

Palmer
8/13/78

Conte Aguero

Luis Conte Aguero - Six Volumes - DDO

Volume I - 201-278130

SECRET

Deletions - Sealed envelopes.

① St. Dept - 22 June 1949 # 486 - 837.008/6-2249

② FBI # 105-1598 (Miami) Sept 1960

③ State Dept - 4 April 1960 Subject: Conte Aguero.

Secret - Eyes Only

④ State Cable # 2708 7 Apr 1960

⑤ FBI 14 Apr 1960 # 105-86025 (Wash. D.C.)

⑥ FBI excerpts - 13 documents

⑦ FBI - 9 June 1960 # 105-40527 (New York)

⑧ FBI - 15 Aug 1960 - Subject: Alianza De Liberacion

⑨ FBI - 19 Sept 1960 # 105-1598 (Miami) + 14 Sept 1960,
105-40527 (N.Y.)

⑩ FBI - 20 Dec. 1960 # 105-86025 (Wash. D.C.)

⑪ FBI - 1 July 1960 - Subject: Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero (N.Y.)

①. Personality File Request.

Luis Conte Aguero - 201-278130 - Radio Commentator

0003451

② Domestic Asset Report - no date.

Affiliation: Consejo Revolucionario Cubano.

Subject: Aguero - brash, uncontrollable, rable-rousing
radio announcer & leader of FAC (Frente Anti-Comunista

③ Cristiano.

21/4ths pay Aguero \$3,000 monthly for his
radio program. Heads propaganda branch of
Dr. Miras CRC. Future plans are to have him

Palmer 8/13/78

Conte Aguers

replaced by a propaganda man with his feet on the ground. He is irresponsible. Man is a liability.

SECRET

② Undated memo to Pierre Salinger, Presidential Press Secretary from: Richard Helms

FBI, CIA has an operational interest in Dr. Aguers, who is considered one of the outstanding personalities among Cuban exiles. He is a forceful & effective speaker.

③ Undated, rough draft memo prepared by Vidal. Writer met with Aguers on 15 April 1960 at the request of David Phillips, Chief of the Propaganda Section, JMARC project. Phillips desirous of establishing contact with Aguers immediately because of his possible value to JMARC in the propaganda field.

Prior to meeting, Vidal checked Aguers's branch file for derogatory reports ~~(#8)~~ & summarized FBI # 105-86025 alleging Aguers is not a bona fide refugee but in fact a Castro agent. Additionally, William Pawley submitted a memo of telephone conversation on 7 Apr. 1960 between William Pawley of Miami & L. D. Mallory of ARA (sic) indicating Pawley feels Aguers may be a counterespionage for Castro.

113452

Palmer 2/3/78

SECRET

Conte Aguero

④ Nov. 14, 1962

Dispatch to Task Force W. from COS/JMWAVE

Subject: Operational / Gyroser / Amstrut

Info. given to Amstrut 1 by Aguero
Aguero says about 1 Oct he met with
Perris Selinger & later in meeting Pres. Kennedy
entered room & talked to them & told Aguero
he should be confident that U.S. was doing
something on the Cuban matter. Also said
he had a meeting with Edwin Martin of
the State Dept. Martin was mainly interested
in learning what would happen in Cuba
if Castro were killed. Aguero reported to
Amstrut 1 he had received word from inside
that an attempt was made on Castro's life
and as a result, 70 persons were arrested.

⑤ Copy of Cable - Gerald Droller 12 May 1960 - Miami.

Please pass following from Bender via
Amclatter to Amwail. "Further check on
Conte Aguero shows he OK!"

0003453

⑥ 18 May 1960

Memo to Chief, Security Support Division

Attn: Mr. Joseph Vidal, CI/Staff

From: Interrogation Research Division

Subject: (Blank) IRD # 40176 (presumably Aguero)

Palmer 8/13/78

SECRET

Conte Agüero

Identifying Info: Subject is 35 yr old, married Cuban national presently residing NYC. Prior to arrival in U.S. was professionally occupied as a writer & radio commentator. Was contacted & debriefed by Joseph Vidal & being considered as a possible PP asset.

Polysgraph arranged on 12 May 1960. Test designed to determine subject's attitude toward Communism & if he is clandestinely connected with Castro govt. Subject's responses to test questions do not indicate deliberate attempts at deception.

① 2 June 1960

Memo for: Alien Affairs Staff 0/5

From: Martha Sharpe

Subject: Luis Conte Agüero - Request for Transfer of Parole Status from N.Y. to Miami

Agüero needed in Miami about 15 June 1960 in connection with SMARC project. Plan to use him about 2 mos. & then send him to a LA country for service in SMARC activities.

SECRET 0003454

② Message 16 Sept 1960 From: M. Taylor to: SMASTH

In 15 Sept discussion Hqs with Agüero & Boneque, former indicated he an Alianza Cohorte fully informed mission, timing, purpose proposed. Nino Diaz op & stated categorically Nino will be

SECRET

(5)

Palmer 8/31/28

Conte Agueró

fighting for Alianza. In view of obvious
& political implications feel we must ~~give~~ have
Diaz guarantee he will not go in representing
Alianza.

