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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

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REPORT MADE AT MEXICO, D. F.	DATE WHEN MADE 6/25/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/1,4,9-11,16/54	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT L. LARSON	FO FO
TITLE CHANGED EDWARD BROWDER, JR., was., Edward Sabatino, John D. McCormick, Edward Browder Sabatino			CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject was apprehended at Mexico, D. F., by officers of the Mexican Bank Police 6/10/54 and placed in the custody of the Investigative Section of the Mexican Ministry of Government. His arrest resulted from the fact that he had ordered from a small Mexico City printing shop a quantity of blank "cashiers checks" on two U. S. banks. At the time of arrest, he was at liberty on bond as a result of charges of issuing bad checks. He claims to have sold arms to deposed Cuban President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS and to have recently conferred with Guatemalan President JACOBO ARBENZ. He also stated he has been in contact with the son of Nicaraguan President Somoza and claimed to be planning to use the check forms which he had ordered in connection with a plan to blow up the ammunition storage dump of the Guatemalan Government. He acknowledged utilizing the names JOHN D. MC CORMICK and EDWARD SABATINO but claimed he has not violated any U. S. Federal laws. Friends of Subject advise he is a pathological liar but claim he is useful for his imagination and resourcefulness. On afternoon of 6/16/54, BROWDER escaped from Immigration Detention House and present whereabouts unknown. (C) u

1-7-95 (VFR)
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DATE OF REVIEW 2/5/90

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SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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 - 1 - American Embassy (circulation)
 - 1 - Mexico City (97-12)

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United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
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DATE

Classification
1/11/77

1-11-95 (JFK)
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STATE IS INFO REMAINS
(u) PER THEIR LET. 12-10-96
June 25, 1954 DTD. *JLS*
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2-5-97
(JFK)

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Re: EDWARD BROWDER, JR., with aliases
Edward Sabatino, John D. McCormick,
Edward Browder Sabatino

I. BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION

This investigation is predicated on information received from T-1, of known reliability, to the effect that one JOHN D. MC CORMICK had directed a letter to Costa Rican President JOSE FIGUERES in which he alleged that he was in contact with a group in Mexico which was plotting against FIGUERES and in which he offered his services to the Costa Rican Government in recruiting pilots and combatting any possible revolution. Source stated this letter also made reference to ROSENDO ARGUELLO, JR., as being engaged in revolutionary activities against the FIGUERES regime. (u)

II. INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY JOHN D. MC CORMICK

It had been advised by T-1 that in writing to President FIGUERES, MC CORMICK had furnished his return address as Calle Rio Hudson #7, Apartment 4, Mexico, D. F. (u)

Investigation by T-2, of known reliability, at the foregoing address, disclosed that an individual who was known to the building manager as JOHN MC CORMICK was a constant visitor at the apartment of a French "cabaret artist" named ODETT OLIVIER, who had occupied Apartment 4, Calle Rio Hudson #7, for approximately eighteen months until she moved from that address in April, 1954, stating she planned to return to Europe. T-2 was advised, however, by the building manager that in early June, 1954, ODETT OLIVIER telephoned her inquiring as to whether or not any mail had arrived at that address for her. (u)

T-3, a representative of another Government agency, advised of having received information from a confidential source who resided in the same apartment building as ODETT OLIVIER to the effect that one JOHN MC CORMICK had intermittently resided with OLIVIER at that address, and that MC CORMICK and two unidentified (u)

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companions in a 1951 Oldsmobile or Pontiac automobile bearing 1953 San Salvador License Plates had assisted OLIVIER when she moved from that address. This source further advised that MC CORMICK did not appear to be employed and that on several occasions he remained at the apartment continuously and claimed he was awaiting long-distance telephone calls from Central America. (S)(u)

Information was received independently from T-4, of known reliability, in [April, 1954, to the effect that one EDWARD SABATINO had been spending considerable time in the company of ROSENDO ARGUELLO, JR., and that in the latter part of April ARGUELLO and SABATINO had departed from Mexico City for Guatemala in the automobile of ARGUELLO, which was described as a 1951 Buick bearing 1953 San Salvador License Plates. T-4 had also advised that SABATINO claimed to be a former U. S. Air Force pilot who is presently in the business of buying and selling U. S. Army surplus and to have delivered a substantial quantity of arms to associates of deposed Cuban President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS. T-4 stated SABATINO claimed that the agent who handled the matter for PRIO SOCARRAS had paid him for the arms in United States currency, approximately one-half of which turned out to be fraudulent. (S)(u)

