105-72630-109 p2 encl. P.2,7,8] The last pre-assassination FBI report on the CIA's list of FBI documents about Sturgis was generated on **October 24, 1963**. "Subject: Second National Front of Escambray." (SNFE - Alpha-66) No file number was given. On **October 24, 1963**, the name Sturgis appeared in a CIA document about Alpha-66 and his connection with its airplanes. The CIA reported: "See above document page 14 for information regarding Frank Fiorini's connection with Alpha-66 airplane." [Allen v. DOD CIA 04490; CIA DBA 55602] On November 13, 1963, CSCI-3/778,713, based on "(deleted) - 3962 **October 30, 1963**," was generated. The CIA list of documents about Sturgis resumed with a document dated May 19, 1964.

Around Thursday, November 7, 1963, Sturgis said he visited Dallas to see a gun connection. Hemming 1994:

I first heard of Rorke in 1963. Courtney told us he was giving a fund raising speech at the Hotel Diplomat. He was there with James Buchanan and Sturgis. He didn't show his fucking face in Miami till 1963. The closest he came was Fort Lauderdale. They were warned by the Cubans to stay the fuck out of Miami. 'You're raising a lot of goddamned fucking money. Where is it going? To your buddy Sturgis and all those motherfucking thieves?'

On December 16, 1963, the FBI questioned Hemming,

...who is personally acquainted with Alexander Rorke Jr. and who has been (deleted) advised the only time he ever heard of Anti-Communist International was a couple of years ago. (Deleted) a would-be organization with a similar name, Hemming said was unable to furnish any other information concerning the organization. Hemming advised that some three weeks before Alexander Rorke and his pilot, Geoffrey Sullivan, went on the bombing raid against Havana, Cuba, he received a telephone call from Rorke concerning some disagreement they had had. Hemming agreed to meet with Rorke and straighten out the disagreement. At a subsequent meeting, Rorke came with his pilot, Sullivan, to talk about a proposed bombing trip against a Cuban oil refinery. Hemming advised Rorke of the hazards involved, and said that the north coast of Cuba had excellent radar defenses, however, there are avenues or corridors into Cuba which Cuban radar does not cover. Hemming claimed that from talking to recently-arrived Cubans, he had been able to ascertain information about these corridors. Hemming previously told Rorke and

Sullivan where these corridors were, but to find these corridors one would have to be an excellent navigator and be completely familiar with the north coast of Cuba. Hemming doubted that Rorke and Sullivan could have ever found these corridors. Concerning Rorke's present whereabouts Advised he participated in the search mission to Central America on October 2, 1963 and found no traces of Rorke. Hemming presumes he is dead. He continued that he did not know the source of Rorke's funds; he doubts if Rorke's wife had put any more into Rorke's operations, and she continues to live in Hollywood, Florida. Hemming said, however, that he understood Rorke made considerable money from lectures, influenced members of the John Birch Society to give large contributions, and obviously had considerable money from them.

On December 17, 1963 Frank Fiorini, aka Frank Sturgis, Miami, voluntarily came to the Miami Office, accompanied by his friend and associate, William Johnson. It is to be noted that both Fiorini and Johnson have admittedly been implicated in anti-Fidel Castro activities in the Miami area for a period of several years. Fiorini stated he first met Rorke of New York City, through a mutual friend, Pedro Diaz Lanz, an exile Cuban leader, in about 1960. Shortly thereafter Fiorini went with Rorke to New York City, and was introduced by Rorke to Mr. Robert Speller, who owned a publishing firm known as Speller and Son. He also operated the Transglobal News Service. Mr. Speller issued to Fiorini a press identification card dated April 27, 1961, for Fiorini to identify himself with in the event he should be captured in Cuba.

Fiorini explained that at that time he, himself, was head of an organization known as the Anti-Communist International Brigade, which had no connection whatsoever with the Anti-Communist International headquartered in New York City. Fiorini said he organized the Anti-Communist International Brigade in Miami. Fiorini met in the office of Mr. Speller a man introduced as Haviv Schieber, who appeared to be in his late fifties, and who was represented as being the leader of the Anti-Communist International, New York City. Schieber described himself as being anti-Communist, and said he had belonged to an underground organization in Israel which fought against the British. Fiorini believed this organization was "Hagana." Schieber also said he was presently opposed to the administration of Ben Gurion in Israel, and he was living a self-imposed exile in New York City. Speller disclosed that he was financially backing the Anti-Communist International. Fiorini learned that the organization was supposed to have some influential members in the New York area. Fiorini explained that Rorke had wanted Fiorini to meet these

people in order to obtain financial backing for anti-Castro commando-type action on behalf of Fiorini's own organization, the Anti-Communist International Brigade. Fiorini said that Speller offered financial support to him, but never came through with a single nickel.

Fiorini said that the last contact he had with the Anti-Communist International was in the latter part of 1961. At that time, Schieber was attempting to send a bearded commando, name unknown to Fiorini, to Cuba for the purpose of assassinating Fidel Castro, but this individual never succeeded in getting into Cuba. Fiorini recalled that on two or three occasions he stayed at Schieber's apartment, but he was unable to recall the address of this apartment.

Fiorini said that Gifford Pinchot, who resides in New York City, is acquainted with Schieber. Fiorini said that Gifford Pinchot is the same individual who had been associating with Alexander I. Rorke when Rorke publicly claimed a successful bombing raid over Cuba on April 25, 1963. Fiorini said that there never was any connection at any time between the Anti-Communist International and the Anti-Communist International Brigade. Also, he never received any indication that the Anti-Communist International ever established an organization or a branch in the Miami area. So far as he knew, it was restricted to the New York area.

Fiorini said that in about the summer of 1963 Rorke told him and William Johnson that he had a plan to bomb the Guantanamo Base, and that he had obtained some money to buy one or more B-26 planes. During this conversation, Rorke mentioned the name of Schieber, but Fiorini was unable to recall in exactly what manner Schieber's name came up. Rorke returned to New York City after Johnson and Fiorini talked Rorke out of attempting this raid.

However, during the same general period of time, Rorke told Johnson and Fiorini that he had been receiving some financial support from the ACI. He also mentioned a Countess in Connecticut who had been contributing money. Neither Rorke nor Johnson was able to recall the name of this Countess. Fiorini also recalled that Rorke told him and Johnson shortly before and during the U. S. blockade of Cuba in October, 1962, and for some time thereafter that he would like to bomb a Russian ship in Cuban waters. Rorke said that the ACI wanted to create an incident between the Soviet Union and the United States. Fiorini said that three weeks prior to Rorke's bombing raid over Cuba in April 1963, Fiorini and Johnson were supposed to deliver three bombs to Norman Cay in the Bahamas for

Rorke to pick up on another raid which he planned on a Russian boat off the coast of Cuba. However, when Fiorini and Johnson learned that this was the specific objective of Rorke, they buried the bombs and thwarted Rorke's plan. When Rorke returned to Miami, he became very angry with Johnson and Fiorini, and they had little to do with each other until about four days prior to Rorke's ill-fated departure on September 24, 1963. At that time, Johnson and Fiorini met Rorke, a Miami pilot known as Jack Griffin, and Geoffrey Sullivan, who was Rorke's pilot. This meeting took place in Opa Locka, Florida, where Rorke had a B-25 airplane. During this meeting Rorke explained that he had some connections with former Nicaraguan President, Luis Somoza, who had offered Rorke an air strip, free gasoline, and free weapons, but that Rorke had to be in Nicaragua by the following Thursday if he were to take advantage of this opportunity. During this meeting, Sullivan departed in the B-25 because he felt that the U. S. Customs Service was about to seize this plane. The discussion continued without Sullivan. None of the individuals participating in the discussion had any money to finance the trip to Nicaragua. Rorke invited Johnson and Fiorini to participate with him in the trip to Nicaragua. Johnson suggested that the group rent a private plane to go to Nicaragua to see Somoza in order to firm up the plan. It was agreed that each of the five would try to raise money for the trip. On the following Monday (September 23, 1963), Rorke called Johnson at about 7 P.M. Johnson recalled that he told Rorke he had been unable to raise any money, whereupon Rorke said he had raised some money and for Johnson to be at the Opa Locka Airport in the morning. Rorke also related to Johnson that he had written some bad checks and was anxious to get to Nicaragua as soon as possible to make connections with Somoza, then to return to New York City to obtain enough money to cover the checks. Rorke said from New York City he would wire money to Bill Johnson to transport Rorke's B-25 plane to Nicaragua.

Johnson said that on the following morning Johnson went to work with Jack Griffin at the CMA Auto Sales Service, South Dixie Highway, Miami. Griffin had a rented Cessna plane at nearby Kendall, Florida. They had planned to fly this Cessna to Opa Locka, telephone Frank Fiorini to meet them there, and then depart with Rorke and Sullivan for Nicaragua. However, it was raining hard when they reached the Kendall Airport, and they did not go to Opa Locka. Also, they never received any telephonic communications from Rorke. Johnson said that on the following day, Jack Griffin telephoned the Atlantic Aviation Company at Opa Locka, and was informed by the owner there that Rorke took off from Fort Lauderdale in a rented Beachcraft Bonanza on September 24, 1963.

Johnson recalled that on the Sunday before Rorke's departure, Rorke was waiting for a Cuban known as Enrique Garcia aka Enrique Molina. Enrique had telephonically contacted the Atlantic Aviation Company at Opa Locka, and wanted to buy a B-25 airplane. Johnson said that this Cuban, Enrique Garcia, was supposed to have been with Rorke when Rorke picked up the Beachcraft Bonanza to depart Fort Lauderdale. Rorke allegedly told the owner, or Manager, of Atlantic Aviation that Garcia was his "connection," and that Rorke had turned this deal over to Johnson and Fiorini but that they had been unable to handle it.

Both Fiorini and Johnson said that they never again saw Rorke, and that Rorke had not indicated in any way that he planned, at that time, a bombing raid over Cuba or any other place. The last they knew, Rorke intended to fly to Nicaragua. Also, Rorke made no mention of the AC1 in connection with his last plans. Both Fiorini and Johnson said that Enrique Garcia, who had formerly been a Captain in the Cuban Air Force, is a member of the MDC, and is closely associated with Laureano Batista Fella. They said they had never seen Garcia in person, but had made inquiries and had established to their personal satisfaction that Garcia has not been seen in the Miami area or anywhere else since Rorke's departure. Both Fiorini and Johnson speculated that since Garcia apparently accompanied Rorke and Sullivan on their last trip, it appeared to them that perhaps Laureano Batista may have had some knowledge of their flight.

Both Fiorini and Johnson stated that Rorke was in financial straits in September, 1963, and had spoken of being behind in his car payments, payments on his plane, and payments on the "Violyn III." Neither Fiorini nor Johnson could recall having met anyone named George Adams nor Mrs. Mark Byron, who may have some connection with the ACI.

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. [FBI NY 105-46755 Bufile 100-434086-32]

Hemming told this researcher: "Bullshit. They never questioned any of us who was on the fucking rescue operation about Rorke."

ENRIQUE MOLINA RIVERA

Hemming was asked about his disagreement with Alexander Rorke. Hemming:

Rorke and Sturgis had allowed this Enrique Molina Rivera to sit in with his group. I said 'The fuckers a Castro agent.' I had briefed Rorke's pilot how to stay alive flying over Cuba...I said if you want to stay alive you won't tell anybody else. Don't tell Rorke, Rorke's an asshole. Then, a couple of days later, I find Enrique Molina Rivera and Sturgis are at the same goddamn apartment complex talking and meeting. This pissed me off. I told Rorke, 'You ain't gonna get another goddamn briefing. This fucker is a Castro agent, I know him from Cuba.' This guy threatened to kill me. This guy threatened to kill fucking Trafficante. He's the one that ran the little prison where Trafficante and Loran Hall and Hughes and them were kept. The guy would talk about the last time he talked to Raoul Castro, which would be a week before, on the fucking telephone. That's how psycho this cocksucker was. He didn't hide it. He's against the revolution as an arm of the Russians because of the missile crisis and all that shit, but he's still friendly with all the figures. He figures its all being kept from Fidel and Raoul. They're being kept in the dark by the Russians. They're dumb enough to associate with the asshole.

Loran Hall leaves the Sixth Street and Fourth Avenue safehouse with Enrique Molina Rivera, okay. He's next seem around the corner in a little apartment complex that looks like a motel with Sullivan and Sturgis and Rorke. Rorke was thinking of using Loran Hall. Loran Hall's buddy, Manuel Aguilar, was a Castro agent. Sturgis says, 'I know him, he's okay.' He admitted to being a fucking Castro agent.

I told Rorke not to talk in front of Sturgis, he's an asshole. Sturgis had kind of moved in on the guy. He made the mistake once again of saying he was my boss. Rorke was probably involved in a scheme to insert a guy into Havana as one of the American left-winger types that goes into Havana. We had later information on them.

Enrique Molina Rivera was on the plane with Sullivan and Rorke. The plane landed at St. Julian, Cuba, where they snuffed his ass. [Hemming had been Adjutant of St. Julian Air Base] The Cubans didn't publicize it because they had one of their own boys riding on the bird. They were not going to say he was shot too.

Ellis Rubin called me and asked me to talk to Rorke's wife. He wanted people who were familiar with Rorke's operation. I told her it was possible they had contaminated fuel, not from the States but from down there. I told her to call the Coast Guard.

It was strange because Sherman Billingsley is one of the guys who knows Hoover's secrets. Him and his old lady. And Rorke is allowed to do all kinds of shit cause his father-in-law is fucking Billingsley. But we figured he's working for fucking Hoover. See, Rorke had been busted by William Morgan in Morgan's house during the Trujillo invasion. Rorke was playing newsman there. Morgan arrested his ass. He was coming in there to do a big press release about how Trujillo's troops have invaded Cuba in July of 1959. So we knew Rorke from Cuba. Who's he working for? Who gives a shit? But he's working for somebody.

In a Freedom of Information Act Request to the Secret Service Hemming requested:

Reports not delivered to the Warren Commission referring to the disappearances of Alex Rorke, Jeff Sullivan, Enrique Molina Rivera during a flight from Miami, Florida, to Cozumel, Mexico to Honduras on September 25, 1963, which flight took place during the same period that Lee HarveyOswald allegedly departed for Mexico for a meeting at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

During *Hunt v Weberman*, Bernard Barker was asked about Alexander Rorke. He observed:

He was flying down here [Miami] as far as I know. He was with some CIA operations. I told him, 'One day you are going to get yourself killed.' One day I read in the newspapers that he disappeared. I think his father was the one who called me to see if I could find him...I checked up on it. I liked Alex. He was a good man. [Discussion off the record] I told him his operation was penetrated...[by Castro].

HOOVER AND SHERMAN BILLINGSLEY



MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Wick January 31, 1966

From: Mr. A. Jones

Subject: Rorke

On Friday, January 28, 1966, Richard E. Berlin, President of the Hearst Corporation who is well known to the Director and to the Bureau telephonically contacted Mr. DeLoach. Mr. Berlin advised that he had a very pathetic letter from Mrs. Alexander Rorke, Jr. who was formerly Jacqueline Billingsley, the daughter of Sherman Billingsley. In her letter to Berlin Mrs. Rorke stated she was desperate and asked Berlin if he could be of any assistance in helping her locate her husband. Berlin in turn advised Mr. DeLoach that he would be most appreciative of any information we could give him regarding Rorke which might be of possible assistance to Mrs. Rorke.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Alexander I. Rorke, Jr. was a clerical employee in our New York Office from 2-5-51 to 5-11-51 at which time he resigned to pursue further education. Information was subsequently received that as a free-lance photographer he had been connected with anti-Castro activities, engaged in flights over Cuba in a leaflet distribution campaign and had become involved with persons in purchasing bombers for use in bombing Cuba. At one time he was being counseled by CIA; however that Agency informed on 6-25-62 that it had no operational interest in Rorke, considering him to be too much of a "loose talker." In April 1963, Rorke publically announced having bombed Havana, Cuba, and the Attorney General was interested in this claim and we conducted extensive investigation. Facts were submitted to the Department and prosecution was not authorized whereupon our investigation was terminated.

In September 1963 Rorke and a companion left Florida in a rented plane allegedly for Honduras. He is considered dead by other soldiers of fortune with whom he associated. Rorke's father is a former Assistant District Attorney of New York County and he wrote to the Director on November 12, 1963 requesting assistance in locating his son. His letter was orally acknowledged by our New York Office and it was pointed out to Mr. Rorke that his own son apparently disappeared while outside the limits of the United States and that our jurisdiction is confined to this country and its possessions.

We have subsequently received letters from both Rorke's daughter and uncle asking for our assistance in locating Rorke, and in each case, they have been advised of our jurisdiction and the fact that we could not be of assistance. The family of Rorke have

apparently conducted an investigation on their own, and have widely circulated both in this country and Latin American countries a circular concerning Rorke offering a reward to 'the first persons to produce them in any part of the United States.' All indications as far as Bufiles are concerned Rorke is dead. We have no verified information concerning him since he left a Florida airport in September 1963.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mr. DeLoach telephonically contact Mr. Berlin and advise him in confidence of the above information and that we cannot be of help to Mrs. Rorke."

J. Edgar Hoover wrote this on the document: "No. I do not want in any way to get involved in this. So Berlin might advise Billingsley or his daughter & it would be public property. Billingsley & I broke many years ago cause I would not utilize Bureau facilities to prevent the marriage. H." [FBI 79-29181-3] Alexander Rorke was declared legally dead in 1968. [Document containing ref. FBI 97-4623-179. Ref: 44-24016-634 p808 SI 105-82555-454 p688]



Alexander Rorke was in a perilous business, but his association with Hemming and Sturgis proved to be even more perilous. Hemming blamed Rorke's death on Enrique Molina, a Castro double-agent. Hemming claimed Enrique Molina was the third man on Rorke and Sullivan's ill-fated flight. The personnel at North Perry airport in Hollywood, Florida, said a third person had been with Rorke and Sullivan when they departed. As stated, the FBI received a similar report from someone who visited Mexico. In neither of these reports was Molina identified. Molina was not mentioned by name in any CIA or FBI reports. He is the missing man in all this. Hemming told this researcher, "Molina has not been heard from since." Hemming had a disagreement with Rorke prior to his death and Hemming hated Molina. Sturgis had a disagreement with Rorke, and although Hemming claimed that Sturgis was sympathetic to Molina, there was no evidence of this in FBI or CIA documents. Hemming and Sturgis sabotaged Rorke's plane, because they believed he was being duped by Castro's intelligence service.

THE RORKE PAPERS

Chief, Contact Division January 7, 1964

ATT: Support (Travis)

Chief, New York Office

1. On January 3, 1964, Douglas E. Gentzkow called on the listed phone and, without furnishing further identification, requested an urgent personal interview with a CIA representative. He declined to give details concerning the purpose and subject of the meeting, stating only that it would be concerned with Latin America.
2. We met Gentzkow in the early afternoon hours at a Manhattan hotel and had a two hour interview with him. Gentzkow identified himself as a third year cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He showed us his identification card C-65265 which indicates that he was born on March 14, 1942, he is 6 feet 2 inches tall; weighs 190 pounds; color of hair, brown; color of eyes, blue. Gentzkow, who appears to be serious minded, told us that because of the delicate nature of the information in his possession, he was unable to divulge his sources, but would be glad to "help the Agency in the national interest." He then proceeded by stating that he was aware of CIA's interest in the Cuban situation, and that the information, if used by the enemies of the U.S., could seriously damage the reputation of our government.
3. Cadet Gentzkow, who is a member of Company K-2 at West Point, stated that "his friends" told him about the existence of the documents now in the safes of various New York banks that have serious derogatory information concerning the Cuban prisoner exchange matter. According to these documents, "many Castro agents among the prisoners returned to the U.S. have been planted by the Cuban Government to commit espionage and sabotage in the U.S." Gentzkow repeatedly declined to divulge the names of his sources; he simply stated they were U.S. citizens who might decide to publish these documents with the possible idea of hurting the interest of our Government. Gentzkow did not elaborate on this point; however, he promised his full cooperation and stated that he might be in the position to photograph the documents and place them at our disposal. According to his information, some of the documents also contain descriptions of secret military installations in Cuba.
4. Gentzkow emphasized that in contacting the CIA, he was anxious to avoid delay which might possibly arise from following the usual military channels. He stated that he was a good friend and admirer of Alexander I. Rorke, Jr., a freelance television reporter in New York, who together with Geoffrey Sullivan, had disappeared on a flight to Central

America in a rented, twin engine plane in the fall of 1963. He heard that Rorke was dead and he owes it to his memory "to do something" about the Cuban situation.

5. Gentzkow requested utmost discretion, stating that if his approach to the CIA became known to his superiors at West Point, it might damage his career. He feels, however, that the information is so vital to the interests of the United States Government that he decided to put aside all personal considerations and offer his cooperation to CIA. He added that he would make an effort to photograph the documents during the week of January 6, 1964, "before enemies of our country have an opportunity to publish the allegations." Finally he indicated that he would get in touch with us either on January 11, 1964, or January 12, 1964, to advise us about new developments.

Jay B.L. Reeves.

On January 7, 1964, Gentzkow called the New York Office of the CIA and he was told that he should not risk his military career for "a project whose value might prove disappointing and might involve individuals of questionable trustworthiness. Subject seemed to accept and certainly understand our comments but responded that he would still attempt to go ahead on his own without reference to any contact with CIA." [CIA WH-1621 report from BALOG]

On January 22, 1964, Douglas Gentzkow discussed the contents of these papers with a representative of the Domestic Contacts Division. He said that "the danger of publication of the alleged derogatory information was no longer imminent... Gentzkow told us that he was able to see some of the documents pertaining to 'the situation in Cuba.' The documents turned out to be some typewritten and penciled notes of Alexander Rorke. According to Gentzkow, these notes and a photograph showing Rorke in the company of President Somoza of Nicaragua were taken out of New York bank vaults by a daughter of Sherman Billingsley, owner of the Stork Club. Another daughter of Billingsley is married to Rorke. It seems that Gentzkow and the unmarried daughter of Billingsley are "going steady," hence the great interest of the West Point Cadet in the fortunes of the Rorke-Billingsley families. Gentzkow gave us his notes prepared from the Rorke papers." The notes stated:

4. There is a base located at Porte Berris (?) and supported by President Somoza. Allegedly, this base trains anti-Castro Cuban refugees for another invasion. According to rumors, the CIA has a hand in the training of these refugees. In connection with this plan, the name of Laureano Batista is mentioned as one of the leaders of the invasion forces.

6. The name of Bill Morgan, formerly of the 308th Battle Group, is mentioned as a double-agent, that is, an agent for the CIA, and an agent of the Castro Government

7. The papers Rorke papers mention Dominick Bartone, President, International Trading Company, connected with Hoffa of the Teamsters Union. On this point Gentzkow was vague and could not elaborate.

8. Gentzkow told us that Frank Nelson, a "businessman" from New York City, had films and papers in his possession which, if published, would also damage the reputation of the CIA and the Government.

9. The name of June Cobb as a double-agent appears in the Rorke papers. In addition, the name of Waldo Frank is mentioned; however Gentzkow could offer no elaboration on Frank. According to the Rorke notes, June Cobb forced, in the Fall of 1960, the cousin of Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge [Marita Lorenz erroneously claimed to be related to Lodge] to have an abortion when Lodge's cousin was six months pregnant with Fidel Castro's child. About three years ago, we saw a copy of *Confidential* magazine giving details about this alleged abortion.

In September 1960 Fidel Castro ordered **William Morgan** to take his troops into the Escambray Mountains and mop up the anti-Castro guerrillas there. William Morgan had betrayed the Trujillo plot because it had no chance of succeeding; now he began supplying the anti-Castro forces with weapons. Fidel Castro was informed, and William Morgan was imprisoned. On March 11, 1961, a military tribunal in Havana sentenced William Morgan to death. William Morgan denied his guilt until the moment he was executed, and declared to the press: "I will walk to the wall with no escort." He was shot on March 12, 1961.



The CIA reported:

Viola June Cobb (201-0278841, born August 24, 1927) was born in Ponca, Oklahoma, and left home for Mexico City in 1947- 1948 after her father remarried. She has since lived in Ecuador, Cuba and Mexico, and has been involved with the men and politics of

a number of Latin American countries. During these years she developed a host of friends and acquaintances, both U.S. and Latin, that included political leaders, journalists, diplomats, professors, some of which do not enjoy general social acceptance. Her friends vary from rightists to extreme leftists, but she always seemed to be more attracted by the more bohemian, revolutionary types.

Miss Cobb was employed in the office of Fidel Castro in Havana, doing translations and public relations work from September 1959 to 1960. After spending some time in the United States, she moved to Mexico, where she has generally been unemployed. In October 1961, she traveled to Guatemala regarding the Arvelo book, but was arrested, and in November was expelled on the basis that she had been a Castro agent whose mission in Guatemala was to distribute pro-Castro and Communist propaganda.

Miss Cobb has told several people of her cooperation with the U.S. Government and undoubtedly many suspect her association with U.S. Intelligence. Yet she continues to be on friendly terms with Latin American and American Communists and leftists.

Another CIA document stated:

Memo to WH/4, WH/4/CI, WH/4/FI

Subject: June Cobb, Note given to her by Castro agent in Miami.

Date: June 10, 1960

From: (Deleted)

Prior to her departure from New York, June Cobb visited the Cuban Consulate in New York City as requested prior to her departure from Havana. While there she was introduced to an American citizen named Bernie Brenner, a newspaperman from the *Miami Beach Sun*. Brenner is a friend of Cobb's boss, Juan Orta, the administrative assistant to Fidel Castro. Brenner gave Cobb a note in an envelope that was sealed for delivery to Orta. Cobb opened the note and copied the contents which were as follows:

"Tell 'O' that Manny (Manuel) Arquez is 'hot, real hot.' The Feds are on him. Aguirre the Priest fingered him in Washington. There is a fed working right there in the post office with him. They have some letters marked just waiting for him to open one. He's hot. The State Department - also tell him not to use those replicas of dollar bills the tourist department is using with something written on the back. George Southworth is working with the Feds. I got him drunk with a 'les' (lesbian) and a straight girl with some pictures one night. He said he was going to put the shaft to Capt. Ouerra. Tell Doris Padrone who lives in 8 y 19 Apt. Building with a baby by Orlando Padrone that the feds are trying

to get to her. Fidel brought her to Cuba because she knew things that she shouldn't know. Arquez can go to Cuba the 13th. June Cobb visited the Cuban Consulate, 24 hour tail.

June Cobb called (deleted as of 2010) Director of (deleted as of 2010) in New York through whom I originally met Miss Cobb, asking him to contact me for she had a message for me. (deleted as of 2010) called me at (illegible) and I called Miss Cobb at a phone booth in the Hotel Drake. She told me of the above. I had her give the notes to (deleted as of 2010). She passed them to him at the East Side Airlines Terminal in New York on the evening of June 7.

Burch: According to information given verbally by Harry Hermendorf when (deleted) went to the airport and approached Cobb, she waved him away. He waited at some distance while she scribbled away at the notes; she then folded them in a newspaper and left them for him to pick up. Harry did not say whether she walked away immediately after leaving the notes, or whether she folded them in the paper than waited for the two supposed member of the Cuban Consulate to join her before boarding the plane. JP

On June 23, 1960, the results of June Cobb's lie detector test was judged to be "questionable and until resolved by a second LCFLUTTER suggested that no approval be granted."

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD October 17, 1960

SUBJECT AMUPAS/1 Boston Tapes

Discussion between Subject and Ralph True.

According to Subject a week or ten days ago in New York, Estelle (Stasia) Sokolowska revealed to Cobb that she (Stasia) had been told last winter (1959-1960) by Marita Lorenz and her mother, and also by Diane Alexandria (Diane didn't even know Cobb) and by the FBI that Cobb was involved in the narcotics and abortion rackets. Stasia told Cobb that she was questioned by the Bureau at 69th & 3rd and was told by the FBI that Cobb was involved in narcotics traffic with Yanes Pellitier in Cuba and was using Stasia as a pawn. Mrs. Lorenz was trying to get \$3000 for Marita's operation. She sent a letter to Fidel. She called Cobb and Embassy about her daughter being held in Cuba against her will. Yanes immediately put Marita Lorenz on a plane (December). After Christmas Lorenz sent letters and telegrams to Fidel. Since Cobb's arrival in New York, Diane has seen a great deal of her - she is eager to hear about Yanes. She helped Cobb get in touch with Stasia.

Diane mentioned some in CIA she sees --- has made allusions to "this friend: she repeated to Subject things he said. Has discussed this period, (January, February, March) with Subject. How she told stories about Subject. Slipped unintentionally, said Mr. Daniels, never again mentioned it. Last winter, in apartment downtown someone came to apartment to question her. She had earlier been questioned by Frank O'Brien. Refused to talk to Daniels. Returned from Cuba last summer.

When questioned by the FBI was asked to get in touch with Marita Lorenz. Did so in Connecticut -- became friends and very much involved with them. They were about to vend the story about Marita and Fidel; she did not mention her love for Yanes. Yanes came up and Diane learned that he was involved with Marita -- to her surprise and grief. Continues to see Lorenz. When January rolled around, Pedro Diaz Fonte (Yanes' aide) came up.

Diane involved with Lorenzs. Someone approached said he was from Washington. She said categorically he was CIA. Checked with O'Brien. O'Brien confirmed that he was. Then when she saw him again he said, "You're a pretty clever girl; you went to the Bureau to check on me." He invited her to D.C. and she was apparently questioned in D.C. About that she did not go into detail. Continued to see Daniels later.

Daniels took her to lunch at Quo Vastis, kept inviting her out, saw her privately, also in Connecticut. Subject can't say they were intimate but Diane said Daniels was in love with her; she might even be pregnant. On one occasion she told Daniels she was going to Nurses Training and he said, "That's a good idea." She said, "You bastard, I can't I'm pregnant." (document continues)

June Cobb knew Hemming and referred to him in a letter:

Since my last note to you about Stash's continuing deviations, I have learned that she went alone to Honduras -- that is, at least, she did not go with Harold, but rather she went as a courier, sent by Harold's brother Alejandro, from Havana to Telucigalpa, and, as a matter of fact, was passed along through rebel contacts to Harold quite as a surprise to him. Then she stayed about ten days, went back to Cuba, left most of her clothing and came here. Apparently she gave the boys all the money she managed to take with her. About \$400 I understand, and she called somebody here to send her money to come down. At this point, in other words, she is quite incorporated with them. Harold, before arriving in Telucigalpa, had been in Mexico. Before she went down to Cuba she had been writing and receiving letters from him in Mexico. He didn't realize she was in Cuba, until he saw her in Telucigalpa, but apparently on her arrival in Cuba she had contacted the other boys, Chester Simpson, JERRY

HEMING, and Harold [sic] brother Alejandro and they all decided for her to make the trip over to Honduras.

On March 8, 1963, June Cobb was granted a restricted POA:

A Provisional Operational Approval issued by CI Staff grants the same authority granted in Operational Approval unless otherwise specified by CI/OA. It is based, however, only on preliminary file checks and investigation and subject to further final review when all investigation is completed. This POA authorizes continued contact with Subject and elicitation of information of interest to Kubark. Assessments made of Subject indicate emotional vacillation and potential susceptibility to leftist indoctrination. She should, therefore, be handled with exceptional caution, and care should be exercised not to disclose to her modus operandi or information of a too sensitive nature.

This was included in a document dated March 22, 1963, signed by J.C. King. On March 13, 1963, (Deleted) generated this Memorandum for the Record: "She has been considered unreliable and is not a good security risk. Therefore we do not recommend her for operational use."

October 24, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: CI (Deleted)

SUBJECT: JUNE COBB 201-278841

The Provisional Operational Approval on Subject expired 8 September (deleted)

Bernard E. Reichhardt

Acting Chief /Western Hemisphere/3.

Hemming told this researcher: "Cobb worked for the telephone company in Miami and married an oil man in Oklahoma. She hung out with all the exile military types."

RORKE'S NOTES CONTINUE

10. Rorke deals at length with "the 'fishy' selection of Manuel Artime as head of the Bay of Pigs invasion forces. Rorke also mentions former Marine Lt. Col. Fiorini, with whom Rorke had been planning sabotage activities against Castro.

12. The Rorke papers discussed the activities of General Walker and the alleged role of the writer Norman Mailer in starting the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

13. Rorke states that the International Media Company owns the Gibraltar Trading Company. According to Rorke, the latter controls "the CIA operated Radio Swan."

15. Gentzkow indicated he would be glad to photograph the Rorke papers...He feels that there is a strong possibility that the Rorke family, or Frank Nelson, might decided to publish the derogatory information in their possession. He is of the opinion that the publication may coincide with the affirmation of Rorke's death. At present, the family has no definite proof about the fate of Alexander Rorke. The cadet further stated that Billingsley had discussed the Rorke case with his "good friend," J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, and is ready to take up the disappearance of Rorke and his pilot with the "highest U.S. authorities." The Rorke-Billingsley families resent the absence of U.S. Government action in the disappearance of Rorke and Sullivan. They cannot understand that while the administration has collected over 50 million dollars to ransom the Cuban prisoners from Castro, "it did not do a thing for patriotic Americans like Rorke and Sullivan."

16. We told Gentzkow that we would get in touch with him concerning his offer to photograph the Rorke papers. We feel, of course, it would be wise to close this case and decline the services offered by our cadet. Perhaps you'll agree the whole thing is rather nebulous and it would not be in the best interests of the Agency to get involved in the Rorke-Billingsley family affairs. In view of this we plan no further contact with Gentzkow. [Memo from Jay B.L. Reeves to Travis; Documents marked WH-1621 Rorke Security File NARA]

Mayo Stuntz, Chief, Domestic Contacts Division, informed Sam Halpern about the Rorke papers: "Sam, we sat on this as it came in since we did not know how it would develop. We wondered why a West Point Cadet would risk his career on such a deal. We require no answer unless you want us to follow up on some of his story." Sam Halpern was involved with OPERATION MONGOOSE, the successor to the Bay of Pigs, which was headed by William K. Harvey. Sam Halpern was critical of a plan to assassinate Fidel Castro with an exploding sea shell. [Powers, *Man Who Kept the Secrets*, pgs. 172, 190] Halpern noted "Told Mayo Stuntz 11:20 February 13, 1964, via telcon that SAS wants no part of this and is out of it except to turn papers over to the OS. Also told him my strong belief that Agency should turn info over at least to Army Security and secondly to FBI, the latter regarding Rorke." Copies of the 00 interviews with Gentzkov were sent to DO/OS, SAS/Registry, Miss Weiler, Sam Halpern, EXO/SAS, and SAS/Security (Lodner). The Chief of SAS Security sent the 00 interviews to the Chief/SAS/Support, the Director of Security and Ethel Mendoza, the Chief, Security Research Service. Mendoza wrote this on the Routing and Routing Sheet:

February 28, 1964, Robert Travis advised:

1. 00/C passed to no other agency.
2. 00/C doesn't believe any action should be taken which would jeopardize (deleted) choices.
3. Has no knowledge regarding Billingsley contact with FBI.
4. Recommended no action to Halpern verbally, most especially if SAS has no operational interest.

Ethel Mendoza

(P. S. Also mentioned that 00 received source report that Rorke repeatedly claimed to be a CIA agent.)

On February 18, 1964, Desmond FitzGerald, Chief, Special Activities Staff, sent a memo to Ethel Mendoza regarding Gentzkow: "Special Activities Staff has never had any operational interest in Rorke. Note that the Rorke disappearance has been discussed with the FBI by his father-in-law, Sherman Billingsley, which indicates the Agency should pass the attached data to the FBI." [CIA FOIA D-00862] FitzGerald suggested, that in light of the fact that Gentzkow bypassed military channels, "it is suggested that the passage of the contents of the reports to the FBI and resolution of whether Gentzkow's contact with Agency should be reported to ACSI is a matter to be discussed between the Office of Security and the Domestic Contacts Division." E. Mendoza, of the CIA's Office of Security, sent this memo to the Deputy Chief, Security Research Staff:

4. I called Robert Travis of the Washington Field Office (Support) of Contact Division to determine what other information was known to him in regard to instant matter. He advised that at the time he furnished copies of the 00/C (New York) memoranda and teletype to SAS, he had specifically recommended that no action whatsoever be taken in the matter unless SAS had some pressing operational reason for so doing: that no material be accepted from Gentzkow, and the Agency not become further involved in the matter.

5. A review of the Office of Security files reflects that a good deal of what Gentzkow thought to be highly sensitive information has already appeared in public print; that Alexander Rorke made wild charges concerning CIA's lack of action against Fidel Castro, yet at the same time claimed that he himself was a CIA agent whose operations had been financed by the CIA.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. In all probability, Gentzkov's contact with CIA is primarily based on his belief that Alexander Rorke had been a CIA agent, as Rorke has repeatedly claimed. Since Mr. Travis of 00/C Support is of the opinion that Gentzkov's offer of assistance should be declined, and since SAS has stated they have never had any operational interest in Rorke (and apparently have no interest in Rorke's papers), I believe OS should concur in 00/C's recommendation.

7. With regard to passage of Rorke's papers to the FBI, it might be suggested to Gentzkov that he turn over Rorke's possessions to Rorke's father for whatever disposition he may wish to make of it.


William Knott wrote this on Mendoza's memo: "Concur in 6., but feel that passage of the info as recommended in paragraph 7 should be made only on the stipulation that Rorke Sr. advise the FBI of the existence of the papers." H.J. Osborne, DD/Security, concurred with Knott. Douglas Gentzkov was contacted in April 1994 by this researcher:

There were probably two or three telephone communications with the CIA after that, and at least one face-to-face meeting. The records aren't really complete. After a period of some weeks, after I had drafted something and forwarded it to a Mr. Baylog, he actually came to me for the information. I gave him my notes. He told me to purchase photographic equipment to copy the documents. He would reimburse me. After I gave him the salient points, he asked me to stay in touch with him by phone. I did that. A short period of time after that, he said they really didn't have any interest in the information. I never had them in my possession, they were at the Billingsley's home. The papers talked about Kennedy's escapades, it mentioned in the papers that there were photographs of him involved in his various liaisons, I think with some underworld figures, not Exner. There was a whole array of information critical of Kennedy's handling of the Bay of Pigs. The ransom of the POWs. There was at least one ransom paid by the family for Rorke.

The Rorke papers never surfaced. The only clue to their contents was Gentzkov's notes. The CIA was supposed to be an intelligence gathering organization, yet the Agency dismissed the contents of Rorke's notes without even looking at photographs of them. Why? The CIA felt it might have a "hot potato" on its hands. Sam Halpern wanted to turn Gentzkov over to Army Intelligence and the FBI. However, it was decided that no action would be taken and it would be recommended to Rorke's father that he turn over these notes to the FBI. There was no indication that the FBI ever received the notes.

STURGIS ASSOCIATE MARITA LORENZ



 Ilona Marita Lorenz, a member of the International Anti-Communist Brigade, reported that Sturgis was often the recipient of cash payments from Hunt: "When cash was needed, it came from a CIA man she knew only as 'Eduardo.' He would meet Frank and Alex from time to time in a safe house in Miami. 'Eduardo' was funding our thing. When we went to pick up the money I stayed in the car. I saw him when he opened the door of this little white house we used." Years later Marita saw a newspaper photo of Hunt and immediately recognized him as the elusive 'Eduardo.' [Meskil *N.Y. Daily News* 4.20.75] Jerrold Brown of the Security Analysis Group noted: "In the first article Marie Lorenz alleges that E. Howard Hunt, known to her as 'Eduardo' was the paymaster for Sturgis and Rorke. Hunt has publicly claimed not knowing Sturgis until at least the late 1960's." During his testimony to the Rockefeller Commission Sturgis hinted that he had received money from Hunt. Marita Lorenz told the truth about the Hunt, Sturgis relationship in the early 1960's. Unfortunately, Marita Lorenz was a congenital liar and her fantasies about having met "OZZIE" discredited what she witnessed as an associate of Sturgis.

MARITA LORENZ 1939 TO 1959

During *Hunt v Weberman* Marita Lorenz told this researcher her life story: "I was born August 18, 1939, in Bremen, West Germany. My mother, who was born in Delaware on October 15, 1905, was an American citizen named Alice June Lofland, who moved to Germany in July 1931 and met my father, Heinrich Frederick Lorenz [born April 8, 1898; July 15, 1966]. They were married several months later and divorced in February 1946. My father was a commodore of ocean liners. During the war, he was to participate with the liner, *The First Bremen*, in an invasion of England, which was called off at the last moment by Hitler. My father was a hero in Germany, a Fleet Commander, yet I have found papers among his effects that indicated he was working for the Allies, Admiral Canaris.

"I lived in Badmunstein during the war, 20 minutes away from Frankfurt. After the war, my father worked for the Occupation Forces and my mother was a stringer for *The Chicago Tribune* and worked for military intelligence. I first came to this country in May 1950 when my mother got a job with the CIA and moved to Washington. Her cover was with the Defense Department. In 1958 we moved to New York City, where my father brought in passenger liners from Germany."

The father of Marita Lorenz, Heinrich Lorenz, was an Abwehr spy. He did not work for the Allies. On June 3, 1938, Heinrich Lorenz was arrested for conspiring to steal blueprints of the latest model United States Navy destroyer. His codefendant was a German born naturalized American citizen. On November 4, 1938, a public trial was held in New York City. A CIA document noted: "The [Marita Lorenz] file contains information that an individual of the same name was connected with German intelligence during WWII." Heinrich Lorenz was released from a British POW camp in October 1945. He had been "captured during World War II when his ship sank while acting as German Navy officer." Upon release, he was employed at the U.S. Army Exchange, Bremerhaven, Germany. Heinrich Lorenz was classified as an unskilled laborer. [NYT 6.4.38, 7.15.66, 1.18.59, 11.8.38, 6.5.38]

ALICE JUNE LORENZ

Marita Lorenz filed a CIA Freedom of Information Act request for herself and her mother. In the cover letter, the CIA stated it had found "a number of documents" on Marita Lorenz. The CIA's response said its files, and those of the OSS, contained numerous references to Alice June Lorenz. Marita Lorenz's CIA file contained a reference to her mother's employment by the OSS: "Previous employment - too numerous to mention, covers to 1945 in Germany, mostly U.S. Government related." Alice June Lorenz had been a spy. The document also stated that from October 1953 to at least April 1955, Alice June Lorenz worked at the Office of the Chief Engineers, Gravelly Point, Washington, D.C.

VALERIE CLAIRE LORENZ

The CIA reported:

Office of Security traces in the name of Heinrich Lorenz revealed that he was the father of Valerie Claire Lorenz (SF #117 245). Information in the file, coupled with information in the attached articles, positively identifies the younger sister of Valerie Claire Lorenz, one Ilona Marita Lorenz, as being identical with the Marie Lorenz mentioned in these articles. Valerie Claire Lorenz, born on October 9, 1936 at Bremerhaven, Germany, was the Subject of a Covert Security Clearance request in March 1955 by the

Monetary Branch / Finance Division. Valerie Claire Lorenz graduated from Roosevelt High School, Washington, D.C. in June 1954. As of March 1955 she was employed as a secretary to F.P Harman, Jr. (SF# 67 493), vice-president of the National Bank of Washington and as such, would have access to sensitive financial transactions being administered by the Monetary Branch through Harman. The covert security clearance was granted in July 1955 and canceled because of her resignation on August 21, 1959. There is no subsequent activity in the file.

Marita Lorenz' brother, Joachim D. Lorenz attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and planned to attend Georgetown University and enter the diplomatic corps. Her other brother, Manfred Lorenz, studied music in New York City. Marita Lorenz's maternal aunt, Lucy L. McConchie, was employed at the Pentagon. Her husband, Thomas McConchie, was a Major in the U.S. Army.

MARITA LORENZ AND FIDEL CASTRO FEBRUARY 1959



Marita Lorenz stated:

I first met Fidel Castro during a cruise on one of my father's liners, it was February 28, 1959. I will never forget that date because I fell in love with Fidel at once. I was on board, in my father's stateroom, and Havana was the last stop on the cruise. We were in the harbor when Fidel and about 40 barbudos got on board. He told my father he had stood on the balcony of the Havana Hilton and he saw a liner in the bay. He had never been aboard a passenger liner, so he took a launch and he came aboard to visit. Fidel had dinner with us and he asked for my phone number in New York. I gave it to him and three days later, when I came home from school, I got a call from Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba! He wanted me to come to Cuba. He sent a Cubana Airliner to pick me up and I lived with

him in the Havana Hilton for eight months. He treated me well. It was very interesting. He made me a member of the 26th of July Movement.

Marita Lorenz claimed Fidel Castro sent an airliner to New York City to fly her back to Havana. On January 23, 1960, she told the FBI that, after she met Fidel on February 28, 1959, "she remained with Castro after her father departed from Havana and for the most part, has remained in Havana since February 28, 1959, with the exception of a few short visits to her mother."

PREGNANT WITH CASTRO'S CHILD APRIL 1959

I realized I had become pregnant in April 1959 when I accompanied Fidel during his visit to the United States. When I returned to Cuba I met Frank Sturgis. Fidel and I, and his aides, went to the Havana Riviera Hotel to close it down. Frank was in a 26th of July Movement uniform, as was I. Fidel had ordered the waiters to turn over the tables and throw down the slot machines because he opposed gambling. Frank edged over to me and said, 'I know about you. I have to talk with you. Tell your man Fidel he is making a mistake ripping up this joint. Try to tell Fidel that his country needs tourism.' But Fidel didn't like vice, and he wanted gambling out of Cuba. Frank went on, 'I work for the Government, the United States Embassy here in Havana. I will get back to you. You must help your country.' It was difficult to arrange a meeting with Sturgis because Fidel had me under 24-hour guard. I went to the restaurant of the Havana Hilton and Frank slid into an empty seat next to me and said, 'You are going to work for me. I work for the CIA.' He wrote on the place mat, 'Take papers from Fidel's files.' I moved a seat away and my guards started to talk to him and said, 'Compañero, if Fidel saw you, he would be very jealous.' Even though I was pregnant with his child I began to steal papers from Fidel for Frank and I told Frank all I knew of Fidel's travel plans.

