Date:08/15/92 Page:1

.

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : SSCIA

RECORD NUMBER: 157-10002-10004

RECORDS SERIES :

INDEX CARDS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: SSCIA

FROM:

TITLE :

DATE: 06/00/75

PAGES : 324

SUBJECTS:

CASTRO CUBA

OPERATION MONGOOSE

[R]

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

CLASSIFICATION : T

RESTRICTIONS: REFERRED

CURRENT STATUS : P

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 09/28/93

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS:

Box 133

Index Cards - June & July 1975

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

Jake Esterline

DATES: Mearch-July

Cuba -

1960

OCCURRENCE:

CARD 2 of 2

J. D. (JAKE) ESTERLINE, who was head of the Cuba Task Force in pre-BAY OF PIGS days, was regarded by the IG Report as probably the most reliable witness on general timing of these schemes because "he seems at least to have known of all of them." (9).

The IG Report was: "unable to establish even a tentative sequence among the schemes; they may, in fact, have been under consideration simultaneously." (9)

SOURCE:

16 Report 67

STAFF:

Panon

FILE:

DATE: 1/3

RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT SC IT NON B

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

GASTRO Fide1

March-July 1960

(Miscellaneous Schemes)

OCCURRENCE:

Depilatory: A chemical depilatory (Thallium Salts) was procured and tested for surreptious use on CASTRO. The plan was to "dust Thallium powder into CASTRO's shoes when they were put out at night to be shined! (13) on a trip outside CUBA; the powder would be absorbed into his skin causing his beard to fall out and thereby destroying CASTRO's image. (13).

recalls this scheme; recalls something about Thallium Salts.

SOURCE: IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 7/3/75 CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION ANTHOR
RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT
AS SANITIZED

(1) (A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:	······································
TSD	March-July 60	CUBA (Misc. Scheres)	
ESTERLINE, Jake			
OCCURRENCE: Aerosol attack on ractor "contaminate the air of the radio stawith an aerosol spray of a chemical that Lysergic Acid (LSD)." (10) "Nothing carremembers the discussion and discouraged not be relied upon to be effective." (10) (TSD) recalls general expenses.	ation where CASTRO t produces reactio me of the idea." (d the scheme "beca O) Others who may	ns similar to those of 10) of TSD, use the chemical could be knowledgeable: 1.	

SOURCE: IG Report, 1967

STAFF: Baron 7/3/75

FILE:

DATE:

CIA MAIS NO DISSECTION OF TO TO THE CLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOGUMENT			
AS SANITIZED			
JE 18 401 13		W	
		1	
(1)(A)	TOP SECRET		
PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:	
GUNN, Dr. Edward			,r
TSD	August 16,	CUBA -	
130 .	1960	(lethal Cigars)	
OCCURRENCE:	N ON II CONTRACTOR	CARD 1 of 2	

DR. EDWARD GUNN, Chief, Operations Division, Office of Medical Services, has a notation that on 16 August 1960, he received a box of Cuban cigars to be treated with a lethal material. (21). He understood them to be CASTRO's favorite brand. (21). GUNN's notes show that within the next month he contacted of TSD, (Sept. 6, 1960) and gave him the box of cigars (21). recalls "that he did contaminate a full box of 50 cigars with Botulinum Toxin, a virulent poison," (21) which would kill the intended victim upon merely putting it in the mouth. s notes showed delivery of the box on February 13, 1961, although they do not indicate to whom.

ILE: 16 (ceport 6)

Baron 7/3/75

AS SANITIZED ON 93

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	<u>DATES:</u>	<u>CATEGORIES</u> :
TSD	pte-Arigust 60	CUBA (Leads)
OCCURRENCE:	-	

FAOS: Shouldn'we we call[as a witness, at least for single senator testimony. He was in TSD and has knowledge of several pre-August 1960 schemes, at least.

IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

<u>DATE</u>: 7/3/75

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Helms, Richard Harvey, Mr.