III. DETENTION OF SUBJECT BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES

Information was received from ALFONSO FRIAS, Assistant Chief of the Mexican Bank Police, to the effect that EDWARD BROWDER, JR., had been arrested in Mexico City on the afternoon of June 10, 1954, when he called at the "Imprenta Rocar," Calle Uruguay #77, in connection with his order for the printing of blank "Cashiers Checks" on two United States banks. FRIAS advised that investigation had disclosed that Subject had furnished cliches to the printing firm and had ordered the checks printed in accordance with a model which he had in his possession at the time of his arrest and which are described as follows:

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- * 1. A check-size strip of check paper in blank on which was pasted a small strip of paper on which was printed "City Bank Farmers Trust Company, Chartered 1822, Head Office: 22 William Street, New York." *
- (S)(u)

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[The usual check form had been lined off in ink with indications in ink for such items as number, pay to the order of, amount, date, and at the bottom there appeared in handprinting, "Cashiers Check." At the very bottom appeared two lines underneath one of which was printed, "Assistant Cashier," and underneath the bottom line was printed "Countersigned."] (u)

- [2. A second strip of check-size bank paper on which was prepared a similar type check form at the top of which was the designation, "In the Center of Industrial America, the Detroit Bank, More Than 105 Years of Service." This form, however, had spaces indicated for signatures of Vice-President and Cashier.] (u)

Subject was questioned concerning the check forms which he had ordered and advised Mr. DEMETRIO FLORES FAGOAGA, Chief of the Investigative Section of Ministry of Government, that he had ordered these check forms for "political purposes." (u)

There follows a partial list of documents and material which was obtained by the Mexican Police authorities incident to Subject's arrest: (u)

- [1. Two metal cliché stamps bearing the above-quoted portions of "City Bank Farmers Trust Company," etc., and "In the Center of Industrial America, the Detroit Bank," etc., were obtained by the Police at the printing firm.] (u)
- [2. Also obtained were two other metal stamps for printing at the bottom of the two checks mentioned, one being a stamp reading "Insured by Member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation," and the other reading, "The National City Bank of New York."] (u)
- [3. Various small stamp samples of the printing of the above clichés were in the Subject's possession and there was one obviously made from a cliché but the cliché itself was not] (u)

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[available. It read, "Haynes Stellite Company, a Division of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation, UCC, General Offices and Works, Kokomo, Indiana. Sales Offices Chicago - Cleveland - Detroit - Houston - Los Angeles - New York - San Francisco - Tulsa." According to Subject's later explanation of this, this was to stamp 3 x 5 sheets of paper to paste on boxes of ammunition.] (S)(u)

- [4. Also in his possession was Tourist card #348196, issued May 7, 1954, good for 180 days in the name of EDWARD BROWDER, JR., 37 years of age, born at and a resident of Amarillo, Texas. The document of identification which he presented in order to get this tourist card was listed as Guatemalan Tourist Card #60706, issued by the Consul General of Guatemala at Tapachula, Mexico, May 3, 1954. His card was stamped with the entry date of May 8, 1954, at Mexico City Central Airport.] (S)(u)
- [5. Further noted was a permit to allow certain articles to leave the Penitentiary of the Federal District. It was issued by Crugia (Cell Block) G. "One sweater, one shirt, one towel - property of prisoner JOHN MC CORMICK." (S)(u)
- [6. Pass #7236 of the Penitentiary of the Federal District, also in the name of JOHN MC CORMICK.] (S)(u) 2-1396-5
- [7. Receipt for a bond issued by Bonding Company, La Guardiania, S. A., in the name of JOHN MC CORMICK, Bond #20378, dated February 15, 1954, in the amount of 2,200 pesos, it being noted thereupon that MC CORMICK should present himself each Monday of every week at the Administration Offices of the Penitentiary #72, Letter "A." (S)(u)

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- [8. An order issued by the 12th Judge of the Penal Court declaring that JOHN MC CORMICK in the Penitentiary for fraud is hereby placed at liberty under bond of 2,200 pesos dated February 13, 1954.] (S)(u)
- [9. A telegram to EDWARD BROWDER, apparently from his wife in Amarillo, Texas, addressed to him at Pedro Barranda #17, Apartment #5, Telephone 13-66-44, c/o Dr. ROSENDO ARGUELLO, Hijo.] (S)(u)
- [10. Various newspaper clippings, some of which merely consisted of a torn-off headline of an article in Spanish: "Bomb went off near Palace in Cuba." There were various other clippings relating to President FULGENCIO BATISTA and Ex-President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS.] (S)(u)
- [11. An airman's certificate and a pilot license issued by the Department of Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Washington, D. C., in the name of EDWARD BROWDER, JR., described as born June 22, 1917, eyes - blue, hair - brown, weight - 175 lbs., height - 5' 10 1/2", signed "D. M. GRETZER." His pilot's license was issued July 26, 1948, which gave his address as 1803 Harrison Street, Amarillo, Texas.] (S)(u)
- [12. In Subject's possession was a copy of a telegram from Amarillo, Texas, which had been directed to him in care of Dr. ROSENDO ARGUELLO, JR., at Calle Pedro Baranda #17, Apartment #5, Telephone 13-66-45. This telegram was in very poor Spanish, a translation of which is as follows: "Please tell EDWARD to call me immediately. Thank you. /s/ La Senora (The Mrs.)." (S)(u) 2-1396-5

