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860

SECRET 261218Z MAY 69 CITE [redacted] 3055

SAIGON INFO: DIRECTOR, (VIENTIANE), [redacted] 13-7 13-1 26 MAY 69 IN 66602

(HONG KONG), [redacted]

REF: DIRECTOR 88114 (SENT [redacted] ONLY)

1. WE HAVE BEEN PLAGUED FOR SOME WEEKS NOW BY MR. MITCHELL L. WERBELL III, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF R AND D OF SIONICS, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. WERBELL DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A COUNTERINSURGENCY EXPERT, HAS A VARIETY OF WEAPONS TO DISPLAY, CLAIMS TO BE A RETIRED COLONEL, AND LAST WEEK INTRODUCED HIMSELF AT A LOCAL NIGHTCLUB AS CHIEF OF WOFIRM IN THAILAND.

2. WERBELL HAS A HISTORY OF SHOWING UP IN TROUBLE SPOTS WHERE HE CAN MAKE A FAST BUCK. HE IMPLIES THAT HE IS U.S. GOVT CONNECTED AND PRESENTS A DEMONSTRATION OF A VARIETY OF EXOTIC WEAPONS THAT NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS. REF DESCRIBES HIM AS AN UNSCRUPULOUS OPPORTUNIST WITH A REPUTATION FOR LIVING BEYOND HIS MEANS.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 To C/S R-S  
 High  
 and 0's removed?  
 SF 27686  
 B/A

*Handwritten:* from e/151C Bb

**SECRET**

*Handwritten:* 2/1/70

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18-5

PAGE 2 [ ] 3055 S E C R E T

3. WERBELL IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, BORN 1919, SERVED IN OSS, HAS SHAVEN HEAD AND HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE. REF ADVISES THAT FULL DETAILS OF HIS BACKGROUND SHOULD NOT BE PASSED TO [ ] SINCE HE IS U.S. CITIZEN. HOWEVER, STATES THAT [ ] CAN BE INFORMED, SHOULD HE APPEAR IN YOUR AREA, THAT HE HAS AN UNSAVORY REPUTATION, HAS NO U.S. GOVT CONNECTIONS, AND ANY DEALINGS WITH HIM SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

*8 March 1918  
Phila.*

4. FOR SAIGON: WE UNDERSTAND THAT WERBELL RECENTLY VISITED SAIGON AND DID HIS THING WITH GEN. ABRAMS, WHO WAS SUITABLY IMPRESSED, AND WERBELL IS NOW SETTING UP A SNIPER TRAINING PROGRAM.

5. FILE: 201-259910

**S E C R E T**

**SECRET**

3/17J