H

② Volume II - Agueró

Deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI, 2/2/61 - New York

② " 2/15/61 - Miami

③ State, 5/26/61 - Memo of Conversation

Subj: Views of well-known Cuban exile

④ FBI - 9/15/61 - Wash, DC. Anti Fidel Castro Activities

① Request for Approval or Investigative Action

6 April 1961

Subject: Luis Ernesto Conte Agueró

Request Provisional Operational Approval for use
in South America & Caribbean area.

② 22 June 1961

Memo for Chief/W44/4 from David A. Phillips

Subject: Luis Conte Agueró

Because of uncertainty of Radio Swan, Phillips
requests use of Conte for broadcasts over station
WGBS at a salary of \$600 per month. Conte
is not a member of CRE but gets along
with them.

H

SECRET

0003455

SECRET

Palmer 8/3/78

Conte Aguero

③ Volume III.

Deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI 10/13/61 Revolutionary Council (N.Y.)

② FBI 7/10/62 - #105-3196 (Miami) Christian
Anti-Communist Front

① 3 Nov 1961

Memo for Record - E. J. Harrison

Subject: Serwitz contact with Conte Aguero

Serwitz tries to persuade Conte to join CRE
as propaganda chief.

② Dispatch 12 Feb. 1962 To: COS/SMWAUE from: Chief, WHH

Conte selected to produce & voice a 30 minute, daily
program over station WRU - cost of operation is
\$11,000 monthly. Agreement made in Sept 1961.

Some months later, Conte joined CRE as
propaganda Director but neither he or
Mr. [unclear] are pleased with arrangement.

(Note: resignation accepted 15 Feb.)

③

③ 14 June 1962

Dispatch to Chief: Task Force W from COS/Miami

Radio Americas

SM.HOPE Program Director, William S. Wilbald

to send in monthly reports on Conte's broadcasts

H

0003456

SECRET

SECRET

Palmer 8/3/78

Conte Aguerro

Volume IV

Deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI 26 Feb. 1963 #105-116790

Subj: Sergio Martin Vidal

② FBI 28 Oct. 1963 Miami Subj: Festivals of Liberty

③ FBI 19 Dec 1963 - (Kansas City) Subj: Mario L. Brito,
aka Pedro Fuentes, El Inglesiot - Information
Concerning

① 15 Feb. 1963 Dispatch to Chief, Special Affairs Staff
from COS/JMWAVE

Subj: Progress Report for Jan 1963.

Indicates CIA funded publication of Conte
book "Identity" & unknown to CIA, Conte
had back cover changed to carry picture
of Conte & Pres. Kennedy together.

② 18 April 1963 Cable IN 20433

0003457

DIR CITE WAVE 7266

Conte reads letter to Pres. Kennedy at a
Cuban Lions Club mtg on 14 April. Letter
calls for Invasion of Cuba by U.S., Cubans in
spite & Latin American armies. Questions
credibility U.S. assurances communism will
not be permitted to arise in other LA countries.

Conte seems to be taking stronger Anti-U.S.
stand. (Pencilled note: John - Per our discussion:
We are watching this closely. If Conte pulls too far
away, we must take action.)

SECRET

Palma 813178

Conte Aguard

CITE DIR 62418

③ 15 Aug. 1963 To JMWAUE from Director ~~#79754~~
CIA's only interest in Conte is receiving good
one-hour program daily in return monthly payment
\$3,000 made via WRUL.

④ 24 Oct. 1963 IN 46330

To: Director from JMWAUE

Conte advised a (FNU) Knowland ^{& Ruiz Williams} helping him
set up appointment with R.F. Kennedy. Conte
to appeal for funds for "Action" by Conte
"Sentinels of Liberty" (Note: Sentinels are individuals
in Cuba who listen to Conte's program & mail
him information on activities in Cuba - all
of which is passed to CIA for interpretation.)

⑤ 29 Oct. 1963 To JMWAUE from Director # 78906

RFK office & Crammins briefed by hdqtrs
on purpose of Conte's visit. In both cases,
Conte given a polite hearing but told to
discuss his plans with CIA handlers. Went to
impress on him his end runs in Wash. D.C.
will not succeed in changing U.S. policy being
executed by CIA.

0003438

⑥ 25 Nov. 1963. IN 6770

SECRET

Conte left for Wash. D.C. on 24 Nov - unannounced
trip. He was upset that his tribute to
Pres. Kennedy was not broadcast. Info received

Palmer 8/31/78

SECRET

Conte Aguirre

from AMCOUP-1 that Conte had strongly ~~but~~ criticized President's IAPA address of 18 Nov. & cut Conte off the air to insure no embarrassing statement made during Presidential mourning. Further check by Walsbald disclosed between 18 & 22 Nov., Conte had supported small exile group publicizing theme President not implementing liberation promise.