Twenty-year-old Marita Lorenz occupied a suite in the Havana Hilton where she became Fidel Castro's mistress. Castro had a weakness for women. He might have gotten her pregnant. Marita Lorenz knew Sturgis. She might have spied on Fidel for him, however, no evidence has surfaced that she removed the files of Fidel Castro and turned them over to Sturgis, who, in turn, allegedly gave them to the CIA.

MARITA LORENZ'S ABORTION SEPTEMBER 1959

Frank was secretly in charge of an anti-Castro military camp, Camp Columbia, along with Pedro Diaz Lanz. Frank gave me a miniature camera to photograph documents with. Then the attempts on Fidel's life started. When I ate with Fidel, we had room

service, Fidel would call in two guards, one would test the food before Fidel would eat it. Fidel once had me put under protective custody because he heard of an attempt on his life, a shooting, an ambush...Several months later, on September 19, 1959, I was forcibly aborted and left to die in the Havana Hilton Hotel. I don't remember much of that, except the pain, which you never forget. I was flown to New York City and treated there.

On September 19, 1959, Marita Lorenz had an abortion in Cuba: "Miss Lorenz stated that she is not too clear on the details of this matter, but she is positive she had done nothing to cause the miscarriage, but she has been told rumors that she had been drugged, taken to a hospital and an abortion was performed. Miss Lorenz could not positively say whether this was true or untrue, for this reason, plus the fact that she had adopted a child in Havana after her miscarriage." Whether she had a miscarriage or an abortion was unclear to Marita Lorenz. In retrospect, if Marita had given birth to Fidel's child, it would have proven to be a great embarrassment for Fidel. Her miscarriage was probably induced. There was no evidence that Marita adopted a child after her miscarriage except for her self-serving statement. In 1992 Marita Lorenz claimed that she had not had an abortion on miscarriage but had given birth to Fidel Castro's son, Andre Castro. Marita Lorenz forged an FBI document to support her story:

During October 1959, Lorenz bore Fidel a child who was named Andre. Lorenz was provided with a drug to induce labor and woke up in the delivery room to discover her child had 'died.' Camilio Ceinfuegos told Lorenz that Fidel Castro was occupied with business in another province and could not see her...During December 1959, Castro sent Jesus Llanes to New York to speak with Lorenz. Lorenz was asked to sign a document stating that Fidel had not murdered their child, and that she, Marita Lorenz, would cease exploiting their relationship for propaganda purposes. Lorenz was offered money which she refused. Llanes showed Lorenz a photograph of her child, Andre. The baby was in good health. Llanes explained Andre had been kept from his mother for security reasons. Llanes explained that the baby should remain in Cuba and Andre's very existence a secret. All of the above was necessary for the baby's safety.

The NY FBI Office stated: "The document in question contains no identifying or file marks so that it is impossible to ascertain the validity of the report as an FBI document. This response should not be considered an indication whether or not records responsive to your request exist in FBI files." [ltr. James J. Roth to AJW 1.8.93] Marita Lorenz returned to the United States in **October 1959**.

MARITA LORENZ DECEMBER 1959

THE POISON PILLS

Marita Lorenz told the FBI: "Her health improved and she made a trip to Havana in December 1959, but returned to New York a few days thereafter." [FBI 105-83564-6] Marita Lorenz stated:

Frank introduced me to Alex Rorke, a wealthy adventurer who worked for the CIA and FBI. Two months later, Alex took me to FBI headquarters in New York City. Alex said, 'You could knock off Castro. It would save everybody a lot of trouble. Why don't you kill him? It would be easy to put poison in his food. It would change history.' I agreed, and flew to Miami with Rorke, where Frank gave me two capsules full of poison powder which I was to sprinkle in Castro's coffee. I flew to Havana, put on my 26th of July Movement uniform and went to see Fidel.

He asked me why I had left him. He ordered food and coffee sent up. When it came, he fell asleep on the bed. I couldn't poison him. I told Frank that the capsules had melted in the cold cream where I had hidden them. I made love with Fidel instead of killing him." Marita Lorenz told Paul Meskil the she flew to Havana:

The lobby was full of reporters and other people waiting to see Castro, but he wasn't there. One of his aides recognized me and took me up to Fidel's suite. She waited nervously in Castro's private room until he came in a few hours later. As soon as he smiled and hugged her she knew he didn't suspect she had visited the suite a few months previously and stolen his secrets. And he certainly didn't suspect that she had come back to kill him...Finally he ordered food and coffee sent up. When it came, he fell asleep on the bed, in his fatigues with a cigar in his mouth. I had no confidence left, but I knew this was the chance to do it. I went into the bathroom and opened the jar or cold cream. I stuck my finger in it and the whole thing came out like yuck. I couldn't find the capsules, they had melted. It was like an omen. I couldn't just dump a glob of cold cream in his coffee, so I shut the jar and went back to the bedroom and I watched him sleeping. Finally I lay down on the bed beside him, I thought, 'To hell with it, let history take its course.' Frank and Alex met me when I flew to Miami the next morning. They asked me what happened and I said the capsules melted. Frank was very upset, he said 'Stupid, stupid why did you put them in the cold cream.

During the course of *Hunt v. Weberman* Marita Lorenz was deposed.

Q. Did there come a time when you went back to Cuba at the request of the company, or the CIA?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your mission that time?

A. To kill Fidel.

Q. Who sent you?

A. Frank. I was given two capsules, and I was talked to for a couple of weeks in a safe house. The capsules I was told were botulism toxin, something like that. I agreed because of loyalty I guess, and I was the only one that could do it. In other words, they butter you up pretty good, that you are the only one. But when I was on the plane going in and I saw the outline of the shores, I knew I couldn't do it and I got frightened, and I put them in the cold cream. Fidel had G-2 men at the airport. And my suitcase sat outside while everybody was being screened to go in. And I stuck them before in the bathroom in a jar of Pond's cold cream, and the suitcase being out in the sun I guess melted them, dissolved them. I mean I couldn't pick them out anymore. I opened the suitcase again when I got to the Hilton and Fidel was there, and I flushed them down the bidet.

Q. Did you do anything else on that mission?

A. I worried.

FBI CABLE TRAFFIC DECEMBER 1959

URGENT December 22, 1959

TO: Director

FROM: SAC NEW YORK

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS, CUBA.

RENYLET December 9, 1959, and Butel December 15, 1959. RENYLET set forth information regarding interview of Marita Lorenz, 344 W. 87th Street, NYC, and her relations with Fidel Castro, Captain Jesus Yanez Pelletier, military aide to Castro, and

other Cuban officials. (Deleted) Bureau will be advised of any further developments, Miami advised by mail. [FBI 105-83564-1]

Jerrold Brown commented: "Relative to Lorenz's claim in the attached article that she and Alex Rorke (in conjunction with the assassination attempt against Castro) visited FBI offices in New York and had a "conference with the two agents who had questioned her previously and a CIA official" it is interesting to note that Lorenz was interviewed by S.A. O'Brien on December 22, 1959. The file of Alexander I. Rorke, Jr. reflects that he was interviewed on December 30, 1959 by SA Francis J. O'Brien, FBI, New York."

MARITA LORENZ JANUARY 1960

To: SAC New York January 4, 1960

From: Director, FBI (109-12-210)

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

IS - CUBA

(Deleted)

1 - Deleted

1 - 105-new (Marita Lorenz)

FEJ:bom

Note: Lorenz, who currently resides in New York City advised N.Y. Office during recent interview that she is personal acquaintance of Castro and other Cuban leaders. At the time, she furnished general information concerning the Cuban situation and Cuban Government personalities. New York disclosed plans for further interview.

Bufiles disclose that Pelletier, military aide to Castro, last entered the U.S. in diplomatic status July 16, 1959. We have no recent information indicating that Pelletier planned to come to this country. New York disclosed that Pelletier contacted Lorenz December 22, 1959 and expressed interest in having her return to Cuba. Lorenz's mother concerned as she believes Pelletier may take Lorenz to Havana with him against her wishes. New York teletype indicated that Lorenz was absent from her home after Pelletier reportedly invited her out for a couple of hours. PD, New York, notified of her absence and it later determined she told police she had been Christmas shopping. In view of Pelletier's position it is believed we should attempt to ascertain his activities in this country. New York aware of Pelletier's background. [FBI 105-83564- NR 1.4.60]

SAC, New York January 22, 1960.

Director, FBI

MARGORIE FAITH RAFFELSON

Foreign Miscellaneous - CUBA

Reurlet January 8, 1960, captioned 'Foreign Political Matters - Cuba.'

For your information, the data contained in referenced communication may be of interest to other government agencies. You should therefore furnish Bureau all information obtained from the Subject and from Marita Lorenz concerning Fidel Castro under his caption in form suitable for dissemination. Information obtained concerning the activities of Pelletier should also be submitted under his caption in form suitable for dissemination.

With regard to Eddie Jaffe and Charles Wilson you should open separate cases of these individuals and conduct independent investigation to determine the connection with Cuban affairs. In view of the unsettled conditions in Cuba, you should give the matter expeditious attention.

NOTE: Raffelson who claims to be a girl friend of Jesus Yanez Pelletier, personal aid to Fidel Castro, furnished NY information concerning her association with Jaffe and Wilson and her activities in Cuba during the Summer of 1959. She also disclosed that Marita Lorenz, former girl friend of Fidel Castro, is now living in New York City. She indicated Lorenz recently threatened to expose Castro and Pelletier to US newsmen if they do not give her money for an operation. According to Raffelson, Lorenz became pregnant as a result of association with Fidel Castro. She later suffered an abortion which was induced by a pill given to her by Pelletier. She indicated she is now in need of an operation as a result of the abortion.

64-NEW

1- 105-83564 (Marita Lorenz)

NOTE: (Deleted) Marita Lorenz, former girlfriend of Fidel Castro, is now living in New York City.

On January 19, 1960, Lorenz entered Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan for an internal operation to correct the damage to her uterus. She was released on January 22, 1960.

On January 23, 1960, the FBI interviewed Marita Lorenz in the presence of her mother. The information she supplied was autobiographical and not of a significant nature.

HAD THE FBI ENCOURAGED LORENZ?

Documents indicated that Marita Lorenz and ex-FBI clerk Alexander Rorke first met with FBI S.A. Francis J. O'Brien as early as November 20, 1959, or December 9, 1959, before Lorenz went to Cuba. These early interviews of Rorke and Lorenz have yet to be released. Had the FBI given Marita Lorenz the impression that her actions were sanctioned by the U.S. Government? After reviewing Marita Lorenz's file, the FBI concluded: "No indication whatsoever in any of the numerous references reviewed indicated that Lorenz had ever been asked, in any manner whatsoever, to perform a task on behalf of the FBI, either in the United States or in Cuba. It is the opinion of the NY FBI Office that Lorenz had in fact accompanied Fiorini and Rorke, who were well known to her, to Miami believing their actions were sanctioned by the U.S. Government and in fact, at their behest, embarked on a plot to assassinate Castro." Information on Rorke and Fiorini which appeared after this statement was deleted. [FBI 62-109060-7572X NR 4.7.77] An FBI report revealed that "In 1960, Rorke, while gathering data concerning an illicit affair, impersonated a Bureau agent and was strongly admonished."

The CIA 1977 *CIA Task Force Report* stated: "In reference to the Lorenz-Sturgis poison pill plot, the *Task Force Report* noted the similarity of this plot to the details in an October 18, 1960, FBI memorandum, describing a plot to kill Castro." In the October 18, 1960, memorandum Giancana spoke of a girl who was going to drop a pill in some food or drink of Castro. The HSCA concluded: "The identity of this 'girl' referred to by Giancana has not been conclusively ascertained although it was public knowledge that Marita Lorenz was given poison capsules and that she did return to Cuba." [HSCA V5 pp. 157, 177] The CIA concluded this October 1960 date was "too early for the CIA/syndicate operations and therefore the syndicate may have been acting independently." [Jerry G. Brown DC/CIA SAG] The CIA stated: "If, in fact, Giancana's statements do refer to the Lorenz/Sturgis matter, it can be logically concluded that Sturgis was acting at the behest of Giancana [and not the CIA]."

Who was behind the poison pill plot? The attempt was sponsored by Sturgis and he bragged about it to his friends in the mob. Why did the plot fail? Marita Lorenz lied to everyone, even her "case officer" Frank. She had no intention of killing Fidel Castro and probably removed the poison capsules from her cold cream before she entered Cuba, rather than risk detection and imprisonment. Frank had a weakness for prostitutes. He believed Marita Lorenz was sincere, however, she doubled-crossed him as she did everyone else. In her *Hunt v. Spotlight* testimony Marita Lorenz said that Hunt was part of the poison pill scheme.

MARITA LORENZ JANUARY 1960

On January 23, 1960, the day after her release from Roosevelt Hospital, Marita Lorenz called the FBI. She said that Jesus Yanes Pelletier had taken her to a hospital in Havana where the abortion was performed and that she had received a call from him that morning during which he said that "he was hiding in Havana and was going to defect from the Castro Government." She told the FBI that, since her return to New York City, she had received several telephone calls from Jesus Yanes Pelletier and Castro, who requested that she return to Havana. Marita Lorenz went to the New York FBI office and furnished information on the activities of the 26th of July Movement in New York City. (Marita Lorenz had been a member since August 1959.) She described the movements of Jesus Yanes Pelletier when he visited New York City in December 1959 to the FBI. She told the FBI that Jesus Yanes Pelletier had offered her \$1,000 for her medical expenses, since he was the one who was responsible for her pregnancy. [FBI 105-83564-3] On February 17, 1960 J. Edgar Hoover expressed an interest in Castro's former mistress. [FBI 105-83564-2]

MARITA LORENZ FEBRUARY 1960

Jerrold Brown reported:

Variations of all the names of Ilona Marita Lorenz and her family have been checked against the Office of Security indices with no additional results with the exception to a reference to the file captioned 'Cuban Intelligence Activities' (SF #350 643). An FBI New York Office file dated February 10, 1960 captioned 'Cuban Intelligence Activities in the United States' reflects, in substance, that Lorenz on December 22, 1959 advised S.A. O'Brien, FBI, that Jesus Yanes Pelletier, Cuban Revolutionary Army and Military Aide to the Cuban Prime Minister (Castro), had arrived in New York City on December 18, 1959. Lorenz reported that she went out with him on the night of December 19, 1959, to the La Baracca Restaurant. She believed Pelletier was in New York collecting intelligence information for the Castro Government." [Memo for Chief, SAG 6.1876]

Sturgis stated that Pelletier helped Santos Trafficante Jr. obtain his release from prison in Cuba: "He was a Captain. Marita knows this party. He was a mulatto and I'm trying to remember his name. Captain Yanes Pelletier, I think it was, and he above all was very close to Fidel and I think, from information I got, that Yanes Pelletier was very involved an instrumental in getting Santos released." In February 1960 the FBI sent information on Marita Lorenz to the CIA. That month Marita Lorenz told the FBI that she had been threatened by a Castro agent: "Subsequent to this, efforts were made by Cuban diplomatic personnel in the United States to force her to return to Cuba via Mexico. She

was physically mistreated by one such representative in February 1960, which she said was prominently reported in the press of the United States." [FBI 105-83564-6] The threats allegedly came from Pedro Perez Font, a Castro henchman, who made the statement that Lorenz's family would be taken care of after Lorenz refused to sign a statement that an associate of Castro's, and not Castro, was responsible for her pregnancy. Font left for Cuba after making these statements. Immediately thereafter Marita Lorenz departed New York and journeyed to Bremerhaven to reside with her father.

MARITA LORENZ MARCH 1960

In March 1960 Marita Lorenz gave the FBI information of the July 26th Club of New York City along with information on June Cobb. On April 1960 Alice June Lorenz sent an angry letter to Castro:

Sir: With reference to the seduction of my daughter, Marita, a minor and United States citizen, whom you lured to Havana under false pretenses, early in 1959, without her parents knowledge or consent, and ravished in the Hilton Hotel, Havana, Cuba. Said act committed by you was later compounded by a forced and careless criminal abortion upon my daughter, performed by a Dr. Ferrer, in his office at 27 Vedada, Havana, Cuba, on September 18, 1959 when my daughter was over five month pregnant with your child; said abortion being accomplished under the direct supervision of your aide, Captain Jesus Yanez Pelletier, who transported by daughter in a drugged condition, in a Cuban Government car to the abortionist's office, where this illegal operation was performed without my daughter's knowledge or consent.

Copies were sent to various media outlets and political and religious leaders. The letter received no publicity except for a May 1960 article in *Confidential Magazine* entitled "Castro Raped My Teenage Daughter."

MARITA LORENZ / INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE

When I returned to the United States, I joined the International Anti-Communist Brigade and OPERATION 40. I was an associate member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council. I was assigned to OPERATION 40 by Frank, my troop commander. In 1960 I took a blood oath to join Frank's secret assassination group. I was trained in the Everglades. I was the only female member. Diaz Lanz was a member of OPERATION 40 as was Orlando Bosch, Gerry Hemming and Alex Rorke. There was a man named "Eduardo." He wasn't always with us, but he would visit us in our safehouse. "Eduardo" was the man we depended on for money to keep going, for supplies. "Eduardo" we went to once a

month, and he handed Frank an envelope. I first met "Eduardo" at a safehouse in Miami on Brickell Avenue. He was alone, wearing a white suit. I was told, 'He's the Company's man.' After Watergate, I realized "Eduardo" was really E. Howard Hunt. I saw Hunt and Sturgis together back then at least 30 times. I saw Hunt with Gerry Hemming and with Diaz Lanz. Lanz was in the car with us when he picked up money and they knew each other. I saw Hunt with Orlando Bosch in Orlando's house.

MEMORANDUM

DIRECTOR: FBI

SAC, MIAMI (105-1747)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS- CUBA

INTERNAL SECURITY CUBA

Re New York letter 12/9/59 and NY teletypes 1/23/60 and 12/22/59 concerning ILONA MARITA Lorenz who claimed to be close to FIDEL Castro RUZ, became pregnant and subsequently had a miscarriage.

Edwin C. Karden, Miami Beach, Florida, is known to the Miami Office, as having been involved periodically in counter-revolutionary activities. Karden obtained a card from the Dade County, Florida Department of Public Safety naming him as an Honorary Deputy Sheriff, has engaged in investigations and is considered a nuisance to the Miami Office and the Sheriff's Department.

Karden claims to investigate Communist activities, as the Miami Office for information, provides non-specific information, drinks excessively, is considered unreliable, and is treated with great circumspect by the Miami Office.

On December 22, 1960 Karden called the Miami Office and stated that Marita Lorenz had arrived in Miami, was sent to Miami by the New York Office of the FBI, was under protective custody of the FBI, and is associated with Frank Nelson and Alex Rorke, both known to the Bureau and New York Office. Karden asked the Miami Office what he should do with the girl and what steps the FBI at Miami would take to protect her against possible physical harm by Castro sympathizers. Karden was directly advised in no uncertain terms that Lorenz was not in the protective custody of the FBI, and was not sent to Miami by the New York Office. On December 24, 1960 Marisol Alba Vazquez who is well known to the Bureau and who is presently involved in a CLIP operation explained that she lives across the street from Karden, who called her that day, wanted her to talk to Lorenz, and wanted Alba to provide for Lorenz's support and care. Alba

refused to have anything to do with the situation. Alba explained to the Miami Office that Karden is known to her as a narcotics users, a drunkard, is unreliable and that Alba's attorney, Ben Cohen, a well known Miami Beach criminal lawyer, advised her to have nothing to do with Karden.

On January 9, 1961 MM (deleted)-S advised that on January 8, 1961 Frank Fiorini, Alex Rorke and Lorenz were to meet that evening and attended a unity meeting together. This meeting was sponsored by Luis Conte Aguerro.

MM (deleted) advised that it appeared that Rorke and Lorenz were going to join the anti-Castro movement of Fiorini, a de-naturalized American citizen who lost his United States citizenship for serving in the Cuban Revolutionary Army of Castro. MM (deleted) stated Lorenz was reportedly in the protective custody of the FBI. Mrs. Niemoeller of the Catholic Welfare Bureau telephonically contacted the Miami Office on January 9, 1961, and stated that she was calling to report an incident that occurred on this date. Mrs. Niemoeller advised that last week, JOSE IGNACIO Acosta, Editor of the Spanish newspaper, "Cuba Libre", came to the Welfare Bureau and was accompanied by a young girl named ILONA MARTITA Lorenz. Since the regular social worker was unable to handle the situation, this couple was told to return on this date and talk with Mts. Niemoeller. Niemoeller stated that Acosta introduced Lorenz to her and gave her copies of his newspaper, in which appeared a story concerning Lorenz. Niemoeller stated that in substance the story was as follows:

Lorenz is the daughter of an American woman, ALICE Lorenz, who resides at New York City, and a German father. Lorenz father is a ship's captain, and was the captain of the German ship, The Bremmen. This ship came to Havana, Cuba, and FIDEL Castro came aboard the ship, and was 'taken' by Lorenz. The ship proceeded to New York City, and Castro sent for Lorenz and set her up in the Havana Hilton, where he was free to come and go. After this had gone on for awhile, Lorenz became pregnant, and when she was about five and one-half months pregnant, an abortion was performed. Accordingly, Castro paid all of the bills, and Lorenz went to New York City, where she was admitted to the Roosevelt Hospital due to the results of the abortion. Lorenz also went to Germany where she spent some time in a hospital. When Lorenz returned to New York City, her life was threatened, and the FBI afforded her protection

Mrs. Niemoeller stated that Acosta met Lorenz in New York, where he had gone to get a story, that she came down here because she wants to fight Communism in Cuba, and here she feels safe. Acosta stated that Lorenz could work, has a high school education, and also attended Hunter College in New York. Acosta indicated that the Welfare Bureau should provide an apartment and food for Lorenz until she went to work. Niemoeller indicated that Lorenz told her that she is living with Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Karden, Miami Beach, Florida and Niemoeller told Acosta and Lorenz that Lorenz

should remain there until Father Walsh, who runs the Welfare bureau, returns from Washington, D. C. and a decision is made. Niemoeller stated that after leaving her, Acosta and Lorenz went to the Protestant Welfare Bureau with the same story, and due to this fact she felt she should call this office and advise what has been happening.

Mrs. Niemoeller stated Lorenz was in possession of a newspaper clipping from the "Cube Libre" newspaper of JOSE Acosta, stating that she was under the protective custody of the FBI. On January 10, 1961, Lorenz was interviewed by SAS Robert James Dwyer and David C. Spingler, at which time she was admonished for stating she was under the protective custody of the FBI, and was told to cease and desist from any future statements. Lorenz said she met Karden in New York City through Jose Acosta, Karden claims to have lost investments in Cuba and hates Fidel Castro, and that she travelled to Miami of her own volition.

She said she met Alex Rorke, free lance photographer, in Miami several days ago, and through him met Frank Fiorini, whom she had previously met in a hotel in Havana when Fiorini was wearing the uniform of a Captain in the Cuban Revolutionary Army. Rorke had left for Guatemala on January 9, 1961, to write a story about the invasion force that would invade Cuba. During the time Rorke was in Miami, he stayed at the residence of Frank Fiorini. Lorenz said that Fiorini is friendly and working with Orlando Bosch and Victor Paneque of MIRR. Lorenz stated that Fiorini is in contact with Chris Mendoza, wealthy Cuban exile, and invited Lorenz to go on an expedition with him to Cuba because of her propaganda value. Lorenz stated she declined Fiorini's offer, wants to obtain employment in Miami, but may return to her mother's residence in New York City.

Lorenz said that Fiorini is friendly and working with Dr. Orlando Bosch and VICTOR Panque of the Movimiento_Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionario de Cuba (K/RR). It is noted the MIRR is being taken into the CLIP operation Lorenz stated that Fiorini is in contact with CHIRI MENDOZA, wealthy Cuban exile, and invited Lorenz to go on an expedition with him to Cuba because of her propaganda value. Lorenz stated she declined Fiorini's offer, wants to obtain employment in Miami, but may return to her mother's residence in New York City.

On January 10, 1961 Robert Hopkins, CIA, Miami, was advised of Rorke departure for Guatemala to write a news story concerning CLIP operations. HOPKINS was very concerned and stated he would take immediate steps to preclude such a thing from happening. Miami has main cases opened on Bosch, Panque, the MIRR, Fiorini, and has informant coverage on these different individuals and organization. If Lorenz becomes actively engaged in Cuban revolutionary activities in Miami the Bureau will be kept advised." [FBI 105-83564 NR 168 2.1.61]

The CIA reported that an FBI document dated April 24, 1961, stated that on "January 8, 1961, Lorenz, Sturgis, Alex Rorke (deleted) were to meet that evening and attempt a unity meeting of anti-Castro Cubans. The unity meeting was sponsored by Luis Conte Aguero, one of the leading anti-Castro Cubans. I have uncovered nothing to date concerning an assassination attempt." [Chris Hopkins LA/COG/CIOS 6.14.76]

On January 10, 1961, the FBI interviewed Marita Lorenz. The FBI told her to stop saying that she was under its protective custody because of alleged threats from Fidel Castro. Marita Lorenz told the FBI that "Marita Lorenz was never a member of the International Anti-Communist Brigade. No females were allowed in the group. Her story about being part of OPERATION 40 was also a lie. She was informing on Sturgis."

MARITA LORENZ AND OSWALD

After the Bay of Pigs invasion, April 1961, I noticed a change in Frank. Instead of talking about getting rid of Fidel he began to talk about getting rid of John Kennedy. He said 'Kennedy has to be hit, there's no two ways about it.' In the summer of 1962, on one of our many trips up and down the coast, running guns, we hit a camp near a lake, in New Orleans. Alex Rorke was there. So was Gerry Hemming. So was Oswald."

Hemming told this researcher:

That would have been the strangest goddamn thing in the world. That's crazy shit. Rorke did not surface till the end of 1962.

MARITA LORENZ AND MACROS JIMENEZ PEREZ

Marita Lorenz lived in Miami in 1961. In June 1961 she was introduced to the deposed President of Venezuela, Marcos Jimenez Perez. CARLOS MARCELLO visited Venezuela frequently while Marcos Jimenez Perez was in power. Marcos Jimenez Perez had ties to an associate of Meyer Lansky. The man who introduced Marita Lorenz to Marcos Jimenez Perez, Ruben Pratts, subsequently demanded a commission on the money that Marcos Jimenez Perez had given Marita Lorenz in return for her sexual favors. Marita Lorenz went to the FBI and told the Bureau to investigate the man for having violated the White Slave Act. She said that after Pratts introduced him to Perez, she advised him that "she was out of work and in poor financial condition. Perez offered to help her get a job. He also gave Lorenz his telephone number and asked her to call him. Lorenz thereupon left the apartment without any additional pertinent activities being conducted. Lorenz called Perez ten days later, visited him, and became sexually intimate."

On March 9, 1962 Marita Lorenz gave birth to Monica Mercedes Perez. In the Summer of 1962 Marita Lorenz was in Miami, taking care of her newborn infant, and was not traveling around with Sturgis. In August 1963 Perez was extradited to Venezuela. He had been accused of embezzling \$13.5 million. Marita Lorenz served him with a paternity suit before his extradition. [*Time* 8.23.63]

MARITA AND OZZIE

Later that year, in October 1962, a man named OZZIE came to visit our training camp in the Everglades. Alex Rorke took a photograph of me, OZZIE, Gerry PATRICK Hemming, Frank Sturgis and Diaz Lanz. After the Kennedy assassination I realized OZZIE was Oswald. I was with Oswald three or four times before November 22, 1963. I questioned Frank about Oswald's connection. He said, 'Don't worry, he's okay, we are going to use him.' Frank told me, 'He's one of us. He's a sharp guy.' I took this to mean that Oswald also worked for the Company. He was part of OPERATION 40, the assassination section. I thought he was going to be used in a plan to kill Castro.

Marita Lorenz did not meet Oswald. The Dealey Plaza crew was professional. Hemming told this researcher: "Why expose a fucking whore to something like this? It's total bullshit." Marita Lorenz's "photograph story" was another lie. She claimed that she turned the picture over to FBI S.A. Al Chestone. FBI Special Agent Al Chestone, contacted in May 1978, stated:

I am going to come on strong because I'm tired of this, you have been in touch with her? Have you spoken to Paul Meskill about what he thinks about her now? Paul has come to realize she knows not of what she speaks. I was in touch with her husband in connection with my own work for the Justice Department and she is a lovely lady, she wants to be a police woman more than anything else, she would do anything for her country. There are a lot of things she says that she sensationalizes, takes things out of context. She is imagining that she gave me a picture. I never got a picture from that lady. I don't know what she is talking about. Never, never did she give me a picture. In all the years I dealt with her and her husband she never discussed the assassination or this Oswald trip. The photograph that she's talking about never once did she bring this up until after I - last year -what the hell is she talking about? There were times when she said she was part and parcel of the other agency, the CIA...I said I don't want to know anything more about it...I can honestly say I don't know what she is talking about...she did not give me a picture...If she had given me a picture of Oswald do you think I would have sat on it? It would have been my responsibility to follow it up. I would have taken action on it. I would have written a report on the darned thing. But this is

concocted...She once told me 'Uncle Al, come to think of it I didn't give you the picture. That's true too.' I said, Hey, com'on Marita, you're damn right you didn't give you the picture.

Why didn't Marita Lorenz copy the photograph before she gave it to the FBI? During Lorenz's testimony to the HSCA she said that the photograph was taken in 1960. She later amended this response and said it was taken between August 18, 1963 and September 20, 1963.



Marita Lorenz claimed that on Saturday, November 16, 1963, Oswald was in Miami with Sturgis, Hemming, Pedro Diaz Lanz, Orlando Bosch and others. According to Marita Lorenz, Oswald was present at a meeting where the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was discussed. She also claimed that *she* was a member of the team who drove from Miami to Dallas, shortly before the assassination. On November 29, 1963, a business man from Cincinnati, Ohio, reported to the FBI that during a visit to Miami a taxi driver told him "he could positively identify Oswald as being in Miami when President Kennedy was last in that city for a visit on Monday, November 18, 1963. Oswald was with two other male individuals." S.A. James O'Conner questioned two taxi drivers about the report. Both said they had seen Oswald, although they furnished the FBI with inaccurate descriptions. [FBI 62-109060-1201; Cinn. FBI Office 62-2758; FBI 62-19060-386, 1408]

THE CAR TRIP

Marita Lorenz:

On the weekend before the Kennedy assassination I saw Oswald with Orlando Bosch at Bosch's home. Pedro Diaz Lanz and Frank Sturgis were there, as were the Novo brothers, who were from New Jersey. They were going over Dallas street maps, circling places. I thought they were going to hit another armory. They were talking about locations. I can't remember any specifics, but the event was supposed to occur in Dallas in November. There was talk of a high powered rifle. The word 'Kennedy' spoken to Bosch [sic] which made me say, 'What about him?' All eyes were on me, studying me, when Oswald started a dispute with Frank and Bosch about my presence. I spoke with Oswald that night, someone told me he spoke German, and I found out that he did. Frank told me I would be going to Dallas with him tomorrow. It was during the weekend, so it was hard for me to get a baby sitter on such short notice. We left after midnight in two beat-up looking cars and drove to Dallas. About eight of us, with Frank's 'baby,' a high powered rifle, scope and silencer attached, in the trunk of our car. Before we left, we were briefed by Frank, Bosch and Pedro Diaz Lanz. No phone calls, no speaking Spanish in Texas, no leaving for restaurants. Supplies and 'kits' were dumped in the truck. We wore dark street clothes...I was in the car with the Novos, Frank and Orlando Bosch. Oswald rode with Hemming and Pedro Diaz Lanz. The car I drove in was beat-up, they had guns in the back. It had big tail fins, four doors, Florida plates. No one talked about the Dallas operation during the trip. Just, 'When we get there nobody goes out, no papers, no broads.' I asked Frank who was paying for the trip and he told me, 'The Company.' The guns in the car looked like Oswald's [Mannlicher-Carcano]...When he arrived in Dallas we stayed at the Cabana Motel."

At first I thought the idea that Sturgis took Marita Lorenz to Dallas was absurd. She was only 23 at the time. Sturgis had fought in World War II. So had Hunt and Christ. How much experience could Marita Lorenz have had as paramilitarist? Marita Lorenz said that when they got to the Cabana Motel in Dallas, Jack Ruby ordered Sturgis to send Marita Lorenz away. As she was leaving, she saw Hunt check into the motel. During her deposition in *Hunt v. Spotlight*, Marita Lorenz said she saw Hunt hand Sturgis and envelope full of money inside the motel. In her testimony in *Hunt v. Spotlight*, Elizabeth McIntosh testified that Hunt was at a meeting during the afternoon of November 21, 1963, at the CIA, so he could not have been in Dallas. She could not place him at the Agency on November 22, 1963. A Mrs. (FNU) McManus also said Hunt was in Washington on November 21, 1963. According to Marita Lorenz, the squad consisted of

herself, Oswald, Hemming, Pedro Diaz Lanz and Orlando Bosch and two brothers who I first thought were Guillermo and Ignacio Novo. The Novo brothers immigrated to



America in 1954, after their father was killed in an explosion in Havana. They graduated from high school in lower Manhattan. Guillermo Novo received a Degree in Chemistry, and Ignacio Novo became a shoe salesman. In late 1959 they organized the first anti-Castro demonstration in the United States. Ignacio Novo became a leader of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, and in August 1960 he arranged for Cuban exile groups to form a united front against Castro. The Cuban Revolutionary Front was one of these groups. Little information was available on the anti-Castro activities of the Cuban Nationalist Movement between 1960 and 1964. In December 1964, the Novo brothers fired a bazooka shell at the United Nations building in New York. The shell fell into the East River, 200 yards from the shore, damaging nothing, and the Novo brothers were arrested for the attack. Tony Ulasewicz participated in their arrest. Stanley Ross testified that someone had telephoned him before the attack and predicted the missile would fall short of its target. Several months later, the Novo brothers' confessions were ruled inadmissible. [NYT 12.24.64, 12.12.64] In 1967 the Novo brothers were convicted of hiding explosives for Orlando Bosch, and both were sent to prison. The conviction of Ignacio Novo was overturned, but the conviction of Guillermo Novo was affirmed. In 1968 Ignacio Novo and Orlando Bosch bombed the Consulates of several Western Bloc countries which did business with Cuba. The next phase of this operation was to be the execution of Castro officials outside the United States. Guillermo Novo was paroled in late 1975, but his parole was revoked after he traveled to Chile to meet with Orlando Bosch and members of the Chilean military junta.

When the Novo brothers were subpoenaed during a Federal investigation of the Orlando Letelier assassination, they disappeared. About 23 other Cuban exiles, mostly veterans of the Bay of Pigs Brigade, were subpoenaed. In 1977 the members of the Bay of Pigs Brigade elected Ignacio Novo as their military leader. Guillermo Novo and Alvin Ross Diaz were arrested for cocaine trafficking by the Miami Organized Crime Bureau in April 1978. The name, address and telephone number of



Pedro Diaz Lanz was found in the address book of Alvin Ross Diaz. Danny Benitez made the arrest. Sturgis was an informant for Danny Benitez, although Sturgis repeatedly denied ever having heard of the Novos brothers. When Sturgis was questioned about the Novo brothers in 1978, in relation to the charges made by Marita Lorenz, he said he had never heard of the "Nova brothers." During his deposition in the course of *Hunt v Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Do you remember the Novo Brothers, Cuban exiles that are presently in New Jersey?

A. De Novo?

Q. Guillermo Novo?

A. The name - I don't recall the name at the present time. It's possible. Like I said, I know many Cubans.

Sturgis had to have at least heard about the Novo Brothers. Sturgis was associated with Carlos Prio Socarras, who in his later years, worked closely with the Novo brother's Cuban Nationalist Movement. Hemming told this researcher:

Of course Sturgis knew the Novos. The Novo connection comes through Navarro. He had lunch with the Novos on two occasions at Centro Vasco.

On May 5, 1978, Ignacio Novo was arrested in the basement of his brother-in-law's house in Jersey City, New Jersey. The Novo brothers were sentenced to life in prison on March 24, 1979. The next month, a valise exploded while being loaded on an airliner at Kennedy Airport. The Cuban Nationalist Movement took credit for the explosion. They demanded the immediate release of the Novo brothers. [O'Leary *Washington Star* 4.28.78]

Marita Lorenz may have seen the Novo brothers in connection with anti-Castro activities and so she decided to work them into her story. Hemming told this researcher:

"First, the Novo brothers hadn't even been invented yet. Talk about one of the Novos being present in the Brigade. He wasn't in the Brigade. She gets the Novo brothers later on from the Letelier business. Phillips pulled that stunt."

Hemming was correct. It is much more likely that it was the DeTorres brothers who were in the caravan. Bernardo De Torres name appears in Oswald's address and a soldier of De Torres was photographed lurking around the grassy knoll in Dealy Plaza right after the big event. More on this in [The Oswald Code](#).

The HSCA interviewed Orlando Bosch. He said he had met Marita Lorenz once, in 1962, when he planned an air raid on Cuba with Alexander Rorke. The HSCA: "Lorenz later called him and said she wanted to get involved in anti-Castro activities, but Bosch turned her down and never saw her again. He further stated he had never traveled west of New Orleans in his life." Pedro Diaz Lanz was interviewed by the HSCA: "Immunized testimony was received in Washington, D.C., on April 28, 1978, from Pedro Diaz Lanz who denied Lorenz's allegation and explained his whereabouts on November 22, 1963." Hemming denied making the car trip to Dallas with Sturgis. The HSCA questioned Sturgis about Marita Lorenz's allegations. He testified

Sir, that is an absolute lie. I have never been with Marita Lorenz and Ozzie as she calls him, or Pedro Diaz Lanz or Marcos Diaz Lanz, or Doctor Orlando Bosch, or Jerry Patrick, which she claimed all of us besides some other Cubans [Sturgis again pretended that he was unfamiliar with the Novo brothers], were in two automobiles and left Miami Florida two days before the assassination of the President of the United States. She is a liar. I took a polygraph examination to that effect that I have never been involved at any time in conspiring to kill the President of the United States, nor was I with her in any automobile with these people or any other people going to Dallas to plot to kill the President of the United States. She is an absolute liar.

Sturgis told Paul Meskil: "She said she drove from Miami, Florida, to Dallas, Texas, and in the automobile were, I'm not sure of all the names, myself, her, she mentioned Orlando Bosch...a couple of Cuban brothers, which I think she got mixed up there because there are only two Cuban brothers, Pedro Diaz Lanz and Marcos Diaz Lanz, and also, the person who financed this trip to Dallas was E. Howard Hunt...I naturally denied it."

On May 31, 1978, Marita Lorenz testified before the HSCA. She told her story: "The HSCA found no evidence to support Lorenz's allegation." [Lorenz references: FBI 31-88948-6 Miami; FBI 105-83564,-1 NR 2.1.61, 1.23.60 Airtel, LHM 1.23.60, NR 1.25.60, 2.10.60, 2.17.60, 1.22.60, 1.26.60; FBI 105-83564-1.20.61; Miami 31-88948-6 Invest.

Report 8.22.62-10.12.62] Hemming told the HSCA that he "had the 'impression' that Sturgis was in Dallas the week of the assassination." Hemming told this researcher: "The thing is there was a caravan. The possibility that she knew about the Sturgis caravan...Do I know that the caravan actually left, yes. At that fucking period of time, I can't pinpoint it, there was an attempt to get Phillippe Vidal and Tony Cuesta to go to a financial meeting in Dallas, Texas, by Sturgis. They didn't know him from Adam, so they called us. We didn't have broads hanging out with us. She said Sturgis admitted something against his interest while he was fucking her, no way. No way Sturgis is gonna admit to shit. She might have put two and two together. Marcos Jimenez Perez, that Padron bitch that ended up with Manuel Artime who was hanging out at Marcos Jimenez Perez's house too. Colonel Pardo. Anyone of them could have made comments in that point in time. Things were being discussed. She is putting two and two together because evidently Sturgis went to Marcos Jimenez Perez and needed some funds to go raise some money in Texas. And she picked up on this story about the cars going to Dallas. The strange thing was, why the fuck didn't they fly? It's 38 fucking hours of driving. Jesus fucking Christ, they had no I-95 then. I don't discount that Marita saw something. I don't discount that she may have seen somebody, there was a caravan or talk about a caravan. Now we don't discount the fact that she saw or heard reference to it, but as far as pin-pointing the personalities, that's bullshit."

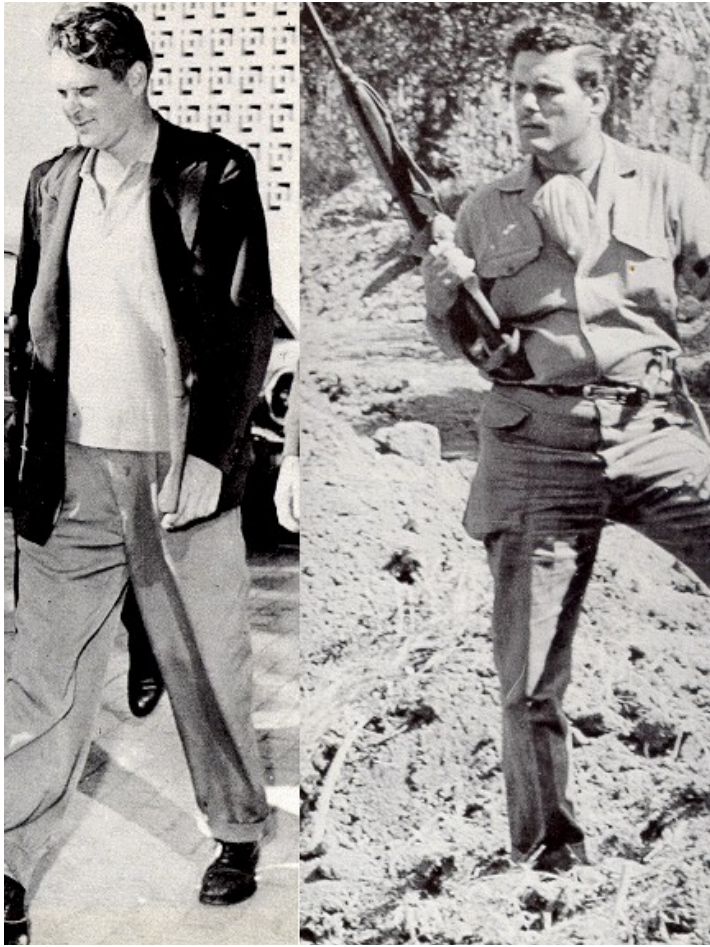
Hunt told this to the HSCA in 1978:

During the retrial of *Hunt v Spotlight*, the defendant's attorney, Mark Lane, trotted out a woman named Marita Lorenz who claimed to have been a former Fidel Castro mistress smuggled out of Cuba by Frank Sturgis under his alias, Frank Fiorelli. Described as a "curvy, black-haired... American Mata Hari" by *New York Daily News* reporter Paul Meskil, she was an oval-faced, doe-eyed, innocent-looking woman, sporting a classic Jacqueline Kennedy hairstyle. She laid out a bizarre scenario in which I, Sturgis, Hemming, Oswald, and a few murderous Cubans drove from Miami to Dallas to perpetrate the crime of the century. The woman was an amazing tale-spinner who could have had a great career as a spy novelist, but her testimony has been widely discredited, with a full account written by Gaeton Fonzi, a staff investigator for the HSCA, in *The Last Investigation*. Did I get into a car loaded with guns in Miami and head for Dallas, as alleged by Marita Lorenz? The answer is no. Did I know Marita Lorenz? No. I didn't know her, and I wouldn't have wanted to know her. She was the type of person whom Frank Sturgis was accustomed to handling. She and Sturgis did know each other, and he reportedly conceived a plot to send her to Cuba to reunite with Castro, where she was supposed to administer poison pills to the dictator while he was asleep. She claimed that she met up with her jubilant lover but failed to

give him the pills, because she had hidden them in a jar of cold cream, and they had melted. But if that's true, Sturgis never told me about it before she told the story, so I would have to assume it never took place, as Sturgis was not a person who would avoid taking credit for an operation as worthwhile as that.

Hemming 1995: "*The caravan left for Dallas on Tuesday, November 19, 1963.*" On November 22, 1963 Frank Sturgis appeared in Dealey Plaza disguised as a tramp. Gerry Hemming told this researcher "*Frank was firing from the Records Building.*"

The major problem with Marita's story was that she had Oswald in Miami just prior to the Big Event when there were numerous impartial witnesses that put him in Dallas during the same time period. Marita did this to make her story more sensational. But new evidence has surfaced that most of Marita's story was true. Former NYPD vice cop Jim Rothstein told me during a telephone interview that after Frank sued the NYPD he was assigned the task of verifying Marita's story. Jim traveled to Louisiana where he interviewed the owner of a gas station Marita had told him the caravan stopped at for gas and automobile repairs. He remembered the crew passing though just before the assassination. So I owe Marita an apology.



