

July 9, 1965

Memo

11110013

ARA / CCA - MR. STEVENSON

ARA - George H. W. Lee

Box 24
Folder 3

Visit of Cuban Exile Victor Espinosa

At request of friends, Valmore Acedo, Venezuelan Christian friend, Remonite friend, LISTER agreed to meet Espinosa.

Espinosa statements & summary

- ① Opposed BATISTA, opposes Castro. Not a member of "March 13" Movement, but close to many of its leaders, including Cabelas.
- ② Trained by CIA in Louisiana and Guatemala sent to Cuba prior to Bay of Pigs. Plans to become U.S. cit. in ~~May~~ Aug 65.

Probably from Alberto Brancho

- ③ Early in 1965 Espinosa received request from one of his reliable Cuban contacts in Europe asking that he come quickly. Espinosa went to ~~Europe~~ Miami, obtained false Cuban papers, and went to Paris. In the presence of the Cuban attaché to France, met one of Castro's "top security" men, who had come to Paris for that purpose.

p.2 During ~~many~~ various meetings in France & Spain where Espinosa entered illegally, Espinosa was informed that there is a plan to overthrow the Castro regime and kill Castro & some of his main leaders.

The plot is led by Cubels and some of the March 15 movement. plus (writer believes some military officers)

"They must move more quickly because more and more people learning of the plot and thus growing risk of exposure. They are anxious to have some coordination or at least consultation with responsible Americans. They ~~are~~ are not confident that they could win an all-out fight against Castro for a few hours, killing Castro & his most effective men. They must what if anything the Americans might do to help when the coup is attempted. They also wished to alert the US Govt as to what was being planned.

3/ 15-2

The Cubans might have turned to Earl Williamson, CIA Madrid, but believe him to be unreliable as Cuban girl sent Madrid some time ago by Castro & fooled Williamson. He arranged for her to work with International Rescue Committee. She returned to Madrid w/ plans of plot. Plotter asked Espinosa to be go between with reliable American officials. Top security man referred to Havana while one member of plotters wanted in Spain for answer.

Espinosa returned to N.Y. called O'Brien of FBI and asked to be put in touch with serious and reliable man from CIA.

Espinosa told story to "HAI" of CIA. Espinosa believed that someone else went to Spain to check story.

Edward K. Moss

OS

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The Moss file contains the following information and documents:

① memo for the ^{Deputy} Chief of Security Research Staff, 14 May 1973 in which a memo dated 28 Feb 1968 is referred to. The referenced memo states that "a verbal report from Dun & Bradstreet recognize Moss' long standing 'Mafia' connections. 'Moss' operation seems to be government contracts for the underworld and probably surfaces mafia money in legitimate business activities. This memo also states that from 1950-53, Moss was serving an appointed position with the US Gov't, first as an Assistant Administrator in Charge of Public Information, National Production Authority; and then with the Defense Production Administration both with the Dept. of Commerce."

2 - Who's Who in America - entry for Moss.

3 - Dun & Bradstreet report dated Sept. 27, 1968. On June 1, 1960 Moss merged his activities with Howard Chase Associates, Inc. Moss was also Pres. of a wholly-owned subsidiary, Chase & Moss, Inc, Wash. D.C. June 1, 1961 parties agreed to demerge with assets returned to respective owners. Settlement negotiations led to litigation. In 1964 - settlement was effected. In 1965 Moss served as Asst Director, OEO, with responsibilities ~~in setting~~ for public affairs advisor to the White House Conference on Civil Rights.

moss

④ A June 29, 1967 Dun & Bradstreet report states that moss is a principal in General International, which is stated to be an Italian Corporation engaged as consultants in economic and business area development, Europe, Africa, & in Asia.

⑤ A memo to the file, dated April 1967 re moss. The last approval granted by the Office of Security for moss' use was "a Covert Security Approval dated 7 November 1962" to enable moss' use "by the Political Group of the CA staff."

6- memo, date 23 March 1965. states that NE obtained a covert security approval in 1959 and CA in 1962 for moss in the public relations field.

7- 30 Nov 1962 - memo - from Political Action Group / Covert Action staff requests any objections to the use of ~~the~~ moss as a public relations advisor. -
 MAJOR
 ZRP ~~██████████~~ project.

8- 19 Mar - 1959 memo from DD of security refers to request for CSA to permit moss' use as an informant on ~~the plans~~
 24 ~~activities and programs of the~~ in which he is engaged or of which he is knowledgeable.

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Joseph Ray ^{Merola} Merola

DOB 9 Oct 1925

POB: Turtle Creek; Penna.

