

SECRET

5 August 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mitchell L. TerBell  
(201-259910)

1. Subject phoned me on Sunday, 2 August, to ask if there was any news on his clearance. He said that he wanted to go to the Dominican Republic in the next day or two, and would like CIA to pick up his expenses. I told him that there was no news, and that I had just gotten back, but that I would let him know on Monday, 3 August. He asked me to phone him at Highland 8-8443 in Miami.
2. Subject said he had phoned my office during my absence and talked with "Marge", my assistant.
3. He said that Robert Rodenberg, a former OSS man, is working with Manuel de Moya. Rodenberg was described as a resident of Washington, wealthy, and not engaged in any particular occupation. According to Subject, Rodenberg is engaged in the procurement of arms for the Dominicans.
4. Subject said that George Cox, a tall gray-haired individual from Washington, is trying to get Batista into the United States legally. Cox is a heavy drinker and claims to be in the Public Relations business in the United States. Subject said that he had asked my assistant for information on Cox.
5. Subject said that Batista is not going to get out of the Dominican Republic since he is wanted there by Trujillo and the Pedraza group to provide money for a possible revolt against Castro.
6. Subject said that Silva (fnu) is going to the Dominican Republic. Silva is assistant to Rolando Masferrer. According to Subject, Pedraza is buying equipment in Europe in large quantities. Joe Marola, who is working with Pedraza, has recently acquired a PBX aircraft for use against the Cuban Government.
7. Subject asked if he should maintain his contact with Justin Cleichauf, the OO man in Miami. I was surprised to hear that Subject had been put in touch with Cleichauf and suggested that he not maintain the relationship since I am now available.

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file in 201-259910

8. On 3 August I phoned Subject and told him that his clearance had not been granted as yet, that I had no way of knowing when it would be granted, and that he should not predicate his activities on the expectation of the clearance at any given time.

9. Subject asked who would pay for the calls to me, and I told him it would be alright to reverse the charges either to my office or my home.

10. Subject said that the Peiraza group is air lifting and dropping material into Cuba.

11. On 4 August, at my request, Tim Cobb asked CI/OA to check with the FBI to determine if they have a case on WerBell as had previously been reported by Reichhardt in Miami. Later in the day Cobb informed me that CI/OA had determined from the Bureau that there is no case on WerBell at this time, and that a POA had been granted on him.

12. I proposed to have Reichhardt get all the derogatory information on WerBell he can, to forward to Headquarters for review, and thereafter to determine whether or not he should be confronted with this information prior to active operational use of him. Although he has been evasive and obviously not completely frank with us, it appears that WerBell does have access to information of interest on Cuban and Dominican Revolutionary activities aimed against the Castro government, and that he is well connected with the underworld elements operating in the Miami area.  
(COMMENT: This request was given to Reichhardt by phone on 5 August.)

[Redacted]

Wend/HK [Redacted]

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