Photograph of Sturgis taken in January 1959 in Cuba. The photograph of the Sturgis tramp was taken three years later. The configurations of the cartilage of the inner-ear were identical. The contours of the edge of the ear were the same, although the overhead sunlight in Dealey Plaza made it appear that the earlobe of the Sturgis tramp was attached to the side of his cheek. This was not so. Examine the Sturgis tramp's ear in P5. Again, the tramp flexed his nostril held his chin in and squinted to further disguise his appearance.



A 1974 shot of Sturgis discovered by Gaeton Fonzi in the files of United Press International, and was taken under similar lighting conditions to Dealey Plaza. See this photo along with another photo of Sturgis. Gaeton Fonzi discovered a photograph where Sturgis had to squint like the tramp. When compared to the Sturgis tramp in P5, the lips, the eyes, the nose, the mouth and the skull shapes were identical.



A profile study of Sturgis and the tramp. Note how Sturgis' hair changes your conception of the image.



Overlay of Sturgis and the tramp. The metric measurements of Sturgis' features (the distances between the various facial features) and those of the tramp's were the same. If there were differences, no matter how slight, the features would not have lined up. Click [HERE](#) to see digital morph of Sturgis and the Sturgis tramp.



STURGIS' ALIBIS

In 1974 Michael Canfield questioned Frank Sturgis about his alibi for November 22, 1963. Sturgis: "I was home watching television...in Miami." The television listings for November 22, 1963, in the *Miami Herald*, indicated that at 1:30 p.m. (12:30 Dallas time) *Search For Tomorrow, Truth or Consequences* and *Father Knows Best* were on television at the time. Why would an active, macho guy like Sturgis be at home watching television? Sturgis worked as a used car salesman at the time. Why wasn't he at work? The reason was he had to be placed in a non-public environment

THE NOVEMBER 22, 1963, MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Later in 1974 Sturgis told Michael Canfield that he was watching television on the day of the assassination, possibly in Washington, rather than Miami:

Well, yeah, I love to watch television. Well, and regardless of where its at, I don't care if *I'm in Washington*, or anyplace, I'll watch television. But they've asked me that, like I said, they asked me where I was on that day and I told them 'Well, I've got no comment on that.' So I suspect that maybe I'll be dragged up there to Washington before one of those Congressional Committees, or the Rockefeller Commission.

As stated, Sturgis and Wilfrado Navarro testified before the Rockefeller Commission on April 3, 1975. Present were Staff Members William Schwarzer, Robert Olsen, James Roethe. During his deposition in *Hunt v. Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Do you remember giving a story to anybody, especially Mr. Canfield, that you may have been in Washington, D.C. on November 22, 1963.

A. I don't recall.

Weberman: I've got it on tape.

A. I'm sorry. Then one of us is wrong.

Weberman: You said you didn't know where you were, but you were watching television.

A. Because I was home.

Weberman: So you weren't working that day?

A. I was at home and I did leave the house. Supposedly Jim Buchanan came and told me that, I went with him and left the house with him.

Around this time Bernard Fensterwald and Richard Sprague circulated a story that on November 22, 1963, Sturgis was at a meeting in Washington, D.C., with Richard Helms, Hunt, and Cuban exile Enrique Williams. Sprague told a researcher:

Hunt was at a meeting of Operation 40 with Helms, Enrique Williams, Lyman Kirkpatrick. This was confirmed by Williams. Williams was a leader of the Bay of Pigs Brigade. Hanes Johnson told me Enrique Williams was at this meeting, and I confirmed it with Williams. Williams was a very honest individual, as any guy would be, who came under fire on that beach. If Hunt said he was at this meeting I would not believe him. Williams told this story long before Watergate. The meeting concerned the CIA putting more money up for another invasion of Cuba.

The notes of a Rockefeller Commission investigator indicated confusion about this meeting:

Check Bureau files on Hunt interviews in 1974. Did Hunt claim to be in the company of Agency officials on November 22, 1963? and give their names to FBI & claim they could corroborate his presence there? Check with Hunt's lawyer regarding content of Hunt's TV denials of Dallas matter in November 1974. Did Hunt say he was at work at Agency at 1:30 p.m.? (Taped by Kaiser.) Hunt refused to say who he was with. Contact Robert Blair Kaiser at *Rolling Stone* regarding whether he had recording or notes of his November 1974 interview with Hunt in New York.

Sturgis said that he might have been in Washington on November 22, 1963. The CIA planned to provide Sturgis with an alibi, and leaked it through their asset, Bernard Fensterwald. In 1978 Sturgis said he did not recall telling Michael Canfield anything about a meeting in Washington, D.C. This was because the CIA abandoned "the meeting in D.C." alibi, since it would have put Hunt and Sturgis together prior to 1971.

JAMES A. HUNT

Sturgis told Rockefeller Commission "he was in Miami Florida throughout the day of the assassination, and his testimony was supported by the testimony of his wife, and by the testimony of his wife's nephew [James A. Hunt]. The nephew, who was then living with the Sturgis family, is now a practicing attorney in the Midwest." Rockefeller Commission investigator Pete Clapper: "I phoned James A. Hunt, attorney, Cincinnati, Ohio, 513-381-0656, before noon on April 1, 1975. I explained that the Commission seeks to ascertain the whereabouts of Frank Sturgis on November 22, 1963. Mr. James Hunt said he wished to check with Sturgis, and then would call back. He called before noon this date and provided the following information:

James Hunt was living with his aunt, Janet Sturgis, and her husband, Frank, at their home at Northwest 122nd Street in Miami on November 22, 1963. James Hunt was attending Miami Day Junior College. He had enrolled there in August 1963.

To the best of his knowledge, he recalls having an early class that day. Before leaving the house, he saw Frank Sturgis at home about breakfast time. Hunt returned to the house in mid-morning. His grandmother was home. He took a nap. His grandmother awakened him to report there were news reports that the President had been shot in Dallas. James Hunt remembers they watched CBS correspondent Walter Cronkite.

James Hunt reports that Sturgis returned home that afternoon and they watched TV. He believes Sturgis was a used car salesman at the time. He is certain that it was a working day for Sturgis. Prior to Sturgis returning to the house in the afternoon, James Hunt recalls taking a drive around Miami during the afternoon alone. He recalls his aunt was upset by the TV reports. He recalls his cousin, Gale, a grade school student, was present in the household, and watched TV with them during the evening. Sturgis was at home that evening, he believes to the best of his recollection.

James Hunt says the day stands out particularly in his mind because only five days earlier he had seen Kennedy in person. James Hunt and a friend were at the Miami airport the previous Monday. Kennedy happened to be arriving. They joined the crowd and watched him.

Hunt agreed to draft an affidavit. I have given him my name and the Commission address to send the affidavit to. [RCD Memo Robert B. Olsen to Clapper 4.3.75]

James Hunt's affidavit for the Rockefeller Commission stated:

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES A. HUNT

STATE OF OHIO

COUNTY OF HAMILTON

James A. Hunt, being duly sworn and cautioned, deposes and says that:

1. I am submitting this Affidavit to the Commission on CIA activities within the United States at the request of Peter R. Clapper, who contacted me by telephone and told me he is a staff member of the foregoing Commission.

2. The purpose of this Affidavit is to record, to the best of my knowledge, my recollection of certain events that occurred on November 22, 1963.

3. During the period August 1963 until May 1962, I was enrolled as a freshman student at Miami-Dade Junior College located near the corner of northwest 119th Street and 27th Avenue in Miami, Florida.

4. During the aforementioned period, I lived in the household of my aunt, Mrs. Janet Sturgis, and her husband, my uncle, Frank Sturgis at 2515 Northwest 122nd Street, Miami. My grand-mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt, now deceased, also lived there.

5. Taking into consideration the fact that November 22, 1963, is a single day which occurred almost 11 ½ years ago, the following is offered as my best recollection of the day.

A. As I recall, I had an early class at Miami Dade Junior College on November 22, 1963, and arose early enough to arrive at school at least before 9:00 a.m. It is my recollection that I saw Frank Sturgis at home prior to my leaving for school that morning.

B. I returned to the Sturgis household sometime during mid-morning, probably sometime between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Since I had not eaten breakfast previously, it is my recollection that, upon returning to the Sturgis' household, I ate breakfast and retired to my room to take a short nap and do some reading prior to the late afternoon class which I had to attend on that day.

C. At some time between 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. I was awakened by my grandmother who told me that reports of an attempted assassination on the life of President John Kennedy were being broadcast on television.

D. I then arose and watched the news. It is my recollection that besides my grandmother, my aunt, Mrs. Janet Sturgis was also at home watching the television.

E. Later in the afternoon on that day, probably at approximately 3:00 p.m., I drove back to Miami-Dade Junior College to see if my afternoon class had been canceled.

F. Upon arriving at Miami-Dade Junior College that afternoon I discovered that the class had, in fact, been canceled; thereafter I took a drive through the city of Miami,

contemplating the significance of the events of that day and trying to get some idea of their impact on other people.

G. I arrived back at the Sturgis household in the late afternoon, probably between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

H. Upon my arrival back at the Sturgis household, or shortly thereafter, I recall seeing my grandmother, my aunt, Mrs. Janet Sturgis and my uncle, Frank Sturgis. It is further my recollection that the aforementioned persons ate dinner at the Sturgis household and remained there for the rest of the evening.

6. The foregoing represents, to the best of my recollection, a summary of certain events which occurred on November 22, 1963, the day on which President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Further Affiant Saith Naught. James A. Hunt.

Sturgis said that he was at home, watching television, when news of the assassination was flashed across the screen. He said he was with James Hunt. James Hunt had a different version of events. He said that his aunt woke him up when the news was flashed, however, Frank Sturgis was not there at the time. James Hunt told Olsen during their phone conversation that Sturgis returned home that afternoon and they watched TV *before* he went for his drive. In his affidavit he stated he saw Sturgis *after* his drive. He believed Sturgis was a used car salesman at the time. He was certain that it was a working day for Sturgis. Sturgis never mentioned anything about working that day. He claimed he was home, watching TV. James Hunt could also be mistaken about seeing Sturgis at breakfast because this event occurred before the assassination and was less likely to be as clear in his mind as events that followed it. James Hunt said he had a very early class to attend. Why would Sturgis be eating breakfast at so early an hour if all he had planned for that day was to stay indoors and watch T.V?

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH JAMES HUNT

James Hunt was contacted in January 1994 and asked:

Q. Was Frank there when you were woken up and told about the assassination?

A. No, he wasn't there when I woke up.

Q. But Frank said he was there.

A. Not in the afternoon. I never saw Frank's testimony. Where did he say that? Frank may have his times mixed-up there. I must admit that part I don't remember. I got to say as I sit here, 'It's been a long time.' - What, 30 years? - But I don't remember Frank

being there when she woke me up. I'm not quite sure whether he was there when they made the announcement of his death. I certainly stand behind the affidavit I gave to the Rockefeller Commission. My recollection is that I saw Frank early in the morning. I came home, laid down, my grandmother woke me up and said 'He's been shot.' I went out and watched the news for awhile. I had an afternoon class that day, and somewhere around mid-afternoon I went over to see if they were going to hold class. It turned out they weren't, and I drove around for half an hour or so and I got back. That was probably when I saw Frank again, you know what I mean. Hell, that would be 3:00 p.m., something like that, yeah. 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. sounds about right.

Q. Frank's alibi was 'I was watching TV when the news came on about the assassination. My nephew was there, with me, when it first happened.'

A. I am not trying to be unfriendly, but I don't know what the purpose of this call is?

Q. I am trying to resolve this contradiction in the testimony.

A. He could have been there, but I just don't remember he was there.

I swear the following is true and correct: In 2008 I met with Bob Risch, the co-author of a book that Jim Hunt was planning to do about his uncle Frank Sturgis entitled *Cuba On My Mind*. He told me that Jim had retracted his statement to the Rockefeller Commission and that Frank had asked him to alibi him for the day in question. When the book was published Hunt stuck to the statement that he gave to the Rockefeller Commission. He did say that he believed Sturgis was part of the conspiracy to kill Kennedy but was not a shooter. I asked him what part could Sturgis have played? Did he write a White Paper on the Bay of Pigs? Did he arrange the flowers at JFK's funeral? I pointed out to him that Frank was a killer and that if he was part of the plot his role involved murder. Hunt did not believe that Frank had killed his best friend, Alex Rorke or that he machine-gunned dozens of Masferrer supporters at San Juan Hill in Cuba. I told him that in Hemming's words, "Frank was a stubble bum."



THE AFFIDAVIT OF MRS. JANET STURGIS

RECOLLECTION IS A STRANGE THING. SOME HUMANS ARE MORE GIFTED WITH REMEMBERING CERTAIN EVENTS THAN OTHERS. BUT I WOULD HAZARD A GUESS THAT ALMOST ALL AMERICANS (WHO WERE ABOVE THE AGE OF FIVE) CAN, WITH PERFECT CLARITY, DESCRIBE WHAT THEY WERE DOING ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, WHEN THEY FIRST HEARD THE NEWS BULLETIN FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, STATING THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT.

ON THAT DAY IN NOVEMBER, WHICH WAS A TYPICALLY WARM SOUTH FLORIDIAN DAY, MY HUSBAND (Frank Sturgis) AND I WERE IN OUR BEDROOM. MY MOTHER WAS IN THE FLORIDA ROOM WATCHING TELEVISION. I RECALL MY MOTHER RUNNING INTO OUR ROOM DECLARING THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT. MY MOST VIVID RECOLLECTION IS THE EMOTION I FELT: DISBELIEF AND ANNOYANCE WITH MY MOTHER: FOR SURELY SHE HAD MISUNDERSTOOD OR GOTTEN HER FACTS CONFUSED. SUCH THINGS COULDN'T HAPPEN. BUT Frank AND I WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE FLORIDA ROOM TO LISTEN TO THE TELEVISION. AS SOON AS WE REALIZED THIS PRONOUNCEMENT WAS TRUE, FRANK LEFT THE HOUSE. I STAYED AT HOME, GLUED TO THE T.V. UNBELIEVING (LIKE PROBABLY EVERYONE ELSE IN THE COUNTRY AT THE TIME) AND YET MESMERIZED BY WHAT WAS BEING BROADCAST.

MY NEPHEW, JAMES A. HUNT, JR. WAS LIVING WITH US WHILE ATTENDING HIS FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE AT MIAMI DADE. I HONESTLY DO NOT REMEMBER WHAT TIME HE RETURNED HOME FROM CLASSES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON.

I DO REMEMBER THAT MY NEPHEW AND GONE EARLIER IN THE WEEK TO MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO BE AMONG THE THOUSANDS WHO WELCOMED PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON HIS STOP-OVER IN MIAMI PRIOR TO A FLIGHT TO DALLAS, TEXAS. I ALSO REMEMBER, QUITE VIVIDLY, FANK (sic) AND MY (sic) WATCHING TELEVISION THAT SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 24, 1975 (sic) WHEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS BEING ESCORTED THROUGH A DALLAS POLICE STATION AND WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN VIEW OF MILLIONS OF TELEVIEWERS.

THIS MUCH I CAN ATTEST TO: AT THE MOMENT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY MY HUSBAND - FRANK A. STURGIS - WAS WITH ME IN OUR HOME AT 2515 N.W. 122 STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA. JANET STURGIS.

Janet Sturgis lied in order to provide an alibi for her husband. Her affidavit conflicted with that of James Hunt. The Rockefeller Commission did not mention this conflict, however the Rockefeller Commission concluded: "It cannot be determined with certainty where Sturgis actually was on the day of the assassination." This conclusion was derived from the fact that: "All witnesses directly supporting the presence of Sturgis in Miami, Florida, on the day of the assassination are family members or relatives. Less weight can be assigned to the testimony of such interested witnesses..."

STURGIS' SECOND ALIBI

During his deposition in 1978 in the course of *Hunt v Weberman*, Sturgis was asked if he was watching television at 1:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. in Dallas)? Sturgis: "I don't remember, so many years ago, I don't recall, I think it was on all stations..."

Q. What were you doing about 12:30 p.m. on November 22, 1963?

A. On November 22, 1963, at about 12:30 p.m., I was at a party at my home in Miami, Florida, with my wife Janet Sturgis, my mother-in-law, Elizabeth Hunt, and my nephew, who was at my home at that time, James Hunt.

Q. Where was this home located?

A. 2515 N.W. 122nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33167.

Q. Is this the same home you maintain today?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Can you describe your movements on that day, to the best of your recollection?

A. Not really; it was so many years ago. I was at home, I did not go out. I have other people with the Federal Government that do have on record, that could testify or have already testified that I was in Miami on November 22, 1963...I have nothing to hide. The Federal Government knows of my activities, knows where I was at on that particular day of the assassination, and I am quite sure that the government - as far as I'm concerned - is well aware of who is behind -- if there was a conspiracy, I believe there was a conspiracy -- and they are well aware of who was behind the conspiracy.

Q. November 22, 1963, was a working day. Were you working at that time?

A. Most likely.

Q. Did you have any reason for not being at work that day?

A. Friday? No reason.

Q. What were you doing that day? You say you don't remember. Do you remember --

A. I don't recall.

Q. Do you remember talking to a Mr. Michael Canfield, the co-author of this book?

A. On that day?

Q. About the events of that day?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember what you told him?

A. Not really, it's been so --

Q. Could you have told him you were watching television?

A. Possibly yes, yes. As a matter of fact, I think my mother-in-law told me the President was assassinated.

Q. Were you watching television around 12:30 in the afternoon that day?

A. I don't remember; so many years ago. I don't recall.

Q. So you wouldn't remember what program was on?

A. I think it was on all stations. It was a continuation that day of the assassination.

Sturgis said that he was at home on November 22, 1963, watching T.V. and, at the same time, at work that day. He was asked: "Do you remember what you were doing for a living at the time of the assassination, what your job was or how you earned your living?" He responded: "That's quite a long spell. I would have to really wrack my mind to find out at that particular time what I was doing. Right at the present time, I don't know; but I could, you know, through records and so forth...I could look through them and tell you what I was doing that particular time...[I was] at home that day and did leave the house." Sturgis was asked:

Q. Are there any other witnesses besides your immediate relatives and Geraldine Shamma, to verify your whereabouts on November 22, 1963?

A. Yes.

Q. Who are they?

A. William Johnson, we call him Bill Johnson.

Q. Where is he?

A. He lives here in San Souci Estates in Miami, Dade County.

Q. Do you know anybody else?

A. His telephone number is 305-893-6013. Jim Buchanan, as a matter of fact, I believe Jim Buchanan came to my house on that date of November 22, 1963, him and I went off the day of the Kennedy assassination.

Q. Anybody else you remember?

A. Geraldine Shamma, Jim Buchanan, William Johnson, my nephew, Jim Hunt.

Q. What did you tell the Rockefeller Commission?

A. The same thing.

Q. But the Rockefeller Commission said your witnesses were only close relatives.

A. I'm sorry, you're right. I glad you brought that up because just recently, because of all the publicity, people did contact me and tell me, "Hey, you remember this, this, this? If you need any help, fine." Well, I told Fonzi and Fonzi supposedly, I'm not sure whether

he had already been in touch with these people or not, but he is aware of these people I came across. So I turned it over - -

Sturgis said he had seen William Johnson and Geraldine Shamma that day but he was unable to recall the identity of any impartial witnesses. In June 1993 William Johnson was asked whether or not he was with Sturgis that day: "I was not there, no sir. I was not there."

Attorney Mark Friedman asked Sturgis:

Q. Were you with Howard Hunt on November 22, 1963?

A. I don't recall.

Q. "Yes" or "No"?

A. No. If I don't recall why should I say "Yes" or "No"? I don't recall it.

Q. Were you involved in a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy?

A. Never in my life. That is part of the polygraph. The United States Government knows where I was on November 22, 1963. They know where Lee Harvey Oswald was three weeks to the day of the assassination, working at the book depository. There is a witness that knew his whereabouts every day three weeks before. As far as I'm concerned I don't see how in the hell Lee Harvey Oswald could be in Miami riding with Marita Lorenz to Dallas, Texas, who she calls OZZIE, is the biggest fabrication of a lie she ever said in her life. I don't know how she could do it. Let her take a polygraph test.

A SUSPECT: NOVEMBER 23, 1963

On the morning of November 23, 1963, a FBI agent interrogated Sturgis. The Michael Canfield interview revealed:

A. Hey I can show you a clipping where they say I was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Q. Who said this?

A. Newspapers, I even got investigated by that Watergate thing. They asked me where I was. I told them I knew nothing about it. I was home watching television. They felt the CIA might be behind it. So they wanted an investigation of E. Howard Hunt and myself on the assassination of President Kennedy. What the hell do I got to do with the assassination of President Kennedy? I may have disagreed with his policies and so

forth, but that doesn't warrant killing the President of the United States. And they asked me about other attempted assassinations. I said yeah, Cuba. Some people say that if you attempt to assassinate people outside of the United States, wouldn't you be capable of the assassination of the President of the United States? I said, "Well, the thought never entered my mind." But I'm capable of doing many things. I'm that type of a man. But I see no grounds for me doing something like that. You know, he was my Commander-in-Chief.

Q. What about other people in the CIA?

A. The CIA had a lot of different factions, some of which I didn't trust.

Q. Are you convinced the Warren Commission Report was correct?

A. On what?

Q. On the Kennedy assassination.

A. Let me tell you something about the Report. Nobody knows what's in that Report. Only what they wanted to give out. And I don't believe the report is complete. I think there is a conspiracy involved in the assassination of President Kennedy and they covered it up.

Q. Who do you think did it?

A. I don't have the slightest idea. But I think it's one big cover-up.

Q. That's strange they would investigate you for that.

A. Well, they sure did. I had FBI agents over at my house.

Q. For the assassination?

A. Yeah.

Q. When, right after it happened?

A. Right after it happened.

Q. Why did they come to you?

A. I asked them that. They told me I was one person they felt had the capabilities to do it. Heh, heh, heh. They said: "Frank, if there is anybody capable of killing the President

of the United States, you're the guy that can do it." Heh, heh, heh that's funny I told them, "I'm not mad at you or nothing, I had nothing to do with it, but that amuses me..."

Sturgis also told Canfield: "You have to look at my past. I've done a lot of things. I've been on assassination attempts. I was involved in so many things. Skullduggery, intrigue, espionage.

Q. When you say assassination attempts?

A. Well, in foreign countries.

In 1978 Sturgis stated: "Now the FBI did make contact with me after President Kennedy's assassination, yes...I was questioned by the FBI shortly after the assassination. They did come and visit me and question me about my activities during President Kennedy's assassination." Sturgis was asked:

Q. Do you remember one of those agents indicating to you the following words: "Frank, you are one of the few people in this country capable of pulling off something like this?"

A. No. The agent told me that I was one person in this country that could possibly do this, if I *wanted* to.

The notes of Rockefeller Commission investigator Robert Olsen revealed: "Whereabouts November 22, 1963: In Miami, at home, two FBI Agents came to visit him. Bob Dwyer was one. To find out his whereabouts & to get help. Witnesses: His wife Janet Sturgis (Married since 1961) wife's nephew, Jim Hunt (Cincinnati, Ohio, Attorney)." **Robert James Dwyer** was one of the FBI agents who questioned Sturgis on November 23, 1963. Dwyer knew Hemming. Sturgis was an informant for Dwyer. Sturgis explained: "You must understand that I set up an intelligence apparatus here in the United States...and naturally, this information was turned over to the United States Government." Robert Dwyer never filed a formal report of the interview. Hemming said Robert Dwyer told him he had worked with Herbert Philbrick.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT'S DISINFORMATION

In **mid-January 1964** Sturgis and James Buchanan flew to Panama and Costa Rica and investigated setting up a training base. The FBI had pressured *The Sun-Sentinel* into firing James Buchanan, to insure that no more of his "Oswald in Miami" stories appeared. A FBI document dated February 5, 1964, concerning Orlando Bosch read:

Synopsis: Frank Fiorini, admitted associate of William Johnson, denied implication in or any specific knowledge of attempted MIRR air raid

December 28, 1963. Dr. Orlando Bosch gave statement to press claiming that bombs would have been dropped on crowds in Havana celebrating 5th anniversary of the revolution on January 2, 1964, had not boat been seized carrying bombs to secret base in the Caribbean. MM T-1 has advised that Bosch gave this distorted statement to the press for propaganda purposes as MIRR intended only to bomb (deleted) Cuba. MM-T1 also advised that Bosch is presently attempting to raise more money to carry out further bombing raid against Cuba.

The FBI interviewed Frank:

Fiorini is a personal friend of William Johnson. About two weeks ago Fiorini was with Johnson at Broward International Airport. Johnson introduced Fiorini to Charles Bush, who operates an airline charter business at that airport. This was the first and last contact Fiorini had with Bush. After this introduction, Johnson went with Bush to the latter's office at the airport, and Fiorini went to a nearby restaurant where he chanced upon Antonio Sansone, a Cuban exile pilot. Fiorini said that he did not know the nature of Johnson's business with Bush. He denied specific knowledge of Johnson being involved in an air raid attempt in cooperation with Orlando Bosch. He states however, that he knew Johnson was "up to something" but he did not know what.

On **April 28, 1964**, S.A. James O'Conner interviewed James Buchanan, who was employed by Caribbean Press Service, a subsidiary of the Agencia De Informaciones Periodisticas (AIP), a CIA front exposed by *The Miami Herald*. James Buchanan said that he knew the name of Oswald's printer in Miami, but he was sworn to secrecy. Sturgis associate Victor Paneque supplied S.A. James O'Conner with a story that linked Oswald to a G-2 agent named Fernandez. The FBI documents about this interview listed S.A. James O'Conner as Miami SAC. Richard Davis played a part in the imaginary scenario of Victor Paneque. The CIA reported:

DDP relationship: A POA for Panque's use was granted the Miami Station on November 13 1964. The Miami request had stated that he was to be used "as an infiltrator and radio operator. A report of August 10, 1964 stated that he had been infiltrated into Cuba in June 1964 on behalf of the Christian Democratic Movement. Whether he was used operationally is not stated in Panque's 201. He was terminated effective October 31, 1965 for lack of an immediate operational use.

On February 25, 1964, Cyril B. Hamblett, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy retired told the FBI that

Interview for all pertinent information concerning MDC plans to drop magnetic mines on Cuban ports and attack ...

While in Miami during the week of January 13, 1964 Hamblett was contacted on three occasions by Jose Ignacio Rasco who reportedly seeking assistance, guidance and financial help in connected with the proposed dropping of magnetic mines in five Cuban ports. Rasco and his group, the Christian Democratic Movement (MDC) are also reportedly interesting in effecting an operation wherein one plane would bomb Guantanamo Naval Base; the plane would be imputed to Castro forces, thereby creating an immediate anti-Castro movement in the United States...Hamblett also stated that Jose Ignacio Rasco had told him that the CIA had approached the Christian Democratic Movement to offer assistance to Christian Democratic Movement group which is in some Central American country. Hamblett had already furnished this information to Naval Intelligence Unit DIO-3ND. FBI Bufiles indicated Hamblett was Subject of an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property investigation in 1957 in which prosecution was declined. [FBI 97-4110-102]

A highly deleted document dated **April 8, 1964** stated Rosco "told Hamblett that the CIA agent's name was (Deleted as of 2010) who made this offer, but nothing has ever materialized. For info of Bureau Captain John F. Brownlee is Chief of DIO 3ND 90 Church Street, NYC." [FBI FOIA/PA #211,326] On March 4, 1964, the FBI disseminated a lengthy Letter Head Memorandum about the Christian Democratic Movement:

Batista said naturally he has some opposition in the organization. Some people consider him as being at odds with U. S. Government policy. Batista said it was his opinion that the United States political aims and foreign policy does not coincide with that of the Cuban exiles. To work with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is to work for the U. S. aims and goals, which are not necessarily the aims and goals of Cuba for Cuban exiles.

According to Batista, there is no mutual field of interest between the United States Government and Cuban exiles. For the U. S. Government to overthrow the present government of Cuba, is to resolve a United States problem, not a Cuban problem. If Cuban exiles would overthrow the present government of Cuba, there would still be many U. S. Government problems not resolved. Batista said he had in the past visited Washington, D. C., and conferred with U. S. Government officials in an effort to establish a mutual field of interest where Cuban exiles and the U. S. Government could work for mutual benefit, without success. Batista charged that while the U. S. Government complains there is no unity among Cuban exiles, he believes the United States actually does not want unity. He alleged that during 1960, when the Frente Revolucionario Democrato existed, and later became the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), a unity organization, the CIA still worked against unity of Cuban

exile groups. He said CIA did not work for unity within the CRC, but dealt with each individual organization on different terms. CIA refused to work with the leaders of the CRC as representatives of the several organizations. He alleged the policy has persisted to the present time. Batista stated that military operations from the United States against Cuba would probably be continued by himself and other members of the Christian Democratic Movement. They prefer to work in Miami, Florida, area, because of its closeness to Cuba, good facilities for operating boats, availability of the large number of Cubans to serve as mechanics, and to do other necessary labor. [FBI 97-4110-86]

On **April 7, 1964**, Sturgis was interviewed by the FBI "in connection with another matter." [FBI 2-1499-129 pages withheld] On April 21, 1964, U.S. Customs Agents raided the Headquarters of the Christian Democratic Movement and arrested the leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, Laureano Batista Falla. On April 27, 1964, the FBI generated a document about the Christian Democratic Movement and the DRE that was deleted except for the words "U.S. Customs." [FBI 4110-104 (?) 4.27.64]

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST BRIGADE OPERATIONS

STURGIS SUSPECTED CIS AGENT: MAY 1964

In 1964 an Index Card was generated by the CIA concerning Sturgis which read in part "Ref DBA-82236 **September 2, 1964**, Fiorini, Frank; Fiorini, FRED; Frank, ATTILE; CAMBELL, Frank; ATTILA, Frank; BONELLI, Frank. Suspected Cuban Intelligence Service Agent. Manager of Courteous Motors, Miami, May 1964." [Corr Card. #UFG 2194120] In a deposition related to Sturgis' lawsuit against the New York Police Department he said that in the 1960's he used the name Bonelli "in an operation in Central America. It was an operation to do, the operation specifically was to make commando raids against Cuban companies." [USDC SDNY 78 Civ.5113] The results of the FBI investigation of Sturgis during the period of December 10, 1963, to May 13, 1964, were deleted except for these paragraphs:

Information set forth in this report reflecting interview of Subject (Frank Sturgis) by S.A. James J. O'Conner is contained in an FD-320 located in Miami 105-8342, Bufile 105-82555, captioned 'Lee HarveyOswald, AKA; IS-R-CUBA.' (Deleted as of 2010) Miami is not recommending the opening of any cases based on (deleted as of 2010) communication. For the information of the Bureau, on May 11, 1964, Wallace Shanley Assistant Supervising Customs Agent, Miami, Florida, advised S.A. Leman L. Stafford Jr that he had conversed with the Subject on frequent occasions over the past few months. He stated subject has furnished him very little

valuable information in the recent past and felt at this time any active investigation conducted by the Miami Office would not jeopardize the relationship between the subject and Customs. Shanley added that he is not utilizing Subject as source anymore, though Subject does contact him infrequently. The extensive period of this investigation was necessitated by various expeditious technical matters assigned to reporting agent. (Deleted – names of informants)." [FBI 2-1499-129]

STURGIS AND AMERICA'S AIR DEFENSE: MAY 1964

The **May 26, 1964**, issue of the *Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel* contained an article captioned "I Flew Mercy Mission to Cuban Guerillas." The source for this article was "Manuel Fernandez" who claimed to be a member of the 30th of November Movement and the International Anti-Communist Brigade. The article stated that a twin-engine aircraft took off from a South Florida airstrip shortly after midnight, Monday morning, May 25, 1964, carrying cargo of food, equipment, one hundred and fifty thousand propaganda leaflets and a complete field hospital. Three persons were allegedly on the plane which flew a supply mission to 30th of November forces fighting guerrilla war in Eastern Cuba. On **May 25, 1964**, the International Anti-Communist Brigade announced it had conducted a bombing raid over Cuba. The next day several Congressmen inquired how the International Anti-Communist Brigade team eluded the air defenses of the United States on its return. The FBI reported:

On **May 27, 1964**, Elmo Rainbolt, Chief Patrol Inspector, U.S. Border Patrol, advised he received a telephone call from Paul Rogers, member U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., on morning May 27, 1964, in which Rogers stated following: Rogers had received information that an aircraft had asked for, and been given, a checkout inspection by United States Border Patrol on May 25, 1964, at Fort Lauderdale International Airport. A twin engine Beechcraft then allegedly departed at 12:30 a.m. that date from Tamiami airport, Miami, as a substitute for the inspected plane. It allegedly returned, undetected by radar, to the Tamiami Airport at 4:15 a.m. May 25, 1964. Rainbolt said his investigation had revealed no inspection or flight plans were filed during that period, and there was no report on radar of any unknown penetration of the air defense identification zone...On May 27, 1964, Arthur Eno, head of the FAA Miami advised he has been unable to develop any information concerning the flight as alleged by Representative Rogers. [FBI Miami 2-1499 NR 180 6.15.64]

On **May 26, 1964**, the Pentagon told a House Committee that investigations by four government agencies showed that a reported flight on May 25, 1964, by members of the International Anti-Communist Brigade to Cuba, did not take place, and was a concocted publicity story. The Defense Department issued a press release which stated that the raid never occurred. [FBI 2-1499-131, 132] The Associated Press reported that

the U.S. Defense Department had the statement of Sturgis in which he said: "To the best of my knowledge a raid on Cuba on **May 25, 1964**, did not take place. I declare that U.S. radar defenses were not violated while leaving or entering the U.S." On June 3, 1964, United States Customs, Miami, advised the FBI that Fiorini denied any connection with alleged flight. A CIA representative told the FBI (Deleted). [FBI 2-1499 NR 6.4.64 p.2] Gaeton Fonzi reported that on May 27, 1964:

Priority telegram regarding alleged air drop into Cuba: FYI Colonel Sam Kail received a call from General Maxwell Taylor's office on May 26, 1964, referring to an article in the *Pompano Beach Sun Sentinel* regarding reported air drop over Cuba...The story reported that the International Anti-Communist Brigade, and the 30th of November Movement, collaborated on the flight. Allegedly Frank Sturgis, Craig Sheldon and James Buchanan were involved.

On May 28, 1964, the FBI in Miami generated a document about Sturgis and the 30th of November Movement: "For information of the Bureau, U.S. Customs Agency, Miami, is presently endeavoring to locate and interview (Deleted) concerning the 30th of November Organization's participation in the alleged flight on May 25, 1964, over Cuba." This highly deleted report indicated that a copy of this document was filed in Sturgis' file. [FBI 12-1499 NR 6.15.64] Circa May 30, 1964, the CIA received a cable about James Buchanan:

1. Miami Herald **May 27, 1962** carries front page item by James Buchanan entitled, "Miro Fades As Exile Chief: Three Latin Leaders Behind Ray." Article flatly states Miro and council have been replaced by Manuel Ray with backing Gov Nuno Marin, Pres. Romulo Betancourt and former President Jose Figueras, that Ray has taken over post with "blessing of the United States." Further article states, "From variety sources Herald learned that Miro was notified of change only this week" and that Ray's reappointment as "Chief in Exile" came from "underground in Cuba" according to Joaquin Godoy, provisional MRP head in Miami. After furnishing resume Cuban activities since origin of AMBUD, article credits Cubans in Miami as saying "the new man in the field" is Adolf. A. Berle, Jr. who has been special assistant to State Department and is also "member of President Kennedy's special task force on Latin America." Implication being that Berle is running new United States sponsored Cuban effort.

2. This release causing some furor in local Cuban colony to extent at least one OPS Agent destined for isolation training has asked to be relieved if the (illegible) story. Meanwhile WAVE checks with knowledgeable contacts has produced little other than William S. Wibalda's statement that Buchanan journalistic reputation indicates he is inaccurate and sensationalist. AMCLATTER-1 and PASSOVOY attempting to discreetly trace Buchanan source for "U.S. blessing."

3. Buchanan has previously attacked Miro during the return of Playa Giron prisoners Miami. Have no real insight into significance these attacks but believe they could reflect Buchanan or Miami Herald attempts to force changes in United States posture re: Cuba.

4. Expect article will have further repercussions as it spreads. Wish alert HQS that it may be necessary to initiate action to discredit Buchanan story as well as reassure Miro. Will forward suggestions this regard after we have opportunity to further assess story's impact. Andrew K. Reuteman

In June 1964, the FBI received information from its New Orleans office that the Christian Democratic Movement planned to bomb Havana's oil refineries. [Airtel To SAC NO From Hoover (97-4110-114) mailed 6.17.64] On July 14, 1964, Sturgis furnished the CIA with information on a raid planned by Orlando Bosch. On July 16, 1964, another Letter Head Memorandum about the FBI Christian Democratic Movement was generated.

Re: MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO

(CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, INTERNAL SECURITY, NEUTRALITY MATTERS)

MM T-1 who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities for the past six years on July 7, 1964 furnished the following information.

Laureano Batista Falla continues to be the Military Chief of the Christian Democratic Movement maintaining headquarters at 1732 NW 7th Street, Miami, Florida. On April 21, 1964, representatives of the Dade County Sheriff's Office and the United States Customs Service raided Christian Democratic Movement headquarters, confiscated a large amount of arms and ammunition, and arrested Batista. Later Batista established the military headquarters at 837 Southwest 29th Ave. The MDC continued to maintain its organization office at 1732 Northwest Seventh Street, Miami. Batista established the military headquarters on 29th Avenue to have a point where arms and ammunition could be stored and which members of the military section could use to plan infiltration and attack missions against Cuba. Batista left Miami Florida with several people and two boats on about July 3, 1964. He has been in periodic contact with the second in command of his military action group, Angel Vega. On July 5, 1964 Batista returned to Miami, Florida, and visited with Vega at military headquarters. He said he had just returned from three infiltration operations into Cuba and was accompanied by Victor Paneque, also known as Commandant Diego. Batista indicated he had returned to Miami for the purpose of trying to obtain additional arms and ammunition and military equipment for some

of his men who are presently outside the United States, not in Cuba, but who are believed to be somewhere in the Bahamas. Batista stated the purpose of his trips to Cuba was to infiltrate equipment and some men. The two groups which he now has in Cuba will eventually form guerilla bands. At the present time these two groups are living quietly with their relative in Cuba. They are waiting the time when Batista can supply them with adequate arms and ammunition, at which time they will form guerilla bands and go into the mountains. [FBI 97-4110-123 page 3 w/h]

The Christian Democratic Movement was still active from 1965 to 1968. On October 30, 1964, the FBI generated this LHM:

On August 9, 1964 Batista stated he wanted to leave the following day to visit his military training camp outside the United States. Batista stated he planned to meet an unidentified person in the parking lot of an unidentified supermarket in Miami during the night hours, to receive some home-made bombs, which previously belonged to Frank Sturgis an American mercenary and adventurer living in Miami Florida...During the middle of August 1964 Batista was studying a number of detail maps of Cuba. Some of these maps bear the stamp "For Official Use Only." These maps were obtained by Batista from Robert K. Brown, an American adventurer, part time writer, former University of Colorado student and U.S. Army Reserve Captain. These maps appear to be classified and are the regular military maps used by the United States Army...*Patria* is a Spanish language paper published weekly in Miami, Florida. On September 11, 1964, *Patria* contained an article stating that the MDC issued a lengthy document accusing American agencies of being led by Cuban exile movements that are split up and divided. The MDC claimed the United States Government artificially creates leaders for the Cuban exile movements, persecutes independent Cuban exile organizations, and interferes in Cuban exile affairs. The MDC uses the term "check eaters" to refer to those person or organizations which have received financial aid or backing from the U.S. Government. [FBI 97-4110-132]

In 1968 the FBI conducted a Secret study of Laureano Batista Falla, the Christian Democratic Movement and the Dominican Republic. [FBI 97-4623-180 2.27.68] Laureano Batista Falla died of cancer in 1992 at age 56.

STURGIS: 1965 TO 1967

On February 3, 1965, Bill Johnson arranged an air strike against Cuba for Orlando Bosch's MIRR. Jack Brooks Wright crashed in Freeport after similar raid on January 17, 1965. In January 2004 I received this email:

In Nodule 19, you mention a pilot killed in the Freeport by the name of Jack Brooks Wright who worked for the anti-communist organization. I am his son. For the record, the twin-engine Beechcraft flying under the radar mentioned in the paragraphs prior (the May 25th raid) was more than likely my father's plane (A twin Beech Bonanza). I have heard about my father's trips into Cuba under the radar for years from my Mother and all about the man from the anti-communist organization who was stealing from the Cubans. I have always suspected that my father's crash was not an accident, but after reading the accounts and knowing what else I know from my mother and the event around the time of his death, my suspicions now seem real. He refused to fly for the organization again and coincidentally crashed several days later February 2, 1965. The day before someone else flew the raid (February 3rd, 1965). My father also flew into Mexico several times around the time of the Ruby flight and knew the Cuban route well. I was really shaken up by the article. I found it by typing in "Jack Brooks Wright" pilot and when shocked when your site appeared. I am going to do some more research into my father's crash. If you know anything else, I would appreciate it.

With Respect,
Wesley Brooks Wright

In 1966 Sturgis was employed at the Gulfstream Park Race Track as a bartender, and had been fingerprinted in conjunction with this employment on March 12, 1966. [FBI 139-4089-1435] In April 1967, Sturgis was involved in a plan to blow up a Cuban ship in a Mexican seaport. Ronnie Sturgis told the FBI: "I was present when explosives and detonators were hidden in the body of my father's car at a Miami garage. Orlando Bosch was there. The car would be placed on a ship at Vera Cruz. It was an anti-Castro action." On June 28, 1967, Sturgis was mentioned in "FBI File #45-1102, Subject: Unknown; Attempt to Bomb Freight Boat *Oro Verde* of Nassau Bahamas Registry, Pier Three, Miami, Florida, October 18, 1966." On September 25, 1967, the *Miami News* contained an article captioned "Exile Ransom Try Seeks Swiss Aid." This article indicated that Sturgis' organization, International Anti-Communist Brigade, was endeavoring to arrange ransom of 500 Cuban political prisoners in exchange for five million dollars worth of medicines and foodstuffs. Geraldine Shamma joined Sturgis in attempting to carry out the ransom plan.

Mrs. Shamma stated the committee is comprised of six Cuban woman and herself, each of whom were former Cuban prisoners in Cuba and an "American anti-Castro adventurer" Frank Fiorini. The article related Shamma announced the ransom had allegedly been pledged by several anti-communist Latin American "businessmen, politicians and military men", whose names were being withheld by the committee. Alter stated if a favorable reply from Fidel Castro should be relayed by the Czechoslovakian embassy, ne then "would consider" travelling to Cuba to start negotiations.

On December 7, 1967, Mr. Henry Taylor, Office of the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, United States Department of State, advised that the International Anti-Communist Brigade had alleged 15 million dollars was available for use in obtaining the release of Cuban political prisoners. Reportedly, Shamma has been in contact with the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington, and allegedly obtained permission from the Cuban Government to enter and leave Cuba. Mr. Taylor stated Shamma had not been in contact with his office since their first meeting several months previously. On December 8, 1967, Shamma declared to *Replica* that she would go to Cuba to negotiate the freedom of political prisoners. According to an article which appeared in this publication on December 4, 1967, Shamma was quoted as saying she was 'prepared for any eventuality.'...This article also reflected she had exhibited to a reporter of *Replica* a photostatic copy of an answer from the Czechoslovakian Embassy, Washington, D.C. stating the Cuban Government was studying her request. Shamma added she was ready to go to Cuba and personally talk with Fidel Castro, if that were possible, in order to help rescue the Cuban political prisoners. Benjamin Alter [IACB legal advisor] indicated the two principal members of the IACB connected with this activity were Geraldine Shamma and Frank Fiorini. They reportedly had financial supporters from 12 different Latin American countries however, their identities were not disclosed. [FBI 105-172694-2p]

In 1968 Sturgis met with Santo Trafficante. He told the HSCA: "I met him once in a Miami restaurant in 1968." In July 1968 Fiorini formulated OPERATION SWORD. The FBI reported:

During **June 1968**, information was received from various persons in the Miami area that Sturgis was attempting to organize a mercenary force to fight in Cuba. Sturgis solicited volunteers for this force through advertisements placed in South Florida newspapers. Several persons answered the ads were interviewed and verified that they had been offered varying amounts of money to become part of Sturgis' mercenary force organized to fight Castro forces in Cuba. (Deleted)

Sturgis associate Ray Sandstrom placed a newspaper ad for adventurers. Sturgis stated: "I believe Ray flew for the CIA in Broward, Fort Lauderdale. Yeah, I received

information that Ray was working for the CIA." Max Gonzalez, a close associate of Sturgis, screened the applicants. Out of 60 applicants 11 were chosen. The men were to meet in Guadalajara, Mexico, however, when they arrived, they found that the hotel they were supposed to stay at had been torn down. After two weeks of training in the mud, they went to Progreso, Mexico. In October 1968, a boat load of mercenaries commanded by Sturgis left Progreso and headed toward Cuba, but ran aground off the coast of Belize, British Honduras. The FBI reported:

On **October 23, 1968**, and October 24, 1968, Sturgis and 12 other individuals were arrested by British Honduras authorities on charges of illegal entry. Various weapons, ammunitions and supplies were confiscated from the group at the time of arrest. Fiorini and his group reportedly had hijacked a 24-foot yacht, *Amigo*, in order to transport themselves and their supplies to a remote island off British Honduras. All participants interviewed at Miami, and most admitted knowledge of participating in a military operation against Cuba. At the time of interview Fiorini indicated Col. Francisco Quesada, and at least 25 other Cuban exiles participating in the plan were to rendezvous with the *Amigo*, but that the rendezvous had failed when the *Amigo* ran aground through the incompetency of its captain. It was through this accident that the boat was forced into the port of Belize, British Honduras, for repairs and re-fueling. No charges were lodged against Fiorini and his group by the U.S. as a result of this incident. [FBI 139-4089-394]

On October 26, 1968, the Domestic Intelligence Division of the FBI prepared a "TREAT AS YELLOW" URGENT cable about Sturgis, much of which was withheld:

Previous data indicated Frank Fiorini, long-time anti-Castroite and head of anti-Castro International Anti-Communist Brigade claimed his group would assist Guatemalan Government in cleaning out communist guerillas in exchange for Guatemalan assistance in invasion of Cuba. Fiorini and some 12 men reportedly recently departed Florida for Mexico. Department October 17, 1968, advised activities of group constitute possible violation of neutrality statutes and we are investigating. On October 24, 1968 US Consul, Merida, Mexico, advised group observed boarding vessel in Mexico and alerted authorities in Guatemala and British Honduras.

