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Inactive

10 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Charles [redacted]

116273

1. On 17 April 1953 Francis Rutack, Executive Director, FBI, advised that a French born Charles [redacted] had been arrested in New York. A friend of Charles, named [redacted], had advised Rutack that [redacted] was a son of [redacted] and [redacted] in view of the name [redacted]. Charles was described as a resident of the [redacted] Post on [redacted], [redacted], who is in [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted]. Rutack mentioned that he had advised Col. Holt in [redacted] to conduct [redacted] in order to obtain more background information and an estimate on Charles.

2. On 1 May 63 Mrs. Rutack advised that Charles was staying at the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, and that he had telephoned his wife since her name had been supplied to him by [redacted]. Charles advised her to his point of contact in Washington. According to Mrs. Rutack, Charles had appointments to see Vice President Johnson, Senator Keating, and Congressman [redacted]. However, Charles was willing to talk to representatives of Mrs. Rutack's office. Mrs. Rutack stated that the British Embassy in New York was ready to go to New York to talk to Charles and advised CIA to accompany him. Charles speaks very little English and a fluency in French was therefore required for the future visit. Mrs. Rutack stated that she might be able to obtain a French passport from [redacted] Army, Government's [redacted], but it would not be an intelligence officer. It was decided that James [redacted], New York Office, who has a knowledge of the French language would accompany the [redacted] representative. It was also arranged that [redacted] would meet the [redacted] representative (Captain [redacted]) at the Park Sheraton Hotel where Charles was staying.

3. On 2 May 63 Mrs. Rutack reported that Col. Holt had interviewed Mr. Eyer in New York, [redacted]. Eyer had provided Charles on [redacted] of his work in Haiti. Charles, according to Eyer, formerly had no political ambitions but in view of the current political situation in Haiti, Charles now thinks that he may want to go there. Eyer described Charles as well-educated, politically and financially, on both sides of the fence in Haiti. He is also a good friend of [redacted] Duvalier. Eyer had given Charles letters of introduction to Senator Keating and to other contacts in Washington. Charles wanted to see President Kennedy and indeed had gone to the White House to arrange [redacted] in [redacted]. He was well received by the President's secretary and invited to dinner [redacted] with the [redacted]

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CONFIDENTIAL: Edward George BREWER

Secretary. Through a confidential source, Charles did not attend the dinner but was to have been present.

4. Charles did not attend the dinner with a group consisting of... (handwritten initials) ...

5. On 5 May 63 the source telephoned to advise that he had had a conversation with the previous day with Charles and that he had obtained both necessary data and views by Charles on their visit to the State Council in the current matter. It was noted that in the Commission the information to Washington was critical, copies of the telegrams were transmitted to Mrs. Mallock, W Division, and the State American Branch.

6. On 6 May 63 Mrs. Mallock, Edward George, advised that W Division wished to speak to Charles and that she was asked to arrange an appointment. Mrs. Mallock telephoned at approximately 11:30 to advise that she had just received a telephone call from Mrs. de Kerkhoffs asking assistance in obtaining hotel reservations in Washington. Mrs. Mallock stated that she would check with the State Department Protocol Office to determine which hotels would admit foreign guests. Mrs. Mallock finally made reservations at the Alban Towers. A check with Mrs. de Kerkhoffs revealed that he had arranged for Charles to meet the W representative in the lobby of the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., at 12:00 noon on 7 May. Attempts to reach Mrs. Mallock that afternoon were unsuccessful. At 6:00, 7 May, a call was made to Mrs. Mallock to confirm that Charles would be in Washington on that day and that arrangements had been made for a meeting with an Agency representative for 12:00 noon. Mrs. Mallock reported that both Mrs. de Kerkhoffs and Charles had called her that previous evening to confirm a 12:00 luncheon appointment with her. Mrs. Mallock was concerned that CIA and Army could not be working at cross purposes. She had received confirmation from AOB to meet Charles at lunch and felt that it would not be possible for her to withdraw from her commitment since Army could know the point of contact with Charles. Mrs. Mallock advised W Division of the conflict and passed on the suggestion that the W Division representative might meet Charles and Mrs. Mallock at noon and that Mrs. Mallock offered to withdraw shortly thereafter. The W representative declined the offer and requested that a meeting later in the afternoon be arranged. Mrs. Mallock believed that due to one-sided instructions, she had been placed in the middle in the situation from which she could not graciously withdraw and requested that someone accompany her.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET - General Joseph Gurnea

