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MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL

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Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (97-3224)

DATE: 8/24/62

FROM : *[Signature]* LEGAT, MEXICO CITY (97-72) (P)

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KP 5-18-98 ON pg 82

SUBJECT: MANUEL FUEGO, aka
REGISTRATION ACT

ReBulet 6/28/62 to Assistant Chief of Staff for
Intelligence, Department of the Army.

On 8/13/62, Lt. Col. JOSE LUIS AGUILAR DE LEON,
Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, National Palace,
Guatemala City, Guatemala, furnished the following infor-
mation: (C)

He stated he first met subject as MANUEL FIRESTONE,
together with an individual by the name of WERBELL and
another by the name of KANE several months ago. He said
these individuals had somehow met Colonel ENRIQUE PERALTA,
Minister of Defense of the Guatemalan Government. PERALTA
in turn asked Lt. Col. AGUILAR DE LEON to sit in on the
meeting with subject and the other two as PERALTA and
AGUILAR are close friends and as PERALTA wanted him also
to act as an interpreter, inasmuch as he speaks good
English. He said still a third reason why he was called
in was because he had formerly been in charge of G-2 of
the Guatemalan Army and is still connected with G-2 even
though occupying the position of a Minister. (C)

Subject and his companions proposed to sell to
the Guatemalan Government arms and ammunition and also
offered to provide mercenaries. In the latter regard, they
mentioned Cubans, French and other nationalities. At the
same time, they requested credentials identifying them as
agents of the Guatemalan Government. He said he did not
like the proposition, especially the offer of mercenaries,
and did not hesitate to furnish his opinion to Colonel
PERALTA. Colonel PERALTA did not accept the offer to do
business with the subject and his companions (C)

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9 - Bureau

- (1 - Liaison Section)
- (2 - Atlanta)
- (2 - Miami)
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Subsequently on several occasions, subject or one of his companions has tried to influence Lt. Col. AGUILAR DE LEON to convince the Minister of Defense to accept their proposition. He said they have invited him to lunch on several occasions, which he has not accepted, and he personally feels that they have wanted to bribe him, but have not directly propositioned him in this regard. He said the last time he heard from them was several weeks ago when they telephoned his residence and left a number where they could be contacted at the Maya Excelsior Hotel in Guatemala City. Lt. Col. AGUILAR DE LEON did not talk to them on this occasion and did not return the call. He stated that he had turned the business cards of subject's companions over to Colonel JAMES D. LAND, Army Attache, Guatemala City. He promised that should they receive any additional information in this regard, he will make it available. (c)

On 8/13/62, [redacted] of the CIA Station, American Embassy, Guatemala City, advised that MIGUELITO YDIGORAS, son of President MIGUEL YDIGORAS of Guatemala, had advised him on the previous week that he received a telephone call from two individuals who furnished their names as MITCHELL L. WERBELL and ARTHUR J. SMITH. They advised that they were staying at the Maya Excelsior Hotel and said they were waiting for PINEIRO. They seemed to think PINEIRO was someone MIGUELITO would know and said that as soon as he arrived, they would contact him regarding an important deal. [redacted] stated that MIGUELITO requested any information [his office might have] on WERBELL, SMITH and PINEIRO, as he claimed that he did not know any of these individuals. (S)

[redacted] advised that thereafter he had sent a wire to his headquarters in Washington and received a reply that approximately three years ago, MITCHELL L. WERBELL was involved in a plan to ship arms to Ecuador. His headquarters advised there was no identifiable information on SMITH. It was further informed that there is an individual by the name of PINEIRO who was in Cuban G-2, but it was not known whether this individual was identical. (S)

On 8/13/62, [redacted] further advised that he had received a telephone call that day from MIGUELITO YDIGORAS, who stated he had just remembered WERBELL and SMITH mentioned (S)

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