Attached data indicates our Consul in Belize, British Honduras, has advised the arrest Fiorini and group. Fiorini claimed group planned landing in Cuba. Attached data was furnished to by teletype to State, CIA and military intelligence agencies [Department of the Army, Air Force and to the Defense Intelligence Agency]. State was requested to furnish background data to Consul in Belize. Data is also being furnished to

Internal Security Division, Customs, and Miami Office. [FBI 105-172964-19]

Sturgis told the US Counsel that the plan of the group was to land south side of Cuba and enter mountains. "Charles Connelle was identified as Jerry Buchanan. Governor, British Honduras appears inclined turn all over to Mexican Government. Fiorini admitted coercion of Mexican Captain who was handcuffed at one point during trip. Fiorini desires return to US and requested lawyer Ray Sandstrom and Senator Smathers be advised." The FBI had checked on Sturgis with its representative in Mexico City. The representative cabled "brief, descriptive data on the International Anti-Communist Brigade" to the U.S. Consul in Belize. [FBI 105-172694-37]

The FBI noted the departure of Sturgis from Belize aboard TACA Airlines on October 31, 1968. [FBI 105-172694-30, 31 FBI 105-172694-29 – 35 NARA Record Number: 124-10302-10152]

THE NATURE OF THE MISSION

Was Sturgis involved in an attempt to hijack a Soviet freighter and ransom it for the U.S. spy ship Pueblo and its crew? Sturgis told Paul Meskil:

The men were told it was to be a commando raid into Cuba to free political prisoners from Castro's concentration camps.' To lend credence to his story, Sturgis displayed a map showing the locations of Cuban prisons and prison camps. He also had a list of prisoners who supposedly were to be freed. None of the men, not even Gonzalez, were told of the real objective. 'This operation was planned months in advance. The CIA in Miami was aware of it. So were several other federal agencies, including the FBI and Customs. The objective was not to raid Cuba, but to rendezvous with another ship off the coast of Mexico and, with the assistance of this ship, seize a Russian vessel. We were to meet a Cuban vessel. I assume it was a naval vessel, commanded by Cuban navy officers who were disenchanted with Castro. The orders for completing the operation were aboard the Cuban ship. The captain also had a sailing schedule listing arrivals and departures of all Soviet and Communist bloc vessels in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. We hoped to grab a Soviet fishing trawler that was actually a spy ship. This ship was to be intercepted by the Cuban vessel. The captain of the Soviet ship probably would not be suspicious of a boarding party wearing Cuban Navy uniforms. We would then capture the ship. We were to take it off the coast of Venezuela. The orders were not to go into any port, but to stay off the coast. Certain officials in the Venezuelan Government were aware of the plan. They

would participate in negotiations for the release of the captive ship and crew. A statement would be issued to the effect that we wanted to exchange the ship and crew for certain political prisoners in Cuba. But this was a ruse. Then we would go into the second phase of the operation - to dicker with the Russians and the North Koreans for the release of the U.S.S. Pueblo, its captain and crew, who were still in confinement at this time.

The FBI reported:

Sturgis had plans to lead his army to a rendezvous in the mountains of Mexico and from there proceed to Guatemala. Sturgis claimed the Guatemalan Government would be assisted by his organization in cleaning out Communist guerillas from the hills of Guatemala. When this accomplished, Guatemalan Government supposedly had promised to assist Sturgis in a planned invasion of Cuba.

Max Gonzalez claimed OPERATION SWORD was a mission to assassinate Fidel Castro. On July 25, 1975, an unidentified component of the CIA prepared this Memorandum for the Record on Max Gonzalez (No Security File):

One Max Gorman Gonzalez, who may be identical with the name of interest, circa early June 1975 stated publicly that he planned to sue the CIA for involving him in what he charged was a plot headed by Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis to assassinate Fidel in 1968. Apparently Max Gorman Gonzalez is basing his suit on recent claims of Frank Sturgis that he, Sturgis, has been a long time CIA employee. Sturgis' claim of CIA employment is not supported by security records. Gonzalez claims that he was used unwittingly, without his consent or knowledge, by the CIA. Gonzalez claimed use by this Agency vis Sturgis apparently involves the arrest in October 1968 of Sturgis, GONZALEZ and several other individuals connected with Sturgis' International Anti-Communist Brigade while they were attempting to invade Cuba in contravention of the Neutrality Act.

In November 1968 the FBI questioned **Max Gonzalez** (born December 29, 1929; aka Max Gorman) about this aborted operation. He told them: "It was a CIA operation. Sturgis was a CIA agent at the time, although his employment was not supported by Security records, and may still not be. He was in contact with other CIA agents in Guadalajara and Mexico City. Sturgis never told me what our real mission was, but I knew it was important to the Agency." The FBI generated a message about the International Anti-Communist Brigade dated October 26, 1968. [CIA FOIA F81-0351

D0532] Due to Senator George Smathers pulling some strings, no federal indictments were sought against Sturgis or his group, however Max Gonzalez was arrested on an outstanding warrant for bad checks. [FBI 105-172694-34] The FBI questioned Max Gonzalez at Miami International Airport:

He has been involved actively in the IACB for about four years. He that, to his knowledge, Fiorini is the only IACB leader, although he feels for the operation which ended abortively at Belize, British Honduras, Fiorini must have been working with some other group of 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 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 answered 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, guerilla, and counter-guerilla 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 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..." 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.

He said that the IACB plan before leaving Miami was to train in Guatemala for approximately six weeks, then to proceed by boat to Cuba on November 1, 1968, and to conceal themselves in a pre-arranged Sierra

Maestre Mountains, Oriente Province, hideout until next January 1, 1968, when a raid to capture political or military prisoners would be carried out, these prisoners would later be exchanged for Cuba-held political prisoners. He said the he, and all the others involved were aware of this general outline of the planned operation before departing from Florida 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 give Spanish lessons 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 a craft which would take them into Cuba. He was to return to his Florida home.

He said that the plan to train in Guatemala had to be changed because it was learned, after the IACB arrived in Mexico, that communist guerilla activity in Guatemala was too intense at the time to permit training activity 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 man picked him up, by pre-arrangement in Chevrolet with Florida license plates. He and his companion, who he declined to name, entered Mexico at Matamoros, near Brownsville, Texas, on approximately August 22, 1968. He said that he entered Mexico as Max Gorman and showed the Mexican border guards a Florida drivers license in that name. He said that he had purchased the drivers 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.

He said that he and his companion proceeded inside Mexico to Ciudad Mante for about two days, then 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 Christobal Las Casas. He looked over this area for a possible base camp, but did not find a suitable site. He then proceeded to Comitán, again by bus, where he met three others of the IACB group. From Comitán, he proceeded into Guatemala, accompanied by an Indian guide, as previously

mentioned...Upon his return, he found an IACB base camp already set up outside Comitán, about one mile from the Guatemalan border.

He said that the base camp near the Guatemalan-Mexico border was broken up about October 23, 1968, no real training actually having been conducted, and those, number no disclosed, encamped there had proceed to Merida. This encampment was called Camp Sand, in contrast to the mountain encampment which had been called Camp Mud.

Around October 28, 1968, they boarded the *Amigo*, a Mexican charter fishing boat, at Progreso, and head 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 return to Florida. He said he had no information concerning the second boat or its passengers.

He said 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 he IACB group in attempting to affect the sea rendezvous with the 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 a feeling that they were a little early and that Fiorini was directing a zig-zag course as a means of delaying their arrival at the rendezvous point. At any rate, the *Amigo* 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 Gonzalez, from previous course settings by Fiorini, that the vessel was off course prior to the grounding, but Fiorini insisted on directing the 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 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 says 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 International Anti-Communist Brigade 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 he had 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 authorities 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.

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 court missed date, but he felt that satisfactory arrangements could be made for a new court date without his being jailed in the interim. The following description of Gonzalez was obtained from interview and observation: Height 5'6"; Weight 130 pounds; Hair brown, receding at temples; Eyes blue; Characteristics: Broken, discolored teeth.

David Atlee Phillips stated that Cuban exiles in Florida, with no connection to the CIA, planned to "slip ashore into the United States naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, and launch their attack against Castro from there." Phillips informed the CIA of the plot and when a wire service carried an account of this story,

I had a reaction from Florida. A man named Maxim Emilio Gonzalez told Associated Press in Miami that he planned a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the CIA because he had been 'thrown to the wolves' by the CIA when an assassination plot he was involved in had to be aborted...Sturgis said the scheme was very possibly OPERATION SWORD, in which he had conspired with Gonzalez. [Phillips *Nightwatch* pp. 284, 208]

Hemming told this researcher: "OPERATION SWORD was a lot of Sturgis horseshit. Heh, heh. Bethel told Phillips about it." Sturgis wrote: "1963 travel and business (operation sword) Mexico and Honduras." Sturgis told Paul Meskill the recruits used in OPERATION SWORD "were to provide their own transportation." The men rented cars using the false identification provided by Sturgis. Sturgis' men sold these cars in Mexico. Six months after Sturgis and company ran aground, Robert Curtis, a member of Sturgis' group, was arrested for automobile theft. It took a Broward County jury 20 minutes to convict Curtis of the unauthorized use of a car, a crime for which he went to jail. According to the indictment of Sturgis and his co-defendants as prepared the U.S. A. Robert Rust in 1973, Curtis's rented car was one of at least three Florida cars the entered Mexico with Sturgis' self-styled army. Max Gonzalez drove another one. By October 7, 1968, the indictment stated, the Floridians traveling in various cars had regrouped in Guadalajara, Mexico. According to Curtis, the cars disappeared and Sturgis' Brigade hung around a Mexican motel. Then Curtis said, he and Richard Brown were told that "we had to go back to Texas and rent another car. Frank had a typewriter with a leather case. Sewn into the case were Florida license tags, blank titles, birth certificate forms and blank registration forms. With the typewriter kit and a Gulf Oil Credit card in the name of Charles Connell, Curtis and Brown went to Brownsville, Texas, and rented another car. We put on the Florida tag and threw away the Texas tag. Then we drove the car into Mexico." Curtis also contended that the Captain and the First Mate of the *Amigo* were forced to sail when Sturgis wanted them to sail because they were held at gunpoint. [*Miami Herald* 9.7.73] Less than a week later, according to the indictment, Curtis was at it again on orders from Sturgis and Buchanan. Sturgis had issued false ID to his recruits so that they could rent cars that were to be abandoned in Mexico, not sold, however, some of Sturgis' men sold the cars in Mexico or retained them. Curtis testified: "I had a number of blank duplicate Florida titles, Registration Cards, Birth Certificates, Drivers Licenses, that I obtained from Frank Sturgis."

Hemming told this researcher: "Sturgis was a fucking car thief." On **November 14, 1968**, the *Norfolk Virginia Ledger Star* carried an article entitled EX-Castro FRIEND JAILED FISH HEADS, RICH SLIM DIET:

The latest chapter in the running saga of Norfolkian Frank Fiorino's fight with Fidel Castro includes an 11 day stay in a British Honduras jail where he lost 20 pounds while living on fish heads and rice. It happened three

weeks ago while Fiorini and 12 other Americans were on their way to make a commando raid against sabotage targets on the coast of western Cuba. Fiorini stated: 'We left one of our camps on the Yucatan Peninsula in a 30-foot cabin cruiser called *The Amigo*. We were supposed to rendezvous at sea with another boat and transfer the stock of weapons and medical supplies for a run into the coast of Cuba. Because of bad weather, *The Amigo* ended up on a reef just south of Mexican territorial waters off the coast of British Honduras. We had to spend the night there. The next morning we finally got her off with the help of a couple of native boats. Unfortunately the night on the reef had opened up the seams so *The Amigo* had to limp into the nearest port - Belize. There, they began unloading the rifles and over \$1,000 in medical supplies. Then the ship was taken over by British Army Units. We were kept in jail for four days before we had a hearing before a British Magistrate. The Chief of the Honduran intelligence section asked for a week continuance in order to investigate further. They continued to keep us in jail during that week. The jail, incidentally, was 156 years old. I was by myself in a cell four and a half feet wide, and eleven feet long. We had one meal a day of fishheads and rice. Occasionally we got chicken necks and rice. The authorities apologized they couldn't give us more, but said it was a poor country. At the end of the week I was brought to the magistrate again. I served as a spokesman and asked that we not be deported to Mexico as had been suggested. I knew it was filled with Castro sympathizers there and my life would be in great danger.

CIA Agent David McLean saw this article and sent it to CIA Agent Harry T. Mahoney: November 15, 1968. "Dear Harry: Presumably anyone who has been 'making frequent raids inside Cuba' will be of interest to Dave Phillips & Co. Hence I enclosed another clipping from my favorite newspaper, *The Norfolk Ledger-Star...Dave.*" [CIA D002224] The activities of Frank Sturgis from 1969 to 1971 remained a mystery. In February 1969 the CIA had the FBI run a check on him.

THE WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP 1971

In early 1971 Sturgis set up a tax-exempt church in Miami. During *Hunt v Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Did you start your own church?

A. Why? I had none. Well, I wanted to set up some missions in Central and South America for poor people in the Andes, and so forth; but, unfortunately, Watergate destroyed that.

That year, James Buchanan was arrested entering Mexico with a truckload of automatic weapons. In late 1971 Barker recruited Sturgis for the White House Special Operations Group. Sturgis:

Well, Barker again, having contact with him, socially and business-wise, and what have you, one day, I don't know when he told me, or it might have been weeks or months prior to my involvement with the Special Intelligence Unit, or my recruitment, he sat down and spoke to me and he says, 'Frank, do you remember 'Eduardo'? Well I spoke with 'Eduardo,' and we are putting something together, your background and so forth. And we would like you to get involved with us again. The same people as before, the same Americans upstairs who were involved in the Bay of Pigs. And my name was given for a clearance. And naturally I was cleared."

Evidence suggested that Nixon wanted the same crew who were involved in the Kennedy assassination as part of the White House Special Operations Group. In a Motion for Discovery of Exculpatory Information, Sturgis asked for telephone conversations between White House personnel and the CIA, FBI in 1971, 1972 and 1973, relevant to his activities. Sturgis also believed that Nixon had discussed his activities, and that this discussion had been picked-up by the White House recording system during the years 1971, 1972, and 1973.

ALLEN MICHAEL FITZGERALD

FBI COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JANUARY 25, 1973

KNR 022 LA PLAIN

852 PM NITEL 1-24-73 MAN

TO ACTING DIRECTOR (139-4089)

WFO (139-166)

FROM LOS ANGELES (139-306) (P) 3P

Reference: Regarding Boston teletype to Director, January 23, 1973, and Bureau telephone call to Los Angeles January 24, 1973.

On January 24, 1973, Cheryl Kathleen Fitzgerald, 5312 Kester Avenue, Apt 2, Van Nuys, California, was interviewed by Bureau agents and advised she spoke with her husband, Allen Michael Fitzgerald on November 27, 1972, while he was in custody at Adult Correctional Institute, Howard, Rhode Island. Fitzgerald asked her if she recalled him telling her approximately three years ago of his meeting of his meeting with then CIA agent James McCord at the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, California, through an introduction by Los Angeles Police Department Detective Gene Scherrer. She advised Fitzgerald did recall his mentioning this meeting. Fitzgerald then indicated that this was the same individual indicted in the Watergate matter.

Fitzgerald advised that she and her husband resided in Mexico from September 1970, through December 1971. While in a hotel restaurant at Hermosio, Sonora, Mexico, in either October or November 1971, she recalls her husband walking to another table and engaging in a conversation with an individual she now believes to have been Frank Sturgis. She viewed six black and white photos, one of which was a photo of Sturgis. She was unable to identify Sturgis, photo 3. Fitzgerald based her belief that this individual her husband met in Mexico was Sturgis from a photo she saw in *Time Magazine*.

Fitzgerald stated she did not write a letter to *The New York Times*, however, she believed her husband, Allen Fitzgerald, wrote the letter and she recalls having him tell her on November 27, 1972, that he had in fact written a letter to *The New York Times*.

Fitzgerald advised her husband, Allen, told her three years ago that he had written a letter to 'Kenneth W. Clawson,' at that time a *New York Times* reporter, which letter Fitzgerald alleged was used by Clawson to 'gain a position on the White House Staff.' The letter was believed to contain information regarding narcotics and political affairs. Fitzgerald stated she never saw the letter.

On January 22, 1973, she received a telephone call from Seymour Hirsch, *New York Times*, requesting additional information regarding her husband's connection to [Watergate]. She advised she furnished no further information on the subject matter. (Deleted) She further advised she is considering pleading under Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property to charge pending against her in Rhode Island.

Her former husband, Captain Peter Lucarelli, Los Angeles Fire Department, advised he knows Allen Fitzgerald and considers him to be a con man. Consequently he doubts Fitzgerald's reliability. Report follows: (Deleted).

THE 1972 CONVENTION PROVOCATION

The **1972** Republican and Democratic Conventions were scheduled for July and August in Miami Beach, Florida. In a "Secret, Eyes Only" memorandum prepared for USDC Judge William M. Hoeveler, Hemming claimed that:

During January 1972 I was contacted by FBI Agent Robert Dwyer in reference to assisting Miami FBI project involving Ed Kaiser and Frank Sturgis that motivated a 1972 meeting with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Miami Supervisor Hale for backstop briefing. Sturgis was at the time a White House/Special Operations Group operative, and was later arrested at Watergate during June 1972.

In April 1976 Hemming told Dick Russell:

There were some plans for the convention. I talked to some of the people participating in it, who later participated in the Watergate thing. Create a shoot-out using the Yippies and the Zippies and the other 'hard core commies' they were so worried about. The people I spoke to were going to put some of this equipment in their hands, and some in law enforcement hands, and use some of the local vigilantes to start a shoot out. This would finally straighten out Washington as to where the priorities were on overcoming the 'domestic communist menace.

Hemming stated to this researcher in 1993:

I get a phone call from Bob Dwyer. I hadn't talked to him in months, since the Nixon compound thing. Some of Veciana's boys had a scheme to have a Cuban Comar fire a STIX missile at the compound. There was a similar plan to attack Guantanamo during the Bay of Pigs. They were gonna take out Nixon and put Agnew in power. I told Dwyer that to me it was all a provocation, and would end up in arrests, and I'm the fucking guy standing in the middle. Czukas shows up at my home to discuss this. Shanley should have been there. Czukas asks me to withdraw my license to export weapons to the Guatemalan Congress. A quarter of a million dollar deal. When I told my partner, he said, 'That lying cocksucker wanted me to give weapons to Sturgis who was over here earlier and spilled the fucking beans.' Czukas was always the domineering bad type of cop asshole who was going to put us all away. He was a company motherfucker. I told my partner, 'You know Bob Dwyer. He called me the other day with the same shit. They're trying to set us up.' Whatley shows up, I was using Bernardo De Torres office at the time. He shows up with his cousin - here's an ex-felon carrying a badge and a gun. His cousin was a Lieutenant in the

Sheriff's Department in Jefferson City, Colorado. We meet at the Holiday Inn Motel at the airport. I said 'I'll demonstrate the weapons to you.' I call Bernie and tell him to leave the weapon in the office I'll come over there. We fired it into a phone book behind the office. We demonstrated the silencer and the whole thing. Whatley wanted me to sell them to him under the table. I told him to get a letter from the Jefferson City Chief of Police saying he needed machine guns. We considered this a provocation. The first question that comes up in my mind is 'Why aren't they going to Powder Springs Georgia and talking to Werbell?' They wanted more than one machine gun. My guess was that they were going to give them to Frank. They need silenced weapons so that somebody in the crowd of demonstrators, maybe Kaiser, could crank off a few rounds. The guys would be told 'Shoot some demonstrators in the back, drop your weapons, and get the fuck out of there!' Now other people with silenced weapons would be taking out direct targets. No one would hear this. The weapons dropped would be the same caliber. They didn't want 45 caliber Mac 10's, they wanted nine millimeter. The nine millimeter round was a sonic round. We had to half load the powder to keep it below supersonic so that the silencer would work effectively. A 45 round is subsonic. They wanted a nine millimeter because they were going to have thrown down pieces that were the same caliber. The 45 rounds look like it was government issued to Cubans. If the demonstrators were found with German World War II souvenirs, Lugars and P-38s, this is all pawn shop weapons, readily available. Sturgis was trying to use Kaiser as his cut out. Sturgis was famous for waving 'bye-bye' at the airport. I don't think Sturgis would be anywhere near the scene. That he got caught (laughs) in the Texas School Book Depository is...everybody said finally the motherfucker did something instead of sending others to do it and what do you know? He got caught.

Hemming said the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms wanted him to help stop Sturgis from instigating a shoot-out at the Republican Convention, however, it sounded more like Hemming originated the idea, or was a part of the scheme. Hemming told this researcher:

You can't be around this shit unless all hands think you're a player. How's that? Is that the best way to put it? Will they dump a player? Will they Oswald a player? Absolutely.

Sturgis was asked about this: "He's a liar! I'm not aware of these allegations; plus I'm saying he's a liar. If he made those statements, he's a liar."

CORROBORATION - VINCENT J. HANNARD

Hemming's story was verifiable. During the trial of the Gainesville Eight, eight anti-war veterans charged with having planned violence at the Republican Convention, Vincent J. Hannard testified that Sturgis and Barker tried to recruit him for an operation against the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. A *Miami Herald* article on June 8, 1973, by Dennis Holder was titled "Witness Says Barker and Sturgis Asked Him to Discredit VVAW." It stated that Vincent J. Hannard, gave sworn statement, June 7, 1973, that in weeks prior to May 29, 1972, he:

...received four telephone calls proposing undercover convention work of the first attempt to break into Democratic National Committee Office at Watergate. Each call reportedly came from a different person and each caller tried to persuade him that it was his patriotic duty to help undermine VVAW. Hannard said one call was from Sturgis. Hannard said he was sure this caller was Sturgis, who he had known for more than 13 years. Another caller identified himself as Bernard Barker, but Hannard said he does not know Barker, and could not be certain Barker was actually calling. Another of the calls purported to be from Guy Hawkes. Hannard said Hawkes was a CIA agent in Miami several years ago. He is acquainted with Hawkes and is certain this caller actually was not Hawkes. Hannard said each caller mentioned the VVAW, and described the proposed task as covert intelligence and investigation. Hannard said he turned offers down because he was suspicious of the motives of the callers. The article pointed out that Hannard was disqualified as a witness in a 1971 Miami narcotics case because psychiatrists testified that Hannard could neither understand the witness oath, nor tell the difference between truth and lies. Article also pointed out that Hannard was convicted in 1962 of impersonating an FBI agent, but was also an informant for federal and local police agencies, and was a key witness in several cases. Hannard occasionally volunteers information to Miami FBI. (Deleted).

Hemming claimed Vincent J. Hannard was a well-connected Bureau of Narcotics snitch and a Private Investigator, who reported to Gene Marshall, the roommate of Charles Ashmann. Hemming said he had attempted to break into the offices of Vincent J. Hannard, and that Vincent J. Hannard worked closely with Sturgis and Bobby Willis.

CORROBORATION - COLSON

When Charles Colson was questioned by Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, he said he had seen a CIA file that "mentioned radical activities prior to the convention."

[USDC SD FLA. 75-640-cr-PF Def. Ex. 4] In 1973 Senator Lowell Weicker was the target of a break-in. [Summers *Secret Life JEH* p414]

CORROBORATION - ANGIE BASULTO

Angela Basulto was a former anti-Castro fighter who claimed expert knowledge of firearms and explosives. Her first husband was Bay of Pigs veteran Jose Basulto Leon. Jose Basulto, a devout Catholic, had left Boston College, where he majored in physics, in January 1960, to return to Havana so that he could join a Catholic underground organization. Basulto was trained in Panama as a radio operator then infiltrated into Cuba prior to the Bay of Pigs. Five of Basulto's fellow infiltrators were executed and seven received long prison sentences. Basulto, unhappy with the Kennedy Administration's lack of action against Castro, struck out on his own. On August 24, 1962, Basulto sailed into Havana with a dozen of his friends and shelled the hotel Rosita de Hornedo, which was full of Russian advisors. Basulto drove to Guantanamo and climbed a ten foot fence to safety. Jose Basulto was alleged to have been involved in McLaney's Lake LaCombe Louisiana bomb factory and training camp:

On July 23, 1963, Wallace Shanley , U.S. Customs, Miami, advised that on July 19, 1963, Mr. Edgar Owens, U.S. Customs, Miami, had observed Carlos Eduardo Hernandez Sanchez, Also known As "BATRA" at Miami in & green 1963 Chevrolet station wagon with 1963 Florida license 7E-40. Mr. OWENS observed that Hernandez was accompanied by Victor Espinosa Hernandez and (First Name Unknown) BASULTO. Shanley advised that Hernandez Sanchez and ESPINOSA Hernandez were two of the five subjects involved in preparations for a bombing raid in June, 1963 against a Cuban oil refinery when they were detained and seizure of their plans and bombs was made by U.S. Customs in a rural area of southwest Miami.

Either the reporting agent or Shanley got confused about the location of the bust. The FBI reported:

Espinosa admitted telephonic contact with about 12 Cuban pilots, some of whom were willing to engage in this raid. He stated in his opinion, the only ones who were willing to take the risk of such a raid were his companions of the infiltration team in the Cuban invasion which included CARLOS Hernandez Sanchez and Miguel Alvarez Jimenez. Victor Espinosa denied that his brother, Rene Jose Espinosa or Jose Basulto Leon were participants in these plans for a raid.

Basulto worked with CIA Agent Felix Rodriguez, who was linked to Bush and Oliver North's Contra arms network. The June 8, 1973, edition of *The Miami Herald* carried an

article by Rob Elder titled "Florida Agency Admits Receiving VVAW But From Lady Spy."
The FBI:

The article relates that Angelica 'Angie' Rohan, formerly known as Angie Basulto, furnished a sworn statement to United States District Judge W. O. Mehrrens, on May 23, 1973, after reading *The Miami Herald* story "which for the first time identified Pablo Fernandez as a police informer who spied on VVAW and offered to sell them guns." According to the article, Mrs. Rohan made another sworn statement on June 6, 1973, to Dade County State Attorney Richard Gerstein. Article says that Florida Department of Law Enforcement confirmed on June 7, 1973, that summer Mrs. Basulto furnished Florida Department of Law Enforcement a copy of a recorded call between Scott Camil of VVAW and Pablo Fernandez. Basulto also told Florida Department of Law Enforcement that certain Miamians were involved in a 'demonstration at the Chilean Embassy in Washington.' Jack Key, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Miami, advised *Miami Herald* he never told the FBI or any other federal agency about the 'wiretap' or Basulto's Embassy information because the information did seem at the time to be specific evidence, 'was not worthy of dissemination' and because Basulto 'was my source and I'm going to protect my source.' Florida Department of Law Enforcement director, William Reed, according to article, said Basulto volunteered to work with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement last summer. Her expense were paid, and she worked at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement convention command post, Miami, translating Spanish language material and writing out long hand intelligence reports. Basulto has sworn that she was offered 'A copy of the ITT papers' which Fernandez told her were stolen in the Chilean Embassy burglary. Article reports Basulto once tried to convince a T.V. crew she was the 'woman in Watergate,' but now she says she was not. In sworn statement to Dade County State Attorney's Office, Basulto reportedly claimed second hand knowledge of a possible plot to assassinate the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, who later turned out to be Thomas Eagleton. She claimed 'What they were supposed to be looking for was George McGovern's running mate.' She reportedly said at this point in her notes, she wrote the word, 'assassination' and drew a question mark beside it. State Attorney's office sources told *Miami Herald* Basulto said she was present when Fernandez offered to supply VVAW with Cuban weapons which 'could be turned into machine guns with a little piece of metal.' She was present when Fernandez offered weapons to VVAW member identified only as Dan. This veteran reportedly replied, 'We only want peace, man.' Jack Key, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Miami, telephonically contacted on June 8, 1973. He

confirmed Basulto worked for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement during both national political conventions. She originally contacted Florida Department of Law Enforcement Director Reed at times furnished information to Reed but Key was her authorized contact. Key described Basulto as emotional, and as having furnished both reliable and unreliable information. She was only paid expenses. She never told the Florida Department of Law Enforcement about being the 'woman in Watergate.' She did furnish last summer what purported to be a tape of Fernandez-Camil telephone conversation about Chilean Embassy, Washington, break-in. She did once report that Watergate Hoover rites people had something to do with the 'demonstration' at the Chilean Embassy. This information seemed of no significance and she did not mention the break-in or burglary. Key said he had been interviewed by Elder for above mentioned article. Elder asked him several times why he was covering for FBI. He told Elder he was not covering for FBI. He recalled being contacted by (Deleted) Dade County Public Safety Department, just prior to Republican National Convention, as to possible Florida Department of Law Enforcement status of Basulto. Key said that on June 11, 1973, he will bring to Miami FBI Office complete Basulto Florida Department of Law Enforcement file for review. On June 8, 1973, Pablo Fernandez telephonically contacted. He said he met Basulto approximately July 5, 1972, and was in contact with her until the end of the Republican National Convention when she stopped calling him. She told Fernandez she was working for Florida Department of Law Enforcement and wanted to know what Cuban exiles were planning for political conventions. Fernandez said he 'took her around' during conventions, and brought her to Cuban exile meetings. He did furnish her a copy of his tape recorded conversation with Scott Camil earlier same date he furnished original of tape conversation to S.A. Deleted, Miami. He furnished her copies of no other tapes. He said he never offered her a copy of the ITT papers reportedly stolen in Chilean Embassy burglary. He said he had no knowledge of existence of such papers and has no knowledge of who perpetrated this burglary. He said his only VVAW contacts were Hialeah drugstore meetings, a Miami Police Department meeting with VVAW, other non-delegate organizations, including Cuban exile groups, and police...Basulto was not with him on any of these occasions. Basulto was with him on the second or third day of Democratic National Convention when he strolled through Flamingo Park, Miami Beach, non-delegate campsite. He did not speak to any VVAW members at that time and emphatically did not offer to supply VVAW with Cuban weapons, as alleged above. Fernandez denied furnishing Basulto any information regarding a possible plot to assassinate

the Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate...Fernandez said he did tell Basulto about Hialeah drugstore meetings with VVAW, but told her about no other contact with VVAW. [*Miami Herald* 6.8.73; FBI 139-4089-1230]

Pablo Fernandez was an FBI informant in the case of the Gainesville Eight. Hemming wondered if Sturgis had ever dealt with any counterculture people when "they were getting that slaughter ready for Miami Beach in 1972."

CORROBORATION - EDWIN Kaiser

In 1952 Ed Kaiser joined the Marines, but received a bad conduct dishonorable



discharge before his basic training ended. Ed Kaiser became a heroin addict (Sonia Kaiser insisted that her husband was never an addict) and amassed a long criminal record, including aggravated assault, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary and larceny. In 1957 Ed Kaiser joined the French Foreign Legion and lost his American citizenship. On January 29, 1959, his citizenship was revoked. He left the Foreign Legion on a medical discharge, and returned to the United States in 1959 as a

landed immigrant. In 1961 Ed Kaiser moved to Alaska, where he was convicted of theft of Government property and assault. On May 30, 1964, and on May 31, 1964, the CIA showed an interest in Ed Kaiser, and two outgoing cables about him were generated which were denied in their entirety. [Ltr. Harry E. Fitzwater, Chairman, CIA Information Review Committee 1.4.82]

CUBAN AND HAITIAN EXILE AFFAIRS

In 1969 Ed Kaiser moved to Miami where the FBI took note of him due to his affiliation with Cubanos Unidos, an anti-Castro group made up of former members of Alpha-66. The FBI reported:

Cubanos Unidos (CU) is a Cuban exile anti- Fidel Castro organization in Miami, Florida. Its purpose is to unite all exile groups into a unity organization and begin military operations against the present Government of Cuba. Wilfredo Navarro Beato is the head of CU...On June 26, 1970, MM T-2, a Cuban exile who had been involved in Cuban Revolutionary matters for the past five years advised that on the night previously, (deleted) with Wilfredo Navarro, at which time Navarro claimed

CU was going ahead with its plans to sink a Soviet vessel off the east coast of Florida as the vessel was on its way to Cuba.

On June 19, 1970 MM T-3, another Government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised information had been received that CU recently held a meeting to introduce Americans who are backing their organization. The Americans were Frank Fiorini and Ed Kaiser. Fiorini calls himself the "Chief of Intelligence Section of Cubanos Unidos." On July 1, 1970 NAVARRO appeared at the Miami Office of the FBI with his brother Roerme, and advised as follows:

Frank Fiorini, an American citizen who has been involved in Cuban exile revolutionary matters for the past ten years, recently signed a unity agreement with CU. In this agreement, Fiorini, who represents some independent anti-Castro organization, agreed that political unity of all exile groups must be established. Fiorini is not a member of CU as such, holds no official position, and is not in charge of intelligence.

Kaiser said that CU presently has a .50 caliber machine gun, a .30 caliber machine gun, some C-4 explosive, and a quantity of small arms. CU is considering a three-day infiltration and sabotage mission to Cuba in which about five men will participate. One of the tactics they plan to use is to kill a few Cuban Government soldiers and cut them up into small pieces to terrify other Cuban Government soldiers.

On July 30, 1970, Kaiser advised he was then leaving for the Island of Martinique in the Caribbean where he would try to make arrangements to meet up a military base for operations against Cuba. On August 3, 1970, Kaiser advised he had just returned from the Island of Martinique where he was arrested and questioned for 28 hours by French intelligence officials before he was released. The purpose of the visit was to obtain permission to set up a base for operations against Cuba. French authorities told him they would cooperate with him if and when he obtained such permission from the United States Government.

Kaiser said his present military plans involve an operation which would leave the Florida Keys by boat and attack the Cuban Naval Academy near Havana. About twelve persons would participate in the raid and after the mission, would return to the Florida keys. After about two days in the Florida Keys, they would return to sea to meet a mother ship and then go to Haiti. Kaiser said the military mission would leave the Florida area with arms and explosives aboard.

On July 29, 1970 the CIA reported Ed Kaiser was part of a CU sponsored operation against Cuba. Ed Kaiser claimed Cubanos Unidos was involved in the distribution of anti-Castro cartoons; in fact the goal of Cubanos Unidos was to form a Cuban government-in-exile in Haiti. Ed Kaiser was in contact with numerous Haitian exiles, and while Ed Kaiser was head of the military section of Cubana Unida, he was suspected of plotting the assassination of "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

Sonia Kaiser reported that at one Cubanos Unidos meeting her husband was introduced to Sturgis by a Cuban exile named "William Navarro." Hemming told this researcher: "She meant Wilfrado Navarro. Wilfrado and Antonio Navarro were Cuban right wing assholes that were with Sturgis in 1960." When the FBI questioned the CIA about Ed Kaiser on JULY 22, 1969, Angleton prepared a memorandum titled "Ed Kaiser and (deleted as of 2010)." When the CIA released this document, it contained three pages of deletions. The only information in it was the words "On the basis of the limited data available, this Agency's files contain no identifiable information on Ed Kaiser. For The Deputy Director Of Plans: James Angleton, CSCI 316/02475-69, cc: Customs Commissioner." The FBI reported:

Ed Kaiser has been the Subject of a criminal type investigation by the FBI Miami since late 1971. Earlier in 1971 Kaiser allegedly wore the uniform of the U.S. Army and used fraudulent military identification to enter the premises of the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Opa Locka, Florida, where he fraudulently obtained office and medical supplies. Kaiser is reported to have entered the premises of other military bases at Homestead, Florida, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he allegedly represented himself as a military officer and used military facilities. Investigation of this matter is continuing and, as yet, no Federal criminal charges against Kaiser have been initiated. [FBI 139-4089-2469 7.9.73]

Kaiser was convicted of stealing Coast Guard office and medical supplies while wearing a false uniform. Hemming told this researcher: "You make him sound like a junkie. He was stealing classified documents." An FBI document stated: "(Deleted) One such person contacted is an unidentified Negro male who sells Kaiser stolen watches, rings and other jewelry which Kaiser resells to employees at Maule Industry and other factories in the area and the Opa Locka area." [FBI 47-55225-2 p 18] In late 1971 Kaiser was suspected of plotting to hijack a Cuban or Russian freighter. Sonia Kaiser reported that around this time her husband had a closet full of ammunition and grenades, which were removed shortly before the FBI searched the apartment.

A few days after Sturgis was arrested at Watergate, Ed Kaiser went to Haiti - where, according to Hemming, he visited Mike McLaney. Hemming told this researcher: "He was delivering an ultimatum to McLaney. A hit was going to go down. Out of professional courtesy, Kaiser asked him to take sides."

THE PLANNED CONVENTION RIOT



WILFREDO NAVARRO (RED PANTS) AND ED KAISER

In May 1973 Ed Kaiser contacted a Miami FBI agent and advised that:

...he was a long time friend of Frank Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, one of the convicted Watergate defendants and prior to the 1972 Republican Convention in August 1972 Sturgis invited Kaiser to participate in a planned convention riot at the convention. Sturgis later told him the riot was off, and something bigger was being planned. At this time Sturgis mentioned to Kaiser the name of a nationally known figure, a businessman and not a politician, who was in charge of planning the financing and direction of this new operation. According to Kaiser, this individual was at the time unknown in the Watergate investigation. Kaiser at the time of the above contact stated he would furnish this information in exchange by the Government of:

1. The safety of his family.
2. For employment security at his present employment, a service attendant at the (deleted) service station, Florida.
3. For an opportunity to apply for State and Federal pardons.

Numerous attempts were made to interview Kaiser to further develop this information both at his residence and his place of employment. During the

period Kaiser was also hospitalized for leg surgery. In response to these efforts, Kaiser contacted the Miami office and agreed to an interview on June 26, 1973. At that date Kaiser appeared at the Miami Office accompanied by Attorney Edward N. Claughton, and advised that he had changed his mind about furnishing information to the FBI. He stated that he had already furnished the above information to a member of the Watergate Committee, and was awaiting action from that source. The individual mentioned by Kaiser above was subsequently identified by Kaiser as Jack Anderson, newspaper columnist. In view of Kaiser's reputation, and pending criminal investigation, no commitments were made in any way to Kaiser during the above contacts, and the information furnished by him was accepted without comment. Sonia Kaiser remembered waiting outside while he discussed this with Sturgis. Ed Kaiser asked the FBI for protection for himself and his family in return for this information. [FBI 139-3089-2469,2413]

In August 1973 Ed Kaiser gave the CIA similar information. This CIA report was withheld as of 2010. [CIA Memo 8.20.73] An index card was generated by the CIA's Office of the Inspector General:

Gray, Patrick August 20, 1973. Flannery, J.E.

Scott, Ed

Casey (Scott alias)

Casio (Scott alias)

Kaiser (Scott alias)

IG FILE (Illegible)

Irving R. Doyle

Tab #1

Eduardo T. Scott

Info to FBI

Sturgis, Frank

(Illegible) Gorgon

(Illegible) Howard

Letter to C/FBI from (illegible) Ed Scott alias Casey, Casio and Kaiser.

James E. Flannery was a CIA agent stationed in Bolivia from 1961 to 1964, Mexico from 1964 to 1965, and the Dominican Republic from 1965 to 1969. Kaiser also gave the Senate Select Committee on Campaign Activities this information. Sturgis refuted Ed Kaiser in Executive Session testimony: "Sturgis stated he was never approached by anyone concerning demonstrations against the VVAW at the Republican Convention. He recalls no such conversation with Ed Kaiser. He admitted knowing Kaiser for a number of years, and said he considered Kaiser to be a good source of information for Cuban-related activities but had reason, nonetheless, to suspect Kaiser's credibility." [Sturgis Exec. Sess. Test. 7.27-28.73 as cited in SSCIA Minority Staff Report] On August 20, 1973, the Miami Field Office of the FBI sent the Director a highly deleted teletype. The only words released were "CHANGED" and "CONSPIRACY - RING CASE, OO: Miami." [FBI 26-425217-36 2 pages] In August 1975 Ed Kaiser arranged for an illegal arms shipment to a Nicaraguan anti-Castro training base, and frequently talked of uniting the White Russian refugees for military operations against Cuba.

ED KAISER IN ISRAEL

On January 9, 1976, Ed Kaiser successfully entered Israel bearing a passport issued in the name of Jerome Schneider. On March 2, 1976, Ed Kaiser was arrested for use of a false passport while trying to re-enter Israel. A CIA report on Kaiser was generated on June 25, 1976. This was withheld in its entirety as of 2010. Kaiser was released in July 1976, and when he returned to the United States, he was indicted on identical charges. Ed Kaiser told the FBI that he entered Israel by pretending to be a Jew who wished to volunteer his services to the Israeli military. Ed Kaiser claimed he was acting on behalf of the United States Government. The passport he used to enter Israel was a crude forgery. Ed Kaiser had obtained the passport of Jerome Schneider, removed his photograph, and put his picture in its place. This did not indicate sophisticated trade craft. The CIA was interested in Ed Kaiser around this time and a Memorandum dated June 25, 1976, about him, was withheld in its entirety as of 2010. Sonia Kaiser:

He was in Israel and he was arrested for tapping wires. Don't ask me whose wires, because I don't know. It's in some arrest report that I have. He was not arrested entering Israel with a false passport. He had a false passport, that's true. He was in Israel for quite a while. I got letters from him. He sent letters to me and he sent letters to my children, his children. He was there on a kibbutz for a while. He was already living there. I had a lot of papers, I had them. They were stolen. All the papers are gone.

Hemming claimed Ed Kaiser was doing a hit for a colonel in the Israeli Defense Force in Nablus: "I flew the guy he went with around the Bahamas in 1981, until he turned himself into the U.S. Marshals. We use their people, they use ours. Ed Kaiser was arrested as he was leaving." Hemming was asked why he was arrested if the Israelis had used him?

In 1976 Sturgis convinced Ed Kaiser that Gaeton Fonzi could find a way to get him out of his legal troubles. Ed Kaiser spoke with Gaeton Fonzi several times. Ed Kaiser did not know it, but his legal problems had ended: the U.S. Attorney in Miami could not prosecute him since it was unknown whether Ed Kaiser had departed the United States from the Southern District of Florida or from elsewhere. Sonia Kaiser disagreed: "He took a plane from Miami to Israel on *El Al*. They certainly could prove it. They are hiding something there. They know something that they're not saying." [FBI 21-2005-21 4.19.76] On February 8, 1977, Ed Kaiser "fell off" some wooden planking while working aboard a ship, and died due to multiple injuries and blunt trauma; he was 44 years old. Sonia Kaiser stated:

He carried a lot of papers in an attaché case. It was missing right after he died. I saw him with it before he was killed. I know he had it. But the day he died I never saw it again after that, never.

In 1978 Hemming was asked about the death of Ed Kaiser:

He fell on the job. The FBI don't know. Sturgis don't know. I saw Sturgis at the funeral that night. Nobody else was there. Hey, he could have just 'up and died?' He had to get out from under this shit. All he needed was a phony death certificate. He was under investigation for a phony passport thing in Israel, he may have contracted to do a Middle East hit and gotten into trouble. He may be in Shangrila!

Sonia Kaiser had no doubt that her husband was murdered:

Somebody pushed him into the manhole. I wasn't there, of course. He told all his men that were working for him on that shift, not to walk across the manhole, because the boards were not safe for weight. The next thing they do is they call me at work and tell me he's dead. Then they tell me that he walked across there and the boards broke and he fell in. And I said 'Why would he be so stupid if he's telling everybody not to walk across there, why would he be so stupid to do that?' They didn't know of course. Then I got a lot of strange visits from a lot of strange people and a lot of strange phone calls, like yours for instance, asking me questions.

Hemming told this researcher:

It ain't a matter of pushing him into the manhole. I went to check on all that kind of bullshit. I went to the medical examiner's office. Dwyer was there. He ain't supposed to be dicking around in that territory, it ain't his case. Dwyer wants to know from me, 'Did he fucking die? Was that him?' What he stepped on collapsed. He wasn't supposed to step on it. It happened to one of my other guys about the same time, only he flew through the roof of the shithouse. Later on he O.D.ed on dope. People don't listen. Sturgis wasn't worried about being snitched out. Somebody else would know Kaiser was talking out of school. A criminal investigation was going on. They didn't want him testifying before a Federal Grand jury. They took care of the situation. The guy had 'Oswald' stamped on his forehead.

Sonia Kaiser was asked about her husband's relationship with Sturgis:

Before Watergate Frank Sturgis was at our house constantly. But I never knew what they talked about, because they never talked in front of me. We used to go to Frank's house too.

