

4 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Covert Action Staff

SUBJECT: Edward G. TICHBORN (P), PAD Contract Agent

1. This memorandum is in reply to your request for background data on TICHBORN for use in your discussion with Chief, Political Action, WH/4.

2. TICHBORN was recruited by Horace W. Davis in the fall of 1959 for use in the PAD political adviser program, i.e. advising foreign contacts of KUMARK on political organization and techniques, particularly as they apply to election campaign.

3. TICHBORN is an American citizen, (32) years old, he is a graduate of (Harvard Law School) and has been an attorney, specializing in trial work in Los Angeles since 1949. He entered politics in Los Angeles the same year. He was elected (President of the Los Angeles Young Democrats, 1950 -51). In 1950 he was (Chairman of the Speakers Bureau for the James Roosevelt - Helen Gahagan Douglas) campaign. In 1952 and again in 1956 he was a member of both the (Minorities Committee and the Speaker's Bureau for adlai Stevenson's) campaign. In addition he has participated in numerous local campaigns. In 1958 he was the (Democratic candidate (unsuccessful) for Secretary of State in California.) His present activities include membership in the (Democratic State Central Committee, the Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention, Board of Directors of the Democratic Minority Conference, and the Executive Committee of the 6th Assembly District.)

4. In January of this year TICHBORN travelled to Cuba on behalf of WH Division where he spent about two weeks assessing the political situation, with emphasis on ascertaining the strengths and weaknesses of the non-Communist groups, and investigating the possibilities of a coalescence of these groups into apolitical organization. At briefing sessions prior to his departure, TICHBORN demonstrated an immediate grasp of the type of mission proposed to him, and upon his return, revealed considerable insight into the Cuban situation.

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5. WH Division received two copies of the debriefing report in February. Briefly, some of the operational information and suggestions offered by TICHORN are as follows:

- a. There appears to be little chance of a coalition of the opposition groups at present since they are not well organized and, according to members of the opposition to whom TICHORN talked, CASTRO is in no present danger of losing the devotion of his followers.
- b. TICHORN believes that inducement of defections among the CASTRO followers would have more effect on CASTRO than any other single action we might undertake.
- c. There is a long-standing schism between Fidel and Raoul CASTRO, which if exploited, could be operationally advantageous.
- d. Most important, TICHORN emphasized that CASTRO must not be underestimated by the U.S., nor written off as another Latin American revolutionary.

6. TICHORN's file is available for review in PAD. His true name is forwarded under separate cover.

Horace W. Davis
Chief,
Political Action Division

Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - Subject file
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