

Revival of Secessionist Sentiment on Abaco/Disappearance of
Dynamite Stores
DOMESTIC CONTACT SERVICE
Support Div. Operational Support Staff
Room 900, Key Bldg., ext. 2268
Mr. George Musulin

HH 25350

25 July 1973

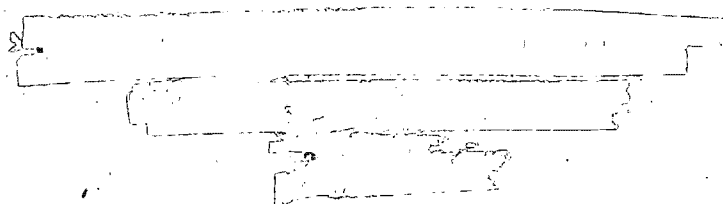
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Attached is for your information.



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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY BAHAMAS

DOI 23 JULY 1973 AND EARLIER

SUBJECT REVIVAL OF SECESSIONIST SENTIMENT ON ABACO/
DISAPPEARANCE OF DYNAMITE STORES

ACQ UNITED STATES (23 JULY 1973) FIELD NO. XMIM OOB 321/
20718-73

SOURCE U.S. CITIZEN, A BUSINESSMAN WHO IS A PERMANENT
RESIDENT OF ABACO.

1. SECESSIONIST SENTIMENT ON THE ISLAND OF ABACO WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE SUBSIDED, IS REGAINING ITS FORCE. IN THIS RESPECT A SECRET MEETING OF ACTIVITIST GROUPS WAS CALLED FOR THE NIGHT OF 23 JULY 1973 AT WHICH FUTURE MOVES MIGHT BE PLANNED. ABACO DISSIDENTS ARE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE FAILURE OF LONDON TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION. THEY ARE NOW DISCUSSING, WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, SECESSION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT ABACO. AMONG OTHER THINGS THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF U.S. CURRENCY IN ORDER TO SEVER THEIR ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON NASSAU. INDEPENDENCE

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SENTIMENT HAS BEEN PROMOTED BY THE BELIEF ON ABACO THAT MUCH PRIVATE U.S. CAPITAL WILL SUPPORT A NEW, SMALL INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND IN ADDITION SOME ERSTWHILE NASSAU CAPITAL WILL ALSO MOVE TO ABACO. SOME ABACO RESIDENTS CLAIM THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT BAY STREET MONIES WHICH ARE CONCEALED OR HAVE LEFT THE BAHAMAS WOULD RETURN TO AN INDEPENDENT ABACO.

2. WHILE THERE IS SOME DISENCHANTMENT WITH ABACO INVOLVEMENT WITH WELL-KNOWN ARMS DEALERS SUCH AS MITCHELL WERBELL, NEVERTHELESS ACCORDING TO A PALM BEACH GUN DEALER THERE HAS BEEN AN UPSURGE IN THE VOLUME OF WEAPONS ENTERING ABACO AND IN ADDITION MORE AND MORE GUNS ARE FINDING THEIR WAY TO OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ON THE ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE.

3. THE NEW COMMISSIONER FOR ABACO, COMMISSIONER (STORR) HAS BEGUN A REPRESSION AIMED AT WHITE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. NORMAL BUSINESS DEALINGS ARE MADE DIFFICULT, PERMITS NOT SIGNED AND RECORDS MISHANDLED. A SIMILAR ATTACK DIRECTED AT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IS OCCURRING ON CAT KEY WHERE THE NEW COMMISSIONER, WHO CONTROLS SOME LOCAL TRANSPORT, IS REFUSING TO HANDLE MERCHANDISE BELONGING TO FORMER DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

4. JUST PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, ONE HUNDRED CASES OF DYNAMITE

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MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED FROM THE PREMISES OF SEABREEZES, LIMITED, A CONSTRUCTION FIRM. SENTIMENT EXPLAINING THIS DISAPPEARANCE TAKES THREE FORMS. REGARDED AS LEAST LIKELY IS THAT OF A SIMPLE THEFT UNRELATED TO POLITICAL ELEMENTS. A SECOND SCHOOL BELIEVES THAT THIS MATERIAL, THE EQUIVALENT OF FOUR PICK-UP TRUCK LOADS, HAS BEEN CACHED BY DISSIDENTS FOR FUTURE USE. A POPULAR INTERPRETATION, HOWEVER, HAS IT THAT THE POLICE REMOVED THE DYNAMITE POSSIBLY TO MINIMIZE THE LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE BY REMOVING EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL. ABACO DISSIDENTS, HOWEVER, CLAIM TO BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE REMOVED THE DYNAMITE AS PART OF A PROVOCATION WITH THE IDEA OF HOLDING THIS MATTER OVER THE HEADS OF THE WHITE ABACO RESIDENTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE. THESE PEOPLE CLAIM THAT THE DYNAMITE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN REMOVED WITHOUT POLICE COMPLICITY, SINCE THE AREA WAS WELL PATROLLED. IN ADDITION THE POLICE ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LEASED A PICK-UP TRUCK AROUND THAT TIME.

5. A FURTHER UNSETTLING NOTE IS THE FACT THAT CHUCK HALL WHO HAS BEEN FOMENTING VIOLENCE FOR SOME TIME AND WHO CLAIMS RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE HAS QUIETLY INQUIRED ABOUT RENTING A RESIDENCE ON ABACO. END OF REPORT.

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6. C/S: PLEASE PREPARE HARD COPY AND
PROCESS SHEET IN HEADQUARTERS.

7. FIELD COMMENTS: GORDON IS IN THE U.S. TO ARRANGE FOR HIS
FATHER'S FUNERAL. HE WAS INVITED TO THE MEETING REFERRED TO IN
THE TEXT, BUT COULD NOT ATTEND. THIS REPORT SEEMS TO HAVE OOB
AND OOA(S) OVERTONES. E2 IMPDET CL BY 004476

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