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Inactive

10 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Charles [redacted]

116273

1. On 27 April 1953 Francis Patrick, Executive Director, AUSA, advised me to the effect that a French named Charles [redacted] had been spotted in New York. A friend of Charles, named [redacted], had returned from Paris, France, last July 1952, and had mentioned Charles as a man of great interest to the [redacted] in view of the [redacted] in Haiti. Charles was described as a resident of the [redacted] Post on [redacted], Haiti, who is in [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted]. Mr. Patrick mentioned that he had advised Col. Holt in Haiti to conduct [redacted] in order to obtain more background information and an estimate on Charles.

2. On 1 May 63 Mrs. Patrick advised that Charles was staying at the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, and that he had telephoned her since her name had been supplied to him by [redacted]. Charles mentioned her to his [redacted] of contact in Washington. According to Mrs. Patrick, Charles had conversations to the Vice President's [redacted], Senator [redacted], and Congressman [redacted] (Illinois). However, Charles was willing to talk to representatives of Mrs. Patrick's office. Mrs. Patrick stated that the Haitian [redacted] was ready to go to New York to talk to Charles and [redacted] CIA to accompany him. Charles speaks very little English and a fluency in French was therefore required for the future visit. Mrs. Patrick stated that she might be able to obtain a French [redacted] from [redacted] Army, Government's [redacted], but it would not be an intelligence officer. It was decided that James [redacted], New York Office, who has a knowledge of the French language would accompany the [redacted] representative. It was also arranged that [redacted] would meet the [redacted] representative (Captain [redacted]) at the Park Sheraton Hotel where Charles was staying.

3. On 2 May 63 Mrs. Patrick reported that Col. Holt had telephoned Mr. [redacted] in New York, [redacted]. [redacted] had reported Charles as Director of his bank in Haiti. Charles, according to [redacted], formerly had no political ambitions but in view of the current political situation in Haiti, Charles now thinks that he may want to [redacted]. [redacted] described Charles as well-connected, politically and financially, on both sides of the fence in Haiti. He is also a good friend of [redacted] Duvalier. [redacted] had given Charles letters of introduction to Senator [redacted] and to other [redacted] in Washington. Charles wanted to see President [redacted] and indeed had gone to the White House to arrange [redacted] in [redacted]. He was well received by the President's [redacted] and secretary and advised to [redacted] [redacted] with the [redacted]

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11. Upon return, F/O Coordinator, called on 7 May to discuss concerning our involvement in the Charles case. He stated that FBI had called his office that day to advise him that FBI had no direct interest in Charles and that it was acting as an intermediary of the request of General Walker who had passed the lead to General Hitch. FBI was concerned that due to the nature of involvement to the Charles, certain might have to note that FBI had interfered or had obstructed FBI contact with Charles. I explained to Hitch that FBI had agreed and he later called back to state that FBI was completely satisfied in the way the matter had been handled.

12. On 8 May Mr. Patrick telephoned to advise that the Operational Branch of FBI was discussing the Charles case with FBI to determine future course of action. He was still somewhat concerned over our own position in the case since Charles remained far to the west point in Washington. I explained to him that the matter was one for which the State Department or the Operational Branch in Berlin and that we preferred to discuss elsewhere. Mr. Patrick mentioned that a dispatch had been received to the effect that a group of Charles was gradually mobilized as a movement to Berlin should the latter be overthrown. The use of the criteria that the US government should continue to "play ball" with Charles as a foreign agent in Berlin affairs.

A. P. CHAMBERS

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