THE BURGLARY OF THE CHILEAN EMBASSY

In the **Spring of 1972** Sturgis took part in several burglaries in Washington, D.C. Sturgis told Andrew St. George that the White House/Special Operations Group had entered the offices of Senator Jacob Javits (Rep.-NY.), Sol Linowitz and Dan Rather. St. George quoted Sturgis as saying "The liberals have twisted everything. There is no use in trying to explain. If I had my way, just one chance, I'd kill every one of them." [*True* 8.74] One of these burglaries involved the Chilean Embassy in Washington, D.C. During a telephone conversation between John Dean and CIA Director James Schlesinger on February 9, 1975, Schlesinger noted: "In this connection he mentioned that there is a news story being passed about in the press, primarily instigated by Seymour Hirsch of the *New York Times*. The story suggests that Sturgis was the individual responsible for the burglarizing of the Chilean Embassy in Washington. He also indicated he expects Senator Fulbright to request the Justice Department to produce Sturgis for the Senate hearings."

The CIA's Inspector General's Office generated an index card titled March 19, 1973, March 6, 1973, Contacts w/ITT Tab #1 which contained the names Hal Hendrix, ITT, R. Berrellez, Jack Anderson, E. Howard Hunt, Frank Sturgis, Chilean Embassy, **P. Gilbert, (Deleted), J. Levinson, Lawrence Houston, Aible, J. Shafer, E. Gerrity, Harold Gennen, William Broe, Matte and H. Heckscher**. This was a contact report from (Deleted) C/WH/CA. "Subject: Conversations with Hal Hendrix on March 6, 1973, (Broe

- Gennen mtg July 1970) relations with Heckscher and Matte -- Anderson's column regarding Chilean Embassy break-in." According to an article in the *Washington Post* dated October 23, 1978, Ted Shackley, Jacob Esterline and Tom Polgar were also involved in the CIA's effort to overthrow Allende. On April 15, 1961, **Hal Hendrix**, the Latin American correspondent for the *Miami Daily News* wrote: There will be no mass invasion against Cuba by the anti-Castro forces gathered at bases in Central American and this country. The *News* has stated this for several months." Gaeton Fonzi reported:

In 1961, when Phillips was handling the propaganda desk for the Bay of Pigs operation and, as such, was in constant contact with friendly media types, there was a reporter on the *Miami News* named Hal Hendrix, whose coverage of the invasion seemed to be deeper and more detailed than any other journalist, local or national. In 1962 Hendrix's coverage of the Cuban Missile Crisis was so penetrating and insightful it garnered his paper a Pulitzer Prize. The next year Hendrix got himself promoted to a more prestigious job, covering Latin America for the Scripps-Howard News Service. Still based in Miami, Hendrix's sources remained quite extraordinary. In a piece for Scripps-Howard dated September 23, 1963, Hendrix wrote a colorful and detailed description of the coup that toppled Juan Bosch, the leftist President of the Dominican Republic. If Hendrix report didn't come from inside sources, it was an amazing display of clairvoyance - the coup didn't take place until the following day.

Author Tony Summers reported:

Seth Kantor's [a Dallas-based journalist who was acquainted with Jack Ruby] notes revealed that one of the calls that Kantor made from City Hall was to the Florida number, Coral Gables MO 5-6473 [at about 6:00 p.m.] This was the [home] number of Hal Hendrix, a Miami journalist also working for Kantor's newspaper group, (Scripps-Howard) who was offering information on Oswald. Hendrix, on the afternoon of the assassination, was able to give Kantor details of Oswald's past, his defection to Russia, and his pro-Castro activities on his return.

Kantor reported:

The information he gave me, according to my notes, contained details of Oswald's past, particularly Oswald's time span in Russia and his latter connection with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans. Hendrix gave me a bunch of knowledgeable background on Oswald's appearance on New Orleans radio station WDSU, the previous August. In a show moderated by William Kirk Stuckey, Oswald had debated CARLOS Bringuier, an anti-Castro activist and Cuban refugee. [*The Ruby Coverup*, Seth Kantor page 376] Hendrix left Scripps-Howard in 1967 to work for ITT. In July 1970, following a meeting between Harold Hendrix and a CIA officer in Santiago, Chile,

John McCone contacted Richard Helms, who arranged a meeting in Washington between William Broe, chief of the Western Hemisphere Division in the DDP, and Harold Geneen, the head of ITT. Geneen offered Broe and the CIA \$1 million in ITT funds for an anti-Allende campaign. [*The Man Who Kept the Secrets*, Powers, p290] On October 16, 1970, Hal Hendrix cabled his intelligence estimate to his home office: "Unless there is a move by dissident Chilean military elements by this time next mid-week, the consensus in Santiago is that Salvador Allende will win the October 24, 1970, Congressional run-off easily and be inaugurated as President November 4, 1970. The chance of a military coup is slim but it continues to exist - at least to this date. A key figure in this possibility is former Brigadier **General Roberto Viaux...**"

On November 5, 1976, Hendrix was charged in federal court with a misdemeanor for refusing to testify accurately before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee about ITT's connection with the CIA in Chile. Hendrix was acquainted with Jerry Hemming through OPERATION CRYPT. He worked with David Phillips, who was stationed in



Brazil, on the overthrow of the Allende regime in Chile. John Crewdson of *The New York Times* reported: "One journalist who is said by a senior CIA official to have accepted travel money [from the CIA], was Hal Hendrix, who as a reporter for the *Miami News*, won a Pulitzer Prize for his stories on the 1962 Cuban missile crisis...Mr. Hendrix, the official said, was considered an asset by the Agency...' [*NYT* 12.27.77] Howard Hunt was involved in generating propaganda relevant to the Bay of Pigs invasion. Hunt may have also known Hal Hendrix. Hendrix's premature knowledge of Oswald's activities may have come from Hunt or Phillips. It also might have come from Hemming, who claimed he was in touch with Hendrix on November 22, 1963.

Benjamin Matte was in Chile from 1971 to 1974. He was President of the National Society of Agriculture and the head of the right-wing party Fatherland and Liberty which advocated the mass murder of all communists. Matte was an associate of Roberto Viaux. German-born **Henry D. Heckscher** was in Germany in 1953, where he was East Berlin Chief of Station. When laborers in East Berlin rioted in June 1953, Heckscher cabled Washington for permission to arm the rioters. Heckscher was in Guatemala in 1954. In Guatemala he worked with DAVID Phillips and Birch O'Neal. [Hersh, *Old Boys*, page 344] He was in Laos from 1957 to 1960, Venezuela from 1964 to 1967, and Chile from 1967 to 1970. In Chile, Heckscher funneled money to Jorge Alessandri, the opponent of Salvador Allende for the presidency of Chile. Heckscher was in touch with Hal Hendricks. When Allende was elected, Heckscher lost his post in Chile. The team that replaced him included Gordon Jorgenson. Heckscher died on March 29, 1990. **Jerome I. Levinson** worked for Senator Church's Senate Sub-Committee on Multinationals of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When Jerome Levinson began an investigation of Adan Khashoggi, a prostitute was sent to his hotel room by,

Eugene R. Warner, a Khashoggi aide. The 45 year old Levinson was forced to leave the



committee due to an almost near fatal heart attack. **Edward J. Gerrity Jr.** was a Vice President of ITT who received a memorandum from Hal Hendricks and Mexican journalist R. Berrellez on September 17, 1970, speculating on which segment of the military had the capability to overthrow Allende. This eight page document said that the American Ambassador in Chile had received "the green light to move in the name of President Nixon...[with] maximum authority to do all possible - short of a Dominican Republic type action - to keep Allende

from taking power." [Marchetti, *CIA and the Cult of Intelligence* page 330] William Broe worked with Gerrity on a plan to destabilize the Cuban economy. All over these men were involved with General Viaux. **Robert Berrellez** was an AP correspondent in Cuba from 1959 to 1961. He was expelled after the Bay of Pigs. Berrellez became a P.R. man for ITT in Chile. Robert Berrellez was accused of perjuring himself during his 1973 testimony on Chile before the U.S. Senate. Berrellez helped Gerrity prepare his (Garrity's) testimony. Berrellez indictment noted that he had met a CIA official in 1972 and pledged that he and Hendricks would deny ever having contact with the Agency in Latin America. Researcher Don Freed reported that Berrellez was acquainted with DAVID Phillips. The NACLA reported that Berrellez suggested that a relocation center be set up in Buenos Aires for the families of those involved in the coup. [NACLA 10.73] The NACLA also reported that after the assassination of General Schneider, Juan Luis Bulnes, who later proved to be responsible for Schneider's death, immediately went to the airport and picked up a ticket for Buenos Aires which earlier had been reserved for him in the name of Robert Berrellez. [NACLA 8.74]

RICHARD WHATLEY AND WATERGATE

The FBI reported:

Re Miami teletype **July 14, 1972**, concerning unsub, aka photographer, described by witness (Deleted) as third man with Bernard Barker and Frank Sturgis when they picked-up processed film at Rich Photo Shop, Miami, Florida, on June 10, 1972. On April 6, 1973, (Deleted) advised his contact agent that he has had regular contact for a period of several years with one Richard Whatley, a used car salesman, and that Whatley has made several casual remarks about the Watergate incident and about knowing the Watergate defendants. Source indicated on April 5, 1973, Whatley commented that if someone talked, his attorney indicated he was facing a federal indictment.

A review of Miami files reflects that Richard Whatley, (Deleted) Florida, date of birth (Deleted) New York City, 5'6" 135 pounds, brown hair, blue

eyes was one of 13 International Anti-Communist Brigade members arrested by United States Customs authorities on December 4, 1962, at No Name Key, Florida. Watergate Subject Frank Sturgis was one of the leaders of this group which was alleged to be a military operation against Cuba. Details are set out in Miami report of S.A. (Deleted) dated November 9, 1968, Bufile (Deleted).

Subsequently, on April 6, 1973, source observed artist conception of unsub, aka photographer, and stated that this drawing was an excellent likeness of Richard Whatley. He stated that all the facial features of the drawing were extremely similar with the exception of Whatley's hair which is fuller than in the drawing. The physical description of (Deleted) compares favorably with the of unsub, aka photographer, with the exception of age. Efforts continue to secure recent photograph of (Deleted) FBI number 4145899 for appropriate display to witness (Deleted). Investigation continuing. [FBI 139-4089-1978 4.11.73]

WATERGATE JUNE 1972

On **June 17, 1972**, Sturgis was arrested at the Watergate Hotel along with McCORD, Barker, Rolando Martinez and CIA contract agent Virgilio Gonzalez. Virgilio Gonzalez entered the United States as a permanent resident on July 21, 1954. The FBI: "Subject known to have left the United States in January 1959 to work for Felipe Vidal Santiago, Chief of Maritime Police, Cuba. Subject returned to the United States in August 1959. He worked for Felipe Vidal Santiago as an assistant and a driver." [FBI 139-4081-188 6.24.72] On the same day as Sturgis' arrest, the CIA advised the FBI that "BERNARD L. Barker and James Walter McCord had been CIA employees and that security checks were negative concerning Frank Fred Fiorini..." [FBI Bufile 4679-10 W/G - FBI Reading Room] Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission asked Sturgis:

Ever act for CIA, get paid by CIA, participate in CIA project, etc. ? Yes, extensively. Not a Cuban-American. Ancestry is Italian. Fiorini. Working for American Embassy, infiltrated Castro's 26th of July Movement. Several assassination attempts on Castro, including in New York in 1959 & 1960. Knew gambling interests in Cuba. Connected with 'Company' but never 'employed' by CIA. Was paid in cash by CIA as contract agent. Was a spy for United States Government. Highest official - Case Officer - equivalent to Station Chief. Prefers not to give names by phone. New Orleans - May have met some of the Cubans who traveled to New Orleans and elsewhere. Manuel Artime - in Miami. Civil leader of the brigade.

In **July 1972** the CIA disclaimed any connection with Sturgis. In February 1975 then-acting CIA Director **James Schlesinger** [February 1973 to May 1973] told John Dean that "shortly thereafter I discussed these matters with Bill Colby, who indicated that Sturgis has not been on the payroll for a number of years and that whatever the allegations about the Chilean Embassy, the Agency has no connections at all." [JRS MFR re tel. con. with John Dean 2.9.75] Jerry G. Brown, Deputy Chief, Security Analysis Group generated this MFR dated July 20, 1976:

On July 20, 1976, SAG delivered certain materials to the Office of the General Counsel relative to a request from the Department of Justice for original materials relating to ITT/Chile. Among the materials given to the OGC was the number attached which was received from a Watergate file captioned, '7th Floor Material.' At the time of delivery to OGC, and with the concurrence of the Director of Security, it was pointed out that the document is unclassified and contains a statement by the originator, James R. Schlesinger, former DCI, that in his discussion with William Colby, Colby stated that 'Sturgis has not been on the payroll for a number of years.' It was pointed out to OGC that this statement is in direct conflict with prior Agency public releases concerning Sturgis to the effect that he has never been connected to the Agency in any way.

Sturgis told Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission:

John Dean called Schlesinger regarding Sturgis and Chilean break-in. Sturgis says he talked to Colby and Colby said that Sturgis hadn't worked for CIA in last several years and a had nothing to do with CIA. CIA lost or destroyed his file. Has lied about his having no connection with the CIA. Helms also told Senate Watergate Committee Sturgis had worked for the CIA. Gonzalez had not worked for CIA. Willing to testify under oath. Willing to name names of CIA officials in contact with him. (Uses 'Hey' frequently in conversation. Talks with no Cuban accent.)

During Sturgis' Watergate trial, Sturgis asked for all FBI records concerning:

1. Activities in Cuba during the 1950's, his association with Fidel Castro, his contacts with personnel of the United States Embassy in Cuba, his contacts with FBI agents, personnel or information on other U.S. officers, or agents, either in Cuba, or in this country, and information received by the FBI directly or indirectly, from him relating to Cuba, Fidel Castro or Castro's Government.
2. His activities from 1959 to 1970 pertaining or relating to the country of Cuba while he resided in Florida including boat and plane operations, or incursion directed at the country of Cuba, the source of funding for said operations, the awareness and/or approval of said operations by other U.S. Government agencies and contacts he had

with FBI agents, employees or informants during said period of time. [*Oliver v. CREEP* Civil Action 1207 - Daniel E. Schultz]

On January 29, 1974, the CIA generated a document that contained the names Matt MacVane, Luis Desa-Soto and J. Horton (Domestic Contacts Division/Miami). It concerned Sturgis' connection to the CIA. On January 31, 1974, the CIA's Office of the Inspector General generated this index card: "Internal Review, IG File #16, Tab #55, Internal Review, M/R by Harold G. Tittsler. Subject: (re Sturgis wanting to meet with Agency representative. Sturgis, Frank, Harold Tittsler, Art Brew, Joe Joyner." In 1975 Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission that his CIA contact in 1959 in Miami was **Jose Joachim Sajennes Pardomo**. Sturgis:

Naturally I had contact with Barker. Barker didn't realize what I was doing, but I knew he was working as an administrative assistant to 'Eduardo,' which I did not know as E. Howard Hunt...E. Howard Hunt gave X amount of thousands of dollars to, or at least okayed this money for the B-25 bomber to be repaired. Pedro Diaz Lanz was one source of money...I was in constant touch with Joachim Sajennes. At the same time Barker did not know I was in touch with Joachim Sajennes, and Barker asked me to assist him in some of the work --- some of the investigations he was doing. And I agreed only after I got in touch with Joachim Sajennes and Joachim Sajennes says, go ahead, no problem. Everybody was working for the same people.

In a *Motion for Favorable Evidence*, Ellis Rubin asked for "CIA Station records for 1967 and 1968 from Mexico City, Merida, Belize, Caracas and Miami," to show Sturgis' "past connections and working agreements with and employment by the CIA." Sturgis told the Rockefeller Commission that he was paid in cash. After Watergate, the FBI was unable to locate a bank account for Sturgis. When they reviewed the canceled checks issued to Sturgis by his employer, the Pan American Aluminum Corporation, Miami, it found that all the checks had been cashed in local supermarkets. [FBI 139-4089-394] In a CIA Task Force Report cited by the HSCA, it was asserted that "Sturgis was in contact with some CIA Cuban employees in the Miami area, but had no direct Agency relationship." When **Richard Helms** appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee on February 7, 1973, in connection with his appointment as Ambassador to Iran, the following exchange took place: "The Chairman: 'Was Frank Sturgis an employee?'" Richard Helms: "Never, I am sure of that." In 1984, during the second *Hunt v. Spotlight* libel trial, Richard Helms said in a deposition that "to the best of my recollection" Sturgis once was "an agent, an outside agent, a contract agent, of the Agency. He was not a staff member of the Agency." [HSCA Staff Rep: The Evolution and Implications of the CIA-Sponsored Ass. Conspiracies Against Fidel Castro 3.79 *Miami Herald* 1.31.85] A few days after the Rockefeller Commission Report was released, **Jerrold G. Brown**, Deputy

Chief of Security Analysis Group, prepared a Eyes Only Memorandum regarding Sturgis' CIA connection.

EYES ONLY

June 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

VIA: Chief, Security Analysis Group

SUBJECTS: Sturgis, Frank Anthony #353 459, Hunt, Everette Howard #25 500

1. The attached memorandum, dated and captioned as above, resulted from a review of Office of Security material concerning Frank Anthony Sturgis, aka; Frank Fiorini, to further substantiate the Agency's recent public statement to the effect that Sturgis was never connected with the Agency. The writer found no information in the material reviewed which would contradict the Agency's public statement; however, it is apparent that an unknown group has backed some of Sturgis' activities.

2. The attachment is designed as a lead paper only - it should not be considered definitive - to show a line of investigation that can be pursued. The writer will attempt no further research into this matter without approval from higher authority.

Jerry G. Brown,

Deputy Chief, Security Analysis Group.

[CIA 1351-1059-B CIA FOIA #40340]

Hemming told this researcher: "That covers him for stirring up some shit."

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECTS: Frank Sturgis and Howard Hunt

1. In his book, *Give Us This Day* ("The Inside Story of the CIA and the Bay of Pigs Invasion...") on pages 98 to 103, Hunt gives an account of some of the activities of Pedro Diaz Lanz, who defected from Castro Cuba in mid-1959 as the first chief of Castro's air force. Hunt points out that in October 1959 Diaz Lanz piloted a small plane dumping hundreds of anti- Castro leaflets over Havana. Diaz Lanz's copilot on the flight is identified as Frank Fiorini. Hunt goes on to describe what would be personal contacts with Pedro Diaz Lanz in the Miami area, utilizing the services of Bernard Barker in his

contacts with Diaz Lanz and other Cubans. Hunt further describes his attempts to involve Diaz Lanz with the Agency in the invasion, but Hunt's overtures were not accepted by Headquarters. The concluding paragraph of this account states:

After the invasion the Kennedy Administration could not do enough for Manuel Ray. A cozy post was secured for him in Puerto Rico as Chief of Munoz Marin's housing projects. I am sure that no equal effort was made in behalf of Pedro Diaz Lanz, for our national tradition has become one of shabby discrimination against known anti-Communists."

NOTE: Hunt's contacts with Diaz Lanz occurred during the period circa October 1960 to circa November 1961 while Hunt was assigned to JMWAVE, Miami.

2. Office of Security files #202 792 and 351 502 concern Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, but reveal no use of Diaz Lanz in the Cuban invasion or other Agency operational matters. File # 202 923 concerns Marcos Diaz Lanz, the brother of Pedro Diaz Lanz. The file reflects that Marcos Diaz Lanz was Deputy Chief of Castro's air force until his defection in July 1959, effected by this Agency by his exfiltration from Cuba clandestinely. For the purposes of instant memorandum, it is of note that his file contains an Agency Information Report stating, "According to Colonel Oscar Morales Lopez, Chief of Aviateca -- the Guatemalan Government-owned airline -- Commandante Pedro Diaz Lanz, former inspector of the Cuban rebel air force, Captain Sergio Diaz, and Captain Frank Fiorini, also formerly with the rebel air force, arrived in Guatemala on December 30, 1959, and immediately contacted him. They had a card from the Guatemalan Ambassador in Washington, and said that they had been in the United States in the first part of December and had talked with important officials of the government. The three wanted to talk with President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes to obtain moral support for their anti-Castro activities." There is no information showing the mutual involvement of Sturgis with the Diaz Lanz brothers in anti-Castro activities until at least the Summer of 1963.

3. Information in the file of Frank Anthony Sturgis reflects that from circa May 1960 to at least January 1961, Sturgis was living in the Miami area training a group of Cuban and American volunteers for a military invasion of Cuba. By October 1960, the FBI had determined that Sturgis' only activities in anti-Castro matters were in conjunction with the activities of Pedro Diaz Lanz, who was one of the leaders of the anti-Castro group, "Liberation Alliance." reportedly, Sturgis' invasion group, in January 1961 was calling itself, "Brigada Internacionale," with variations of "International Anti-Communist Brigade." One of the sub-units of the Brigade was identified in the press in July 1961 as being a paratroop unit called "Intercontinental Penetration Force" or INTERPEN. The commander of INTERPEN was identified as Gerald Patrick Hemming, Jr. (#429 229) The Office of Security file of Sturgis contains nothing further until October 1968, when

his arrest was announced in October 1968- while still heading the "International Anti-Communist Brigade" -- for his involvement in a group attempting to enter Guatemala to "clean out anti-Guatemalan guerrillas." At that time Fiorini claimed that two men who were sponsoring his operation were Bob Howell, allegedly a friend of the Kennedy family, and a General Biddle, member of the John Birch Society.

4. To return to the events of the early 1960's, in July 1962 an article appeared in *The New Orleans States Item* by Bill Stuckey, concerning an anti-Castro training base established on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. This unit was identified as INTERPEN, headed by Gerald Patrick Hemming Jr. The article inferred that INTERPEN was still part of Sturgis' International Anti-Communist Brigade. This particular unit received nationwide publicity when District Attorney Jim Garrison alleged that INTERPEN was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and that INTERPEN members were connected with the CIA.

5. The above noted Bill Stuckey who wrote the July 1962 press article about INTERPEN and Hemming is identical with the William Stuckey who interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald during a public broadcast in New Orleans in August 1963. According to testimony in the Warren Commission Hearings by William Stuckey and CARLOS Bringuier, (Cuban Student Directorate Delegate in New Orleans) in early August 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald came to Bringuier'S New Orleans clothing store announcing that he, Oswald, was a former Marine trained in guerrilla warfare who wanted to join an anti-Castro guerrilla group in New Orleans. (NOTE: Many of the INTERPEN group were ex-Marines, as was Frank Sturgis.) Bringuier claims he stalled Oswald and several days later encountered Oswald on the streets of New Orleans passing out "Fair Play For Cuba" leaflets. The encounter led to a disturbance, and Oswald and Bringuier were arrested. Bringuier subsequently alerted Stuckey to Oswald, which resulted in the broadcast interview. It is of note that Bringuier inferred he was knowledgeable of the anti-Castro guerrilla group training on the North shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and even collected funds for the travel of two of the members to Miami when the group was disbanded.

6. The individual in INTERPEN of most interest to Garrison was Loran Eugene Hall (OS #348 627), who ostensibly arrived in Dallas, Texas, in October 1963, remaining until after President Kennedy was shot. Garrison also alleged that Hall was involved with the Minutemen. The Hall file reflects that in August 1963 Hall was in Southern California, where he spoke before numerous meetings of the John Birch Society attempting to raise funds for anti-Castro planned invasion of Cuba scheduled for mid-September 1963.

7. In June 1972 Frank Sturgis, E. Howard Hunt, Bernard Barker and others were arrested while burglarizing the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate, Washington, D.C.

Jerry Brown had his suspicions that Hunt, Barker and Hemming were mixed up with Oswald, or at least moved in the same circles. Why was this document classified Eyes Only, and why was Jerrold G. Brown wary about pursuing his investigation in this direction? The Rockefeller investigation could have gone in this direction. The final verdict of the Rockefeller Commission: "Numerous allegations have been made that the CIA participated in the assassination of President Kennedy...On the basis of the staff's investigation, the Commission concluded there was no credible evidence of any CIA involvement."

The Office of the Inspector General of the CIA generated this index card:

Sturgis, Frank

January 29, 1974, January 31, 1974

J. Horton,

Matt MacVane

DDO/DCD FILE REVIEW 741

Luis Desa-Soto

IG File 34, Tab 1

DCD/Miami to DCD/ Washington, Cable 12480

Subj: Frank Sturgis, Convicted Watergate Burglar (Agency relations with Sturgis)

Matthew Chatten MacVane is a Marine in Viet Nam. Matt MacVane was awarded the Nations 2nd highest honor for Valor; The Navy Cross. While an agent for the CIA Matt has gathered intelligence information from the Caribbean, Central and South America and scores of other locales. Matt has traveled around the world to satisfy the needs of clients and worked in various cities in China, India, Turkey and Australia. Matt MacVane has negotiated with, and secured from South American rebel forces, kidnapped U.S. businessmen, bringing life or death incidences to a successful conclusion and protecting the client's personal, financial and professional welfare. [<http://matt.macvane.com>] John Ryder Horton, 86, a CIA senior executive in the directorate of operations who became chief of the Soviet bloc division, died June 3, 2007. He had bladder cancer. Horton joined the CIA in 1948 and was chief of station in Hong Kong, Uruguay and Mexico. He was in Mexico during the 1968 student riots. He was chief of the Western Hemisphere division before retiring in 1975 as chief of the

Soviet bloc division, covering the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact nations. He received the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Medal.



[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/07/AR2007060702354.html>]

CAR THIEF

In 1973 the Justice Department decided to prosecute Sturgis for Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicles stemming from his abortive attempt to hijack a Soviet freighter. Sturgis' codefendants were Max Gonzalez, Jerry Buchanan and two unindicted coconspirators, Richard G. Brown and Robert Curtis. In Texas, Buchanan claimed the whole car theft case was merely a government ploy to force Sturgis to talk about Watergate.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD November 21, 1973

SUBJECTS: Frank Sturgis and William Johnson.

1. On November 16, 1973, Sidney Stenbridge AC/OPS/PSI referred a request to the undersigned from Mr. Gary Breneman, Office of General Counsel. Mr. Breneman requested the source of information previously given in a June 20, 1972, memorandum concerning the activities of Mr. Frank Sturgis with anti-Castro emigre groups during 1960. With the concurrence of Stenbridge, the undersigned provided Mr. Breneman with Xeroxed copies of FBI reports contained in Mr. Sturgis' file which provided the basis for the information in the June 1972 memorandum.

2. On November 19, 1973, Mr. Gary Breneman, Office of General Counsel, contacted Mr. Leo J. Dunn's office requesting traces and information on a William J. Johnson, Jr. This request was forwarded to the undersigned. It was further developed from Mr. Breneman that his request had been prompted by a query from the United States Attorney, Miami, Florida, who is prosecuting the case against Mr. Sturgis on charges stemming from indictment on transporting stolen automobiles across the Mexican border in 1968. According to information relayed by Mr. Breneman, an individual by the name of William J. Johnson (DPOD: February 11, 1931, New York City) was prepared to come forward at Sturgis trial and claim that he was a CIA employee and that he recruited Sturgis to take part in an alleged CIA operations against Cuba in 1968.

3. With concurrence from Sidney Stenbridge, AC/OPS/PS, a Xerox copy of a Western Hemisphere Division, Task Force W memorandum of 1962 was provided Mr. Breneman on November 19, 1973. This memo was located in file # 348 309 and concerned a commentary on an article written by Edith Roosevelt. This reference connected a

William J. Johnson with Frank Sturgis in a 1961 indictment for smuggling. This incident involved Sturgis and one William J. Johnson in an overflight and anti-Castro leaflet drop mission in Cuba unrelated to any Agency program. This was the only trace developed on a William J. Johnson. No employment relationship could be established and Mr. Breneman was so informed.

4. Further research into the Sturgis security file turned up a reference to a Tony W. Johnson in a Bureau report with information of January 1961. A Bureau source stated that he received a letter offering him the opportunity to join Fiorini's International Brigade. The letter further stated that a mutual friend from the FORCE RECON, First Marine Division, on "Tony" Johnson was also being contacted. On the strength that Tony could possibly be a nickname used by William Johnson, this information was relayed to Mr. Breneman on November 20, 1973. Mr. Breneman's office was also reminded of the 'Third Agency Rule' which precluded the passage of Bureau reports to other parties. His office was also advised in response to his request, that the Miami Field Office was believed to have already forwarded all information on hand concerning Sturgis to Headquarters. It was further deemed inadvisable to involve the Miami Field Office in local investigation of individuals connected with the Sturgis court case out of concern for prejudicing the proceedings.

Lawrence Howe.

In Sturgis' Motion for Discovery he wrote: "The Defendant has been indicted at Bar for alleged activities in the United States and Mexico in the year 1968; it is essential to the Defendant's defense to show his past connections and working agreements with and employment by the CIA." [FBI 26-425217-36] In early 1974 Sturgis was incarcerated for his Watergate activities. On January 31, 1974, Sturgis asked to meet with an Agency representative. [CIA MFR Harold G. Tittsler] On September 12, 1974, the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld Sturgis' ITSMV conviction. [St. Pierre Memo 10.25.74] Sturgis was released on appeal bond.

On October 18, 1974, this FBI memo was generated:

TO: SAC, Miami (89-35)

FROM: ASAC Frederick F. Fox

SUBJECT: Assassination of John Kennedy, Dallas, Texas, AFO

At approximately 5:15 p.m., October 17, 1974, I discussed with S.A. W. Douglas Gow, Supervisor, Division G, Bureau, above captioned matter. I told Supervisor Gow that Frank Sturgis was in Miami and presently out on bond. He was convicted in an ITSMV

case and appealed this conviction. The conviction was upheld, but Sturgis, being represented by an attorney, has asked the court for a reduction in sentence. The judge has taken this under advisement for 90 days. It was pointed out to Supervisor Gow that Frank Sturgis has been for many years a source of information for columnist Jack Anderson in Washington, D.C. It was explained to Supervisor Gow that contact with Sturgis could not be discreet and undoubtedly Jack Anderson would learn of the contact, as well as Sturgis' attorney. In addition, Sturgis might use the contact by FBI Agents as a bargaining point with the court that he was cooperating with the FBI. Supervisor Gow called back and advised this lead should be held in abeyance until after the interview with E. Howard Hunt. [FBI Miami 89-35-410 10.18.74]

On December 3, 1974, this FBI document was generated:

United States Government Memorandum

TO: SAC Miami

FROM: SA J. St. Pierre

SUBJECT: Assassination of John F. Kennedy, Dallas, Texas.

Re ASAG Memo October 18, 1974, and Miami Memo SA St. Pierre, October 25, 1974. In as much as Bureau has requested no further inquiry in this matter is suggested this case be closed. Destroy on December 3, 1979. [FBI 89-35-413; NARA 124-10265-10136; NARA 124-10265-10135]

Sturgis was willing to supply the FBI with information on the Kennedy assassination if the FBI got him a lighter sentence in his ITSMV case. The FBI, however, was not dealing. Sturgis received a nine month sentence, probably lighter than he expected. When Sturgis was released later that year, he worked for Carlos Prio Socarras and organized a "Cuban Exile Unity Party" that sent a delegation to an Organization of American States meeting at which peaceful coexistence with Cuba was debated. Carlos Prio Socarras attended this meeting.

THE KISSINGER ASSASSINATION PLOT: STURGIS 1975

In 1975 Orlando Bosch convinced the Chilean Junta to sponsor the assassination of a relative of Salvador Allende who was living in Costa Rica. This plot was the cover for a plan to assassinate Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Sturgis learned of the plot and informed Miami Police Department Detective Danny Benitez, who passed the information to Lt. Lyons of the Dade County Public Safety Office, who gave it to the

United States Secret Service. Sturgis was question in the course of *Hunt v Weberman* in 1978:

Q. Did you inform the United States Government about a plot against Henry Kissinger in Latin America; specifically, in Costa Rica, that involved Orlando Bosch?

A. Let me say this. I notified the American Government of an international plot to kill Mr. Kissinger. Let me say this, change that a little bit around -- not around, I'm sorry. I notified the American Government that there was a plot to disrupt, and possibly to do harm to Mr. Kissinger and, also, the president of a foreign country when he would arrive to this country. Yes, I advised the Government of this plot.

At the end of a CIA list of FBI documents on Sturgis, the following entry appeared: "Subject: Threat to Assassinate Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the President of Venezuela 24 April 1975 (Teletype to State CIA et al) No File Number."

To: DC, Miami

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBSS: ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA

IS - CUBA

This will confirm information orally furnished to SA Joseph Ball, Miami Office by SA V. B. Miner on **April 22, 1975**. On 4/22/75, Robert Olson, Commission on CIA activities in the U.S. (Rockefeller Commission) contacted the Bureau. He indicated he had been called earlier by Frank Sturgis in connection with Sturgis' testimony before the Commission. At that time, Sturgis indicated to Olson that there was a group known as the Latin American Anti-Communist League in Miami which is making plans to assassinate Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the President of Venezuela. Olson indicated that Sturgis was at his home in Miami, telephone Number 305-6S1-6263, and address 2515 N.W. 122 Street, Miami, Florida, 22167. Olson advised that he had on objection to our contacting Sturgis however, since he had committed himself to recontact Sturgis he would call him and advise him that he would be contacted by representatives of our Miami Office. The Miami Office was telephonically advised to contact Sturgis bearing in mind his propensity for publicity; to obtain all pertinent information and to eutel the results. Keep Bureau advised of all pertinent developments.

The notes of an unnamed Rockefeller Commission investigator read:

April 22, 1975. Has information regarding Miami people, possibly including some Cuban Americans & possibly including some people of past CIA contact, are planning to go to Venezuela to assassinate Henry Kissinger and the President of Venezuela on Henry Kissinger's forthcoming trip there. Dr. de Cardenas, Latin American Anti-Communist League may be involved. Called John Mintz at FBI and gave him above information...called Sturgis back, told him the FBI will be contacting him.

When the State Department received this information, it arranged for Orlando Bosch's arrest on February 19, 1976, for entering Venezuela on a fraudulent passport. Orlando Bosch: "The reports that I was going to kill Henry Kissinger are stupid and grotesque. They said I was held because I intended to assassinate the American Secretary of State, but I was in Costa Rica long before Kissinger arrived, and in fact, I did not even know he was coming." The Interior Minister of Costa Rica told the press that Orlando Bosch intended to kill Henry Kissinger for being a Castro collaborationist, since Henry Kissinger advocated restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba. In March 1976 Manuel Artime arranged for Orlando Bosch's release, explaining: "I don't agree with his politics, but he is a friend."

ROBERTO DE CARDENAS



CONTACT REPORT DATE: **June 30, 1972**

AGENT: OZ-STEER/1 CASE OFFICER: (Deleted)

1. Contact was initiated with OZ-STEER/1 to discuss Roberto de Cardenas. Cardenas was previously described by (Deleted) as an individual who one worked for the Agency both in Miami and the Congo. He is a friend of Barker of the Washington break-in scandal. Cardenas was unemployed until 1972 but now, suddenly, he is traveling to South America and has become affluent. OZ-STEER/1 speculated that Cardenas may be dealing in narcotics.

2. Also note a *New York Times* article of June 28, 1972 concerning the Washington break-in affair. This article states that an individual appeared on the Miami scene about

two months ago and recruited the team for the break-in. The recruiter was described as a pipe smoker who used a code name...

3. OZSTEER/1 is skeptical of the NYT article as written, because in his opinion no Cuban could be recruited by an unknown individual using a code name. Considering the clandestine operational mentality of many Cubans in Miami are recruitments could only be made by a known recruiter with adequate bona fides [Howard Hunt].

a. Cardenas was born about 1919. In 1954 he was a captain with Cubana airlines. In 1954 - 1955 he was arrested in Havana by Major Ochos for smuggling cocaine. Due to political pull, Cardenas was not prosecuted, but was fired from his position. He retired to his farm in Cuba from 1954 to 1959.

b. From 1959 to 1960 he was in the Castro air force. There he met Fiorini, also involved in the Washington break-in scandal. In 1960, in Miami, OZ-STEER/1 was in the Fiorini home when Cardenas dropped in. Also present was Diaz Lanz, former Chief of the Castro air force. Cardenas was then working closely with Barker in Cuba exile (unity) activity on behalf of Artime. At the time OZ-STEER/1 met Cardenas at the Fiorini home he told OZ-STEER/1 to go to a house on Brickell Avenue. OZ-STEER/1 did and there he met Artime for the first time.

c. (At this time a Case Officer named "Jimmy" was handling both Barker and Cardenas. "Jimmy" spoke excellent Cuban Spanish.)

d. From 1962 to 1965 Cardenas worked with the Agency under the cover firm (Deleted) (Cardenas case officer during this period was (Deleted)).

e. In 1965 the Agency sent Cardenas to OZ-STEER/1 the Congo. In the Congo Cardenas claimed to have a heart attack and was hospitalized. He was later proven medically sound and released from his Congo assignment.

f. During 1967 to 1968 Cardenas drove a truck in the Miami area. Between 1969 and 1970 to 1971 Cardenas sold mutual funds in South America. (GRAMCO and others) This ended when the funds went bankrupt.

g. In 1971 Cardenas was economically down. In early 1972 he started traveling again and became affluent. OZ-STEER/1 believes Cardenas is involved in drugs.

In March 1975 Sturgis and Jerry Buchanan received letters of commendation from the Miami Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The letter read:

Dear Judge Clyde Atkins: I would like to call to your attention the fact that Mr. Frank Sturgis has assisted the DEA by lending support and guidance to Mr. Jerry Buchanan during the investigation (case development) into the activities of Ken Burnstine. Mr. Sturgis directed Mr. Buchanan to the DEA at the outset of this investigation and provided aid to Mr. Buchanan during the six month investigation prior to Grand Jury indictment. This information is furnished for your consideration. David Costa, Acting Regional Director, DEA.

The CIA's Office of the Inspector General generated this index card: "Assassination, Homicides, Cuban Operations Tab 3, MFR from Joseph Seltzer, Reference: MFR dated March 21, 1975, from Mr. Cates, NPIC. Subject: Assassination Plans Against Castro (Review of C. Jenkins folder, request for info on PATHFINDER." The plans involving Fidel, to the knowledge the CIA Imagery Analysis Service, were:

(a) A folder, stored in the Photo interpretation area at JMWAVE contained materials relating to a plan to assassinate Castro in the Bay of Pigs resort area where he maintained a yacht and was known to vacation. The plan, possibly with the codeword PATHFINDER, apparently had been disapproved and was not under active consideration at the time. Our people did not participate actively in the plan in any regard.

(b) While assigned to the Imagery Analysis Service, a number of our photo interpreters supported Carl Jenkins of the DD/P concerning a plan to assassinate Castro at the DuPont Varadero Beach Estate, east of Havana. Castro was known to frequent the estate and the plan was to use a high-powered rifle in the attempt. The photo interpretation support was restricted to providing annotated photographs and line drawings of the estate. To our knowledge, this plan also was never implemented

Another IG Index card read: "Anti-Castro Counter-Revolutionary Force, Cuban Operations, Homicides, Cuban Operations Tab 1, FBI Report, Seattle, Washington, (2-41). Subject: Frank Anthony Sturgis Neutrality Matters (re: Letter from Bob Rostallon to W. C. Bean concerning Anti-Castro Counterrevolutionary Force - plans to go into mountains in Cuba as a guerrilla force.)" In June 1963 Joseph Seltzer was the head of the CIA's Office of National Estimates where he forwarded a memo on "A Survey of Possible Soviet Actions." [http://www.foia.cia.gov/browse_docs.asp] Bob Rostallon was connected to INTERPEN and may have been killed in Central America. Rockefeller Commission investigator Robert B. Olsen evaluated Sturgis' reliability:

COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

April 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

FROM: ROBERT B. OLSEN

SUBJECT: Interview with Frank Sturgis, April 3, 1975, and April 4, 1975.

I have just reviewed the transcript of the taped portion of the interview with Frank Sturgis and I am reminded to dictate this memorandum to the file. It is my impression that very little reliance can be placed on the claims of Frank Sturgis that he has engaged in a variety of activities for the CIA. He appears to be so caught up in the romantic aspects of his own activities that he finds it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

Prior to his coming to Washington for the interview, he had told me by telephone that he had concrete evidence to show that President Kennedy had been assassinated as a result of a conspiracy involving members of the Cuban crime syndicate and the CIA. He also told me he had participated in several actual attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro, including one in New York City, and that these attempts had been undertaken on behalf of the CIA.

The detailed interview in Washington bore out neither of these claims. The alleged connection between the CIA, the Cuban crime syndicate, and the assassination of President Kennedy turned out to be nothing but sheer speculation on the part of Sturgis. As respects the assassination attempts on Fidel Castro, it turns out that he had been engaged in plotting to assassinate Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders while he was an official of the Castro Government during early 1959, and that the CIA had nothing whatever to do with this plotting. Indeed, he states during the course of the interview that he discussed that plotting with a Colonel Nichols at the American Embassy in Havana, and was repeatedly asked not to attempt such assassination. While Sturgis claims that he was asked by Bernard Barker if he would be willing to undertake an assassination attempt, he acknowledged that he did not even know who was involved, or whether it was inside or outside the United States. He admits that the talk among Cubans in Florida of assassinating Castro in New York had nothing to do with the CIA.

These gross discrepancies between initial flamboyant claims and any hard evidence give rise to serious questions of credibility. The same is true with

respect to the claims Sturgis makes regarding requests made to him to undertake ventures on behalf of the CIA. One gets the impression that Sturgis feels that every contact he has with a government official or anybody whom he has known to have been an agent or asset of the CIA has involved a CIA operation.

On the basis of interviews conducted at the CIA, and a review of the records of the CIA, as well as the interview with Frank Sturgis, it is my impression that Sturgis was never employed by the CIA, was never a contract or other agent of the CIA, was never an informant for the CIA, and was never asked to undertake any contract operation for the CIA. However, it appears likely that Sturgis was active in one or more of the Cuban Revolutionary Front organizations sponsored and financed by the CIA in the early 1960's, and that in this connection he came into contact with various people who, in turn, had direct contacts with the Agency. Bernard Barker would be one example.

I intend to check out the claim that Sturgis makes that he was asked in 1968 by a CIA agent (allegedly Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis) to organize an operation for the hijacking of a Russian ship, which hijacking was to involve a demand for release of political prisoners in Cuba, and a demand for the release of the USS *Pueblo* by the North Koreans. I also intend to check out his claims that Bernard Barker asked him in 1961 if he would be willing to take on an assassination of some unknown person. Incidentally, there is a possible connection on this matter. In 1960 and 1961 E. Howard Hunt was active in the organization of a Cuban Government in exile in the United States. In this role he had contacts with Bernard Barker, who was under contract with the Agency. Hunt states in his book that he recommended to the Agency that an assassination of Castro be carried out before or contemporaneously with the Bay of Pigs invasion. It is not inconceivable that Hunt would have asked Barker to check out the possibilities of finding an assassin to carry out such a job if approval were ever given to his recommendation. [SSCIA 157-10005-101-46]

Given a receptive environment Sturgis might have talked: "Prior to his coming to Washington for the interview he had told me by telephone that he had concrete evidence to show that President Kennedy had been assassinated as a result of a conspiracy involving members of the Cuban crime syndicate and the CIA." When Sturgis said he was asked by Barker (who worked for Hunt), to assassinate an unknown individual, Olsen assumed it was Castro. Sturgis had detailed numerous plots against Castro in which he was involved. Sturgis told Canfield this was a domestic

assassination. What Sturgis referred to was the Kennedy assassination. Olsen also should have realized that Hunt and Sturgis were lying when they said they did not meet until 1971. Barker was too close to both men for this to be true. Portions of transcript of Rockefeller Commission interview with Frank Sturgis on April 3, 1975, and April 4, 1975, were withheld for National Security reasons by withdrawing archivist KBH as of 2010. [Withdrawal Sheet ID 04444 - 018000065 and 04443 - 018000065 Box # 4 and #5]

DISINFORMATION 1976

In **1976** Sturgis told United Press International that he was requested to **conduct an investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy** by an un-named government agency. The CIA obtained this article and commented:

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Raymond A. Warren

Acting Chief, Latin American Division

Via: Deputy Director of Operations

Subject: Washington Star Article on Jack Ruby / Fidel Castro July 9, 1976:

The Washington Star on July 9, 1976, carries an article entitled "Ruby Met with Castro, Sturgis Says." In the article, Sturgis claims he knew that Jack Ruby met in Havana with Fidel Castro ten weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy and discussed 'the removal of the President.' Sturgis claims, according to the article, that he had been assigned to investigate possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the Miami area in the Kennedy assassination. The article also states that Sturgis refused to say for what Agency he was working, or gave him the assignment, but the article indicated that Sturgis was working for the CIA at the time. For the record, Sturgis continues to allege a CIA relationship, but no such relationship has ever existed.

DDO/SA/LA [deleted]ds July 9, 1976

Distribution:

Orig & 1 – Addressee w/att.

1 - DDCI w/att.

1 - DDO w/att.

1 – A/DCI (Mr. Falkiewicz) w/att.

2 – DDO w/att.

2 – C/LAD w/att.

1 – SA/ LA w/att.

