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8 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH/4/FI-CI

SUBJECT : Operational Security Threats Posed by
Arrest of AMCONCERT-11. Problem

To attempt to determine extent and nature of possible compromise of the Staybehind Net resulting from the reported arrest of AMCONCERT-1 by Cuban G-2.

2. Circumstances

On 18 October 1961, Headquarters received a message from the [redacted] Station that the QUATUM representative at the Spanish Embassy in Cuba reported that AMCONCERT-1 had been arrested by G-2 during the week of 9 October, when he tried to make a clandestine exit from Varadero Beach. No further details were given other than the fact that AMCONCERT-1 was being held at G-2 Headquarters in Matanzas.

The events which lead to AMCONCERT-1's subsequent apprehension by G-2 appears to be as follows:

- a. After taking asylum at the Brazilian Embassy sometime in July, it is apparent that AMCONCERT-1 had made up his mind to effect an escape to Miami via channels used by other members in the Staybehind Net previously. Accordingly, he met Jorge NOBREGAS (known as COCO) on the afternoon of 4 August, who informed him that necessary arrangements for his exfiltration had been completed, and that he would leave that weekend by boat from the Varadero Beach area. It appears that NOBREGAS was serving in a cut-out capacity between AMCONCERT-1 and the Staybehind Net, and was reportedly given 2,000 pesos by AKSTON-1 to grease the skids for AMCONCERT-1's escape. When AMCONCERT-1 reached the rendezvous site at the designated time where he was supposed to meet NOBREGAS, he learned from an individual known as CUCCO that NOBREGAS and three Cubans had already taken off in a fishing boat, who presumably had no

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intention of taking AMCONCERT-1 with them. (NOTE: NORREGAS and his three companions later reached Key West, Florida, where they were picked up by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel).

- b. Since AMCONCERT-1 apparently decided not to return to the Brazilian Embassy again, he recontacted the Stay-behind Net and an exfiltration plan was worked out with WAVE via the OGAKIK channel for him to leave Cuba on 31 August. AMCONCERT-1 was staying at a beach motel cabin near Boca de la Camarioca since 28 August and was to be taken to the reception area in a fishing boat out of Carabinero Point, once he received the signal by phone to move out. This exfiltration plan failed, however, when the WAVE vessel found a hostile Cuban frigate sweeping the rendezvous area with searchlights, which forced it to abandon its mission. At this point, contact was lost with AMCONCERT-1, who it is presumed returned to his hide-out in Havana.
- c. From 1 September to the time he was picked up by G-2, we can only assume that he recontacted CUCO, who presumably was responsible for laying on arrangements for the ill-fated venture at the same location near Varadero Beach. AMSTUFF-1's recent report indicates that AMCONCERT-1, in the company of five other Cubans, was actually picked up by G-2 on 6 October, as they attempted to leave the beach by boat. It appears that CUCO successfully evaded capture and returned to Havana.

3. Background

AMCONCERT-1 (code name, "POCO") is a Cuban national, who was born 11 October 1922 in Consolacion del Sur, Cuba. He is married to Norma UGARRIZA Alonso, who is a Cuban national. They have two daughters - Norma, age six and Ana Luisa, age eight. Although his parents are believed to be dead, he has three brothers and two sisters presently living in Cuba. He received his education at the ESCUELA TECNICA MECANICO TORNERO, where he learned his trade as a printer. From 1952 to 1957, he was self-employed operating a printer's business and an auto sales agency. In 1959, following the overthrow of the BATISTA Regime, he was employed at the Ministry of Justice in an administrative capacity.

Subject was a member of the "AUTENTICO" Cuban revolutionary movement led by Carlos PRIO Socarras, former president of Cuba. In view of his counter-revolutionary activities against BATISTA, Subject was exiled from Cuba to Miami on 29 May 1957. He was later arrested and fined in Miami for gunrunning operations into Cuba. He returned to Cuba during the latter part of 1958.