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7 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION: Mr. Sam J. Papich

SUBJECT: COURT FOSTER WOOD
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Reference is made to a 25 March 1961 and a 6 July 1961 investigative report on captioned Subject which have previously been furnished to this Agency.

[redacted]
who is a current Agency employee, has recently been interviewed concerning his knowledge of Court Foster Wood whom [redacted] had known since mutual attendance in high school. Attached is a detailed report of the information furnished by [redacted] concerning his knowledge of Wood.

Since [redacted] personally has sufficient reason to question the activities of Wood and the activities of the associates of Wood, [redacted] has been advised to discontinue any further contact with Wood.

It would be appreciated if your Bureau would furnish this Agency any additional information brought to your attention concerning Court Foster Wood and of particular interest would be any information received by your Bureau concerning past association of Court Foster Wood with [redacted]

The above information is for your use only and should not be disseminated outside your Bureau.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

R. L. Bannerman
Acting Director of Security

Attachment:
As noted

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TO: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

SUBJECT: COURT FOSTER AND
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to a March 1961 and a May 1961 communication from the Bureau to the New York Office regarding the activities of Court Foster and the activities of the individuals associated with him.

It is noted that the New York Office has advised that Court Foster has been active in the New York area and has been in contact with several individuals who are known to be active in the New York area. It is also noted that the New York Office has advised that Court Foster has been in contact with several individuals who are known to be active in the New York area.

It is requested that you personally investigate the activities of Court Foster and the individuals associated with him and report the results of your investigation to the Bureau.

It would be appreciated if your Bureau would furnish this Agency any additional information brought to your attention concerning Court Foster and of particular interest would be any information received by your Bureau concerning past association of Court Foster with Richard Weiner, Director.

The above information is for your use only and should not be disseminated outside your Bureau.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE:

R. L. Danvers
Acting Director of Security

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SUBJECT: Court Foster Wood

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[] has recently advised that Court 3 Foster Wood was a relatively close high school friend of [] during mutual attendance at George Mason High School, Falls Church, Virginia, during 1957 to 1959. [] described Wood as an average high school student who had no particular problems with the exception that there were domestic difficulties between the father and mother of Wood.

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[] became acquainted with the parents of Wood and made occasional visits to their home during the above period of time. The father of Wood, Foster Wood, is an attorney who was then living in Falls Church. Some time ago the father and mother of Court Wood split up and Court Wood and father moved into an apartment on Columbia Road, Washington, D.C.

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[] advised that after graduation from high school in June 1959 he lost any close contact with Wood who then started to attend George Mason College, where he seemed to have an interest in philosophy. 3 [] started to attend a military school and Wood expressed extreme opposition to military schools.

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[] married in 1960, which also helped to move [] somewhat out of the social circle of Wood. 3 [] believed that for approximately a year, during 1959 to 1960, he did not actually see Wood but advised that after this period in which he did not see Wood he has had a number of contacts with Wood, many of which occurred during mutual attendance at the University of Virginia Extension School (night school) in early 1961. On one occasion 3 [] attended a party at the apartment occupied by Wood and father at the invitation of Wood, and on this occasion came into contact with the "new set of friends" of Court Wood, whom [] described as being "beatnik types." Girls in attendance at the party, according to [] appeared to be of the "street pickup" type. 3

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After the above party Wood occasionally telephoned [] 3 and about Christmas 1960 Wood called and stated that he was going to Cuba under the auspices of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. 3 [] called on Wood after the return of Wood from Cuba and at that time Wood lauded Castro very highly. The father of Wood was also present and [] obtained the impression that the father was also in sympathy with Castro. 3 [] recalled that he again, at a later date, had visited the Wood apartment, this being an occasion when Wood had been visiting somewhere in Falls Church and contacted [] to ask [] to take Wood home. On this 3

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1. The first of these is the fact that the present-day United States is a country of immigrants. The vast majority of the population of the United States is descended from immigrants who came to this country from other parts of the world. This is true of the white population as well as of the black population. The white population is descended from immigrants who came from Europe, and the black population is descended from immigrants who came from Africa. The fact that the United States is a country of immigrants is one of the reasons why it is so difficult to define the United States as a single, unified entity.

