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6 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cuba TDY - Edward G. Tichborn (P)

1. On 4 January I talked with [redacted] Cuba desk, about Tichborn's TDY to Cuba. He was not entirely up on the matter; it was agreed that we would meet [redacted] C/WH/Cuba, on 5 January.
2. Mr. [redacted] was unable to attend; however, I let Mr. [redacted] read the file and pointed out that I wanted to know specifically if they were still interested in Tichborn going to Cuba, when they wished him to go, and stated that I wished to have an idea of what operational use they intended to make of him. More specifically I stated that I did not feel that Tichborn should be connected in any way with [redacted] as I considered the latter to be completely blown. I also told Mr. [redacted] that, according to the previous correspondence, WH would be expected to pick up the tab for Tichborn's expenses as well as his fee which I expected to be in the neighborhood of \$1,500, this sum being within the figure mentioned in Mr. Collin's memorandum to Col. King.
3. Later on in the afternoon, Mr. [redacted] called to say that they were prepared to go ahead, that they hoped that Tichborn could be available for briefing in Washington on 18 January. They envisaged this briefing as being very cursory. The main briefing will be given by station personnel following Tichborn's arrival in Havana. Mr. [redacted] called my attention to IN 47609 in which it was stated that the Havana Station would brief Tichborn, introduce him to a few contacts -- I hope they won't introduce him in a manner which will completely blow him before he starts -- and that they suggested that he represent himself as an attorney engaged by unidentified American businessmen to explore the investment opportunities in Cuba.


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4. On 7 January I contacted Tichborn who said that he could be in Washington on 14 January and that he would have to return to Los Angeles by 3 February. I asked him what his fee would be and he said that it was his understanding that he had previously talked in the neighborhood of \$1,500 to \$1,600. I countered by saying that in view of the shortness of this trip I did not feel I could do any better than \$1,300, which he accepted. I asked him if he desired that we advance him any money at this time or if he could buy his ticket on the cuff and that we would make some sort of arrangements while he was in Washington, and he said he would buy his ticket and that he would abide by whatever procedures we normally follow. I told him at this time that I would prefer that he bought a round trip ticket Los Angeles - New York - Havana and that he proceed that way. I also instructed him upon arrival in New York to buy a ticket Washington - New York and return. I did this as I feel it is preferable from a security standpoint that he not have any indication on the ticket he will use in entering Cuba that he has been in Washington immediately prior to the trip or that he intends to return there following the trip.

5. The substance of the above was communicated to Mr. Dahlgren, C/WH/3, who agreed that in view of the time factor it would be preferable for Tichborn to come on the 14th rather than the 18th and that the price was right, etc. I confirmed the date with Mr. [redacted] and will contact Tichborn again, advising him to call me upon his arrival in Washington on 14 January.


Horace W. Davis
Acting Chief
Political Action Division

HWDavis:bjl
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