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

OCCURRENCE: Helms testified that he does not recall whether he selected Harvey to head the Cuban operation, but that he did certainly approve Harvey's selection. Prior to receiving the commitment Harvey had been in charge of a staff in the foreign intelligence staff whose function was to mount operations

Helms 6/13/75

STAFF:

Rhea

DATE:

6/28/75

SOURCE:

Sec. S

RELEASE OF THIS DUCUNICIVI AS SANITIZED 19 NOV 93

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

BISSELL, Richard

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

TOP SECRET

GENERAL THEMES

KGB

OCCURRENCE:

In response to a question from SENATOR GOLDWATER, BISSELL said that he shared GOLDWATER'S opinion that actions such as assassination are practiced by every intelligence organization. This includes the British I and the KGB, although BISSELL could not cite a specific assassination carried out by either one (61).

SOURCE:

BISSELL, II

STAFF:

FILE:

DATE: 28.6.75

Baron

19 NOV 93

VON PJ.

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

MOSS, Edward K.

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

CUBA (Leads)

OCCURRENCE:

BURT WIDES

The IG Report of 1967 indicates that EDWARD K. MOSS, a Washington public relations counsellor, was used why constitutions.

Do you already know about this

SOURCE: IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

DATE: 7/3/75

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED 19 Nov 93

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

Lansdale Harvey Colby NSC

'62 52-'55

Castro — Mongoose SGA

-NSC

OCCURRENCE:

Colby testifies that Gen. Lansdale was Assistant to Secretary of Defense at time of Marvey Aug. 14, 1962 memore than Gen. Lansdale was with CLA from \$20.55 (Tr. 27). After '65, Lansdale became assistant to U. S. Anbassador in Vietnam where Colby & CIA "were associated with him but he was not a CIA officer at that time." (Tr. 28)

(1)(A) 93 19 Nov 93

SOURCE:

Testimony of Wm. Colby 5/23/75

STAFF:
John Bayly

FILE:

DATE:

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19 NOV 93

(1)(B) 19 NOV 93

1 A 9 1 10 to state and		
PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
James P. O'Connell	' 54	Castro
Maheu Onassis		

OCCURRENCE:

O'Connell testified that Maheu furnished CIA with information about Onassis derived by non-technical means from Maheu's work for his private client, in re oil rights. (Tr. 14-15, 111)

SOURCE:

Testimony of James P. O'Connell 5/30/75

FILE:

STAFF:

John Bayly

DATE:

6/30/75

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

<u>CATEGORIES</u>:

1956

OCCURRENCE:

DISCOVERY LEADS:

Agency compared to him a contract under which Onassis would control 90% of all Saudi Arabian oil shipments. (71-72).

The CIA intervened in a lible suit before the New York Supreme Court in early 1956 (Onassis v. Catapodis), which involved affidavits that had been passed through the CIA pouch system (72).

SOURCE:

FILE:

IG Report 196

1970

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO CIA HAS NO OBJECTION ANDIOR DECLASSIFICATION ANDIOR DECLASSE OF THIS DOCUMENT RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED AS SANITIZED CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED AS SANITIZED NOV 93.

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

· Bertzer

O'Connell Maheu

Edwards

DATES: /59-/65

CATEGORIES:

Castro

OCCURRENCE:

O'Connell testified that Maheu helped CIA Request came to O'Connell from Edwards. Grag Bereza

(Tr. 144-151)

SOURCE: Testimony of James O'Connell, 5/30/75

FILE:



DATE: 6/30/75

CIA HAS NO CELECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION FADOR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT AS SANITIZED NOV 93

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

(1)(A)

<u>TSD</u>

GIANCANA

Late January 1961 CUBA (Syndicate/Phase I)

O'CONNELL OCCURRENCE:

EDWARDS, Sheffield

TSD prepared poison pills (of Botulin) rather than liquid poison. (24).

remembers meeting with EDWARDS and O'CONNELL in EDWARDS' office to discuss the requirement "(24) for poison pills, which had initially been the preference of GIANCANA.

SOURCE: IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 7/3/75

AS SANITIZED 29 NOV 13

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

ISSELL, Richard ARVEY

WHITE HOUSE

GOTILIEB, Sidney

February 1961 (HARVEY's rough estimate)

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

TOP SECRET

LEWIS CONGO

(1)(A)

OCCURRENCE:

the

BISSELL assigns to HARVEY / developing of "an EXECUTIVE ACTION capability; a general stand-by capability to carry out assassinations when required." i.e.,

"HARVEY's notes quote BISSELL as saying, 'The WHITE HOUSE has twice urged me to create such a capability.' BISSELL recalls discussing the question of developing a general capability with HARVEY." (37)

HARVEY says that BISSELL had already discussed certain aspects of the problem with land with SIDNEY COTTLIEB." (37-38).