The DD/P signed under "Concur." [*Allen v. DOD* 7.9.76 CIA 19251-0807]

The Agency reported to the FBI in CSCI3/779814 on January 30, 1964 that an unevaluated and unconfirmed report of a visit by Ruby to Cuba. In late 1962 or early 1963 had been received from Havana. This report was actually based on a two page mimeograph newsletter entitled, "Accion" which was mailed from Cuba in an envelope postmarked December 28, 1963, purportedly by an underground anti-Castro group. This newsletter received in Miami on January 13, 1964 by the anti-Castro group known as the DRE, was widely circulated in the Cuban exile community and was the subject of a newspaper article in the January 29 edition of the Miami News under the headline, "Ruby Visited Cuba --- Exiles Say" (WAVE 1283 January 1964)

The CIA's Office of the Inspector General generated an index card on July 9, 1976, that contained the words assassinations, J. F. Kennedy, S.D. Breckinridge, Sturgis, Mr. Buchen, Tom White, Jack Ruby, Bernard Barker, Joe Loftus, *Washington Star*, Bob Wall, Chris Hopkins, AMLUNCH-1 and was titled "Assassinations - JFK TAB 25 MFR by Breckinridge. Subj: White House Inquiry re Frank Sturgis."

9 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: White House Inquiry Re Frank Sturgis, aka Florini.

1. Tom White of OLC called to say that Mr. Buchen of the White House had reacted to a story in today's *Star* in which Sturgis claims that he reported to unnamed government agencies that Jack Ruby had visited Havana ten weeks prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, that he met with Castro at which time he discussed "removal of the president", the purchase of arms and smuggling of drugs into the U. S. Buchen wanted to know what is behind it. Tom asked that we find out if the Agency had contacts with Sturgis (knowing that he was not an Agency employee or agent), if Sturgis made such a

report to the Agency and what did we tell the Warren Commission. I phoned Joe Loftus in LA Division and Bob Wall in CI Staff.

2. Joe Loftus got in touch with me, with Chris Hopkins on the phone, and she said that Bernard Barker (of Watergate fame) did have contact with Sturgis from time to time. Barker had been known as a CIA man and Sturgis did pass information to him, some of which Barker reported. However, we advanced no money for Barker to give Sturgis; if Barker did pay him anything we don't know it. Bob Wall turned up a report of Ruby travel to Havana, which seemed to come from an anonymous letter that was confirmed by an agent in Miami (AMLUNCH-I), not Sturgis. I passed this information, in some additional detail, to Tom White. S. D. Breckinridge

The CIA's Office of the Inspector General generated an index card on August 17, 1976, that contained the names "George K. McConnell, Sturgis, Dennis Berend, MAG Members, UPI that was a memo for MAG Members, Subject, Sturgis' Claims, reference, Memo, undated, (ER 76-8949) from George K. McConnell, from Dennis Berend, Deputy Assistant to DCI." [CIA IG FILE #57, Tab 2] Berend was an Assistant Public Affairs Officer. George K. McConnell worked in the Dominican Republic under diplomatic cover from 1970 – 1971.

MEMORANDUM FOR MAG MEMBERS April 17, 1976

REFERENCE: MEMO (UNDATED) for George K. McConnell (ER 76-8949)

SUBJECT STURGIS CLAIMS

1. In his most recent appearances, Sturgis has become quite cautious about passing himself off as a veteran of CIA exploits. Please note that the UPI item attached to the referenced memorandum cites him as refusing to say for which agency he was working in his latest escapade. The notation that "records have indicated that he was working for the CIA at about that time" was added gratuitously by UPI.

2. Our Office in this particular case called the Miami television station which originally did the Sturgis interview, the Miami and Washington UPI bureaus, the Washington AP bureau, both Washington newspapers, and a Washington TV station which aired the Miami interview. In these calls we tried to set the record straight by citing the Rockefeller Commission findings. The Miami TV station included our remarks in a subsequent continuation of its Sturgis interview. UPI in Miami also issued a new story to include our disclaimer. None of the Washington media picked up the disclaimer, but all of them promised not to be taken in again by anyone's claims that Sturgis had CIA links.

3. Whether there is basis for legal action against Sturgis, as suggested in the referenced memorandum, would have to be determined by OGC. We suggest that little, if anything, would be gained by providing him a new opportunity to garner headlines.

Dennis Berend

Deputy Assistant to the

Director of Central Intelligence

On August 10, 1976, Sturgis gave the FBI in Washington, D.C., a memorandum by former Miami Metro Police Intelligence Chief and anti-Castro Cuban, Alphonso Tarabouchia. Al Tarabouchia, an associate of Sturgis, worked for James Sourwine, Chief Counsel to Senator James O. Eastland's Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. James Sourwine was involved in financing the Bayo-Pawley raid known as Operation Crypt. [HSCA V12 p65] In 1964 Al Tarabouchia had told the Warren Commission that he had a source in the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, who would tell the Commission what really happened during Oswald's visit to Mexico City. When the Commission asked him to reveal the name of his source, he refused. [HSCA V12 p176] Tarabouchia would later work for the Anacapa Consulting Corporation whose other employees included James B. Howlett and Ben Wood, formerly of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit. [*Inquiry* 7.79] The Al Tarabouchia memo stated that the Jose Antonio Lanusa of the DRE had information that Oswald met with G-2 agent Solomon Pratkis before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Sturgis told the FBI that S.A. James O'Conner had seen the document in 1964, and "advised people not to talk about it because it might jeopardize their lives." Sturgis advised the FBI that he would be willing to submit to an interview about his allegations while being polygraphed. The FBI gave him an FD-328, "Consent to Interview with Polygraph Release Form." Sturgis looked it over, but never signed it or took the test. In September 1976 *The National Star* featured an article by Steve Dunleavy about the Al Tarabouchia Memorandum. In 1977 Malcolm Abrams did an article for the *Midnight/Globe*: "Castro Lied to Barbara Walters. Hard Evidence Links Oswald" based on Sturgis' charges. Sturgis did not believe Castro was behind the Kennedy assassination. This was merely anti-Castro propaganda. Sturgis told Robert Olsen of the Rockefeller Commission: "Knew a Cuban woman who was with Castro brothers when Kennedy assassinated. They were alarmed. Feared reprisal. Indicates Castro didn't plan the assassination. She wanted to talk to someone at the top, has forgotten her name."

CARLOS PRIO SOCCARRAS AND WATERGATE

In 1972 the name of Carlos Prio Soccarras surfaced in the Watergate affair. Besides his association with Sturgis, Carlos Prio Soccarras was associated with Humberto Lopez,

another member of the White House/Special Operations Group. Humberto Lopez was the Secretary of the Authentico Party of Carlos Prio Socarras. The Authentico Party had offices located next to those of Bernard Barker. Humberto Lopez told the FBI that he went to Washington, D.C., in early May 1972 as Barker's guest. While in Washington, he stayed with Sturgis. Rolando Martinez and Virgilio Gonzalez, who were members of the White House/Special Operations Group, were also members of the Authentico Party. [FBI 139-4089-346] Manuel Artime told the FBI that Carlos Prio Socarras had "lent some money out" to Watergate figures. The FBI questioned the son-in-law of Carlos Prio Socarras, Alfredo Duran, about his relationship with Hunt. He said that he had "heard of Howard Hunt since the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion, but has known him personally for approximately two years. He stated that he (illegible) Hunt as a representative of a public relations firm in Washington, D.C., in connection with the Haitian real estate holdings in which he is involved." [FBI Document poor copy from carbon 2.23.73 Miami Florida 139-323 S.A. deleted p16] Alfredo Duran's stepfather was Anselmo Alliegro. At approximately 8:00 a.m. on April 5, 1977, Carlos Prio Socarras, 74, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest with a Colt 2" .38 caliber weapon. Two gardeners, Griner and Clarke, heard

...what they thought was a gunshot and immediately stood up and looked into the garage of 5070 Alton Road where they seen a man sitting upright in a chaise lounge chair that was in a semi upright position. They observed this man who they described in what they thought was a pink bathrobe slumped backwards in the chaise lounge chair. Both Griner and Clarke observed what appeared to be blood coming from the front chest area of the man. Both Griner and Clarke then ran out onto Alton Road where they observed, and flagged down, a uniformed police car who was occupied by Officer Chandler. Prio was found lying on a lounge chair with a wound in the left side of his chest. Dade County Medical Examiner Ron Wright discovered "soot deposition with the wound" which indicated that the fatal shot was fired at point blank range. Cause of death: Contact gunshot wound of chest. [Ron Wright Office of Miami Med. Exam. Case No. 77-892]

Miami Beach Policeman Ed Avila, who arrived on the scene at approximately 8:17 a.m. Fire Rescue and their attending physician, Dr. Jorge Vasquez, was already on the scene. Avila:

I talked to him and he nodded yes and no. I asked him if he was hurting, if he was in pain, and he nodded no. I asked him if anybody shot him and he nodded no. I asked him if he shot himself and he nodded yes.

Ed Avila, had met Carlos Prio Socarras in Cuba in the early 1950's. [HSCA Memo Fonzi to Tannenbaum 4.24.77] When Carlos Prio Socarras died, he was bankrupt and had recently testified that he owed Puerto Rican banks more than \$2 million. Prio had redrawn his will eight days before he died. [*Miami Herald* 5.24.77] His death was clearly a suicide. [NARA HSCA 180-10092-10075] Gaeton Fonzi agreed. [Memo 4.24.77 Fonzi to Tannenbaum 014581] Upon his death, the former head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, Tony Varona, took over the leadership of the Authentico Party. On June 14, 1964, the FBI SAC in Miami sent this message to the FBI Director: "Subject Varone FAG (00:Miami) ReBulet to Miami May 13, 1964. Antonio Varona aka Tony Varone is probably identical with Manuel Antonio Varona (deleted). By memo to the Director, FBI June 10, 1960 (deleted)." [FBI 46-50437-2] On November 26, 1968, *Diario De Las Americas* published Tony Varona's statement that Castro agents were responsible for a November 22, 1968, assassination attempt against Julio Aton Constanzo Falau. On December 6, 1968, the CIA received a report from Julio Aton Constanzo Falau, and his brother Avelino, that Francisco Varona Alonzo had visited Julio Aton Constanzo Falau at Jackson Memorial Hospital:

Varona and Constanzo talked about the possible authors of this assassination attempt, and Varona assured Constanzo that the persons who had masterminded the assassination attempt were Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis, Vincent Zorrilla and Manuel Villafana. Varona told Constanzo that the persons who had actually executed the assassination attempt were Richardo Morales Navarrette, Francisco Rodriguez Tamayo, aka 'El Mejicano' and a man known as 'El Gaalego...According to Varona, Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis, Zorrilla and Villafana planned the assassination attempt following instructions from 'the American named Enrique, the Argentine.' Constanzo then told Varona that this was very strange, as he could not understand why those men would want to assassinate him. Varona replied that they wanted to eliminate him (Constanzo) for the simple reason that the latest infiltration operations which had been carried out against Cuba, using Teofilo Babun's ships, were exposing and ridiculing Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis 201-266348), who was the action Chief of the CIA. Varona said that all the operations which had been carried out under the direction of Joaquin Pedromo Sanjenis and his contact had cost a great deal of money, with the cheapest one costing at least \$80,000, and all of them had been a failure, while the operation which Constanzo had carried out had been successful and their cost insignificant. When Constanzo asked Varona whether he (Varona) did not also belong to the CIA group in Miami, Varona said it was true that he worked for the CIA, but that he acted as a Political Chief with a regard to Cuban affairs, and that he had directed dealings with Washington. Varona said that as Political Chief, he was obliged to report this matter, and that

he had already reported it also to the police and the FBI. With regard to the FBI, Varona said he had reported the matter to a man named O'Brien. Varona also told Constanzo that the attempts to burn down his house and to shoot up his automobile had also been ordered by Zorrilla...

Higinio Diaz aka Nino Diaz had also been spreading a story among Cuban exiles, saying that (Deleted) knows that identity of the authors of the attempt to assassinate Constanzo, trying to involved (Deleted) in this happening.

On December 2, 1968, and December 3, 1968, I-41 reported to I-32 that Varona was saying that now he was going to destroy I-1 completely because he had trapped I-1 in something and I-1 would not be able to get out of this trap. Varona said this to I-41 with so much emphasis, and so sure of himself, that when I-41 and E-65 reported this to I-32 they took it as fact

Pancho Varona is not a friend of Julio Anton Constanzo Palau, or his brother Avelino, just an acquaintance and this reason the Constanzo brothers find it very strange that Varona has taken such an interest in allegedly defending Julio Aton Constanzo. Avelino Constanzo believes that Varona is using his brother for propaganda purposes.

During the last two weeks of November 1968 Varona has talked to E-65 and other persons who were at E-65's establishment. While they were talking about politics, Varona said, "If Humphrey had won the election I would have had it, and Sanjenis would have won. But Nixon won so Sanjenis is the one who has had it, and I have placed myself at the highest levels." When Varona made this statement he sounded so sure of what he was saying that E-65 was impressed with regard to Varona's access to high circles surrounding Nixon. [CIA From I-1 To ARGO IRIS 12.6.68 533022]

Tony Varona died on October 31, 1992 of cancer, at age 83.

ANGOLA: 1977

On **January 19, 1977**, the CIA Plans Division sent a three-page attachment to the Office of Security: "Official Routing Slip to (Deleted) For your retention or passage to anyone in the Office of Security who might have interest in attachment. From CIA." The attachments, three Office of Security documents, were withheld as of 2010 "as they are not germane. Sturgis' name did not appear in this material." In May 1977 Sturgis told an

FBI source he is now associated with "Afro-Cuban Committee" to train men in Angola and Zaire. In June 1977 Sturgis flew to England and conferred with individuals interested in overthrowing the pro-Castro Government of Angola. In August 1977 source of Miami Field Office of Domestic Collection Division met with Sturgis on June 5, 1977, regarding plans to establish Cuban Government in exile on Angolan soil "with the help of Holden Roberto (FNLA)." [Sturgis Chronology assembled by Fonzi] When Sturgis returned to the United States in **1978**, he resurrected the story of "Oswald's secret flight to Cuba from the Yucatan peninsula," and he claimed to have obtained a Secret FBI document that quoted nine CIA and FBI sources as having had knowledge of the visit. Sturgis refused to name these sources, "for their own protection." The FBI determined that the secret document was a March 24, 1964, interview of John Martino, by James O'Conner, at Miami. [FBI 105-8342 3.24.64] The FBI:

The document referred to in the article appears to be the Martino FD-302 since points of information appearing in the article do appear in the FD-302. The article alleges nine names appear in the FD-302, but any nine of these do not readily lend themselves to the definition of a 'contact' as suggested in the article. The article quotes purported excerpts from the document which agree, in part, with information contained in the FD-302, but which are not comparable on a word for word basis. In the article, Sturgis is alleged to have told the FBI, in a past interview that Lee Harvey Oswald was in Miami, Florida, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and did attempt to infiltrate anti-Castro organizations. While the alleged infiltration is not mentioned in the Martino FD-302, Sturgis was interviewed by a Bureau Agent on January 14, 1964, concerning that specific point and he labeled the information as false. The article and FD-302 mentioned a fight Oswald is alleged to have had in Miami, Florida, and Bureau Agents interviewed the allegedly combatant on March 26, 1964. While this person denied being personally involved with Oswald, he claimed Oswald had been in a fight, but could provide no details. His recognition of Oswald was based on publicity following the John F. Kennedy assassination. The article and FD-302 refer to a trip Oswald is alleged to have made from Mexico to Cuba during September 1963. The FD-302 points out that this information supposedly originated with a 'girlfriend' of Oswald's who resided in Mexico. [FBI ltr. To USAG from Director, FBI 7.19.77]

THOMAS HOLT

On October 4, 1978, a document was generated by David R. Wiser of the Drug Enforcement Administration a copy of which was sent to Peter F. Gruden of the DEA. Peter Gruden, head of the Miami DEA office, offered a group of Mexicans \$50,000 to

kidnap a doctor who had been involved in the death of a DEA agent in Mexico. [*Wash. Post* 5.26.90] The Subject of the memo was "JFK, Conspiracy Theory, Assassination, Sturgis, Frank." [FBI 62-109060-7991, NARA FBI 124-10145-10233]

On December 11, 1978 Thomas Holt appeared at the office of the FBI, Miami, Florida where he was interviewed by Special Agents Peter Schoppeale and Don J. Demford. Prior to the interview Special Agent Schoppeale had explained to Holt that the FBI was desirous of knowing any information concerning remarks made by one Frank Sturgis in his presence concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in, Dallas, Texas.

Holt advised that he is not well acquainted with Frank Sturgis but he met him approximately one year ago at a party given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He stated that he was introduced to Sturgis by a friend of his, Billy Johnson. Holt advised that at this party Sturgis had told him that he had been a hit man for Fidel Castro and that both Castro and he (Sturgis) had both worked for the CIA. At this point in the interview Holt stated that Rockefeller, meaning Nelson Rockefeller, had been in charge of the Warren Commission and that it had been a cover up as far as the assassination of Kennedy was concerned. Holt next stated that the "hit" was done in Texas to make it look like Johnson was at fault. Holt stated that he believed Billy Johnson may have told Sturgis to say the above things to impress Holt. Holt next stated that while at this party, Sturgis had named many people he stated were "big" and that he knew these people. Holt stated he thinks Sturgis may have killed Kennedy because Sturgis had said he could shoot a person's brains out at 1,000 yards with a simple rifle and imagine what I could do with a scope." Holt next stated Sturgis had made these comments to him concerning the assassination of Kennedy he was sure he had probably made them to other people. Holt stated Sturgis was a man approximately 50 years old. Holt next stated that he advised Bill Johnson had worked as an informant for the FBI, CIA and (illegible paragraph ending "from wealthy women")

Holt advised that in regard to the remark made by Sturgis, it was during the latter part of the summer that he was on Biscayne Boulevard, at approximately 125th Street near Denny's Restaurant and Steve's Pizza when Billy Johnson drove up in his car accompanied by Frank Sturgis. Holt advised that at this time Billy Johnson told Sturgis that he, Holt, was a Boston boy. At this time Holt advised Sturgis said, "I killed a boy from Boston named Kennedy." Holt advised that he said, "Do you mean the President?" And Sturgis said "Yes." Holt advised Johnson next laughed

and said "Ain't that heavy." Holt advised that Sturgis then said, "I'll tell you, nobody else." Holt advised that that was the end of the conversation and Sturgis left. Holt next advised he was facing murder charges in Broward County, but that no trial date has been set. Holt next stated that he wanted to become an informant for the FBI but that he would have to have it in writing. Holt further related that he had been screwed by the DEA and his conversation became rambling making no further sense. Interview was terminated at this point.

Later that November the FBI reported:

For the information of the Bureau and Dallas, by letter dated October 20, 1978, the United States Secret Service Miami furnished to this office a copy of a letter sent to the Agency by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Miami, dated October 13, 1978. The Drug Enforcement Administration letter advised that an informant for the DEA had indicated he was acquainted with Frank Sturgis of Watergate notoriety, and during a conversation Sturgis told the informant that he killed President John F. Kennedy. This remark was supposed to have been made in the presence of an individual by the name of Bill Johnson. DEA advised that this informant could be made available for interview.

On November 3, 1978, attempts to contact Peter F. Gruden, Inspector-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Miami, who had furnished above information to United States Secret Service, determined that he was not available.

On November 7, 1978, Peter F. Gruden was contacted, and he advised that the informant in this matter was Thomas Holt. Gruden stated that Holt was of questionable reliability, irrational, unpredictable, and described him further as a murderer and perjurer. He advised the only reason Holt was a DEA informant at this time was the Holt had furnished information of internal nature. Gruden advised that David N. Wiser, Inspector, DEA could furnish more details concerning Holt.

On November 8, 1978 David R. Wiser advised that Holt had come to DEA and had made allegations of wrongdoings against a DEA agent. Wiser advised that to date the internal investigation in this DEA matter has not uncovered any evidence to indicate any truth to the allegations of Holt. He advised that the evidence indicates to the contrary. Wiser advised that Holt had stated that during the late summer 1975 he Holt was on Biscayne Boulevard in the downtown Miami area, when he came upon Frank

Sturgis who was accompanied by one Bill Johnson. Wisner advised that Holt stated that during this encounter, Sturgis state he had killed John Kennedy. Wisner stated he asked Holt "Why would Sturgis impart this interesting bit of news to Holt who was known government witness and publicized DEA informant from the past?" And Holt replied that it was "one hit man to another." Wisner advised that Holt had indicated an intention to go to the news media regarding this allegation against the DEA. Wisner further stated that he thought it likely that Holt would also make mention of the Sturgis comment in that he had reported this to the DEA and that they had done nothing about it. Wisner advised for this very reason he wrote a memo concerning what Holt had reported, and for this reason it was furnished to the Secret Service. Wisner made available a copy of this memo dated October 4, 1978 which is attached.

Wisner further stated that in a case in which Holt was a witness for the prosecution Holt had allegedly called a Defendant during a trial and told him he was going to "get him." The Defendant in this matter, at the time of the call, had a recording of his telephone call made which was played for the presiding judge. Holt denied making the call to the defendant and the judge ruled that Holt's testimony could not be permitted. On November 9, 1978 Wisner had advised that Bill Johnson was William J. Johnson, date of birth March 11, 1932 FBI number 133677? On November 31, 1978 Wisner advised that Holt had been polygraphed on three occasions by DEA and he had failed the three polygraphs concerning his allegation about DEA.

A review of the Miami files indicates that (deleted) date of birth (deleted) white male, was a source of the Miami Office for a short period of time under Miami file (deleted) Bureau file (deleted) FBI number (deleted) also arrested by FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration Agents, July 26, 1976, at Miami International Airport for UFAP murder charges. Bufile (deleted) additional contained in Miami file (deleted) in which (deleted). Subject along with (deleted) and Subject (deleted) involving crime on the high seas - possible murder. (Deleted) victim all suspected drug dealers. Reports in this matter have been furnished to the Bureau, but Bufile number unknown to Miami. Miami maintaining contact with Drug Enforcement Administration Miami and contemplates interview of (deleted) and (deleted)." On October 4, 1978, Peter F. Gruden, Inspector-in-Charge received a Memo from (Deleted) Inspector that was referred in it's entirety to the Drug Enforcement Administration. [FBI 62-109060-10232, 7791 enc. page 3,4 NARA FBI 124-10145-10232; NARA FBI 124-10145-10234 John C. Keeney: Blakey]

On **December 11, 1978**, the Miami FBI stated "No further investigation is being conducted by the Miami Office, and this matter is being considered RUC." The LHM stated: "By letter dated October 20, 1978, the United States Secret Service, Miami, Florida, furnished the FBI Miami a copy of a letter sent to that agency by the DEA, Miami, Florida, dated October 13, 1978. The DEA letter advised that (Deleted)." [FBI 62-109060-7991 also 62-109060, 7990, 7990X, 7990X1 have been changed to 190 -709-98X3, 8805-15, 8805-16 this was announced in NARA 124-10145-10235; NARA FBI 124-10145-10231] These documents dealt with Thomas Holt. In 1979 Ray Sandstrom represented Thomas Holt in a first-degree murder case. During these proceedings, Thomas Holt stated:

First of all, I released Mr. Sandstrom because of lack of money, no other reason. Second of all, Your Honor, at the hearing before Judge Glickstein the statement that I made about Frank Sturgis telling me that he ordered John F. Kennedy's assassination, and upon that statement I made, he ordered a psychiatric examination. I believe that needn't to bring out the fact that Mr. Frank Sturgis told me he murdered John F. Kennedy. There was another person in Miami he said he murdered. He told me E. Howard Hunt, Gordon Liddy and Mr. Colby, head of CIA, were all personally involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford was on the Warren Commission to cover up the assassination of John Kennedy. But if you want to talk assassinations, going through the history of this country, Republicans have murdered Democrats and Democrats have murdered Republicans.

I am not a radical. I am not psychotic and I am not a bigot. Most important of all, I am not ignorant...I gave Ray Sandstrom my last \$10,000. I have no moneys. If Your Honor wants me to see two more psychiatrists, very well. But I notice the Court did not bring out the fact that the psychiatrist said to me it is very possible that Frank Sturgis murdered the President of the United States. It is possible that Frank Sturgis murdered President Allende, and it is very possible that Mr. Holt is not paranoid or crazy. This is in the psychiatric report, Your Honor.

Your Honor, I excuse myself for raising my voice, but I have watched Ray Sandstrom raise his voice on many occasions. I am not an attorney, I am not a prosecutor. I am not an assassin for the government. I am a man indicted for first degree murder, and I want every piece of representation that this Court can give me - nothing more and nothing less." [Circuit Court of 17th Judicial Circuit Criminal Action No. 79-8855 CF "J" Moe 11.2.79 Hearing]

Thomas Holt signed this statement:

I Thomas Holt, was told the first or second week in May a year ago today, with Billy Johnson by Bob's Pizza Place on Biscayne and 135th in February there was a meeting with customs when I told them that those prior times Frank Sturgis told me he killed John F. Kennedy, I told this to the assassination committee and an oath was taken on these statements last week in Broward County in my court hearing before judge Glickstein. (Blanche Gloetzner took this depo of Record Reporting Services. Thomas Holt.

Hemming told this researcher:

I did time with Holt. He's a fucking bug. To be in the business you got to be a goddamn bug. He deteriorated fairly rapidly. The Drug Enforcement Administration was trying to keep him on the street, but he's out there blowing people away. Where would guys become intimate? Are they on a fucking mission to kill somebody and some things slip out?

JOHN V. MARTINO & DRUG SMUGGLING

In February 1969 Martino was investigated for misrepresenting himself as a representative of the General Development Corporation in Guatemala. Martino ran an organization known as ONCA. [FBI 163-34977-2 2.25.69] In April 1973 John Martino was involved with associates of the brother of Guatemalan President Carlos Arana Orsorio in narcotics smuggling:

(Deleted) efforts obtain Russo's long distance telephone tolls revealed he often used telephone of a friend (Deleted). Latter is old acquaintance of (Deleted) who agreed to cooperate investigation Russo activities. (Deleted) said he had helped Russo move what he thought was contraband but now believe narcotics also involved. Russo had two sets false documentation: one citing birth Belize (British Honduras) the other Spain. In addition, hold Brazilian diplomatic passport which (Deleted) claims Maria Paula Soura Freitas obtained for him. Latter also has been Russo contraband collaborator according to (Deleted). (Deleted) said he recently has been asked by Russo to carry undisclosed package to Miami for \$5,000. (Deleted) said he could arrange (Deleted) protection (Deleted) as collaborator if he would agree carry package to make possible detection Miami contact. (Deleted) reluctant because he claims 'years ago' he tried to cooperate with Interpol and almost landed in Miami jail as Interpol failed him. (Deleted) feels, however, he can persuade (Deleted).

(Deleted) queried by (Deleted) on other Russo contacts: said latter was to travel to Honduran border (Aguascalientes Checkpoint) April 20, 1973, to contact person who helps him bring in contraband from Honduras. This person turned out to be local immigration chief (also in charge of Customs) Jose 'Chepe' Duarte Jr. (Deleted) said Duarte from Chiquimula, son of former close friend of President Arana, Jose 'Chepe' Duarte Senior, who killed by terrorist 1972. Duarte Jr. has reputation involvement shady deals, but (deleted) immigration officer Aguascalientes on Presidential orders. (Deleted) said he advised President Arana alleged Duarte connection with suspected trafficker Russo. President gave (Deleted) green light investigative and 'take necessary action.' (Deleted) sent (Deleted) team Aguascalientes April 28, 1973, to verify Russo-Duarte contact, which as of April 30, 1973, has not taken place.

(Deleted) also reported a frequent contact of Russo in Miami is resident John Martino, U.S. passport K-169259, who currently staying at hotel Maya Excelsior Guatemala City. Personal check by (Deleted) revealed Martino close friend of Arturo Arana, President's brother, and has taken Arturo on all expense paid pleasure trips to Miami. (Deleted) commented President Arana fuller aware brother Arturo is influence peddler who had to be retired from Guatemalan telecommunications job due to excessive graft.

(Deleted) not to arrest anyone until members Russo network uncovered and sufficient evidence obtained to establish bona fides (deleted). He observed (Deleted) are only arm available to him to conduct investigation which he must do via acting (Deleted) Chief, and that (Deleted) lack narcotics training and experience. [CIA FOIA D001213]

Martino, 64, died on August 3, 1976, of a heart attack: "Acute Rupture Abdominal Aneurysm, due to Shock and Exsanguination due to arteriosclerosis, generalized." [Dade County Death Cert. 9564] Martino was never questioned by HSCA. The HSCA reported that on October 4, 1977,

An anonymous informant named Fred [**Fred Claasen**] called the HSCA several times and indicated a close relationship with the late John V. Martino. Fred said that Martino told him he 'worked for the CIA,' and that President Kennedy was killed by anti-Castro Cubans. Martino said the assassins knew the motorcade route before they went to Dallas." [HSCA Memo Fonzi to Fenton 10.4.77] Author Tony Summers quoted Fred Claasen as having said: "Martino said Oswald wasn't the hit man. He told me 'The anti-Castro types put Oswald together...Oswald didn't know who

he was working for...He was there to meet his contact at the Texas Theater [the movie house where he was arrested]...They were to meet Oswald in the theater and get him out of the country then eliminate him. Oswald made a mistake. There was no way we could get to him. They had Ruby kill him."

When Tony Summers interviewed John Martino's wife, Florence Martino, she told him that John Martino had told her on the day of the assassination

'Flo, they're going to kill him. They are going to kill him when he goes to Texas.' Florence questioned her husband briefly, got no meaningful response, and went out for a while. She was home again by the time Edward, 17, heard the news of the assassination on television. 'When I called them in' he remembered, my father went as white as a sheet. But it wasn't like 'Gee whiz' it was more like confirmation.' 'Then John was on the phone...' Florence remembered: 'He got I don't know how many calls from Texas, I don't know who called him, but he was on the phone, on the phone, on the phone...' [*Vanity Fair* 12.94]

Martino told his wife after the assassination:

When they went to the theater and got Oswald they blew it...There was a Cuban in there. They let him come out. They let the guy go, the other trigger." Some two months before the assassination, Florence Martino said, "a man from Washington, tall and large...in a dark suit, like from the State Department" had brought a young Cuban to the house. Later her husband would ask her, 'Flo, do you remember that good looking kid that was sitting on the couch? He was involved. He was one of them.' A month after we taped Florence Martino's interview she died."

John Cummings, a reporter who worked closely with Hemming, reported:

It came out of the blue. Martino told me he had himself met Oswald several weeks before the assassination, in Miami. He said an FBI agent named Conners asked him to come to a boat docked in Biscayne Bay, and introduced him to Oswald by name. The impression Martino got was that Oswald didn't know his ass from his elbow, didn't know what he was involved in. He thought the agent wanted him to meet Oswald because Martino was involved in anti-Communist activity, and Oswald was someone this agent was running. [Tony Summers *Vanity Fair* 12.94 p112]

S.A. James J. O'Conner denied having met Oswald. In December 1977 Juan Orta died of a heart attack at age 71. Several months later, Allen Courtney became seriously ill; he died on September 17, 1978, of natural causes. On **May 11, 1977**, a source reported to the FBI that Sturgis says he's been asked to organize and train 200 Panamanian dissidents in Costa Rica which is part of a larger anti-Torrijos effort. [Fonzi- Sturgis Chronology] The December 11, 1977, issue of the Panamanian daily, *Excelsior*, reported that Sturgis was involved in a **plot to assassinate Trujillo**:

Carlos Manuel Pereira De Oliveira Cabral, who is being detained on drug trafficking charges, confessed to the National Intelligence Service of Panama that Arnulfo Arias, the ex-President of Panama now living in exile in Miami, and a group of anti-Castro Cubans also in Miami, planned to assassinate Torrijos. Segun Pereira, the Cuban Jose Celso Garcia, and expert on arms and explosives, was offered a million dollars to assassinate Torrijos. Frank Fiorini was to help Garcia enter Panama through Costa Rica and then help him escape.



When **Gaeton Fonzi** met with Sturgis in Miami, Sturgis offered to introduce him to former Castro prisoner named "Paul." Paul was an American who had spent seven years in Castro's prison. He was charged with plotting to blow up a building housing Russian agents. Paul had operated a small bar in Havana as a front, was married to a Cuban who worked for the CIA, and was deeply involved in Miami's anti-Castro Cuban activity. Sturgis told Fonzi: "He don't know you're going to be there, so when we get there I'll put him on." When the three men met, Sturgis pretended he couldn't remember where he knew Gaeton Fonzi from, then said: 'I really know who he is. Fonzi is a friend of mine who is with the government committee that's looking into the John F. Kennedy assassination.' 'Oh,' Paul said, 'you mean the guy you killed?' Sturgis' face froze. The smile was gone. Then he shook his head and smiled again. 'Oh yeah, sure' he said. Paul laughed at catching Sturgis off-guard. I started laughing too. He was right. Paul was a funny guy."

In **December 1980** Sturgis opened a video tape store in Miami. A *Miami News* reporter asked him about the tramps: "No, I was not one of the tramps in Dallas. No fucking way in the world they were going to say I looked like one of those old tramps. I don't know who they were, but I wasn't one of them."

DECEMBER 1980 STURGIS INVOLVED IN CAMARATE: A COUP D'ETAT IN PORTUGAL

The Prime Minister, Mr Sá Carneiro, and the Defense Minister, Mr Amaro da Costa, of Portugal were on board a plane on which Frank Sturgis and his associates had planted

a bomb, travelling from Lisbon to Oporto for an election rally. Also on the plane, which fell right after takeoff, were Snu Abecassis, the Prime Minister's partner, the wife of the Defense Minister, Antonio Patricio Gouveia an aide, and two pilots. An unidentified man was killed on the ground by a wing that snapped off the plane. The plane crashed in Camarate, in the suburbs of Lisbon. The investigation by the directorate-general for civil aviation concluded that the crash had been an accident, caused by a lack of fuel in one of the tanks, although it mentioned the difficulties encountered in examining the crash site because of the crowd that had gathered immediately at the scene. The autopsy conducted the same day as part of the police investigation concluded that the victims had burned to death. The final police report in 1981 ruled out any criminal act, in particular on the part of Lee Rodrigues, against whom suspicions had been raised. After seeking expert advice from the United States agency responsible for investigating civil aviation accidents, from British pathologists and from other Portuguese experts, the Attorney General decided in 1983 to suspend the criminal investigation pending possible new evidence. On two occasions, in 1990 and 1991, the prosecuting authorities, after examining the conclusions of parliamentary commissions of inquiry decided to discontinue the criminal proceedings. This decision was upheld in 1992. In 1995, following the findings of the fifth parliamentary commission, the public prosecutor decided to re-open the proceedings. The victims' bodies were then exhumed for the second time and the forensic report found that there had probably not been an explosion on board the aircraft, although that possibility could not be ruled out. José Esteves, a former member of the armed forces with links to the far right who had apparently claimed to have blown up the aircraft, was questioned, before the prosecutor decided to terminate the proceedings. Esteves was a former bodyguard, explosives specialist who confessed to Focus Magazine that he was co-author of the incendiary bomb that caused the crash; At the time of the incident, José Esteves had been working as an operator at the HQ of the Portuguese right-wing paramilitary organization Comando de Defesa do Continente (CODECO). Later, he became a bodyguard for losing candidate Freitas do Amaral in the Presidential campaign of 1986. Esteves said to "scare" General Soares Carneiro - Presidential candidate for the Democratic Alliance (AD) was the idea - and that the engine was modified and that was the reason of the tragic Cessna accident. The bomb, had been conceived, with the intent to make the plane catch fire at the end of the runway, without lifting, and "...scare" Adelino Amaro da Costa had a plane available to travel to Porto, where he would attend the closing Soares Carneiro campaign, but along with Freitas do Amaral went to Setúbal. Prime Minister Sa Carneiro canceled the two booked tickets on TAP and, together with the Defense Minister, boarded the Cessna. The former bodyguard also said that it was him who "built the knife, it was not him who stabbed." "I manufacture the knife, but I do not give a stab. Guns do not kill. Those who kill are men. In Camarate, all I did was say 'yes, sir, boss! I set up an incendiary device that was delivered to dark-skinned

individual..." Jose Esteves told the magazine about the bomb: "If we add potassium chlorate with sugar and sulfuric acid have an incendiary bomb."

What follows is translated (from Portuguese) confession:

I, Fernando Farinha Simões, have finally decided, in 2011, to tell all the truth about Camarate. In the past I have never told anyone everything about Camarate operation, because I could be arrested and convicted, since the lawsuit was still ongoing. Also because, for 25 years I couldn't talk due to secrecy orders from CIA. However this situation has now changed, in addition to the fact that CIA has completely abandoned me since 1989. Finally I have decided to talk due to my heavy conscious. I have made my first testimony about Camarate in the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry, in 1995. Later on, I added some facts and information to some other testimonies that I made. I even testified to a TV show from SIC (Portuguese TV broadcaster), for which Emílio Rangel was responsible and yet it was never aired. In all those public declarations I have told facts about Camarate's attack, which were never belied, in spite of the names that I quoted and the severity of the facts that I referred. In all those reports I have gainsaid the official thesis of the accident, which was endorsed by Polícia Judiciária and by the Attorney General of the Republic. At a time I doubted that the Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry were on the right path, since Camarate was indeed an attack. I should also say that, having spoken about such serious facts regarding Camarate and having referred the involvement of certain people in those same facts, it has always amazed me the fact that those persons have fancied to choose the pathway of silence. In this case is the Lieutenant Colonel Lencastre Bernardo and / or Major Canto e Castro. If they felt offended by my declarations it would be logic that they had reacted to them. As to me, their silence can only mean that, knowing what they did, they considered that the less people talked about this matter, the better.

In those declarations that I made since 1995, I was constantly reporting just part of the occurring events, without ever making the complete narration of them. We were still relatively close to those events, so I didn't want to reveal all the details, nor all the names of the people involved in this operation. However, after over 30 years, I understood that the Portuguese people had the right to know what really happened in Camarate. Nevertheless, I don't want to proceed without pointing out that today I am deeply repentant for having taken part in this operation, not only because of the people who died in it, and whose human qualities I got to know later on, but also due to the prejudice it composed to the country's

future the disappearance of those same people. Still, on that time, Camarate was just another operation, of which I was taking part, so I didn't measure the consequences that could come from it. Hence, I apologize to the victim's families and to every Portuguese for the outcome that was a result of the operation in which I have participated.

I would now like to go back in time, in order for me to explain how I ended up involved in the Camarate operation. In 1974, I met, in South Africa, the German double agent Uta Gerveck, who was working for BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst) – Western German Intelligence Services – and at the same time for Stassi. The official undercover of Uta Gerveck is arranged by the worldwide council of churches (some kind of NGO), and it's using that disguise that she travels almost all over the world, working both for BND and Stassi. She has written a book in German, which has been dedicated to me (and that I still have), about the fight for the freedom of PAIGC, in Guinea Bissau. However, my work with Stassi would be confirmed later on, when I was already working for CIA. My infiltration in Stassi occurred due to an invitation made by Uta Gerveck, in 1976, with the approval of CIA, as this was of great interest to them.

In 1978, Uta Gerveck introduced me to [Marcus Wolf](#), in East Berlin, who was the Stassi's Director at the time. In order to meet him, I went, clandestinely, to East Berlin with a Spanish passport, which was given to me by Uta Gerveck. My undercover work in Stassi consisted in the making of detailed briefs about the Stassi's moles, which were infiltrated in Western Germany. These moles operated near Helmut Kohl, Helmut Schmidt and Hans Jurgen Wischewski. Hans Jurgen Wischewski was the man responsible for the contacts and relationships between Western and Eastern Germany, since he was the President of the German Association of Cooperation and Development (which helped the so called third world). Besides this he would also go to Bildberger's Groups meetings. In addition, from Western Germany, he also made many undercover operations of support to some freedom groups possible, in the 1970s and 1980s. I have also been in the Stassi Academy, in Potsdam – Eiche, many times. In what concerns to the narration of the facts, I would like to start by saying that I had contact, in Angola, since 1970, with a CIA agent, who is also a journalist and a TV show host, the late Paulo Cardoso. I met Paulo Cardoso in Angola and I worked with him in TVA (national Angolan TV station) at the time. In 1975, I have trained in Portugal the CODECO, along with José Esteves, Vasco Montez, Carlos Miranda and the deceased Jorge Gago. This organization had the aim to protect, in Portugal, the Western World's values, if necessary by means of guerrilla.

In 1975, at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisbon, Paulo Cardoso introduced me to a CIA agent, whose job was to collect different pieces of information (a “feeler”, or “antenna”), called Philip Snell.

Portugal

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Avenida Duque De Loule 39
Lisbon
57-01-02

First revealed by former CIA officer Philip Agee in his "Letter to the Portuguese People,"

The Lisbon CIA Station has maintained an extremely low profile through Portugal's time of troubles.

Sources:

Philip Agee, "A Letter to the Portuguese People," August, 1975.

Philip Agee, "Changes in the CIA in Portugal," July, 1976.

ANDERSON, GARY I.

MARQUES, JOSEPH J.

CALDWELL, DONNA J.

MILLER, RAYMOND E.

CONROY, RICHARD A.

MORGAN, JOHN STINARD

GLEASON, LYLE K.

RIEBHOFF, DONALD R.

GOMEZ, RUDOLPH EDWARD

SNELL, PHILLIP W.

HUGHES, LESLIE F.

VAN TWISK, TONY M.

LAWLER, JAMES N.

WHIPPLE, DAVID D.

LOWELL, FRANK W.

ZAPOLI, GERALD E.

I then talked to Philip Snell for a while. Paulo Cardoso was living at the Sheraton Hotel at the time. A few days later, Philip Snell told me to pick up

a free plane ticket from Lisbon to London, at a travelling agency in Avenida de Ceuta, which worked for the USA embassy. As a result, I went to a meeting in London where I found an old friend, Gary Van Dyk, from South Africa, who cooperated with CIA. While I was in London, John Logan, who was in charge of the CIA's station responsible for Europe, interviewed me. Gary Van Dyk supported my ingress at the CIA in that meeting, by saying that he knew me well from Angola and that I was an efficient worker. After this, I started to work for CIA, taking into account that the fact that I had previously worked with NISS (National Intelligence Security Service – a South African agency of information) helped me to earn the spot. Gary Van Dyk was the “feeler” from the South African DONS (National Security Operational Department) in London.

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1997 [Signature] 12/17/97

NI ACT DIRECTOR

WNINTEL 7186T

1. ON 29 SEPT 77 AT 1830 HOURS LOCAL ONE GARY VAN DYK, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A BRITISH SUBJECT WHO WAS BORN IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA ON 25 MAY 1936 AND WHO SAID HE IS A LITERARY AGENT BY PROFESSION AND RESIDES AT 62 REDKNOLL WALK, CHELSEA, SW-3, LONDON WALKED INTO U.S. MISSION, SUBJECT WHO IS STAYING AT HOTEL AMAT IN GENEVA ORIGINALLY CONTACTED DCM SORENSON WHO ASKED THAT [27] INTERVIEW HIM.

2. SUBJECT GAVE THE FOLLOWING STORY WHICH ADMITTEDLY APPEARS DISJOINTED BUT MAY MAKE SENSE TO AFRICA DIVISION. ONE REASON FOR INCOHERENCY IS THAT SUBJECT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE STORY LEAKING TO OUTSIDERS I.E. THE PRESS AND WAS VERY RETICENT ABOUT NAMING NAMES OR DATES:

A. IN JUNE 1977 FRANK STURGIS (PRESUMABLY SAME PERSON OF WATERGATE FAME) CAME TO LONDON AND CONTACTED AN UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF FNLA. THROUGH LATTER, STURGIS

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

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HOPED TO MEET HOLDEN ROBERTO, SUBJECT LEARNED OF THIS APPROACH AND SINCE SUBJECT SAYS HE IS A CLOSE FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF DANIEL GIPENDA, HE PUT STURGIS IN TOUCH WITH VICTOR FERNANDEZ. SUBJECT SAYS THAT AT THAT TIME HE DID NOT KNOW WHO FRANK-STURGIS WAS.

B. VICTOR FERNANDEZ WAS IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ABORTIVE COUP OF MAY 1977 IN ANGOLA. STURGIS TOLD FERNANDEZ THAT HE REPRESENTED A GROUP OF CUBAN EXILES AND WAS IN A POSITION TO MAKE AVAILABLE 2000 ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS WHO WOULD GO TO ANGOLA TO PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER COUP TO OVERTHROW THE CURRENT ANGOLAN REGIME.

C. STURGIS AND FERNANDEZ REPORTEDLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN LONDON WHEREBY STURGIS PLEDGED FINANCIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT (ACCORDING TO SUBJECT FROM SOME LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS) AND AGREED AS TO WHO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN EXILE (I.E. ANGOLA) WOULD BE.

D. GIPENDA, WHO AT THE TIME WAS IN LONDON, WAS SUSPICIOUS OF STURGIS BUT WENT ALONG WITH FERNANDEZ GETTING HELP FROM STURGIS. GIPENDA THEN WENT TO GENEVA WHERE HE HAS BEEN EVER SINCE IN AMAT HOTEL. GIPENDA HAS BEEN WAITING AROUND, ACCORDING

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TO SUBJECT, TO SPEAK TO MOBUTU, WHO AS HQS KNOWS IS CURRENTLY IN SWITZERLAND. SUBJECT SAID THAT THE GIPENDA/MOBUTU TALK WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

E. MEANWHILE GIPENDA AND SUBJECT AND POSSIBLY OTHERS HAVE RUN UP A 60,000 FRANC (US\$ 25,000) HOTEL BILL AT AMAT HOTEL AND EVIDENTLY THE HOTEL MANAGEMENT PLANS TO CALL THE POLICE IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO IF BILL IS NOT PAID.

