

27 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

SUBJECT: Cover for Colonel Wendell G. Johnson

1. Colonel Johnson will be proceeding to JMWAVE during the next few days for a brief TDY during which he will contact Dr. MIRC Cardona and will be briefed by senior personnel of the Base. Upon his return it seems likely that he will be in contact with senior U. S. Government officials concerned with the U. S. Government's relationship with the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

2. This brief TDY and the subsequent contacts in Washington can probably be carried out without any special cover being established; however, for longer period, immediate plans should be formulated to provide a durable cover. Various suggestions have been made but only one, thus far, seems to be adequate for all contingencies. This would be as a public relations counsel.

3. In the initial phase of Colonel Johnson's activity, it would be contemplated that Colonel Johnson would tell his friends and acquaintances that he was considering a job as a public relations counsel in the Miami area. He would not indicate that this position would place him in contact with leading exile Cubans. Dr. MIRC and ARAGON would be witting of this cover story, but would be instructed not to make it known to others except in an emergency. The type of emergency we have in mind might arise in the event that, intentionally or inadvertently, some member of the CRC or some high U. S. Government official might mention to the press that Colonel Johnson was an intermediary between Dr. MIRC and the U. S. Government. In either of these two contingencies Colonel Johnson might utilize his full cover story, explaining his public relations function, and thus plausibly deny Agency connection. In other words, this cover will provide cover for his personal status in the Miami area, and, in addition, in an emergency, provide cover for meetings with Dr. MIRC and for dealings with U. S.

officials. Other covers thus far suggested will not cover these contingencies and ignore the fact that Colonel Johnson is known by true name to Dr. MIRO, ARAGON, and a considerable number of high U. S. Government officials.

4. It has been suggested that Cover Division be requested to a) approach the [redacted] Public Relations Firm which was utilized extensively during the JMATE operation or b) endeavor to find some other firm which could serve the same purpose.

5. Your approval and/or comments are urgently requested so that we may make the necessary arrangements through Cover Division and provide briefing guidance for Colonel Johnson.

E. R. DAVIS  
Chief, WH/4

APPROVED:

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

WH/4: [redacted] mas (27 September 1961)

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