(continued)

end 1012

I.G. REPORT 1967, pp. 37-38 SOURCE:

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 28.6.75

DATES: CARD 2 of 2 PERSONS/ENTITIES: HELMS, Richard

CATEGORIES: TOP SECRET

(continued from card 1) OCCURRENCE:

HARVEY used several in developing the EXECUTIVE ACTION capability (38).

prugs states that

Sometime shortly after this initial meeting, and while HARVEY was still discussing the development of EXECUTIVE ACTION with BISSELL, "he briefed Mr. HELMS fully on the genera concept but without mention of the then on-going plan to assassinate CASIRO."



I.G. REPORT 1967, pp. 37-38 SOURCE:

28.6.75

DATE:

STAFF: Baron

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(See the 13 names listed below)

FEB. 1961 (APPROXIMATE) CATEGORIES:

The I.G. REPORT identified the following persons who knew, in late 1960 or early 1961, of the PHASE I plan to assassinate CASTRO:

ALLEN DULLES, DCI

GEN. C. P. CABELL, DDCI

RICHARD BISSELL, DD/P

SHEFFIELD EDWARDS, D/Security

JAMES O'CONNELL, Office of Security, the case officer

J. D. ESTERLINE, Chief, WH/4

CORNELIUS ROOSEVELT, Chief, TSD

8. Chemical Division, TSD

EDWARD GUNN, Chief, Operations Division, Medical Services

10. WILLIAM HARVEY, Chief, FI/D

11. SIDNEY GOTTLIEB, Special Assistant to the DD/P (GOTTLIEB's name was encountered repeatedly in this inquiry, but he denies knowing of the operation in 1960-61.)

12. ROBERT BANNERMAN, DD/Security

13. J. C. KING, Chief, WH Division (He too denies knowing of the operation at the time.)

I.G. REPORT 1967, pp. 34-35

STAFF: Baron

DATE: 28.6.75

AS SANITIZED 30 NOV 93

PERSONS/ENTITIES: DATES: CATEGORIES: AMLASA **CASTRO** March 9, 1961 10/2 OCCURRENCE: n officer assigned to the Mexico City station, met in

Mexico City with a high officer in the Cuban armed forces who was subsequently to become a CIA asset known as A.M. LASH-1.* met with A.M. LASH to sound out his views on the Cuban situation. A.M. LASH was in Mexico City to attend a "leftist-sponsored" conference. (78).

The March 1961 meeting was inconclusive, but it led to other meetings out of which Project A.M.LASH was created. A.M. LASH-1 "repeatedly insisted that the essential first step in overthrowing the regime was the elimination of CASTRO himself, which /A.M. LASH-17 claimed he was prepared to accomplish. He repeatedly requested that we /CINT furnish him the special equipment or material needed to do the job." (79).

"The Agency offered both direct and indirect The IG REPORT concludes that (80) (continued on next card) support for /A.M. LASH's7

SOURCE:

Baron

FILE:

7/2/75 DATE:

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PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Thafficiante Esterline
Veroum

Noselle

O'Connell

Bannerman

OCCURRENCE:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

whom ROSELLI deal with under pseudonym (32).

EDWARDS recalls that VERONA's contact worked in a restaurant frequented by CASTRO and was to put the pills into CASTRO's food or drink (32). "EDWARDS believes that the scheme failed because CASTRO ceased to visit that particular restaurant." (32).

Pr. Manuel Antonio d'Verona e Loredo, head of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, a CIA supported group which was part of the larger Cuba operation (29).