7. I met Mr. Patrick in the lobby of the Hotel Madison shortly before noon, and a Mr. Charles Egan, Mr. Gurnea's assistant, accompanied by Mr. William J. Brennan, Jr. to assist in the arrangements at the hotel. Mr. Brennan is a former member of the National Security Council staff, and has been seen in Cuba, Mexico, and other foreign countries. He has been called to Washington on a number of occasions by the State Department. He also mentioned that he had been a member of the CIA from 1949 to 1957 and while in Mexico he had met Charles who was visiting relatives at the time. He had spoken to Charles and was familiar to what extent, which was somewhat limited. He goes to La Jolla, California. He has a Ph.D. in history and has had some teaching experience. Mr. Gurnea had been in Mexico, Cuba, and other countries and has had some teaching experience, and the fact that he had been a former member of the CIA. He has a Ph.D. in history and has had some teaching experience. He has a Ph.D. in history and has had some teaching experience. He has a Ph.D. in history and has had some teaching experience.

8. Both Charles and Gurnea were anxious to arrange meetings with government officials in Washington. I mentioned to Charles that a meeting had been arranged for him at 11:30 and that a Mr. Green would meet him in the lobby. At 11:30 Mr. Patrick, Mr. and Mrs. Gurnea and I departed and Charles remained in the lobby waiting for contact.

9. In the course of the hearings committee, Charles had mentioned to Mrs. Patrick that he desired to see a Mr. Wren, AKA, to discuss CIA aid to Cuba. Later that afternoon Mrs. Patrick called to state that she had called the State Department to pass along Charles' request. Mr. Wren (State) had called her back to pass on the State's reply to Charles' request. She stated that she had been in the United States Government and had been in contact with Charles. She did not consider Charles to be close to the Executive Committee, to have been involved in general study financial matters, and in general, to be an undesirable character. Mrs. Patrick asked whether the Agency had any interest in Charles which would dictate further contact with Charles.

10. Miss Gurnea checked with Mr. Wren and determined that as a result of the meeting with Charles, the Mr. Wren had had no further plans to contact him. I told Mrs. Patrick that our interests would have been satisfied and that I believed we should disengage ourselves as gracefully as possible.

SECRET

11. Upon return, F/O Coordinator, called on 7 May to involve concerning our involvement in the Charles case. He stated that FBI had called his office that day to advise him that FBI had no direct interest in Charles and that it was acting as an intermediary of the request of General Harding who had passed the lead to General Hitch. FBI was concerned that due to the nature of involvement to the Charles, certain might have to note that FBI had interviewed or had contacted FBI contacts with Charles. I explained to Hitch that FBI had agreed and he later called back to state that FBI was completely satisfied in the way the matter had been handled.

12. On 8 May Mr. Patrick telephoned to advise that the Operational Branch of FBI was discussing the Charles case with FBI to determine future course of action. He was still somewhat concerned over our own position in the case since Charles remained far to the west point in Washington. I explained to her that the matter was one for which the State Department or the Operational Branch in Berlin and that we preferred to discuss ourselves. Mr. Patrick mentioned that a dispatch had been received to the effect that a circle of Charles was gradually notified as a measure to Berlin should the latter be overthrown. The use of the criteria that the US government should continue to "play ball" with Charles as a foreign agent in Berlin affairs.

A. P. CHAMBERS

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