

(FOR SEA POUCH)

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TO : Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

DATE: 9 August 1951

FROM : [Redacted]

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Political Matters

SPECIFIC— Resale of U.S. Surplus Military Equipment

Ref: TMM-W-1473 -200-7-54-51

1. Mr. Jack LAMONT, named in reference as one of the principals in a transaction involving the purchase of surplus U.S. military equipment for resale to Delmont, A.G., of Vaduz, Lichtenstein, has been the subject of former investigations on the part of the U.S. Treasury Department, the FBI, and the Embassy Political Section. A review of references to him in the files of these offices indicates that he has a generally shady reputation but has not been involved in any subversive activities inimical to the interests of the U. S. LAMONT may be described as a promoter who is willing to participate in any shady or illicit operation where he stands a chance of making money, but it appears unlikely that he is motivated in his activities by any pro-Soviet or pro-Communist sentiment.

2. Regarding the deal in question, which the Treasury has investigated in detail (see Attachment 1), LAMONT told the Treasury representative on 26 March 1951 that the transaction had never come about. In an interview on that date in the office of the Treasury representative, LAMONT confirmed all of the information contained in Attachment 1. LAMONT stated further that the whole deal was originated by (General) Gilberto LIMON, Mexican Minister of Defense, and was to have been worked unofficially through the Mexican Embassy in Washington, with the help of a (Mr.) Kenneth MILLER of that city. However, it was not possible to obtain the necessary permits from the U. S. Government and the whole transaction fell through, according to LAMONT. No purchases or sales were made, at least via the Mexican channel, and no money changed hands. As far as LAMONT knows, the matter is completely dead. (Confirmation of the fact that the arms export permit was refused by Washington has been received since by the Treasury representative).

3. Attachment 2 is a photographic copy of a memorandum from the FBI to the Treasury Department representative, dated 31 May 1951, which gives some background information on LAMONT and his wife.

4. The most recent report concerning LAMONT came from the American Consulate, Merida, Yucatan, to the American Ambassador, dated 20 July 1951. This report deals with the difficulties which LAMONT and his partner were experiencing in the operation of a shrimp fishing enterprise off the Mexican Gulf Coast. The report is long and involved, and is of no intelligence interest except in so far

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as it indicates that LAMONT's activities at the present time are principally those connected with his fishing enterprise.

5. Unless some new evidence comes to light which would appear to implicate LAMONT in any illicit business transactions no further action will be taken unless contrary instructions are received from Headquarters.

cc: 2-Washington
1-Files

attachments.
PJM/wsp

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