SOURCE: IG REPORT, 1967

STAFF: Baron

FILE:

DATE: 7/3/75

AS SANITIZED

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

Maheu Edwards Rosselli Trafficante Breckmindge

3 or 4-61

Castro

Giancana OCCURRENCE:

that

4.95 Breckinridge testified Maheu on retainer to CIA "in the early days" (Tr. 99) ('50's?) and on one occasion he obtained a female companion for an important foreign leader. (Tr. 99) Edwards contacted Maheu who contacted Roselli who contacted Giancana who contacted Trafficante, who "travelled to and from Cuba," (Tr. 100) and who "had a source inside Cuba (who) ...was believed to have access to Castro and a poison pill was developed that he was to insert into Castro's food." (Tr. 101)

SOURCE:

timony of Wm. Colby, 5/23/75

STAFF:

John Baylv

DATE:

7/2/75

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

(See list of names below.)

CATEGORIES:

TOP SECRET

GUBA - SYNDICATE/PHASE II --KNOWLEDGE OF PHASE II

CARD 1 of 3

CASTRO

OCCURRENCE: The list of persons with knowledge of PHASE II of the CASTRO ASSASSINATION OPERATION differs from those who knew of PHASE I. Those with knowledge of PHASE II are:

RICHARD HELMS, DD/P

WILLIAM HARVEY, Chief, Task Force W

JAMES O'CONNELL, Office of Security (He knows that Harvey took over the operation and delivered pills, arms, and equipment in April 1962. He does not know of developments after May 1962.) 4. SHEFFIELD EDWARDS, D/Security (He knows of the fact of the turnover to HARVEY, but states he knows nothing of developments thereafter.)

5. J. C. KING, Chief, WH Division (He stated in our interview with him that he knew that HARVEY was having meetings with members of the gambling syndicate in 1962.)

BRUCE CHEEVER, HARVEY's deputy in 1962 (CHEEVER knows that HARVEY was meeting with gansters in Reno (sic) in the winter of 1962.) 7. TED SHACKLEY, Chief, JMWAVE (He assisted HARVEY in the delivery of arms and equipment to VARONA in April 1962, but presumably did not know the identities of the recipients nor (con't.)

SOURCE:

I.G. REPORT

STAFF:

Baron

DATE:

28.6.75

à	いいしいこと	UNTI	TIES:

(Same instruction as card 1.)

CATEGORIES:

CARD 2 of 3

OCCURRENCE:

SHACKLEY, cont: the purpose for which the material was to be used.)

TSD ticipation was limited to furnishing the pills to O'CONNELL on 18 April 1962.)

9. ANTONIO VARONA, the Cuban exile leader (He presumably was not aware of government sponsorship.)

10. VARONA'S SON-IN-LAW (He too was presumably not aware of government's role.)

11. MACEO, ROSELLI'S "Man" (MACEO probably knew there was a government connection, but may not have identified CIA as the agency.)



(con't.)

SOURCE:

STAFF:

FILE:

DATE:

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-	*		~ ~ 1 4	~//	T17.1 7	- 4.		\perp	

Sam Gold

Dr. Edward Gunn

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

September 25, 1961

Castro 🗸

Juan Orta

Cornelius Roosevelt

OCCURRENCE: In discussing the possible methods of accomplishing the mission, Sam Gold suggested that they not resort to firearms, but that if he could be furnished with some type of potent pill that could be placed in Castro's food or drink. Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official, who had been receiving back payments from the gambling interests who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind. Cornelius Roosevelt, Chief, TSD was consulted and assigned to develop a pill that had the elements of rapid solubility, high lethar content, and rittle or no traceability. Six of these items were produced and after being checked out for their effectiveness by Dr. Edward M. Gunn, Three pills were ultimately turned over to Sam for the mission. Neither TSD nor Dr. Gunn was briefed on the ultimate use of the pills.

SOURCE: .CIA Justice File R-153 Memorandum by Howard J. Osborn to Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, Subj: Robert A. Maheu dated June 24, 1966.

STAFF:

Rhea

July 1, 1975 DATE:

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PERSONS.	/FNT	TTTES.
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DATES:

CATEGORIES:

Harvey Bissell

Kennedy, Pobert
HALPERN

October

Castro *

OCCURRENCE:

Halpern testified that in the fall of 1961 he attended a meeting with Bissell and the Chose was the Branch Chief (8). The meeting occured in the middle of Octo of 1961. Bissell stated at the meeting that he had recently "been chewed out in the cabinet room of the White House by both the President and the Attorney General formuse as he put it, sitting on his ass and not doing anything about getting rid of Castro and the Castro regime. His orders to both and to me for to plan an operation to accomplish that end." (8) Halpern testified that no limitations were put on the term "get rid of". Nothing was forbidden (8). The meeting involved only general discussions and not tactics.