The file on Joseph Merola contains the following information and documents:

① memo dated 28 Jan 1974 re office of ~~Security~~ files. States that Merola first came to the Agency's ~~ea~~ attention in 1961 when he visited Justin F. Gleichauf who was then Chief of the Division. Merola said he had info concerning a Brazilian Senator, a close friend and confidant of Che Guevarra. It was felt that Merola's reason for contacting the Agency was to ascertain if the Agency would intervene with the Fed. Court to rescind the 25 mile travel restriction. He was informed that the Agency could be of no assistance. Mr. Merola also said he had been engaged in gunrunning in behalf of Castro during the revolt against Batista and had been received warmly by Castro & Camilo Cienfuegos. Merola again contacted the Agency on 20 Nov 1972 informing that he was going to jail for one year. No further contact with Merola.

② A Feb 15, 1964 cable from reports that 3 people have been arrested for theft of dynamite & illegal possession of explosives. Claiming that they stole the dynamite on behalf of Merola, a CIA agent. "Merola is not a CIA agent but used solely as an informant by JMPALM."

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Merola

3. memo of visit to Merola, dated 8 Feb 1961, reports Brazilian Senator story. Merola said that Sam Kay, one of his associates in the Latin American contraband business, told him that the Senator was interested in developing a project whereby large quantities of whiskey would be smuggled into Brazil. (Contacts in Cuba with Castro.) ^{Merola} He was also in contact with Colonel "Johnnie" Abbas, head of the Dominican secret police. Merola also indicated that he is very well acquainted with Antonio de Varona, head of the FRD, and felt that he would be able to provide definite assistance to the Frente should he be called upon. He has a '63' boat available which he would not be adverse to "lending" to his friends."

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Eduardo Whitehouse Tosua

The file contains the following information & documents:

① miami Herald article , dated 21 Oct 1969, reported the arrest of 3 men, Eduardo Whitehouse, Jose Roberto Silvera, and Hector Silvera for receiving & concealing stolen property after they tried to sell \$100,000 worth of stolen aircraft radio equipment

② Background info - DOB - 14 March 19^{18?} POB: Cuba.

Arrived in US at Port Everglades, Fla. on 10 April 1959. Left US. on 8 April 1961, arrived US again on 9 Sept 1961 at New York City. Issued Re-Entry Permit in March 1962⁵ for travel to Congo. US. Congressman Dante Fascell introduced a bill in Congress in June 1963 to restore U.S. citizenship to Whitehouse; that subject took part in "Bay of Pigs invasion"; that he contracted in 1961 to "fly for the United Nations in the Congo" ~~for~~ He was associated with Liberal Party in Cuba 1937-59. Received Re-Entry Permit in Dec 1963 for travel to Mexico. INS File # A-11 241 940. Whitehouse was represented by Attorney Monroe Gelb. on March 5, 1962 Re-entry permit, Whitehouse listed his employer as L.B. Smith Aircraft Corporation, Miami, Fla.

In Feb 1964 - Whitehouse resided in Miami

In June 1964 - " " in Dallas (6141 Oram St.)

In Oct 1964 " " in Miami.

Employment in June 1964 was with RANSA airlines, Miami.

- 3- A biographical data form lists employment as
July 1964- Present - North Shore Villas, Public Relations.
Jan 1963- June 1964 - Panaven Airlines, Panama -
Operations Consultant
Sept 1943 - Jan 1954 - Cubana Airlines - Pilot,
1961 - 1963 - Insurance Salesman

The above information is from an investigation conducted in the fall of 1964.

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Summary
Leslie Wizelman
3/13/78

1114002

Edward Browder

DOB : 22 June 1917

POB: Amarillo, Texas

The file contains the following documents and information:

① Office memorandum - 1954 "Sabatino, Edward Browder aka Edward Browder", US Citizen living in Mexico. Born about 1917
Address: Hotel Monte Cassino, Mexico City.

② memo for chief, Special Security Division. subj: National Agency name checks on Edward Browder Sabatino - PBSUCCESS. 27 May 1954

"In operational support of Project PBSUCCESS, it is requested that your office initiate priority national agency name checks, with special emphasis on info developed from Immigration and Naturalization and Dept of State on one Edward Browder Sabatino."

③ - memo, dated 25 May 1954, for Deputy Chief SSD from Chief, Operations Branch subj: Browder.

"GIST: WH (PBSUCCESS) requests information regarding subject and Louis Sabatino.

DETAILS: 1- The subject is of interest to WH Division (PBSUCCESS) and has requested this office to conduct certain inquiries.

2- Because of the sensitivity of this case, it is requested that the files of the FBI be checked through Mr. Papich, concerning the subject and Louis Sabatino."

④ Covert Namecheck Report - 28 May 1954

⑤ Passport File check 27 May 1954

SECRET ⑥ unidentified document - "The subject case, while still pending was cancelled by request of the Chief, Operations, Project PBSUCCESS."