F. SUBJECT BROUGHT WITH HIM A FILE OF XEROXED DOCUMENTS IN A LOOSE LEAF NOTEBOOK WHICH HE FLEETINGLY EXHIBITED. THERE WERE SEVERAL PHOTOS OF SUBJECT IN CAMOUFLAGED JUNGLE DRESS IN A JUNGLE, A PHOTO OF A PERSON SIMILARLY DRESSED WHOM SUBJECT IDENTIFIED AS FERNANDEZ AND LISTS OF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER MATERIAL WHICH SUBJECT SAID WAS SENT BY SOVIETS TO CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO SUBJECT, THIS INTELLIGENCE WAS SENT OUT BY MPLA MEMBERS STILL IN ANGOLA.

G. SUBJECT SAID THAT ANOTHER COUP AGAINST ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY BEING PLOTTED AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, PLOTTERS WANT GIPENDA TO BE THE NATIONAL LEADER AND NOT HOLDEN ROBERTO. SUBJECT APPEARS STRONGLY ANTI-HOLDEN ROBERTO AND SAVIMBA.

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H. SUBJECT DID NOT MAKE ANY PITCH FOR MONEY OR ANY OTHER REQUEST BUT SAID HE WOULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM WASHINGTON WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH ANGOLAN MATTERS TO COME TO GENEVA SOONEST TO SPEAK WITH GIPENDA IF HE WANTED TO LEARN MORE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO [20] QUESTION, SUBJECT SAID HE WAS NOT A MERCENARY BUT HE WANTED AS A FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN TO SEE CURRENT ANGOLAN REGIME THROWN OUT ALONG WITH THE CUBANS. IN SPITE OF SUBJECT'S STATEMENT THAT HE DOES NOT WANT ANY MONEY OR DID HE COME TO MISSION TO SELL INFORMATION, IT IS OBVIOUS SUBJECT AND GIPENDA ARE OUT OF MONEY; SUBJECT WENT TO EXCEPTIONAL LENGTHS TO BE ASSURED THAT ABOVE INFORMATION WOULD NOT LEAK, HE APPEARS TO BE A VERY WELL-EDUCATED, COHERENT, SOFT-SPOKEN INDIVIDUAL IN SPITE OF THE FOREGOING STORY. HE IS ABOUT 6 FEET THREE INCHES TALL, 210 POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR WORN STYLISHLY LONG, LONG FACE, CLEAN SHAVEN, SMOKES BRITISH CIGARETTES, AND SPEAKS WITH EITHER A SOUTH AFRICAN OR AUSTRALIAN ACCENT,

4. [21] TOLD SUBJECT THAT HE WOULD PASS ALONG SUBJECT'S STORY BUT IT WAS HARDLY LIKELY THAT ANYONE WOULD COME FORWARD TO PAY A \$25,000 HOTEL BILL. [21] SAID HE HAD HEARD OF FRANK STURGIS BEFORE AND IT APPEARS THAT HE MAY HAVE SOLD FERNANDEZ AND SUBJECT A BILL.

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OF GOODS. NO COMMITMENTS OR ANY PROMISES WERE MADE TO SUBJECT NOR DID SUBJECT ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN [27] IDENTITY OR NATURE OF HIS WORK.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP HOS EVALUATION OF SUBJECT'S STORY AS SKETCHY AND DISJOINTED AS IT SOUNDS. IF HOS HAS AF DIVISION OFFICER IN NEARBY COUNTRY WHO FAMILIAR WITH ANGOLA, ADVISE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND HIM TO GENEVA FOR FURTHER DEBRIEFING OF SUBJECT.

6. FILE DEFER.

END IMPDET

Coming back to Lisbon, I worked to the USA Embassy, from 1975 to 1988, full time. Between 1976 and 1977, for about a year and a half, I lived in a suite at the Sheraton Hotel with everything paid for by the USA Embassy (as it can be checked). Then I drove a car with a diplomatic plate, a Ford, which I parked in the hotel's garage. My wife, Elsa also lived in this suite. By then she was already pregnant of my daughter Eliana. My job consisted of gathering information about a great number of things: weapons trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, recruitment of informants, and so on. These activities included contacts with the secret services from other countries, as Stassi, Mossad and the South African "BOSS" – firstly known as NISS, than as DONS and nowadays as SASS.

I was paid in Portugal and I earned about 5,000 USD per month. In these activities the fact that I speak six different languages has helped me a lot. I acted under several different names, with passports given by the USA embassy in Lisbon. The fact that I speak an Angolan dialect, the kimbundo, has also favored me. The USA embassy also had a safe house in Quinta da Marinha, which was under my responsibility and where

several American agents and militaries who were passing by Portugal, frequently stayed. The house was called "Alpendrada". Since 1975, as I already mentioned, I started working directly to the CIA. However, from 1978 on, I started to work as an undercover agent at the so-called "Office of Special Operations". This office was known as the clandestine services and its aim was to watch a specific target; this included following, knowing and obliterating it in any country of the world, with the exception of the USA. Since we were part of this office, we were compelled to sign a document called "plausible denial". This meant that if we were caught in any of these operations with our fake documents, we would stand at our peril, and CIA would not be held accountable for anything. Under these circumstances we already knew what to say and we were ready to endure torture, if necessary. I worked to the "Office of Special Operations" until 1989. Then, I stopped working for the CIA.

In order to face these jobs and operations my VISA, American Express and Dinners Club accounts had, each one, a 10,000 USD plafond, which could be used if necessary. These credit cards were issued in Brazil, by foreign banks that were housed in Brazil, such as Citibank, the Bank of Boston, or the Bank of America. Between 1975 and 1989 (thus a period of about 14 years), I spent with these credit cards an amount of about 10 million USD, in operations in several countries, namely to pay to informants, politicians, militaries, businessman and also drug and weapon traffickers, who were connected to the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency). There were other amounts of money, in cash, which were used separately, from a blue bag. The man in charge of the CIA station from the country, at which the operations were performed, put this money at our disposal. This blue bag's aim would be to pay the expenses, such as the trip the agents had to make, or the shopping they had to do.

I may state that operation Camarate, which I shall describe next, in 1980, cost between 750,000 and 1 million USD. Mr. [José António dos Santos Esteves](#), alone, received 200,000 USD. These expenses related to operation Camarate included the payments done to several people, like Mr. Lee Rodrigues, as I am going to mention later on. Between 1975 and 1988, under the financial responsibility of CIA, I took part in several seminars and courses in Langley, Virginia and Quantico, which were about information, deception, counter-information, terrorism, counter-terrorism, undercover infiltrations, and so on. I have worked undercover for the CIA and the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), in different countries, as Portugal, El Salvador, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Guatemala,

Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and the Philippines.

RICHARD LEE ARMITAGE



My cooperation with the DEA began in 1981, with the help of Richard Lee Armitage.

Several associates who fought alongside Armitage and other politicians (including [Ted Shackley](#))^[3] have since said publicly that Armitage was associated with the [Central Intelligence Agency's](#) (CIA) highly controversial and clandestine [Phoenix Program](#).^[3] Armitage has denied a role in Phoenix and has stated that - at most - CIA officers would occasionally ask him for intelligence reports.^[4] Unindicted co-conspirator in Iran-Contra scandal. Revealed [Valerie Plame's](#) status as a CIA operative to reporter [Bob Woodward](#), accidentally, he claimed.

In Paris, in 1980, Richard Armitage would be meeting Henry Kissinger and me. He was a member of the CFR (Council for Foreign Affairs and Relations) and of the OSCE, created by the CIA. He was also a member of the Carlyle Group at the time, whose CEO was Frank Carlucci. The Carlyle Group was devoted to the construction sector, real estates and it's one of the biggest groups of weapon trafficking in the world, along with Halliburton Group, headed by Richard "Dick" Cheney. The Carlyle Group belonged to several private investors from the USA, mainly from the Republican Party. This group promoted weapon, oil and cement sales to countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and most recently to the countries from the Arabic spring.

BCCI Bank (connected to the CIA and the NSA – National Security Agency) was the one that dealt with the money laundering that resulted from the weapons and drugs trafficking, at the time. BCCI was founded in 1972 and closed at the beginning of the 1990s, due to the several

scandals in which it was involved. Oliver North belonged to the National Security Council, under the orders of William Walker, an ex USA ambassador in El Salvador. Oliver North was, and still is, under the orders of the CIA, as a William Casey's subordinate. Oliver North is currently out of the CIA, and is the CEO of several private American groups, just like Frank Carlucci.

Having worked for the DEA from 1975, to 1989, I met some of the employees: Celerino Castilho, [Mike Levine](#), Anabelle Grimm [*"I really take great exception to the fact that 1,000 kilos came in, funded by US taxpayer money."* DEA official Anabelle Grimm, during a 1993 interview on a CBS-TV "60 Minutes" segment entitled "The CIA's Cocaine." The 1991 CIA drug-smuggling event Ms. Grimm described was later found to be much larger. A Florida grand jury and the **Wall Street Journal** reported it to involve as much as 22 tons.] and [Brad Ayers](#). I have also worked with Tosh Plumbey [[who went out of his way to absolve CIA from guilt in the Kennedy Assassination](#)] and Ralph Megehee (NSA's lieutenant Colonel, who is now retired), Bo Gritz and Tatum, from the CIA. The last two men, were agents whose operations' base was in El Salvador (where I have also been over the 1980s, during the Iran -Contras trafficking), developing several activities, such as the trafficking of weapons. One of their operations consisted on weapons transportation from the USA to El Salvador, which were then taken to Iran and Nicaragua. The planes, usually from Panama and Colombia, would then return to the USA with drugs, namely cocaine, which came from countries like Colombia, Bolivia and El Salvador and which would fill the purpose of financing the purchase of weapons. This kind of activity developed mainly since the end of the 1970s and would continue until 1988. Cocaine came from places such as Normans Cay Island, Bahamas, whose owner was Carlos Lheder Rivas. Carlos Rivas was one of the leaders of Medellin's Cartel and he worked to this cartel and to himself. Therefore, in this specific context, Carlos Rivas was an important character, as he was Roberto Vesco's right-hand and Roberto worked for the CIA and the NSA. Roberto Vesco was the owner of several banks in the Bahamas, namely Columbus Trust. Carlos Rivas would be responsible for Roberto Vesco's logistics and they would supply weapons to organizations like the Colombian guerrilla movement M19, in exchange for drugs. Nowadays, Roberto Vesco is a refugee in Cuba.

The money that came from weapons and drugs operations would be laundered in BCCI Bank and several others, under the code name "Amadeus". However, there are active bank accounts in the Bahamas and

in Norman Cay Island, which run bank accounts used for "Contra"'s weapons trafficking, from Nicaragua to Iran. As I have mentioned above, a lot of that money went to French and American banks, which will partly explain why was Manuel Noriega convicted to a 60 years penalty. First he was arrested in the USA, than he went to France and now he is currently in Panama. He was arrested because it was convenient that he remained silent, so that he wouldn't mention that he shared with the CIA the money which came from weapons and drugs trades. Noriega had access to several bank accounts in more than 120 banks, with the CIA's knowledge. Noriega also made part of the Black Eagle operation, devoted to weapons and drugs trafficking, which, in 1982, with the Oliver North's and Donald Gregg's, from the CIA, collaboration became a firm called Enterprise. Facing the amount of information and knowledge that I had, it becomes quite easy to understand why did Noriega get arrested. I should say that I am personally surprised by the fact that they still didn't kill him, and made it look like a suicide act. Noriega had the intention to tell everything that he knew about trafficking and about the provided services to the CIA and Bush Dad, being arrested as a consequence. Therefore, Washington and the CIA are an important part of the weapons and drugs trafficking that used operational support basis such as South Florida and Panama. In the early 1980s I met a trafficker from Cali's cartel, whose name was Ramon Milian Rodriguez, who later on, before the American senate's committee, talked about weapons and drugs trafficking, money laundering, as well as Oliver North's involvement in all this, under the orders of Bush Dad and Donald Gregg. A lot of the money made at those sales went to French and American banks. This money could also be used to buy real estate properties. For being connected to these operations, Noriega was arrested by the USA.

It was during a drug operation I had done in Colombia and in the Bahamas, in 1984, and in which I didn't agree with the DEA agents from Miami station because they wanted to have 10 million USD and the "Lear-jet" plane which came from drug trafficking, that Carlos Lheder Rivas, from Medallin's cartel, was arrested. As I didn't come to an agreement with those agents, I notified the Miami's DEA station's head about what had happened. He then ordered to make an inquiry to those agents, who were arrested by the DEA itself. From then on, my life became a living hell, namely because of traps and detentions that were performed, and this resulted in my exiting the CIA, in 1989, under the advice of Frank Carlucci. John C. Lawn, head of the DEA's station and Noriega's and other traffickers' friend, was the main responsible of my leaving. John Lawn hid, or tried to do so, all the DEA agents who I denounced when Carlos Rivas

was arrested. After my leaving the CIA, Frank Carlucci, however, continued to give me money, advice and logistic support every time I needed some help, until 1994.

Going back to my jobs in Portugal, previously to Camarate and the CIA, I should mention that I met Frank Carlucci, in 1975, thanks to two persons: the late Paulo Cardoso de Oliveira, a Portuguese reporter who worked to RTP and was a CIA agent, who I met in Angola and Gary Van Dyk a BOSS's agent who I also met in Angola. I kept a direct line with Frank Carlucci, especially between 1975 and 1982, from which I received instructions to different jobs and operations. I still keep contact with Frank Carlucci, to whom I speak occasionally by the phone. The last time I saw him was in Madrid, in 2008, at a stopover from a trip to Turkey.

In Lisbon I also dealt and received orders from William Hasselberg – a CIA antenna in Lisbon, who besides collecting different types of information, was also a link between Portuguese people and Americans. I also shared a social life with William Hasselberg, which included things such as nightlife in Lisbon in different bars, restaurants and public places. William Hasselberg really enjoyed his nightlife, where he liked to show up with his several feminine “achievements”. I also worked with others CIA agents, such as Philip Agee. Within this framework I worked in weapons trafficking and was infiltrated in some organizations with the aim of obtaining politic and military information. “Billie” Hasselberg is a good Portuguese speaker and he was a close friend from Artur Albarran. Hasselberg and Albarran knew each other at a party at the Colombian or Venetian embassy. Albarran married at that time, in the 1980s, with the ambassadors' daughter, who was his first wife.

I met several CIA agents since 1978 in meetings with the American embassy in Lisbon. The head of the CIA Portuguese station, John Logan, gave me his autographed book. I also met Mr. Philip Snell, Mr. James Lowell and Mr. Arredondo, all from the CIA. From the CIA's military sector I met Cor. Wilkinson, who introduced me to colonel Oliver North and colonel Peter Bleckley, who are the main strategists in getting international contacts that were interested in trafficking and selling weapons, namely countries like Iran, Iraq, Nicaragua and El Salvador. I met several times with Oliver North and with other CIA agents, because of weapons trafficking. These meetings took place in several different countries, like the USA, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Panama. In Panama, I got in contact with two of Noriega's main assistants: José Bladon, head of Panama's secret services who told me that almost all the Panama's

ambassadors, all over the World, were under the orders of Noriega. Blandon asked me at the time, to get him a Rolls Royce Silver Spirits to the Panama's ambassador in Lisbon, which I did.

FRANK STURGIS ENTERS THE PICTURE

In mid 1980s, Frank Carlucci told me, in a very lightly way and for the first time, that I was going to be responsible for a "job" in Portugal, which was of high importance and priority, with his help and with the help of the CIA and the USA's embassy in Portugal, which were going to give me all the support that I needed. Then I started having meetings in Lisbon with the CIA agent Frank Sturgis, who I had never met. Frank Sturgis is a very cold, uncanny looking man. He organizes the anti-Castro forces, which are based in Miami, and he is the link between "contra" and Nicaragua. Frank STURGIS told me at the time that a plan to withdraw permanently (as in eliminate) a very important person, then connected to the Portuguese government, was being elaborated, without telling me any name, though.

Sometime after this, possibly in September or October from 1980, I played tennis with Frank Carlucci almost for the whole afternoon, in the USA's ambassador's former residency, in Lapa. After this, I dined with him, and Frank Carlucci told me once again that they were having some problems in Portugal, related to weapons transportation and disposal, and that Francisco Sá Carneiro was not cared for in the USA. Then, during desert, General Diogo Neto, Colonel Vinhas, Colonel Robocho Vaz and Paulo Cardoso joined us, and once again it is mentioned the urgency of repelling some existing obstacles to the weapons business. Every single person present in this dinner tells Frank Carlucci that I am the perfect man for this job.

STURGIS AND WILFREDO NAVARRO



In October 1980, I went to a dinner at the Sheraton Hotel with Frank Sturgis (CIA), Wilfred Navarro (CIA) and the late General Diogo Neto and Colonel Vinhas, where it is mentioned that there are barriers to weapons trafficking that needed to be removed. After this, there is yet another dinner, also at the Sheraton Hotel, to which me and Colonel Oliver North attended (among others), and where he mentions clearly "we have to cut some corners" and "if we need to get someone out of the way, we will", meaning that it was needed to eliminate the ones who were opposing to the business of selling weapons. Oliver North also told me he was having problems with his own organization and that he feared the possibility of being withdrawn and "falling", which eventually happened.

There were also some Portuguese people who were taking advantage of the weapons trafficking, such as Major Canto e Castro, General Pezarat Correia, Franco Charais and the businessman Zoio. At that time it was also known that Adelino Amaro da Costa was trying to put an end to weapons trafficking, by investigating Ultramar's development fund and trying to put an end to the existing lobbies. Withdrawing those two people by politic means was impossible, seen that the AD had won the elections. Therefore, there only remained one possibility: a terrorist attack.

Some days after, I received a phone call from Major Canto e Castro (who was part of the revolution council), who I already knew from Angola, asking me to meet him at the Altis Hotel. Frank Sturgis was also present in this meeting and for the first time they talk about "terrorist attack", yet without mentioning who the target was. They told me that they were counting on me for this operation. Major Canto e Castro said that it was needed to recruit someone capable of accomplishing this operation.

After this, I had another meeting at the Altis Hotel with Frank Sturgis and Philip Snell, at which Frank Sturgis put me in charge of recruiting and preparing some people to an upcoming operation, possibly 2 or 3 months from then. They asked me if I had already recruited the right person for the job and if I knew an expert in the manufacturing of bombs and firearms. I told them that I could get someone from ETA, Spain, to come over here and perform the attack, if necessary. Major Canto e Castro and the CIA were the ones paying for the operation. At the time, Canto e Castro was working for the French secret services, thanks to his father-in-law. He was Belgium and worked for the SDEC, the French secret services, in 1979 and 1980. Canto e Castro married one of his daughters when he was in Luanda, Angola, working for the Portuguese Air Force. In Luanda, Canto e Castro and I lived close to each other. As I had to arrange this operation, I

talked to José Esteves and later to Lee Rodrigues (who I didn't know at the time). The link between me and Lee Rodrigues, in Lisbon, was Evo Fernandes, who was connected to Mozambique's resistance, renamo. At that time I also talked to two people connected to the military ETA, in case the attack turned out to be performed with firearms. Later, at another dinner at Frank Carlucci's house, in Lapa, in Mansarda, last floor, with just the two of us, Frank Carlucci told me openly and for the first time what I had to do, what was the operation in course about and that it was aimed to eliminate Adelino Amaro da Costa, who was hampering weapons sale and transportation in Portugal and that Henry Kissinger and Oliver North had given the go-ahead to proceed. I greet both of them, saying that I was "their man in Lisbon".

Three weeks before the attack, Canto e Castro and Frank Sturgis told me for the first time that Adelino Amaro da Costa was the attack's target. Major Canto e Castro said he was going on a trip to London. Frank Sturgis told me to get an access card to the airport for a guy named Lee Rodrigues, who was referred to as being the one who would take and put the bomb on the plane. Later on I got a call from Canto e Castro, telling me that he was in London and asking me to go and meet him there. He tells me that my boarding ticket was at a travelling agency located in Av. Da República, next to Ceuta's pastry. Having arrived to London, I stayed at the Grosvenor Hotel, near Victoria's station. Canto e Castro picked me up and took me to a house near the Hotel, where he shows me for the first time the gear that was going to be used, such as the explosives, which were going to be used to build the bomb for this operation. This house in London was the home and, at the same time, the office of an Indian's dentist, who was a friend of Canto e Castro. Canto e Castro told me that his lady, Juanita Valderrama, was going to be taking this gear to Portugal. Then, Major Canto e Castro asked me to go to the Altis Hotel and collect everything. I went there with José Esteves and we picked up a bag along with a letter written by Miss Juanita. José Esteves, along with Carlos Miranda's help, uses that material to make a bomb, which was destined to a specific plane.

After this, Major Canto e Castro returns from London, meets me, and I told him that the bomb was ready. He introduces me to Lee Rodrigues. Some days after, Lee Rodrigues calls me and we meet for dinner at his restaurant Galeto, next to Saldanha, along with Canto e Castro and Lee Rodrigues' contact in Lisbon, Evo Fernandes. Evo was the one who had introduced Lee Rodrigues to Canto e Castro. Lee Rodrigues was from Mozambique and had connections to Renamo. In this dinner some details

about the attack were adjusted. However, Canto e Castro told us, during this dinner, that the attack would be performed in Angola. Before this affirmation, I asked him if he was being serious or if he was joking and if he thought that I was a clown, intending to get up and leave. I must say that I already knew everything through Frank Carlucci. Lee Rodrigues asked me to stay calm, mentioning afterwards that Canto e Castro didn't know that I already knew all the details, but that being so there was nothing more to hide.

Possibly in November, Philip Snell asked me to take part in a meeting in Cascais, in a yacht near the old marina (the current one didn't exist). I went there along with José Esteves. This meeting took place between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Philip Snell, Oliver North, FRANK STURGIS, Sydral and Lee Rodrigues, along with 2 or 3 foreigners whom I think were Americans, took part in it. In this meeting it was mentioned that this operation ought to be performed with caution and some details that should be highlighted. We also talked about important details that we should have in mind after the attack and what to do if something went wrong. We all spoke in English. José Esteves then received 200,000 USD for his future job. I wasn't paid anything, as the CIA was already paying me ordinarily. At that time, the CIA was paying me the equivalent to 5000 USD, and I also had two credit cards, Diner's Club and Visa Gold, both with a 10000 USD plafond. Lee Rodrigues then asked me to get an access card so that José Esteves could access the airport. To do so, I patched a forged card in Mouraria, Lisbon, at a printing office that currently doesn't exist. Lee Rodrigues also told me that he was going to pick up a pilot's uniform at a shop near Coliseu, at the St. Portas de Santo Antão. I also asked João Pedro Dias, who was a pickpocket, to get me a card to Lee Rodrigues. He did so, by robbing Miguel Wahnou's card, who was a TAP's employee. We only had to change the picture from the card, to a picture belonging to Lee Rodrigues. José Esteves started to prepare a machine for the attack, at his house in Cacém. He counted on Carlos Miranda's help, recruited by me, who was an expert in explosives and who I already knew from Angola, from the time when he was a FNLA's commander, and then a CODECO's one, in Portugal. After having the gadget ready, I went once again to Paris. I meet with Oliver North, Wilkinson and Philip Snell that afternoon, at the Ritz Hotel, where it was mentioned that the target was Adelino Amaro da Costa, the Minister of Defense.

I returned to Portugal about 5 or 6 days before the attack. Oliver North scheduled it at a dinner, at the Sheraton Hotel. There was one person who I didn't know, that showed up at that dinner and that was introduced to me

by Oliver North, whose name was Penaguião. Penaguião told us that he was Sá Carneiro's personal bodyguard. Oliver North mentioned that Penaguião is one of Sá Carneiro's personal bodyguard and that he was going to be the man who would be able to get Sá Carneiro into the plane. Penaguião said, in a cold and straight forward way that Sá Carneiro was going to be on the plane, "because this way we would be able to kill two birds with one stone". He said that it was necessary to eliminate him, as Sá Carneiro was a anti-American and supported Adelino Amaro da Costa unconditionally in what comes to the denunciation of the trafficking of weapons and the finding of the so called "Ultramar's Trust Fund" blue bag, whereby everything was prepared to include these two people in the attack, since the beginning. Sá Carneiro e Adelino Amaro da Costa. I started to feel very apprehensive, because only then did I know about the inclusion of Sá Carneiro, also as a target. I asked Penaguião how could he be so certain that Sá Carneiro was going to be on that plane and he answered me that I shouldn't be worrying about that because he and another person would make sure that Sá Carneiro was on that plane, at that day and time, as he was the one responsible for his security and, therefore, his advices were always heard. At the end of the dinner, Colonel Vinhas and General Diogo Neto, join the three of us.

I felt overwhelmed about this new information concerning Sá Carneiro and I decided, that same night, to go to the USA's ambassador's residency, in Lapa, in order to meet Frank Carlucci, to whom I told everything I heard. Frank Carlucci told me not to worry, because this plan had been determined since a very long time. He told me that Mário Soares was USA's man and that Sá Carneiro, due to his stubborn personality and anti-American ways, did not serve USA's interest, strategically speaking. Mário Soares was going to be the one who was going to support the American politics in Portugal, amongst other PS and PSD leaders. I decided to accept the situation, seen that Frank Carlucci had already told me that everything was secured, even if something went wrong, such as my leaving Portugal and my complete protectionas well as someone else, if I thought it necessary. This is the regular USA's "realpolitik" and I believe it always will be.

Three days before the attack there was a new meeting in Rua das Pretas, at Roquete's Palace, with Canto e Castro, Farinha Simões, Lee Rodrigues, José Esteves e Carlos Miranda. Carlos Miranda helped to build the explosive gadget along with José Esteves, having gone to his house several times. In this meeting the last details of the attack were adjusted, Lee Rodrigues said that he was ready for the attack and Canto e

Castro told us that it was scheduled to December 3rd or 4th. It was also said that the target was Adelino Amaro da Costa. The next day, we met Canto e Castro at the Sheraton Hotel and had dinner at the "The Police" restaurant.

On December 4th, I phoned Mr. William Hasselberg from the USA's embassy, through a payphone in Areeiro in order to make sure that the attack was still standing and he told me that it was. Therefore, on that same afternoon, José Esteves brought a bag to my house and we both went to the airport. I drove him there, on his BMW. Already at the airport, José Esteves and I got in through a side door, next to a "Guarda Fiscal"'s (Financial Police) post, using the forged card which I have already mentioned previously. Then, José Esteves started to walk and handed the bag with the gadget to Lee Rodrigues, whom I also saw and who shows up wearing a pilot's uniform. Approximately 15 minutes after he comes out already without the bag and exits the airport with me. We parted, but later that day José Esteves meets me once again, at Bacta's hairdresser, in Alvalade's shopping mall. Then José Esteves show up in my house along with his girlfriend at the time, whose name was Gina and a bag of clothes that he left there just for precaution. A little bit after this, we heard the 8 o'clock news on TV and José Esteves was very surprised when he found out that Sá Carneiro was on the plane too. He said we had been deceived. He phones Lencastre Bernardo, who had a lot of connections to PJ and to Military PJ and also to General Eanes. Lencastre Bernardo also had connections with Canto e Castro, Pezarat Correia, Charais, the businessman Zoio and José António Avelar who was Canto e Castro's right arm. José Esteves calls him and asks him to meet. He accepts the invitation whereby at around 11 p.m. José Esteves, me and my wife, Elza, went to the PJ's station in Rua Gomes Freire in order to talk to him. José Esteves goes to the upper floor to talk to Lencastre Bernardo who told him not to worry, because nothing would happen to him. However, we passed by José Esteves' house, as he feared that the police would already be there looking for him, under the suspicion of him being associated with the plane crash in Camarate. José Esteves felt relieved when he saw that there was no one looking for him at his door. However, he slept in my house.

Some days later I spoke once again with Frank Carlucci and expressed my shock when I found out, after the plane had crashed, that in the plane were also the friends and family of the Prime Minister and the Defense Minister. Frank Carlucci told me that he understood my situation, and that

also he didn't know that there were going to be other people on the plane, but now there was nothing that could be done about that.

In 1981 I met Victor Pereira, who was a PJ's officer at the time, at Galeto's restaurant, in Lisbon. I told Victor Pereira that some of the attacks were referred to be the Revolutionary Brigades' responsibility, although José Esteves had been the one responsible for the placing of the bombs, as for the bombings in Angola's embassy, in Cuba (Ramiro Moreira was aware of this last one), in Torres Couto's house, in professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral's house, in engineer Lopes Cardoso's house and in Vasco Montez's house, at his request, next to Jumbo in Cascais, in order to obtain sensationalism at the time, and having José Esteves spread flyers like the ones from FP25. Therefore I didn't talk to Victor Pereira about Camarate. However I found out that Victor Pereira was working at the airport as a PJ's officer on December 4th , 1980 and that he found the bag that was being carried by Adelino Amaro da Costa. In that bag were documents related to the trafficking of weapons and to people involved with the Ultramar's Trust Fund. If I am not mistaken, Victor Pereira handed over the bag to Polícia Judiciária's inspector Pedro Amaral, who delivered it to the Polícia Judiciária. Victor Pereira then told me that that bag, which was of major importance in Camarate's case due to the information it contained and because it could explain the motives of the attack and help to identify the people behind it, disappeared. Victor Pereira gave me this information, when he was in prison with me, in Sintra, in 1986. Therefore, I didn't tell Victor Pereira that, as I shall describe next, I had had contact with that bag, in the late 1982, due to the fact that I had worked with the secret services in the USA's embassy.

Also in 1981, a few months after the attack, José Esteves and I met Major Lencastre Bernardo, in Polícia Judiciária, in Rua Gomes Freire. Both José Esteves and me were scared about what could happen to us due to our involvement in Camarate's attack and we both wanted to know about what was going on with our protection because of Camarate. I didn't take part in the meeting, and waited at the door. However José Esteves told me that in that meeting, Lencastre Bernardo told him that in a previous conversation with Francisco Pinto Balsemão, Balsemão told him that he already knew about Camarate's attack before it happened, because in October, 1980, Kissinger told him all about it. He also told him that he, himself, had also had foreknowledge about Camarate's attack. Besides this, he told him that we could relax about Camarate, because there weren't going to be any problems relating to us, as the investigation of this case would die with no consequences.

On what concerns to this matter, I would like to say that in a meeting I had, alone, with Lencastre Bernardo, in 1986, in a restaurant near Polícia Judiciária's building in Rua Gomes Freire, he guaranteed me that Pinto Balsemão already knew about everything that was going to happen on December 4th. At Fouchet's restaurant in Paris, Kissinger had told me, very roughly, that the future Portugal's Prime Minister was going to be Pinto Balsemão. I must highlight the fact that even then, in 1980, both Henry Kissinger and Pinto Balsemão were important members of the Bilderberger group and it was certain that these two persons would take guests to the annual reunions of this organization. Therefore, when I talked to Lencastre Bernardo, in 1986, I made a bridge between what he told me about Pinto Balsemão and what I heard in Paris, in 1980. Later on, in 1983, I also heard the same thing from William Hasselberg in Lisbon, when he too told me that Pinto Balsemão knew about everything.

In late 1982, because of the information that I had been receiving from the USA's embassy, in Lisbon, I noticed that there were concrete names from American celebrities who were involved in weapons trafficking that involved Portugal. I asked William Hasselberg how did they get the information relating to those names. After a long time of persistence he finally told me that the Polícia Judiciária handed the USA's embassy a bag containing the documents that Adelino Amaro da Costa was carrying on December 4th, 1980 and that stood next to the plane's wreckage, although he didn't tell me the name of the person that took those documents to the Polícia Judiciária. Then I asked William Hasselberg to let me check that bag, as I am also a part of the CIA in Portugal. He agreed and I could finally look into those files, which consisted of 200 pages. I had access to the files for about one week and I read it several times and briefed its main contents, myself, seen that I had no way of photographing or copying it.

At the time I could verify that, even though the plane crash and the fact that Avelino Amaro da Costa's bag had been burned and switched by a new one, the files were intact. These files had a list of the weapons that had been bought, which included firearms such as RPG-7, RPG-27, G3, grenade launchers, land mines, munitions, grenades, radios, plastic explosives, uniforms, Kalashnikovs, AK-47 and howitzers. Those documents also had the information that, in order to deceive and conceal the clues, the sale of illegal weapons was done using fake enterprises and boxes that said that they contained technical equipment and spare pieces that were used for farm machines and construction. Oliver North confirmed me several times that weapons' transportation was done this

way, from the beginning of 1980s until 1988. I confirmed the veracity of these facts when I was in Ilopango, in El Salvador, also in the 1980s.

In these documents I remember seeing that some of the weapons came from the Portuguese company Braço de Prata, as well as information referring to the selling of weapons in Portugal, and eastern countries, such as Poland and Bulgaria, bound to go to Nicaragua, Iran, El Salvador, Colombia, Panama, as well as some African countries that were at war, like Angola, South Africa's ANC, Nigeria, Mali, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somalia, Libya, and so on. It was also referred, clearly, that the weapons sales was done using a company created in Portugal called "Supermarket" (which operated through its parent company "Black – Eagle"). In the same documents I also saw that there were some legal sales which were done through Portuguese companies, but also some illegal ones, done through fake companies, with the resulting money laundering in Swiss banks and "off-shores" that were under the names of the people holding the bank accounts and this included civilians and military. The illegal sales occurred for various reasons, such as: first of all, several of the destination countries had official sanctions and arms embargoes. Secondly, the USA weren't interested in supporting or selling weapons officially to some of the countries, such as Nicaragua, or Iran and Iraq (to whom they sold weapons at the same time, without these countries' knowledge). Thirdly, the illegal sale of weapons are much more profitable and taxes could be avoided. Fourthly, the illegal sale of weapons allows money laundering, allowing this money to be used to other purposes. Between the names that I saw in those files, there were the following: José Avelino Avelar, Colonel Vinhas, General Diogo Neto, Major Canto e Castro Businessman Zoio, General Pezarat Correia, General Franco Charais, General Costa Gomes, Major Lencastre Bernardo, Colonel Robocho Vaz, Francisco Pinto Balsemão. Francisco Pinto Balsemão and Lencastre Bernardo were mentioned as being connected to Bilderberger's group and Henry Kissinger. Francisco Balsemão is also a member of the Masonic lodge "Pilgrim", which is Anglo-Saxon and dependent on Bilderberger's group. Lencastre Bernardo was also referred to as having connections to the intelligence services, as he was the coordinator of Polícia Judiciária and of Military Polícia Judiciária, in the 1980s.

Some of the Portuguese companies already mentioned, that were involved in the selling of weapons, between 1974 and 1980, this file mentioned the following ones: Oeiras' Foundry (grenades, howitzers, mortars) - Cometna (explosive gadgets and bombs) - OGMA and OGFE (general military uniform workshop and military uniform workshop)

-Browning Viana S.A. -A. Paukner Lda, which exists since 1966 -Trafaria's Explosives -SPEL (explosives) -INDEP (light weaponry and munitions) -Montagrex Lda, which acted since 1977, with Canto e Castro and António José Seguro Avelar. However, it was only officially created in 1984, leaving at the time Canto e Castro out of the plans, in order not to compromise him because of Camarate's operation. Montagrex Lda operated in Campo Pequeno and was headed by António Avelar who was Canto e Castro's left arm and also one of the companies' partners. This company's office in Campo Pequeno is an authentic bunker, with armored doors, sensors, alarms, door codes, and so on. Canto e Castro and António Avelar are also associates of the English company BAE – Systems, base in the UK. This company sells defense systems, artillery, missiles, munitions, underwater weapons, mines and especially anti – missiles defense systems for boats. Most of these businesses were accomplished by brokers – intermediates who received their commissions, paid by Military officers, Marine officers, and so on.

These documents mentioned that, as a consequence of these weaponry sales, a considerable flow of money was generated from these legal and illegal exportations. These documents also mentioned to whom these weapons were sold, especially to countries that were in war or connected to the international terrorism. It was also mentioned that all these sales were made with the authorities' connivance at the time, namely militaries such as General Gomes da Costa, General Rosa Coutinho (who sold weapons to Angola) and Major Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho himself (who sold weapons to Mozambique). I noticed that Rosa Countinho's name was mentioned several times in these documents, who used as an intermediate the retired Angolan general José Pedro Castro, to sell weapons to Angola. José Pedro Castro was deeply connected to MPLA, which nowadays disposes of a fortune evaluated in over 500 million USD and which divided its time between Angola, Portugal and Paris. His son, Bruno Castro, is bank BIC's deputy director in Angola. In the same file were also mentioned the names of other military who were involved in this weapons business, such as Captain Dinis de Almeida, Colonel Corvacho, Vera Gomes and Carlos Fabião. Every single one of these people obtained fabulous profits from these businesses, even before April 25th, 1974 and until 1980. It was mentioned that these people, namely military who helped to sell the weapons, benefited from the commissions they received. The off-shores' names, which were used to pay the commissions to the people who were already mentioned earlier and to foreigners, by Oliver North or other CIA agents, were also stated in the file. These off-shores held bank accounts, which were always numbered. These

references confirmed what Oliver North always told me, that the weapons businesses are accomplished by off-shores and banks that were under control to be used for money laundering.

In what comes to this, it is worth mentioning that, related to this weapons business, different companies appear, such as Haliburton, Carlyle, or Blackwater, among others. This relation has been mentioned years ago in several reports, namely in the ones from Bribe Payer Index (bribes' payers national index), which is an American agency. The marking of these types of activities was developed later on by Transparency International and by the American Senate's Commerce's Promotion and Coordination Committee, which mentions that years ago, more than 50% of weapons sales and businesses in Portugal, were done through bribes. The Americans always used Portugal for the trafficking of weapons, without forgetting that Base das Lajes, in Azores, existed and worked in order to fulfill this trafficking, especially after 1973, during Yom Kippur's war, between Israel and the Arabic countries. This trafficking of weapons originated several financial consequences, especially through FLAD, which was used by the CIA for this effect. FLAD received several specific funds for the human resources' requalification.

However, I didn't see anything in this file referring that these sales were condemnable or that they had any negative effects. However there was a small remark in some of the pages saying that they should be careful with everything that was written and therefore something should be done. It was also written in the first page "confidential and restricted". These sales, however, continued after 1980. As far as I know, they continued until 2004, although with a significant softening since 1984, because of the scandal related to the uniforms that were sold to Poland. In the mentioned file some American celebrities were also referred to as being involved in the weapons business, namely Bush (dad), Dick Cheney, Frank Carlucci, Donald Gregg, several militaries, as well as some enterprises like Blackwater. In addition, some enterprises connected to the USA are also named, such as Carlyle, Halliburton, Black Eagle Enterprise, among others, which were using Portugal in order to fulfill their purpose, which included the usage of Portuguese harbors for the weapons' trading. I took notes from these documents and I still have those notes today.

The enterprise previously mentioned, called supermarket, was created in Portugal in 1978, and worked through its parent company, named Black Eagle, which was ran by William Casey (CFR's member - Council for Foreign Affairs and Relations – former USA's ambassador in Honduras

and also connected to the CIA). The supermarket enterprise arranged the purchase of Soviet weapons through Portugal and the purchase of Portuguese weapons and munitions, which were already mentioned, with Oliver North's knowledge. These weapons went to safe locations in Honduras before being sent to their final destinations. Oliver North paid several bills referring to these acquisitions in Portugal, through a company called Gretsh World, which served as a façade to Supermarket. Later, around 1985, when Camarate started to be seriously debated, Oliver North decided to cancel the Supermarket operation and closed all the bank accounts. I must also say that William Hasselberg and other americans from the USA's embassy in Lisbon, told me several times the same things that were written in this file. It was logic that this information came from Hasselberg, since he was the one who handed me the file. Afterwards I also talked to Frank Carlucci about what was written in this file, and obviously he already knew what its contents were. William Hasselberg as well as other CIA members mentioned earlier and others commented several times the CIA's involvement in Camarate operation and in this weapons business. I specifically remember that when someone from the CIA introduced me to another CIA agent, they frequently said: "this is the Portuguese guy, the one from Camarate, the case in Portugal with the plane!".

The selling of weapons from and through Portugal was done throughout those years, as it was politically important for the USA. The CIA organized and implemented these weapons sales in Portugal, as well as in other countries, as it was crucial for the USA that some of the weapons reached their final destinations, in an unofficial way. In order to accomplish this, Portuguese businessmen and militaries that ended up profiting from these sales, were used.

As I already mentioned, William Casey and Oliver North were, in 1970s and 1980s in collusion with the President Manuel Noriega, in Iran's scandal – Irangate. Oliver North was always the one responsible for the American hostages in Iran, as well as for Central America's situation. Therefore, he personally received a thanking letter from George Bush Dad, who was at the time Ronald Reagan's Vice-President. Concerning this matter, I should say that John Bush, son of Bush Dad, then with 35 years old and living in Florida, was a member of "Dade's County", between 1979 and 1980, which was and still is a republican organization located in South Florida, destined to collect funds for the republican electoral campaigns. John Bush was one of the organizers of the financial supports for Nicaragua's "Contras". I also met Monzer Al Kasser, a big

weapons trafficker who had a house in Porto Banus in Marbella and who was introduced to me in Paris, by Oliver North, in 1979. He was one of the major Nicaragua's "Contras" weapons seller, and worked simultaneously for the Syrian's, Bulgarian's and Pole's secret services. At his house, in Marbella he also told me that, sometimes, the trafficking of weapons was done through Africa, so that Iraq wouldn't know where they came from, for they also sold weapons to Iran and even Portugal at the same time. This trafficking of weapons, which was happening since several years ago, in 1980, was that beginning of Camarate.

Through Al Kasser I met, in Marbella, in the end of 1981, another known weapon trafficker, at a party at Monzer's house, whose name was Adrian Kashogi. As I could witness at his house, Kasogi was connected to politics and European, Arabic and African businessmen, usually connected to drugs and weapons trafficking. In 1986 I got arrested, under the charge of being a drug dealer. My arrest was a trap schemed by the DEA, by members from this organization that didn't like me because I put some of them in prison, as I already mentioned. I was then taken to Sintra's prison. I am in jail with Victor Pereira, who was also imprisoned there. In 1986, I found out that they were making plans to eliminate me in prison, whereby I asked my wife Elza to talk to Frank Carlucci as soon as possible. As a consequence a CIA agent, named Carlston and another American, visited me in jail. Both of them, after bribing the prison's directorate, including the chairman, vice-chairman and captain of the guard, as well as a person from the Prisons Systems HQ, who retired very recently from the prison services, called Maria José de Matos, managed to help me escape from prison. Maria José de Matos, also contributed to my prison break, under the agreement that she would receive a very high amount of money, paid by the American agents I already mentioned, in order to do so. These American agents managed to get me a helicopter, which took me to Lousã, where I stayed for 20 days. After this, I went to Madrid, with the Americans' help, and then from there, I went to Brazil. My get-away expenses were of approximately 25000€, which was a very high amount for that time.

Only later, in Brazil, after 1986, did I tell to José Esteves the whole story, including the fact that I had always known that Sá Carneiro was on the plane. José Esteves then told me that we had taken a great risk. I reassured him that I always protected and supported him in what comes to this attack. I supported him in everything that I could in Brazil. I made sure he had means of transportation in order to arrive to Brazil, I got him a passport in Lisbon, I handed him 750 escudos which were given to me by

the USA's embassy, in Lisbon, with that purpose and I got him the plane ticket from Madrid to Rio de Janeiro. In the trip from Madrid to Rio de Janeiro, José Esteves went with a friend of ours called Victor Moura. In Rio de Janeiro I helped him to start his own business, which was a little shop inside an RV. As I still worked for the USA's embassy, in Lisbon, these expenses were paid for by the embassy. He stayed in Brazil for approximately two years. I, however, was always traveling. José Esteves later received a phone call from Francisco Pessoa, from Portugal, where Francisco advises him to come back to Portugal and to ask for protection in order for him to testify about Camarate for the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry. That phone call was recorded, but José Esteves never managed to get formal protection.

I called Frank Carlucci, in 1987, asking him to meet me in person. He accepted it and so I travelled to Brazil, via Miami to Washington. I then asked him, considering what we had talked about Camarate, what would be my situation, if I was in any danger because of Camarate and if I would continue working for the CIA. Frank Carlucci told me that indeed, I would continue to work for the CIA, which paid me my salaries until 1989. Frank Carlucci told me in this meeting that they had counted with Penaguião's collaboration in Camarate operation and that he, Frank Carlucci, always knew about this. In 1994, once again, some DEA agents who didn't like me because of the agents I had sent to prison, tried to build me a trap. Three DCITE – Portuguese agents took part in all this: the current inspectors Tomé, Sintra and Teófilo Santiago. After this detention two prosecutors from the Public Ministry came to visit me to Caxias' prison. One of them, if I am not mistaken, was called Fernando Ventura and Cunha Rodrigues, who was the Attorney General of the Republic at the time, sent them both. These prosecutors told me that they could help me with the drugs accusations of which I was being charged, as long as I didn't say a word about Camarate. Because it is the truth and because I understand that the moment of telling everything about my involvement in Camarate, has come, in December 4th, 1980, I decided to make this statement, free willingly. As I can't change the fact that I took part in this operation, of which tragic consequences that it would bring to the victims' families and to the country I was far from guessing, at the time, I could at least now, tell the truth so that it stays in the History books and so that the Portuguese people can finally know what really happened. At last, but not least, I would like to thank my mother, my wife Elza Simões, who throughout these 35 years stood beside me in the good and the bad, bearing in an extraordinary way all the difficulties, absences and all the failures related to my family, which my job implied. Only a great woman

and a great love could make all this possible. I would also like to thank my daughter Eliana, who always knew how to deal with all the consequences that my professional life involved, never failing to be very loving. Finally I would like to thank my mother, who always cherished and supported me throughout my life, even though she did not always agree with my professional choices. Her help and support were to me of major importance. Without it I would not be able to go on in the hardest times of my life. Therefore, I can definitely say that I always had the support of the most amazing family, which was decisive in the good and bad moments of my life.