SOURCE:

Rhea

FILE:

DATE: 7/1/75

STAFF:

PERSONS/ENTITIES:	DATES:	CATEGORIES:
Halpern Gen Lansdale Bissell	Oct 1961	Castro
OCCURRENCE:		

Shortly after with Bissell Hapern, and were introduced to Gen Lansdale who was the new Chief of Operations for an effort to remove in the Castro regime. The initial meeting was concerned with only organizational matters.

SO)UI	RC	E	•

Halpern 6/18/75

STAFF:

Phea

FILE:

DATE:

7/1/75

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(1)(a)
9/500	

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Halpern Helms	Harvey		DATES
	MCCONE	Dec	2 1961
SOF	25:		

CATEGORIES:

office in which McCone had stated that Melms would henceforth who director's appointed head of the Cuban Chan that Melms would henceforth who his man on inkling that he swould be Cuba. (13)

appointed head of the Cuban operations before this meeting that he swould soffice. chelced into the organizate appointed head of the Cuban operations before this meeting (13). Sometime of sometimes and directed that Cuba would be a separate activity and s operations and directed that Cuba would be a separate activity and no longer part of the MI Division (14).

Halpern 6/18/75

NO OBJECTION NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL Genewed by NSA on 1/10/94 Bongs Gelease in Part CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

Feb. 1, 1962

CATEGORIES:

Special Group Augmented MONGOOSE

OCCURRENCE: Memo for Richard Helms from Gen. Lansdale concerning cover. The memo alludes to a conversation on the previous day, Jan. 31, 1962, about cover for the Cuba Project. It indicates that Cuba cover is top priority. It indicated that this was not possibly known to the members of the United States Intelligence Board. The problem seemed to be to be able to decide how much of assets were needed to provide cover for the Cuban project.

Sec 6(1)(c)

TOP SEGRET

SOURCE: Memorandum for Richard Helms from Brig. Gen. Lansdale, dated Feb. 1, 1962 (00122)

STAFF:

di Genova

FILE:

<u>DATE</u>: June 29, 1975

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9 8 Feb 94 (1)(A)

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

DATES:

CATEGORIES:

Halpern Harvey 1961

(Harvey biographical)

OCCURRENCE:

Samuel Halpern was executive assistant to Harvey who was in charge of the Cuban operation. (Prior to 1961 Halpern was in the Ear Eastern Service of the Western Hemisphere including Cuba and other Caribbean Islands.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Ha

Halbern 6/18/75

STAFF: Rhea

DATE:

7/1/75

CATEGORIES:

PERSONS/ENTITIES:

Breckinridge Helms

DATES: 161-62

167

Castro ZR Rifle

OCCURRENCE:

Breckinridge testified that 'Mr. Helms was the person who formally approved ZR Rifle...(which) had a dual purpose...(to steal codes and to provide lethal executive action capability. (Tr. 67, 69-70) RIFLE INFAME rifle (gun) and rifle (rummage through files). IR 677

SOURCE:

Testimony of Nm. Colby, 5/23/75

FILE:

STAFF:

John Bayly

DATE: 7/2/75

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Je 8 Feb 94.

PERSONS/ENTITIES: BRECKINRIDGE, SCOTT

HARVEY, WILLIAM

<u>DATES</u>: 2/61

CAS

<u>CATEGORIES</u>:

CASTRO \checkmark

EXECUTIVE ACTION/ZRRIFLE

OCCURRENCE: Breckinridge testified that from his review of the files of Project ZRRIFLE, the "controlling character" (80) of the Project was to steal codes trather than to develop the capability for assassination. (80)

Breckeinridge testified that on the face of the documents relating to Project ZRRIFLE, the Project was only directed accessed ing codes. The fact that it related to developing the capability to assassinate came out in interviews with William Harvey. (81)

SOURCE: BRECKINRIDGE testimony, 6/2/75

STAFF: WALLACH

FILE:

DATE: 7/5/75