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4 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: AMWHIP/1 Meeting, New York City, 31 May 1963

1. Meeting Time/Place: Subject was contacted by telephone on 27 May 1963 and a meeting arranged for 31 May in New York City. Upon arrival in New York City, the undersigned called AMWHIP at his office and a meeting was set up for 1400 at the Forum restaurant. *Disclosed restaurant closed, proceeded to King XIV, South side of Lincoln Center.*

2. Purpose of Meeting: The meeting was scheduled prior to A/1's trip to Rome and the Continent for the purpose of arranging contact with the Rome Station for the purpose of exploring the possible operational utilization of A/1's jewelry store which he was opening in the new Cavalieri-Hilton Hotel in Rome, and for discussing additional means for recontacting the reluctant AMLASH/1 in Havana.

3. Operational Interest: As in the past, A/1 was most generous and cooperative in his attitude towards collaboration with KUBARK. He offered to make available both the facilities of his new jewelry store in Rome and of the jewelry firm of Corletto, Inc., of Milan, for any reasonable use to which KUBARK might wish to employ them, i. e., as letter drops, cover addresses, or to provide cover for a KUBARK agent operating in Italy or Europe. A/1 recommended that the jewelry store be considered before Corletto, however, because he has more control over the store than the manufacturing firm. (It is noted that we adhered to this advice in cabling Rome of A/1's impending arrival.....see DIR ). A/1 also stated that his partner in the store is Juan VENTURA Valner (Walner), born 10 April 1914 at San Jose, Costa Rica, and now a naturalized Cuban citizen, residing in Geneva (45 Avenue Wendt, tel. 345732). Ventura, who was formerly a source of the Air Force Attache in Havana prior to Jan 1961, is highly recommended by A/1 as a man of discretion and intelligence, who is anti-Regime and is still very interested in doing what he can outside the island to aid the USG against Castro. Ventura, who is a jeweler and gem dealer by profession, will be

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in Rome three weeks of every month to manage the store until a satisfactory resident manager can be found to take over. Should Rome wish to take advantage of A/1's offer, he could be readily used to provide an introduction to Ventura. Only a general discussion of the ops possibilities for A/1's store were discussed with him at the meeting. He was told that if Rome was interested in discussing the idea further with him, a representative would initiate the contact. This person will speak English initially and will identify himself as a "friend of Bill Thompson's" and refer to this instant meeting in New York on 31 May. A/1 can be reached at the following places, in order of preference:

c/o Cavalieri-Hilton Jewelry Shop  
via Michelino Tossi  
Rome

c/o Dr. A. Romano  
via Ciccerone 44  
Rome

c/o Corletto, SRL  
Milan

4. A/1 advised the writer that he would be stopping off in Paris during this trip in order to get his passport renewed at the Cuban Consulate in Paris. His contact there is (Luis E. 05 TRASANCOS). A/1 has stated previously (namely at the 28 March 63 meeting) that he feels (T) is a good man, probably willing to assist the USG, but entirely too outspoken about his dislikes for certain aspects of the present Regime. A/1 asked whether we wanted him to sound out (T) and stated that in any case he was going to tell the man to watch his tongue in his dealings with the others in the Embassy. Since (T) is already of interest to the Paris Station, A/1 was told that we had no interest in the man at this time, but that we would be interested in hearing any comments about the meeting when A/1 returned. It is noted also that A/1 said that it was through (TRASANCOS) that he was procuring a watch for Jose VENEGAS, Cuban representative to the IUS in Prague.

5. A/1 reported that he had received two postcards from VENEGAS in Europe, and as a result, A/1 wondered just what VENEGAS was interested in. It is recalled that AMLASH had warned A/1 last summer to be very careful of VENEGAS, as he was

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a strong regime supporter and Communist, who definitely was not to be trusted with the time of day. A/1 will report on any info he develops on VENEGAS and his activities. A/1 also stated that he feels VENEGAS has extraordinary influence with the regime, and apparently travels throughout Europe far too much not to be involved in some "special" business for the Regime.

6. A/1 reported that Wilfredo VENTURA Medico y Su..., born ca 1933 is a close friend of Favre CHOMON, brother of the diplomat, and presently Minister of Communications in Havana. VENTURA is approachable, according to A/1, if done by a competent and secure person. He could be used to elicit info from his friend CHOMON. VENTURA's wife is presently residing in Miami. A/1 volunteered the use of his name in any contact, if this was deemed advisable by us.

067. Another friend who is trusted explicitly by A/1 is (Jose ACEF Yara) ca 33 years old, who is in the municipal government of Havana, his exact position is at present unknown to A/1. He is of moorish descent. A/1 checking.

8. [redacted] 38 years old, is at present employed at (Los Hermanos) store selling (jewelry). He was a phys ed instructor in Batista's time. [redacted] has been used as a cut-out in the past for letters from A/1 to AMLASH/1. He has not used this channel since the October crisis.

09. [redacted] aka [redacted] born Paris, France, on (May 2, 1925) or (1926). Present residential address is (Rua Barata Ribeiro 135, Apt 702, Copacabana) Rio de Janeiro, tel. (36-5053). According to A/1, he is currently selling steel for industries for M. Navigacao e Comercio Motonave S.A. Ave Rio Branco 81, Rio de Janeiro. Prior to leaving Cuba [redacted] was engaged in acupuncture work in Havana. According to A/1, [redacted] should be able to be utilized in Rio as he has wide contact within the Cuban community in that city. Subject lived for six years in Cuba prior to going to Brazil. Is divorced and has son living in Paris. (This lead has already been made available to the Field for consideration.)

10. AMLASH Re-Contact Attempt: As requested at the 28 March 63 meeting A/1 reported that he had written a letter to his cousin, [redacted] enclosing a card for AMLASH/1, which included the thought that L's girl friend, Maria Dolores, in Madrid (the accommodation address) assigned L before he returned

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to Cuba last September) was very anxious to hear from him. At this writing, A/1 stated that he had not heard from his cousin as to whether he had been able to get this card to LASH. In order to increase the chance that a message would reach LASH, A/1 was instructed to write from Europe during his present trip there, directly to LASH's mother in Havana, and enclose a letter to LASH. This message was to include the fact (in appropriate cover terms) that Maria Dolores was still inquiring about LASH and really desired to hear from him. Also A/1 was to inquire whether LASH intended to visit outside Cuba in the foreseeable future, and if so, perhaps he and A/1 could get together. Letter to LASH's mother is to be mailed soonest from Europe. Will report upon return to New York.

11. A/1's address in Paris will be that of the same hotel he used during the operation with AMLASH last August, Hotel Franklin, 19 Rue Buffault, Paris. He is well known there and uses it whenever he is in Paris.

12. The meeting lasted one hour and twenty minutes. There were no incidents of a security nature.

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[REDACTED]  
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