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[13. A copy of a telegram dated May 20, 1954, at Managua, Nicaragua, and addressed to EDWARD BROWDER SABATINO, Hotel Monte Casino, Mexico City, a translation from Spanish of which is as follows: "I have instructed the Ambassador to furnish you permit or passport (with which) to come Nicaragua, /s/ SOMOZA." (S)(u)

[The Subject asserted to Mexican Police authorities that the foregoing telegram was from the son of the Nicaraguan President, ANASTASIO SOMOZA.] (S)(u)

[14. Apparently, directly related to the foregoing telegram was a letter over the signature of the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico, Dr. ALBERTO SEVILLA SECASAS, to which was affixed a photograph of the Subject and which authorized his entry to Nicaragua. The document carried the notation, "Authority received by radiogram dated May 20, 1954." (S)(u)

IV. INTERVIEW OF SUBJECT

Subject was interviewed briefly by T-5, of known reliability, in the presence of the Chief of the Investigative Section of the Ministry of Government and while he was not completely cooperative, did furnish the following information:] (S)(u)

Subject prefaced his remarks by stating that while he has "very few moral principles left, he does have one or two and one of those is that he will not assist the Communists." (S)(u)

BROWDER freely acknowledged that he is identical with JOHN D. MC CORMICK and EDWARD SABATINO. (S)(u) 2-1396-5

BROWDER acknowledged having sold a quantity of arms to Ex-Cuban President CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, claiming these arms were obtained by him in Italy. He stated that when he delivered these (S)(u)

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Relatives - ~~JOE~~ and ~~BILL~~ BROWDER
1803 Harrison Street
Amarillo, Texas--
Telephone 6-8136

(The above address was found
in Subject's possession.)

VII. ESCAPE OF SUBJECT

Information was received from Mr. DEMETRIO FLORES FAGOAGA to the effect that on the afternoon of June 16, 1954, Subject managed to "slug" a guard at the Immigration lockup on Miguel Schultz Street, Mexico, D. F., and escaped. FAGOAGA advised that stops have been placed at all logical points of exit and that investigation to date has failed to locate Subject. (S)

T-4 advised that BROWDER had managed to take a taxi shortly following his escape and had proceeded to an unidentified German Restaurant in the San Angel Inn area of Mexico City from where he made telephonic contact with ROSENDO ARGUELLO, JR., and a Mexico City attorney known only as ~~RUIZ~~. (S)

T-4 expressed the opinion that Subject is still in hiding in Mexico City. (S)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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The title of this case is being shown "changed" to record Subject's true identity, EDWARD BROWDER, JR., and aliases, EDWARD SABATINO, JOHN D. MC CORMICK and EDWARD BROWDER SABATINO, which he is known to have used.

One copy of this report has been disseminated locally to the Embassy and CIA, Mexico City.

It is pointed out that an intensive interrogation of Subject was not feasible at the outset of his period of incarceration, and it was expected that he would be deported to the United States where he could be interrogated by Bureau representatives.

SOURCES:

- T-1 is Foreign Service Dispatch #668 dated March 2, 1954, from the American Embassy, San Jose, Costa Rica, copy of which was furnished this office by Bulet dated May 17, 1954.
- T-2 is (MEX-46.) (X) (u)
- T-3 is State Department Security Officer WILLIAM L. CARR, U. S. Embassy, Mexico, D. F.
- T-4 is (MANUEL CABALLERO, Costa Rican revolutionary.) (X) (u)
- T-5 is SA ROLF L. LARSON.

LEAD:

THE MEXICO CITY OFFICE

At Mexico, D. F.

Will continue to follow and report developments in connection with efforts of Mexican authorities to apprehend Subject.

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REFERENCE:

Mexico City cable to Bureau dated [June 11, 1954.] (c)
Bulet to Mexico City dated May 17, 1954.

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