Lisbon, March 26th, 2012

Fernando Farinha Simões

I.D nr.: 7540306

In September 1981 Sturgis was connected with an ill-fated invasion of the American Naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba. The strategy: Send boatloads of unarmed men under an American flag into a canal adjacent to the base. The goal: Stay long enough so that sympathetic nations will recognize a Cuban government-in-exile. Wilferdo Navarro and Raphael Torres, a Bay of Pigs vet, were involved in this action. Sturgis and his crew ran aground in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Sturgis had to slip out the these islands in a small powerboat. [*Miami Herald* 9.10.81] In February 1982 Sturgis was in Angola, where he led a Brigade of anti-Castro Cubans, according to Wilferdo Navarro. [*Miami Herald* 2.10.82] In June 1986 Sturgis was arrested after he promised Metro Miami detective, Kennedy Rosario, who was posing as a drug dealer, that he could get the drug ring's chemist out of jail in return for a large amount of money. The Organized Crime Bureau first found out about Sturgis' scam in May 1986 when an informant told OCB detective Carlos Ortiz that he knew of "individuals engaged in reducing inmate's sentences" using "high-level" connections. Sturgis told them he wanted \$150,000 in cash. Since it was no crime to con drug dealers, and since Sturgis never followed through on his promise to contact high level people, OCB went another route. They offered Sturgis a down payment of four stolen Rolex watches and \$75,000. The police delivered four watches to Frank, then arrested him and his partner, Spanish national Emilio Cotonat, for possession of stolen property. When the case came to court, Sturgis claimed he was working for Customs Officer John McCutcheon, and had informed McCutcheon before his arrest about the approach. John McCutcheon, who spent 20 years with the Drug Enforcement Administration, testified that Sturgis had told him about this episode, but he could not remember if it was before or after his arrest. The jurors could not convict Sturgis because his guilt was not longer beyond reasonable doubt. Ellis Rubin represented Sturgis and he was acquitted. [*Miami Herald* 11.7.86]

In **1993** the Government of Cuba named these men as conspirators: Nixon, Richard Helms, Sturgis, Hunt, Phillips and Banister. They also named Johnny Rosselli, Gary Yen, George Bush, General Charles Cabell, Allen Dulles, Tony Varona, Richard Bissell, Sam Giancana, Trafficante, Clyde Chow, (Clyde Snow?) Carlos Prio Socarras, Robert Maheu, Jack Ruby, Jose Berman, the Novos, Pedro Diaz Lanz, Lenny Patrick, David Yaras, Eladio Del Valle and Herminio Diaz Garcia. Hemming stated that Sturgis, to his dying day, still had schemes going in the Dominican Republic. Hemming told this researcher:

You know why I was always annoyed by Sturgis. He didn't have telephone directories from all over the country cluttering up his fucking bedroom. He didn't sit in the library and read all the newspapers there are. He didn't do research. Now, did I stumble on to Oswald doing research, and know he was defector and all the bullshit? You're goddamn right. Did I have him in my files? You're goddamn right. But that's not the story that's gonna be told, right now. Could Frank, without any help at all, have stumbled across the newspaper article about this kid coming back from the Soviet Union, then read in the Dallas or Fort Worth newspaper about such and such. No. No fucking way. And Hunt and Phillips couldn't slip away from their desk for too long.

In **1993** Sturgis began training men in the Everglades for another Cuban invasion. William Johnson reported: "They had a shooting out there. Gun went off accidentally. Someone got killed. I think he's the eyes and the ears for Uncle Sam. He's working with some FBI Agent, with the camp, so he's feeding information on everyone that's there. He's a cutie." James Hunt wrote,

Frank Sturgis died in Miami on **December 4, 1993**, five days before his 69th birthday. He had gone to the VA Hospital a few days earlier with complaints of stomach and back pain. The death certificate said he died of cancer, though none had ever been previously diagnosed. An autopsy was never performed. Less than a month before his death, Frank had spent a week at the secret headquarters of an anti-Castro group, P.U.N.D. (Partido Unidad Nacional Democratico) located in the Everglades, where he conducted guerilla survival training exercises. Frank seemed to be in good health when he returned to Miami. His only complaint was that he had what he thought was a pretty nasty bug bite on his back. He suspected that it came from a spider or some type of mosquito out in the Everglades. At the time, he recalled that six months earlier he got a similar bite on his back while standing outside the P.U.N.D. headquarters in Miami. Other than that, for a man his age he was remarkably fit. But, rather than celebrate his birthday on December 9, 1993, Frank was laid to rest.

MARITA LORENZ AFTER THE COUP



Marita Lorenz stated:

I left Dallas about two hours [after RUBY threw me out]; Frank took me to the airport and I went back to Miami...On November 22, 1963, I was in an Eastern Airlines plane on the way to New York City when the pilot announced the President had been shot. When Oswald was picked up and shot by RUBY certain events began to fall into place. I was frightened. In New York she claimed was questioned about Marcos Jimenez Perez by the FBI although no such document has been released. She claimed she was asked: "Did they know the names of the people you took the car trip with from Miami to Dallas?" Marita Lorenz claimed she said, "Yes."

LORENZ 1964 TO 1973

Marita:

I didn't come forward with my story to the Warren Commission, but I did disassociate myself from Frank. I lost complete contact with him until 1972. In 1970 I got married to Louis John Yurasits, the superintendent of a building filled with Eastern bloc diplomats. I would go through their trash, I called it 'compactor work,' Mr. Weberman would call it 'garbology.' I would report my findings to S.A. Al Chestone. I received a letter of commendation from the New York FBI...

On October 29, 1971, Lorenz received a letter of commendation from John F. Malone, Assistant Director in Charge of the New York City FBI Office. The CIA reported "Lorenz collected wastebasket trash from the Soviet apartments which was offered and refused by FR Division in New York. She was met several times by the Domestic Contacts Division C/S. Domestic Contacts Division did not carry this information under Subject's name but under Yurasits." The information supplied by Marita Lorenz triggered one report titled "Illness of Mrs. Ivan E. Kartashov. Method of Collection: Interview. Directed to OSS Case Officer Kuehn. Field Comments: Per (Deleted) Watts telcon Copy of this information to be passed directly to (Deleted). Please coordinate with (Deleted)." [CIA FR Maurice A. Sovern 11.7.77; NARA 1993.07.13..17:59:24:750270] In January 1976 Lorenz and Yurasits were divorced. The FBI reported: "During the period of her marriage, 1970 to 1975 Lorenz voluntarily furnished information of both security and criminal nature. She was advised on numerous occasions that she was not an informant of the FBI." [FBI 105-83564 NR 4.7.77] Marita Lorenz:

In 1973 I visited Frank in Federal Prison in Connecticut. When Frank was in Washington testifying, he called me from a pay phone. A few months later, we met. During this meeting I asked him about the Kennedy assassination. He boasted and bragged about it. But he said, 'They haven't got shit.' He said 'They can't prove it' and he said he was questioned several times but that his alibi would stick. He said his alibi was that he 'watched the whole damn thing on television, in his house in Miami.'

In **January, February, and March 1975**, Lorenz logged 100 hours of auxiliary police work for the New York City Police Department. On April 24, 1975, Marita Lorenz surfaced in the press in a series of articles about Sturgis by Paul Meskil. The article was titled "Secrets of the CIA: The American Mata Hari Who Duped Castro." The article concerned the alleged theft of documents from Castro by Lorenz which later allegedly turned out to be the locations of Soviet missile sites:

I unlocked the door to Suite 2408, went inside and double locked the door behind me...as usual the suite was littered with papers and the filing cabinet was open. I couldn't grab everything. I took as much as I could, and stuffed papers and maps into my uniform pockets and inside my jacket. Then I left the Hilton and went back to the other hotel, changed into a dress, and caught the next flight to Miami. Frank met me at airport and I gave him all the papers. I never knew exactly what information they contained. I was told the stuff was good, it was fantastic and the United States Government was very happy. Among the papers were topographical maps of Cuba on which several sections of undeveloped land, miles away from any population center, had been marked with

handwritten circles...Three years later another intelligence agent told her the original groundwork plans for Soviet missile sites.

If Castro's papers had disappeared the same time Marita did, she would have been a suspect in the theft and arrested when she re-entered Cuba. On April 24, 1975, the CIA's Office of Security searched under "Lorenz, Ilona Marita and Lorenz Marie," but no Office of Security file was found. [CIA OS Memo for the Record 4.25.75] The CIA commented on this article: "In the first article Marie [sic] Lorenz alleges that E. Howard Hunt was the paymaster for Sturgis and Alexander Rorke. Hunt has publicly claimed not knowing Sturgis until at least the late 1960's...Relative to Marie Lorenz, initial Office of Security traces in this name were negative in April 1975." The April 25, 1975, article was noted by the CIA: "[The article stated] one Marie [sic] Lorenz was involved with Frank Sturgis and Alex Rorke in 1959 to 1960, in anti-Castro activities on behalf of this Agency." The FBI reported that in

...approximately Marita Lorenz, against the advise of the New York FBI office, began an affair with one Giuseppe Faggiano, who was, by reputation, a hit man and an arsonist. Throughout the duration of the affair she continued to furnish criminal information obtained through her relationship with Faggiano. She advised that during the course of that relationship, she had come in a position of information concerning gambling, shylocking, and IFIS matters, together with background information concerning LCN bars and restaurants. [FBI 137-44613-1]

On August 23, 1976, Sturgis reported he was with Marita Lorenz on the weekend of August 21, 1976, to August 22, 1976. She allegedly gave him cryptographic Albanian code. On August 27, 1976, the FBI in New York City generated this document:

In April 1976 instant case was opened to determine Marita Lorenz' potential as an informant. However, due to the fact that Lorenz was the subject of extensive publicity in June 1976, regarding recruitment by CIA during 1960 to kill Fidel Castro, instant case was closed. At the time the source had indicated her relationship with Faggiano was terminated. Subsequently, Lorenz contacted the New York FBI office and advised she had renewed her relationship with him. In July 1976 Lorenz advised she had been pistol whipped and beaten by Faggiano. She subsequently filed a complaint of first degree assault against him with the NYPD. Faggiano was arrested on August 11, 1976, and released on his own recognizance. Lorenz alleged that subsequent to his release, anonymous telephone calls were made to her unlisted number threatening her life. Lorenz, at her request, was contacted on August 19, 1976, by an S.A. of the NYO and Terence Mc Swigen of N.Y.C. P.D. At that time she accused Faggiano of

burglarizing her home and stealing several tape recordings of telephone conversations she had with Faggiano; Ed Levy, a long time boyfriend and allegedly father of her son. Lorenz claimed she feared for her life, and requested FBI or police protection."

On June 13, 1976, another article about Lorenz appeared in the *New York Daily News* written by **Paul Meskil**. It was titled "CIA SENT BEDMATE TO KILL Castro IN 1960." In the article Marita related that she met with Alex Rorke, two FBI agents and a CIA agent at the office of the FBI in New York City. Lorenz said they suggested that she should poison Castro. Gaeton Fonzi reported:

Meskil said he first met Marita Lorenz when he was researching a series of articles for the *News* entitled 'Secrets of the CIA.' The series was published beginning on April 20, 1975. The series dealt with the CIA's anti-Castro activities. Meskil said that while interviewing Frank Sturgis for the series, Sturgis told him he had helped Castro's former mistress escape from Cuba. At that time, Sturgis told Meskil he couldn't remember her name. Meskil later remembered there had been an article in the defunct *Confidential Magazine* entitled 'Castro Raped My Daughter.' That article had appeared in the early 1960's, and Meskil said it is fortuitous that he is one of the few people in the world with a complete collection of old *Confidential* magazines. Upon checking, Meskil discovered that the article was written by one Alex Rorke (an anti-Castro associate of Sturgis whose plane disappeared in September 1963) and that its subject was Marita Lorenz. Meskil subsequently found Lorenz and included her in his series...Regarding his recent article about Lorenz, Meskil said he first became aware of the information when Lorenz, with whom he had developed regular contact, called him and told him she had just returned from Miami and a period of voluntary confinement under protective custody in a United States Customs Service safe house. She said she had been working as an undercover informant for Customs Agent Steve Czukas. While in protective custody, she told Meskil, she wrote a detailed account of her knowledge concerning the Kennedy assassination. Meskil said he decided to publish the revelation in the *News* only because he confirmed the existence of her written account with Czukas. Meskil said Czukas confirmed he had custody of that written account. [HSCA To Blakey from Fonzi & Gonzales 10.31.77]

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Analysis Group June 18, 1976

SUBJECT: Sturgis, Frank Anthony

FIORINI, FRANK SF#353 459

1. As you are aware, Frank Anthony Sturgis, one of the convicted Watergate burglars, has repeatedly and falsely claimed affiliation with this Agency. Attached to instant Memorandum are copies of two articles from the New York Daily News by Paul Meskill, dated circa April 1975 and June 13, 1976, specifying that one Marie Lorenz was involved with Frank Sturgis and Alex Rorke in 1959/1960 in anti-Castro activities. Furthermore, the articles again allege that Sturgis and Rorke were acting on behalf of this Agency. The 13 June 1976 article further alleges: Marie Lorenz has claimed that at the direction of Sturgis and Rorke (and the Agency and the FBI) in 1960 she went to Cuba to poison Castro. The poison was given to her by Sturgis. In the first article Marie Lorenz alleges that E. Howard Hunt, known to her as "Eduardo" was the paymaster for Sturgis and Rorke. Hunt has publicly claimed not knowing Sturgis until at least the late 1960's.

2. Alex Rorke, identical with Alexander I. Rorke, Jr. (SF1427 955), was a free-lance writer, photographer, soldier of fortune who disappeared in September 1963 while flying in Central America. There is no evidence in this file that Rorke was ever affiliated with this Agency. There is evidence that Rorke was involved with Sturgis in anti-Castro activities in the early 1960's.

3. Relative to Marie Lorenz, initial Office of Security traces in this name were negative in April 1975. Additional research relative to the June 1976 article has revealed a positive identification. Composite information from the attachments would suggest that Marie Lorenz is of German father/ American mother birth, born circa 1940; that her father was Heinrich Lorenz, a former German Navy Captain who in February - 1959 was the captain of a luxury liner "Berlin";

4. Office of Security traces in the name of Heinrich Lorenz revealed that he is the father of Valerie Claire Lorenz (SF#117 245). Information in the file, coupled with information in the attached articles, positively identifies the younger sister of Valerie Claire Lorenz, one Ilona Marita Lorenz, as being identical with the Marie Lorenz mentioned in these articles.

7. Variations of all of the names of Ilona MARITA Lorenz and her family have been checked against Office of Security indices with no additional results with the exception to a reference to the file captioned "Cuban Intelligence Activities" (SFI350 643). An FBI New York Office report in this file dated 10 February 1960 captioned "Cuban Intelligence Activities in the United States" reflects in substance that Ilona Marita Lorenz, 344 West 87th Street, New York City, on 22 December 1959 advised SA O'Brien, FBI, that Jesus Yanes Pelletier, Cuban Revolutionary Army and Military Aide to the Cuban Prime Minister (Castro) had arrived in New York City on 18 December 1959. Lorenz reported

that she went out with him on the night of 19 December to the La Baracca Restaurant. She believed that Pelletier was in New York collecting intelligence information for the Castro government.

8. Relative to Lorenz's claim in the attached article that she and Alex Rorke visited New York FBI offices and had a 'conference with two agents who had questioned her previously and a CIA official,' it is interesting to note that Lorenz was interviewed by SA O'Brien on December 22, 1959. The file of Alexander Rorke reflects that he was interviewed on December 30, 1959 by SA Francis J. O'Brien, FBI, New York.

9. The above is for your information. Jerry G. Brown Deputy Chief, Security Analysis Group

The FBI:

General Investigative Division, in attached letter to Assistant Attorney General Thornburgh dated September 8, 1976, for information from our files. The September 8, 1976, response, based on an indices search using the spelling of Lorenz's name as furnished by Senator Schweiker to the Justice Department, resulted in no record being located...Additional research relative to the June 1976 article has revealed a positive identification... [FBI 62-109060-7572x NR 4.7.77]

LORENZ 1977 IN SECRET SERVICE CUSTODY

In February 1977 Lorenz was in Madrid, searching for Marcos Perez Jimenez, in order to obtain child support. She told the Legal Attaché at the American Embassy there that she had been "followed by strange men and on one occasion her food had been drugged." Marita Lorenz stated:

In June 1977 Secret Service agents and Customs men knocked on my door and said, 'We know you went on a trip to Dallas.' This was Steve Czukas, a United States Customs intelligence agent. I was cooking and I said, 'Yes, I did take a trip to Dallas, but I didn't stay, I went back.' They questioned me and we talked only of this one trip. I confessed in writing while I was in their protective custody in July 1977. They put me up at Miami Springs Villa and gave me a new identity, Cathy Webster.

Miami TV newsman Victor Walters checked Marita Lorenz's story with a source in the United States Customs Service, and confirmed that she had been in protective custody due to the information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy she had disclosed. [Depo. Vic Walters 76-1252-Civ. SMA Miami 2.3.78]

To verify Victor Walters' story, Philip Bowen, Regional Head of U.S. Customs, and Steve Czukas were deposed during the course of *Hunt v Weberman*. Philip Bowen agreed to a deposition if his testimony was "confined to matters discussed with TV reporter Vic Walters...we have been directed to decline to testify to any matter which would reveal investigatory techniques, confidential informants, the credibility of a source's information." Steve Czukas and Philip Bowen both said nothing of value. A notarized Privacy Waiver was obtained from Lorenz so that her story could be verified, and a Privacy Act request was made for her "written confession." The Assistant Regional Counsel who had represented Philip Bowen at his deposition replied: "A check of our records indicates that we do not have in Region IV any reports, memos or documents on Marita Lorenz that were authored or co-authored or bear the signature of U.S. Customs agents Steve Czukas or Howard Weintraub."

Marita Lorenz: "Frank wanted me to fly to Angola in 1977 to take part in anti-Castro activity there. The Novo brothers were supposed to drive me to the airport. Had I not refused Frank's offer I would have never returned." On July 21, 1977, Marita Lorenz called the listed number for the CIA in New York City and said Sturgis wanted her to travel to Angola, in hopes of obtaining first-hand information about the Cuban military presence there. Marita Lorenz offered to spy on Sturgis for the CIA, if the CIA lifted the exclusionary stamp on her passport that prohibited travel to Angola. The CIA reaction to Marita Lorenz's offer was emphatically negative: "There is no interest in encouraging Subject to travel or do anything else for this Agency." [CIA (deleted) 28990 7.22.77. 6.18.76, 4.25.75, 7.21.77; FBI 137-44613-1, 137-43954-4, 105-83564-8,9, 105-83564 NR 4.7.77, 6.23.76]

In **September 1977 Marita Lorenz told her car trip story to Paul Meskil** who checked it with Sturgis. Sturgis repeated his denial and again implied that he was unaware of the Novo brothers, but did tell Paul Meskil he had been in Dallas several times before November 22, 1963. In late September 1977, *The New York Daily News* published Paul Meskil's story. A few days later, Sturgis had a meeting with SANTO Trafficante in a Miami Beach supermarket. [Trafficante HSCA Testimony 10.77] In **1977** this researcher needed a witness in *Hunt Weberman*, and the testimony of Marita Lorenz was not subjected to intensive examination. Gaeton Fonzi believed that Marita Lorenz had concocted the car trip story to discredit the tramp photographs, and was still in league with Sturgis. Gaeton Fonzi had contacted Marita Lorenz in 1976 shortly after the first Paul Meskil story was published. She asked him to provide protection for her; because he did not believe she was a credible witness he declined to do so. This researcher visited Lorenz at her apartment on 1725 York Avenue in Manhattan. Marita showed me the bullet hole in a mirror in her bedroom that was a result on an encounter with Faggiano. Marita would go into another room with an unidentified while male then come out a few minutes later and ask for change of a \$100 bill. She gave me a copy of her address book for 1963 that contained the listing "E. Howard Hunt 544 CAMP ST." This

was obviously a contrivance. At Marita's apartment I encountered a grandfatherly man named David Aldrich, who claimed to be related to the Rockefeller family. David Aldrich was determined that Lorenz should not allow me to visit her. As I recollect, one day Aldrich and this researcher had a confrontation in the elevator of Lorenz's apartment building. Aldrich threatened to have me killed, so I left the premises and waited outside until I observed Aldrich leave, then I went up and visited Marita. Eventually Aldrich and I made up and went to a Greek restaurant, along with one of my female colleagues, Gabriel Schang. Aldrich's role was unclear.

MARITA LORENZ SETS UP STURGIS: OCTOBER 1977

In late October 1977 Marita Lorenz called Gaeton Fonzi and told him that one of her mafia friends had told her Sturgis planned to have her killed. Gaeton Fonzi agreed to call Sturgis. When he did, he told Sturgis that Marita Lorenz had called him, and that perhaps Sturgis should give Marita Lorenz a call to find out why she was making these accusations. Gaeton Fonzi was attempting to find out if Sturgis and Marita Lorenz were still working together. According to Sturgis, Gaeton Fonzi called him and said: "Frank, I got a call from Washington to check out Marita Lorenz's allegations. So he did ask me, 'Have you been in touch with Marita?' I said, 'No I haven't.' He said, 'I think it might be a good idea, speak with her and ask her about these accusations.' I said, 'Fine.' So, on his advice, I did contact Marita. When I called Marita, Marita was surprised that I spoke with her. I said, 'Marita, this is Frank.' She says 'How are you?' I says 'Fine.' She says, 'Are you mad at me?' I says 'No.' Why should I be mad at you? We've been friends for years." During the course of *Hunt Weberman* Sturgis was asked:

Q. Isn't it true that you were more than friends with her at various times and places?

A. Well, you've gotta understand that there has been a period of years I haven't seen Marita, so I never knew what she's done, what she has been involved in. As a matter of fact, she did have some problems in New York. I found out that she was working undercover for, you know, the police department; that one of her boyfriends, whom she was involved with, was trying to blackmail her and she shot him.

Q. Dead?

A. No, she shot him, and she's got a mirror in her bedroom with a bullet hole there. And because one time when I was up there I says, "How come you don't take care of the bullet hole?" and she says "Well, I like to keep it as a memento," you know; and she shot the guy! Naturally the guy isn't going to go ahead and turn her over to the police. Now, she was telling me about his threats, about how he threatened to kill her, to do harm to her kids -- So she asked me, she says, "Frank, I need your help. What can I do? I have to work for these people" and she named the people which I don't think I

should go ahead and mention, I prefer that she name them, "and this other group of people, and this other group of people, and it seems that they can't do anything to help me protect myself against this party, and I'm afraid." I says, "Well, tell you what I'll do." So I went to New York -- now this was before Marita had made these accusations in the paper, I'm going back to when she had all these problems -- I went to New York at one time to do something on business, and I naturally stopped in to see her and I took a taped conversation of Marita Lorenz, between her and myself, at the hotel where I was staying at, and I turned this tape over to the Central Intelligence Committee. This is Senator Baker's, Central Intelligence Committee. I turned it over to him, which they may have it, they have it documented, and I, also, asked him -- now, when I was with Marita that day she told me the story, and I taped this conversation about the problems that she was having by this man here, this man that was threatening her, because she had some documents in her possession which she turned over to me, and I immediately flew to Washington, D.C. and turned them over to the Secret Service Intelligence Committee. These are documents of a foreign intelligence matter. Now I told her, I called from her telephone -- which there should be a record of -- I called Senator Baker's office and spoke to Howard Liebengood and explained to him how come this girl here had worked for these, you know, federal organizations and, because of what's happening, pertaining to what documents I had that I was going to turn over to them, why they wouldn't give her protection? "Fine" he says, "Frank, are you coming down this way?" "Yes, I'm leaving, I'm coming down to see you." Well, I turned over all this stuff to Howard Liebengood with the hope that the Senate Intelligence Committee would help put a guard on her to protect her against the threats she was getting, against this man whom she shot -- not that she missed -- that she shot...Now, what happened after that, between the Senate Intelligence Committee, by trying to obtain protection, you know, for Marita Lorenz, is between them because I immediately disassociated myself, because I naturally felt it pertained to national security business that she, you know, was involved in...Now here we go over a period of time -- well, I haven't been up in New York or anything like that -- then this thing comes out in the paper and I spoke to Marita and told her why and so forth, and what happened, and she maintained to me, and she did mention to me in conversation, that Weberman was one of the persons that was behind the pressure that she had after she put all the stuff in the paper. And I said, "Well, who are the other people?" She says, "I can't tell you at the present time, but get back with me." Fine. I immediately -- now, when I called her, remember, Gaeton Fonzi knew of every phone call that I had made with Marita, because I would not talk to Marita unless Fonzi knew that I was speaking to Marita. Then a series of calls again, another call, and I tried to go ahead and again ask Marita, "Marita, how come, you know, why don't you tell me, you know, because the people have been..." She says, "Well, I'm scared I'm going to be subpoenaed." So I says, "You don't have to be scared, because Fonzi told me you're not going to be subpoenaed any place, so don't be worried about any subpoena," you know. She says, "Well, you know the people on the book" and I'm not

sure whether she meant *Coup D'Etat* or not; but she says, "You know the people in the book were behind me, and I'm getting a lot of pressure." Well, I'm sure a lot of the pressure is, from what she said -- well, I don't know, I can't put that in her lines, so I can't go into that. Anyway, this is the things that she had told me about part of the pressures, and she wanted me to come to New York and she says, "If you don't have the funds to come up here, I can come there or meet you halfway, or I'll tell you what I'll do: I'll send you a prepaid ticket and you come up here to New York and I'll tell you the whole story. I'll tell you everything, who the pressure, the people, who are the people behind me in putting all this stuff in the newspapers."

Q. That was the 31st of what?

A. October. I went over to a friend of mine's house, Frank Nelson, and I called Marita and in talking with Marita she says, "Well, I'm going to be busy, call me later." Fine. [Sturgis stated he told Fonzi, Jack Anderson, Paul Meskil, Malcomn Abrams of the *Midnight Globe* and Steve Dunleavy that he was going to contact Marita.] So, anyway, I believe I spoke to Marita again that afternoon and that night she told me to come over. So when I went over there that evening, I got there around 11:00 p.m. I knocked on the door, the door opened and here are two men with drawn guns pointed at me and said, "Who are you?" Well, I got a little scared you know. I was concerned. I thought possibly these two people were part of the people who had been harassing Marita. I says, "My name is Frank Sturgis." They said, "Are you carrying a piece?" I says, "No, I don't carry a weapon." He says, "Well, come in." I came in and immediately they shook me down as best they could, with guns pointing at me. They says, "We're detectives from the New York City Police Department. You're under arrest." I said, "Under Arrest! For what?" They said, "We'll tell you about it. Come on in." So they took me in and I didn't see nobody there but the two detectives...Up to there I didn't know that my life was in jeopardy. Now I will tell you what the police officers told me. I came in. I had to take everything out of my pockets. They looked through my briefcase, so forth. Sat down. I asked, if I'm arrested, what the charges were? "Well will go ahead and tell you when we get down to the police station." "Now Frank, you're going to have to thank us, because we saved your life." "You saved my life, why?" "Do you know Marita's daughter was outside this place with a shotgun ready to kill you?" I says, "I don't believe it." They says, "Well yes, because Marita called us" -- listen to this now -- "and told us that her daughter was downstairs with a shotgun waiting to kill you, Frank Sturgis, when you walked in here. So when we got this call from Marita Lorenz, we went down and arrested her daughter." Now the story changes around as we go along, from the police officers...later on it was supposedly that the kid was arrested with a .22 caliber pistol on her.

The information Sturgis and Lorenz furnished to Liebengood:

She told me at one period of time, in Miami, Florida, while she was living with the ex-dictator, Perez Jimenez, he was the ex-president of Venezuela, she had been supported by him, in a swanky apartment, I believe it was in Bell Harbor, where her apartment was at; she had a little girl, a child by Perez Jimenez; and she overheard a discussion by the ex-president, Perez Jimenez, which she told me that Perez Jimenez was talking with two Latin type men and the discussion was for them to go ahead and kill Kennedy, but it was Robert Kennedy. [*Sturgis v NYPD Depo*]

MARITA'S VERSION

Marita Lorenz said that her daughter was going to protect her from Sturgis

...since she had received two threats. One from Frank Nelson, and one from a Cuban who said I was dead. I taped it. Monday morning. Monica told me, 'Mommy I am not going to leave you alone with Frank. If you don't answer the phone I'll get him when he comes down.' I told her, 'Frank wouldn't hurt me, he is just going to try and convince me not to say anything to the committee.' I had to meet with Frank...when he called at 11:00 a.m. I stalled him. I had to get Monica off the street. I was working with the New York City Police Department investigating child prostitution and I called them. I said, 'My daughter is 15, and she is out on the street with a gun. She wants to kill somebody to stop him from hurting me. Pick her up!'

Hemming told this researcher:

I don't discount anything. You helped her fuckin' manufacture the story. After all you helped her do that shit, okay, I'm not fucking stupid or something?

This researcher did not pressure Marita Lorenz, or feed her this story, as Hemming and Sturgis said. Sturgis knew this to be the truth. The reason he said this was because it explained why two independent sources had put him in Dallas - they really were not independent. Marita Lorenz came forward with her story voluntarily. I didn't know her when she did. I first came into contact with Marita Lorenz after she had released the details of the Dallas car trip. Sturgis believed I was in contact with her before this. He based his assumption on the results of a pen register (a device that makes a record of all the numbers dialed from a telephone) Hemming had connected to his telephone during one of my visits to his office. The device indicated that I had tried to call Lorenz from his office. It did not indicate that the number I had for her at the time, obtained from an old New York City telephone directory was disconnected. Hemming thought Marita Lorenz had provided me with her number. In 1994 I assured Hemming that I did not pressure Marita Lorenz to make up these charges and suggested to Hemming she either saw *Coup D'Etat in America* or became aware of the investigation of Sturgis by the Rockefeller Commission. Hemming:

In this business you can tell yourself that's probably 95% certainty. But if you start discounting shit? If you deny it, or white it out, you're fucked, mister. You don't discount anything.

Marita Lorenz entrapped Sturgis. She paid for his flight to New York City, then didn't meet with him until she had two detectives with her. Marita Lorenz had mistakenly involved her daughter in her delusional world. She had second thoughts, and had the police pick her up before Monica actually popped Frank. Marita Lorenz was working on a child prostitution case with detectives from the New York City Police Department, and the officers involved in Sturgis' arrest were under the impression that Sturgis was somehow connected with child prostitution. Marita Lorenz was put under guard by five shotgun-toting detectives. Sturgis' bail was set at \$25,000. Sturgis retained attorney Henry Rothblatt, who said the CIA and the HSCA were behind Sturgis' arrest. Rothblatt had successfully defended Colonel Robert Rhealt and five other officers of the Special Forces on charges that they had murdered a Vietnamese double agent. That trial ended in dismissal of charges, when the CIA refused to allow its agents to testify about its operations in Vietnam in conjunction with the Green Berets. In 1988 Henry Rothblatt represented Barker during an Miami investigation into the granting of zoning variances.

STURGIS DOES TIME FOR THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

On Wednesday, November 3, 1977, Sturgis' bail was reduced to \$10,000 and he was released from Rikers Island. Sturgis had been incarcerated for two days as a result of his participation in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. It was ironic that it took someone like Marita Lorenz to do this. On Friday, November 5, 1977, the New York City District Attorney's Office announced that tape recordings and documents submitted by Marita Lorenz had been examined and contained no threat. The New York City District Attorney's Office moved for dismissal, since: "The lack of substantiation of her claims impairs her credibility."

STURGIS SUES NYPD

The dismissal prompted Henry Rothblatt to announce his client planned to sue everyone involved, and would file a federal lawsuit charging that Sturgis' Civil Rights were violated when he was arrested by the New York City Police Department. Sturgis was deposed by the late Bruce Stahl:

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Stepdaughter who is married. [What about Ronnie Sturgis?]

Q. Were you married to someone other than the person you are married to now.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Who would that have been?

A. Divorce. I was reported killed in Cuba, and after I came back from Cuba, naturally we were separated. [He abandoned his second wife.]

Q. Was that your first wife?

A. First wife was killed in an accident; second wife.

Q. When were you married the first time?

A. I was married, let's see, I came out of the Marine Corps. I believe it was 1946. I was on the Norfolk Police Department, and --- Her name was Odell Thompson. She was killed in an accident.

Q. What year?

A. I don't recall because I was in the Army.

Q. Did you ever threaten Mrs. Lorenz as to whether -- as to her speaking with the Senate Committee.

A. No, sir.

Q. At no time did you tell her not to testify.

A. Not in her whole life, never. For anything ever. In the discussion, one of the discussions I had with her, I asked her about the pressure behind her in making those statements, and I did ask her if the company was behind it. Or if the FBI was behind it, or any other group of people was behind it.

Q. Other than the fact that people stop you and take notice of you, is there any other effect the arrest has had on your life?

A. Yes, because I've worried about the people who are stopping me are going to shoot me, and that has affected on my family, that has tremendous effect on my family.

Q. Do you expect to incur any expenses in the future due to your arrest?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What expenses?

A. Legal expenses, and possibly hospital and funeral expenses. I'm a marked man for the rest of my life, and a target for every nut in this country.

Q. Has anyone tried to physically harm you since your arrest?

A. No.

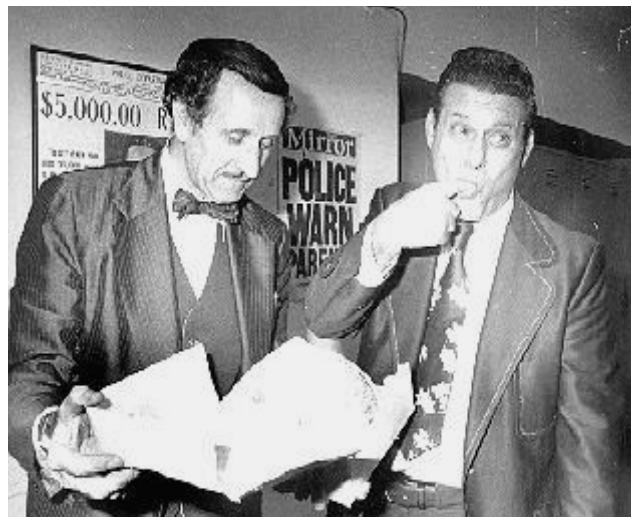
ROTHBLATT: Does this include being hit by pies?

A. I'm sorry, I forgot about that.

Q. Who do you blame for bringing these facts, or this information, to the news media, though?

A. Certain radical people.

Sturgis described Frank Nelson as a "retired newspaper man who is approximately 72 years old." [USDC SDNY 78 Civil 5113] The reference to pies related to an attempt by Aron Kay to pie Sturgis as he entered the Courthouse at 100 Center Street. Frank Nelson, 70, wrestled Aron Kay to the ground and the police took away his banana cream pie. *The New York Daily News* made this its front page story.



THE POLYGRAPH TEST

A few days later, Sturgis underwent a polygraph test at the office of Henry Rothblatt during which he was asked about the Kennedy assassination. Sturgis commented: "Everything pertaining to the assassination, conspiracy, whether I was in Dallas that day, whether I was a gunman, whether I was in a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy, whether or not Marita Lorenz was, with the accusations she made, whether she was telling the truth or not. I passed it 100%." Henry Rothblatt stated that Sturgis passed, but he refused to send this researcher a copy of the raw test results. On November 9, 1977, the FBI issued a public denial that their agents had encouraged Lorenz to poison Fidel Castro. [FBI 105-83564-14]

N.Y.P.D.

Sturgis sued the New York City Police Department. This researcher worked with the New York City Police Department as a consultant on this case, and supplied it with information on Sturgis' past connection with prostitutes, and fact that he had been arrested for beating his wife. As a result, Sturgis did not pursue the matter fully. He arranged an out of court settlement with the New York City Police Department in which he received \$2,500. The lawsuit was originally for \$15 million. While working on the Sturgis case, I left my original Sturgis file in my desk at Police Headquarters. The Police assured me, "It's safe here, we're the police, right?" My Sturgis file, however, was stolen by an agency of the Federal Government. All the documents in the file had been catalogued, and, with some effort, were replaced.

INSPECTOR GENERAL 77-2343

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD November 7, 1977

SUBJECT: Marita Lorenz

1. According to recent press information, Mr. Frank Sturgis had been charged with threatening subject, who reportedly told investigators from the HSCA that she went with Sturgis and Lee HarveyOswald to Dallas three days before Kennedy's assassination. The charges were dismissed on November 4, 1977, for "lack of proof." Subject has repeatedly claimed that she was an undercover operative for the CIA and FBI. According to LA Division operational traces, we have had *no* contact for operations.
2. In July 1977, DCD received a telephone call from subject, who asked for a named DCD Contact Specialist (presently the Pittsburgh Field Chief). On the telephone with DCD, subject claimed that she had various contacts with U.S. Government agencies, and she was now reporting that she had been invited by Frank Sturgis, who had

telephoned her several times from Paris and Lisbon, to join him immediately in Lisbon and he provided an airplane ticket for her to travel on July 21. According to subject, Sturgis wanted to spy on the Cuban presence in Angola and wanted subject with him. She called DCE to solicit their assistance in having the exclusionary stamp on her passport lifted (not further explained) and offered to report on Sturgis. Subject said that Sturgis has his own army of revolutionaries-in-exile in the Miami area. DCD turned down her offer.

3. In order to respond to a priority inquiry from DCI/PA whether or not the Agency had anything to do with the subject, we followed up with DCD on her relationship with DCD and learned that in April 1972, also while in New York and living under the name of Illona M. Yurasits (no Directorate traces), she offered to report on the wife of a Soviet U.N. delegation member living in the same apartment building. She also collected wastepaper basket trash from Soviet apartments which was offered to, and refused by, the FR Division in New York. She met several times by the DCD C/S and said then that she had previous contacts with CIA, talked about her Castro connection, her sexual involvement with Castro, and her contacts with Sturgis. DCD did not carry this information under subject's name, but under Yurasits name, and is searching their records further and recalling some material from archives which they believe might be pertinent.

4. The above was called to the attention of OLC/Cummins. By direction of ADDO, we will notify DCI/PA to make no comment to the press pending further resolution of our relationship. It is noted that in view of the dismissal of the New York charges, the press interest most probably will dissipate.

Maurice A. Sovern.

THE CONSPIRACY RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITA LORENZ

Vindicated by the courts of having threatened Marita Lorenz, Sturgis began to blame a conspiracy for the actions of Marita Lorenz. In November 1977 *The Midnight Globe* ran this story: "Sturgis Says Reds Are Framing Me As JFK's Killer." Sturgis told Malcolm Abrams Marita Lorenz was "brainwashed, drugged and coerced into working for the communists." He explained: "There are elements behind her that have pressed her to do what she has done. It's something I would like to find out about myself. I feel in my heart she is not doing this as a person. I believe that communist agents are putting pressure on her. There is somebody [Weberman] behind this mess."

In April 1978 Ellis Rubin claimed:

Plaintiff sues the defendant Weberman for conspiracy to defame and slander in that Defendant, A. J. Weberman did induce and conspire with one Marita Lorenz to have her publicly accuse Howard Hunt of financing and bankrolling several persons, including herself, to journey in two cars from Miami to Dallas, in November of 1963, in order to murder the then President of the United States, John F. Kennedy. As a result of said conspiracy, these false and malicious charges by the said Marita Lorenz and the Defendant, Alan J. Weberman, with the purpose to discredit and implicate Plaintiff Hunt in the most infamous crime in the history of the United States. Wherefore Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant for compensatory damages in the amount of \$1,000,000 and for punitive damages in the amount of \$1,500,000, plus costs of this action, and Plaintiff Hunt demands trial by jury of all issues triable by a jury.

Plaintiff sues Defendant for conspiring to deprive Plaintiff of a witness in the upcoming trial of this cause of action in that Weberman conspired with Marita Lorenz to induce and pay for the trip of Frank Sturgis from this jurisdiction to New York, to supposedly confer with Marita Lorenz. Plaintiff would show that on October 31, 1977, due to the conspiracy and connivance of Defendant Weberman and Marita Lorenz, Frank Sturgis did journey to New York where he was falsely arrested and imprisoned, and falsely accused of coercion and harassment. In addition, the 15-year-old daughter of Marita Lorenz was apprehended by the New York City Police Department while in possession of a loaded .22 caliber revolver. The said daughter did admit to certain persons at the time and place on October 31, 1977, in New York, New York, she had the gun on her person to kill Frank Sturgis. Plaintiff Hunt would now show that it was the purpose of this conspiracy between the Defendant Weberman, and Marita Lorenz, was to either assassinate Frank Sturgis, or thoroughly discredit Frank Sturgis, in order to deprive Hunt of his corroborative witness that the charges contained in Defendant Weberman's libelous publication are false and malicious and untrue.

In April 1978 Hunt was asked for any and all evidence that I planned to murder Frank Sturgis.

Q. Do you have any evidence that Mr. Weberman conspired with Marita Lorenz to kill Mr. Frank Sturgis.

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Could I ask you, what is this evidence?

A. The statements made to by Mr. Weberman and Mr. Sturgis made to me and under oath.

Q. Where are those statements?

A. I don't know. You took the deposition.

MR. Weberman: Excuse me for one second. Other than the statements of Mr. Sturgis, is there any evidence of the plot of Mr. Weberman conspiring to kill Frank Sturgis, as you alleged in you amended Complaint?

THE DEPONENT: I believe the matter is in litigation in New York City right now. Mr. Sturgis, I believe, gave the details of it. I am not too conversant with --

Q. But other than Mr. Sturgis's statements, there was nothing you know of that would indicate Mr Weberman was involved in this plot to do away with Mr. Sturgis?

A. I am going to have to consult with counsel. Yes. My attorney has conducted an extensive investigation the results of which he has not yet made known to me.

Frank Sturgis was asked about this:

Q. Do you have any evidence that Weberman, the gentleman sitting next to me today, engaged in conspiracy to lure you to New York City, and in fact conspire with others to commit the crime of murder on you?

A. Mr. Gaeton Fonzi, the investigator for the HSCA, contacted me. He told me, "Frank, I got a call from Washington to go ahead and check into these allegations of Marita Lorenz and naturally I have to sit down and talk to you." Fine. So we set up a meeting, talked with Fonzi and he says, "What do you think is behind this?" I said I didn't know. So, naturally, I defended Marita. I said "I don't think Marita Lorenz would do this by herself. There had to be some reason or some force pushing her behind this." He says, "Well it seems that way. I just can't believe it," you know, "everything that's going on." The only thing I can say is that Marita Lorenz told me on the telephone that Weberman was behind the pressures in doing what she had done, you, know, that's the only thing I know.

Q. Do you know of any other assassination plots Mr. Weberman was involved in that would affect you, other than the one just spoken of?

A. No. Well, I'm telling you the story about Marita, what she told me that some of the people that was behind her, the pressures that she had behind her in making the story which led up to her daughter actually being arrested for being outside her apartment with a .22 caliber pistol, can you tell me? Can (sic) not a lawyer. I'd like to know these things...Now I don't know whether Weberman gave her money to go ahead and -- all I know is that Marita Lorenz sent me a prepaid ticket. Now, where she got that money, I don't know...I say there's elements in this country who are trying to use me to divide the people's thinking in this country and the true facts...

Ellis Rubin was asked what evidence he had of conspiracy. He had none.

My attorney asked Hunt how the potential murder of Sturgis could affect his alibi, if the two men had not been together on November 22, 1963. He answered:

Well, I think I can look at it this way; that we know that Frank Sturgis has a solid alibi for where he was on the day the tragedy took place. By doing away with him, then the focus - thanks to the book *Coup D'Etat In America* - the focus now comes to rest on me.

The FBI sent this memorandum about Marita Lorenz to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Robert L. Keuch:

On **February 12, 1978**, Marita Lorenz telephonically contacted the N.Y. FBI and advised she had 16 tapes and four boxes of materials she has compiled on her life...Lorenz asked to be contacted by the FBI on February 13, 1978. On February 13, 1978, Lorenz recontacted the N.Y. Office and advised she was leaving the area. She stated the FBI had always treated her well in the past and she had decided to furnish the FBI with more information regarding her dealings with Frank Sturgis...The allegations by Lorenz against Sturgis proved to be baseless...Lorenz has proved untrustworthy in previous dealings with the FBI. As a result, New York will make no effort to contact her to take possession of the material. [FBI 62-117290 NR 2.24.78]

In the summer of 1978 Lorenz received a large advance from Viking Press for her life story, according to document she allowed this researcher to copy. In July 1979 Lorenz wrote a letter to Fidel Castro in which she willed him all of her property and gave him custody over her two children. In September 1979 Lorenz filed a complaint against her attorney, Lawrence Krieger, who had refused to let her steal from her son's trust fund. In 1992 she was back in the news again after she released the 'Andre Castro' story. In the 1990's Marita's daughter, Monica, lived with the son of Salvador Allende. Marita's son went to law school. Despite her efforts on behalf of the United States Marita ended up washing floors for a living.