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4 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT : AMWHIP/1 Meeting, New York City,
28-29 Feb 1964.

1. Meeting Time/Place: AMWHIP/1's office, 31 W. 47th St., New York City, Friday, 28 Feb. and Saturday, 29 Feb. Accounting below is composite of the two meetings.

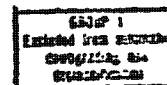
2. Purpose of Meeting. To discuss course of action by AMWHIP in response to his receipt of word from AMLASH via a letter sent from Paris by Carlos Jorge ROBRENO, aka "El Mago",

3. Details of Meeting.

a. On 27 Feb, A/1 called the writer via sterile phone to say that he had received a letter from ROBRENO (R) postmarked 25 Feb., Paris. In one paragraph, R stated that he had been given several "encargos" from AMLASH for A/1 to be "transmitted personally" (see attached copy of letter). Since the above information was not mentioned in the clear over the phone, it was decided that the writer should meet with A/1 in order to see the letter personally and to guide A/1 in any subsequent steps. The writer arrived at A/1's office at ca 1240, 28 Feb.

b. It was A/1's impression that the "encargos" cited in the letter included things beyond personal requests, but he was not absolutely certain of this interpretation due to the brevity of the paragraph. To resolve this expeditiously as requested in the letter, it was decided that A/1 should call Paris and talk directly with R, avoiding, of course, any phone call to the Cuban Embassy there. To achieve this, it first was necessary to call Luis FERNANDEZ Ruiz, aka "El Anglais" (5), at GAL-9913) and ask him to get in touch with Luis Enrique TRASANCOS (9), who in turn could pass a message to R asking him to call A/1 in New York. No interest of an ops nature was revealed here, as the Paris group was told only (and truthfully) that R had written to A/1 in New York and that part of his letter was unclear in its meaning, thus A/1 wished to talk directly with R in order to clarify this. (A phone call was not at all unusual in this case, given A/1's normally extensive use of the phone, plus the fact that the letter indicated some urgency and did not include a return address.) FERNANDEZ readily agreed to the request even though it was after 2200 Paris time. A/1 waited in his NYC office until

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0100 Paris time, but received no return call.

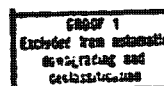
c. During the period subsequent to the call to FERNANDEZ, the writer discussed the situation with A/1. It was agreed that there was little we could do until we had heard from R himself. The writer also took this opportunity to let A/1 know that we were rather concerned over the arrival of R with a message from AMLASH, particularly if indeed it has any connection with AMLASH's future plans. (We knew also at this time via the PARI cable, but did not so state to A/1, that R had revealed to TRASANCO that he also expected another "courier", Jose Alberto IBARRA Martin, aka "El Loco", to arrive next week with additional word from AMLASH.) A/1 was also told that the arrival of these messages from AMLASH was further clouded by the fact that AMLASH was in touch with us through another channel.

d. In reply, A/1 agreed that there may be some cause for concern, but in fact he was not too apprehensive as he felt both men were "100%" behind AMLASH. A/1 went on to say that by this he meant that both men had been for a long time associated with the circles in which AMLASH had been a leader, and could be regarded as "loyal" to AMLASH. However, he did speculate that both men were perhaps closer friends with each other than either was with AMLASH. A/1 also stated that both AMLASH and he did not personally care for the two men (R and IBARRA), but that AMLASH did feel that at least R was a good "action type" and could probably be fitted into AMLASH's plans at some point. (This was reported also in A/1 Contact Report dated 23 Oct 1962) A/1 went on to describe R as much the smarter of the two; IBARRA being not too intelligent. A/1 also stated that both men drank quite a bit, turning into belligerent and talkative drunks. He stated that this over-indulgence, with its resulting bellicosity, was undoubtedly responsible for R's shooting of the American in a bar brawl over a tomato in Havana several years ago. According to A/1, IBARRA is more commonly known as "El Blanco", after the name of his step-father, Lino Blanco, to whom IBARRA's mother is now married.

e. At ca 1630 LMT (New York), on 29 Feb, TRASANCO and R returned A/1's call. In brief, R stated that he had some items to discuss with A/1, but that it was "nothing immediate." He stated that he had written a subsequent letter to A/1 containing more information and which should arrive in New York the next Monday or Tuesday (meaning the 2nd or 3rd of March). R also stated that IBARRA was coming to Paris the following week (week of 1 March) and should bring with him additional details. A/1 said that he was quite busy at

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present and preferred to postpone coming to Europe at this time if it wasn't absolutely necessary. R said that he felt it could wait at least until IBARRA arrived; then the matter could be re-considered. R said he could be reached at the following telephone No. 783-2952, at least for the next few days (A/1 failed to ask for an address or for the location - owner - of the phone). R also stated that he planned to visit Spain a "little later", but did not disclose to A/1 the nature of the trip. The conversation ended with A/1 stating to R that he would be in touch with him later after he had received the letter from R. He also asked R to let him know when IBARRA arrived in Paris.

f. A/1 will contact the writer as soon as he gets the letter from R and will mail it to the accommodation address he regularly uses.

4. Security. The writer left A/1's office for the last time ca 1730, 29 Feb 1964. No incidents of a security nature were noted. It is noted for the record, however, that A/1 has given AMSPORT/1 a temporary job in his firm, and the writer's presence was observed by AMSPORT during this series of meetings.

End of Report


SAS/EOB, C/O

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