[illegible]

[illegible]

After the above party, [redacted] telephoned [redacted] and [redacted] Christ's 1900 Wood called and stated that he was going to Cuba under the auspices of the P. V. [redacted] in Cuba Committee. [redacted] called on Wood after the return of Wood from Cuba and that time Wood lauded Castro very highly. The father of Wood was also present and [redacted] obtained the impression that the father was also in sympathy with Castro. [redacted] recalled that he again, at a later date, had visited the Wood apartment, this being an occasion when Wood had been visiting somewhere in Falls Church and contacted [redacted] to ask [redacted] to visit the Wood home. On this

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occasion [redacted] stayed at the Wood apartment for approximately an hour, and advised that on this occasion he observed some Soviet propaganda pamphlets in the apartment and that these pamphlets had been printed in England. Stratton also observed a number of copies of the USSR magazine in the apartment.

3 [redacted] also advised that, as previously indicated, he would meet Wood at the University of Virginia Extension School which was conducting night classes at the Washington and Lee High School. Both Wood and [redacted] were attending the night classes but were not attending mutual classes. [redacted] recalled that on one of the occasions when he had met Wood while attending night classes Wood talked about going to Cuba, Mexico for permanent residence, and made some statement to the effect that he would be willing to renounce his United States citizenship.

[redacted] also recalled that Wood had been a contributor to the "American Worker" magazine and was being watched by the newspapers. Wood had complained that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was unable to obtain press publicity in the United States.

In June 1961 the night classes were terminated and Stratton did not recall the last time he met with Wood until late August or early September 1961. Wood called Stratton in regard to the purchase of a bicycle and either at that time or through some mutual friends Stratton learned that Wood and his wife had moved to a new apartment in the Washington and Lee Hotel, and Wood invited Stratton and wife to the new apartment for a party and also so they could meet his wife. [redacted] and wife, together with Gail and Thomas Varney, Washington Boulevard, Arlington, who had also attended high school with Stratton, the wife of [redacted] and Wood, accompanied [redacted] and wife to the above party. The other individuals at the party were of the "beatnik crowd" with several of the men wearing beards, and the girls appearing to be of the "street glum" type. In view of this [redacted] and wife only remained at the party for a very short time but did meet the wife of Wood. The wife of Wood had been attending Bryn Mawr College and was en route to attend Bryn Mawr during the school year of 1960-1961. [redacted] stated that the other of the wife of Wood is still in contact with [redacted] and [redacted] but that they were strictly friends and not lovers.

3 [redacted] and Wood, accompanied [redacted] and wife to the above party. The other individuals at the party were of the "beatnik crowd" with several of the men wearing beards, and the girls appearing to be of the "street glum" type. In view of this [redacted] and wife only remained at the party for a very short time but did meet the wife of Wood. The wife of Wood had been attending Bryn Mawr College and was en route to attend Bryn Mawr during the school year of 1960-1961. [redacted] stated that the other of the wife of Wood is still in contact with [redacted] and [redacted] but that they were strictly friends and not lovers.

03 [redacted] and wife, together with Gail and Thomas Varney, Washington Boulevard, Arlington, who had also attended high school with Stratton, the wife of [redacted] and Wood, accompanied [redacted] and wife to the above party. The other individuals at the party were of the "beatnik crowd" with several of the men wearing beards, and the girls appearing to be of the "street glum" type. In view of this [redacted] and wife only remained at the party for a very short time but did meet the wife of Wood. The wife of Wood had been attending Bryn Mawr College and was en route to attend Bryn Mawr during the school year of 1960-1961. [redacted] stated that the other of the wife of Wood is still in contact with [redacted] and [redacted] but that they were strictly friends and not lovers.

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██████████ recalled that the last date on the bill of lading was 2 days. FBI did not know how much longer. At this time, [redacted] stated that he was moving to Philadelphia with his wife and children for a college education, but Stratton at the time of the interview did not know whether Reed had actually moved to Philadelphia.

Wood, during conversation with [redacted] made the remark to [redacted] that he, Wood, did not know if his wife was a Communist but she might be. Wood, however, did not mention any of this to [redacted] on 10/1/54.

At the time of the above report, [redacted] understood that Wood was employed as a private investigator for the FBI. [redacted] on 8-13-60, he advised that he had been contacted by a person who identified himself as "John Doe" and who stated that he was a member of the "Black Panther Party".

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In regard to specific associates of Wood, [redacted] stated that at the party which he attended at the apartment occupied by Wood and wife, there were approximately thirty individuals present, a number of whom he casually met but whose names he did not recall. [redacted] did recall that the following individuals were present: "Will" McDonald, now believed living in Washington, D. C. but who had attended George Mason College with Wood, and Charles Kiser, who lives in Washington, D. C. and who attended

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