- ⑦ 11 Dec. 1963 Dispatch to Chief: Special Affairs Staff. from COS/WAVE indicates Conte preoccupied with enlargement of "Sentinels of Liberty" and was away from Florida for extended periods in November (N.Y. & Wash. D.C.)
- H

0003459
SECRET

Vol. II

Third agency deletions - sealed envelopes

- ① FBI 7 Apr 1965 #105-8145 (Miami)
Sentinels of Liberty
- ② FBI 24 June 1965 Chicago - Plot to
Assassinate Premier Fidel Castro during
October Holidays 1965
- ③ Dept Justice - 1 Nov 1965 Re: Sentinels of Liberty
- ④ " " - 23 Feb 1966 - Sentinels of Liberty
- ⑤ FBI - 24 Jan 1967. (Wash. DC) Luis Conte Aguirre

~~SECRET~~

(10)
Palmer
8/3/78

Conte Aguerro

① 2 Sept 1965

Memo for Chief / WH

Subject: Meeting with Luis Conte Aguerro.

2 Sept 1965

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Indicates Conte continuing to receive \$3000 monthly for radio program.

② Undated memo for Chief / WH

Subject: Request for Letter of Commendation for Conte.

Role played by Conte in Dom. Rep. in helping bring about resignation of General Imbert was highly effective.

③ Teletype 28 Dec 1967 to Chief Station / SAMWAVE from Chief / WH.

Conte says he was notified 30 Dec. his broadcasts would be terminated.

H

Vol. VI

0003460

Deletions - sealed envelopes.

① FBI Cable 23 Aug 1974: Subj: Luis Ernesto

Conte Aguerro; Alleged Threat Against the President.

② Diplomatic passport - Luis Conte Aguerro.

① Cable 19 April 1969 IN 39915

Director

TYPIC - AMSTAY

Conte amicably terminated 17 April 1969

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

Palmer - 8/3/78

Conte Agüero

② 12 Feb - 1975

Subject: Whereabouts & Current Activities of Luis Conte Agüero
Has been a car salesman for Abraham Agency
in Miami. Writes occasionally for "Diario
de las Americas"

ff

8/4/78 - Continued

Additional files -

DCD - 2 files

Loose documents - 1 file

CI/OA - 1 file

DCD - No notes. 1 document 7 Feb 77
indicating Bernard Barker's attorney wished
to question Conte (among others) to establish
their relationship to CIA in 1960's.

0003461

DCD -

① 25 April 1963 Memo to Chief / Contact Div.
from: Chief, Miami Field Office

Cubans, because of the sorry spectacle of the
CRC, feel they must reorganize & avoid getting
involved in matters conflicting with U.S. policy.
Dr. Ricardo Rafael Sardenias and Juan Amador Rodriguez
wish to discuss new organization with
John Crumme. Said following individuals
have indicated a desire to cooperate in
effort to unite Cubans in exile.

Valencia, (12)
8/4/78

SECRET

Conte Aguers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Antonio Varona | Pascasio Lemerme |
| Dr. Julio Garceran | Orlando Cuervo Galano |
| Dr. Carlos Prio | Jose Ignacio Rasco |
| Dr. Carlos Marquez Sterling | Mario Cobas Reyes |
| Carlos Devia | Hermenio Portell Vila |
| Jose Ignacio Rivero | Justavo Cuervo Reubio |
| Jose Alvarez Diaz | Lomberto Diaz |
| Paul Menocal | Santiago Alvarez |
| Quiriano Sanchez Orango | Ruben de Leon |
| Luis Conte Aguers | General Generoso Campos Marquetti |
| Manuel Artime | Jacundo Pomares |
| Eusebio Miyal | |

Dr. Prio stated they wished to include Felipe Pozo, Rufo Lopez Mequest, Paul Chibas & even controversial Manolo Bay as this will increase the chances of defection by members of the Cuban Armed Forces.

H

Loose documents

- Third Agency deletions - 2 sealed envelopes
- ① FBI 14 Dec 1961 # 105-1998 (Miami)
Subject: Cuban Intelligence Activities in the U.S.
- ② FBI 4 Jan. 1956 (New York)
Subj: Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz
- ③ FBI 13 Feb 1960 - # 105-2053 (Miami)
Subj: Frente Anti-Comunista Criticario (FAC)

0003462

(13)

Palmer
8/4/78

Conte Aguero

~~SECRET~~

① Classified Message. 18 March 1961

To: Bell From: [redacted] IN 3998

Conte Aguero speaks to rally in Montevideo. He is considered best Cuban exile to come to Montevideo so far. Showed extraordinary courage in facing hostile crowd 16 March & message had terrific impact on Uruguayan population due to his eloquence & excellent press.

//

CI/OA - # [C-278130] Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero

Third agency - one sealed envelope - Quotations from FBI reports in 201 files and polygraph report - Office of Security. 1968 - ~~present~~ 2 Dec 1975

~~Letter~~ memo in unsealed envelope dtd 16 Dec 1975

For: CI/OPS/OSG/OC

Reference Subject: Request for [redacted] dated 28 Oct 1975

Subject: Luis Conte Aguero

Gives background info on Conte. No indication in file if he was [redacted] Mentions threat to President 23 Aug 1974.

Signed [redacted] Dep Dir Security

0003483