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Transmit the following in _____
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Via AIRTEL ~~REGISTERED MAIL~~
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (134-1191) (P)
GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN
IS - DR

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF
DATE 9/28/74~~

Frank Fiorini

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8MAC/ETH
ON 11-1-94 (JFE)

ReButels 9/12/65 and 9/13/65 and Miami tel 9/15/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 10 copies of a letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above. An extra copy is designated for the Bureau for transmittal to Legat, Santo Domingo.

A copy of this letterhead memorandum has been designated locally to INS in view of General WESSIN's alien status.

Information copies are being sent to San Juan, New York, and Washington Field Offices in view of their continuing interest in the Dominican situation.

MM T-1 is Legat, Santo Domingo.

MM T-2 is MM 492-S

- 3 - Bureau (Enc-10) (RM)
- 1 - New York (Enc-1) (RM)
- 1 - San Juan (Enc-1) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (Enc-1) (RM)
- 4 - Miami (1 - 134-1191)
 - (1 - 105-1962, MARCOS DIAZ LANZ)
 - (1 - 2-192, FRANK FIORINI)
 - (1 - 105-1084, DOMSIT)

ELP:sll
(10)

ENCLOSURE

NOT RECORDED 176 OCT 4 1965

12 SEP 20 1965

~~CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP-5/ELP/CA 8/1/94
REASON FCIM, II
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 9/15/85~~

LATIN-AMERICAN
attached on info
N. Fiorini
a Dec 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M _____ per _____

Copy to: CIA/State (BAO-TSD) Agent in Charge

66 OCT 12 1965
by routing slip for info
Date 9-23-65 by wcp/ell

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-144860-6

[MM T-3 is MM 635-S.] ^(u) ~~_____~~

This letterhead memorandum has been classified "CONFIDENTIAL" because it contains information from informants of continuing value. Unauthorized disclosure of this information could result in compromising these sources and affect the national defense.

General WESSIN's letter to HECTOR GARCIA GODOY was translated by Miami translator SOPHIE SALIBA.

General WESSIN was interviewed on 9/15/65 and 9/17/65 by SAs EDWARD J. DAHL and EUGENE L. PAYNE in the Spanish language inasmuch as WESSIN claims to speak no English.

WESSIN expressed admiration for the Bureau as the only serious agency in Florida. He stated he would be available for future interviews by Bureau representatives.

WESSIN appears tired and remote. He is undoubtedly bitter, as expressed in several press releases, toward U. S. authorities since he believes the U. S. betrayed his efforts in the Dominican Republic.

As noted in the enclosed letterhead memorandum, WESSIN on 9/15/65 was encountered at the residence of ANTONIO LLANO MONTES, in company with Cuban exile MARCOS DIAZ LANZ, Bufile 105-80115. On 9/17/65, MARCOS DIAZ LANZ and FRANK FIORINI, Bufile 2-1499, were observed in contact with General WESSIN. On 9/17/65, LLANO MONTES advised that individuals, mostly Cuban exiles whom he has not been in contact with for more than three years, have continually appeared at his residence or telephonically contacted him in an effort to gain access to General WESSIN. WESSIN has been thus occupied during most of his waking hours with these contacts, as well as with widespread representatives of local and national press, radio and television. This situation will more than likely continue for some time. Because of the situation regarding DIAZ LANZ and FRANK FIORINI, as described in the enclosed letterhead memorandum, it is possible that WESSIN's attitudes will undergo a change if and when he perceives their intention to exploit WESSIN's own anti-communist ambitions.

~~Confidential~~

MM 134-1191

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
As explained in referenced Miami teletype, Miami will endeavor to cover the activities of General WESSIN through contacts with established sources who are among those Cuban exiles who are in contact with him. In addition, WESSIN will be contacted at such times as deemed appropriate for the purpose of enlarging our channel of communication with him and looking toward the possibility of exploiting his admiration and confidence in the Bureau. (u)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

134-1191

Miami, Florida
September 17, 1965

~~CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP3 TEL/ENK/8/1/ba~~
~~REASON FCIM, II~~
~~DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION~~ 2+3
9/10/85

RE: GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN
INTERNAL SECURITY - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 MAC/EA
ON 11-1-94 JFR

On September 12, 1965, MM T-1, a confidential source abroad, advised as follows:

General ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN, commanding officer of the Central de Enseñanza de las Fuerzas Armadas (CEFA) (Armed Forces Training Center), was retired, appointed Dominican Consul General in Miami, and sent out of the Dominican Republic (DR) to Panama on the night of September 9, 1965. Indications were that WESSIN was to travel from Panama to Miami and it was expected that he would be joined by his family in Miami by September 12, 1965. According to MM T-1, WESSIN has stated that had not United States troops landed in the DR in April, 1965, the country would have been lost to communism. According to information available to MM T-1 on September 9, 1965, WESSIN was visited by Brazilian General HUGO ALVIN, Commanding General of the Inter-American Peace Force, and General BRUCE PALMER, Commanding General of U. S. Forces, DR. This visit was made at the express instructions of American Ambassador ELLSWORTH BUNKER, American Representative to the OAS Committee in the DR. It appears that ALVIN and PALMER directed an ultimatum to WESSIN to depart the DR. (u)

The September 15, 1965 edition of the "Miami News," a local daily newspaper, carried an article entitled, "Bayonet Forced Me - Wessin." This article attributes WESSIN with alleging that an American lieutenant put a bayonet in his back and forced him out of his country and carried WESSIN's rejection of a consulate post in Miami. The article quoted WESSIN as saying, "The American official who ordered my expulsion in such a humiliating way has given the coup de grace to the fight for democracy in Latin America." This article further contained excerpts from a letter purportedly written by WESSIN to the Dominican Provisional President HECTOR GARCIA GODOY. 2-1499-

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE 6-8-77

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

Declassified
2049-8-77
gmk

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

On September 15, 1965, General ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN was located at his temporary residence, the home of ANTONIO LLANO MONTES, 751 Swan Avenue, Miami Springs, Florida.

On May 19, 1965, MM T-2, a Cuban exile familiar with activities in the Miami Cuban colony in Miami, Florida, and acquainted with certain phases of pro and anti-CASTRO activities throughout Latin America, advised that ANTONIO LLANO MONTES was the editor of a monthly magazine entitled "Carteles," which was then published in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. MM T-2 described this magazine as anti-CASTRO in tone, whose director was listed as RAFAEL BONILLA AYBAR. The Miami editor at that time was listed as VICENTE S. PUJALS.

On September 15, 1965, General ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN advised Special Agents of the FBI as follows:

He does not intend to accept a consular post in Miami, Florida, which was assigned to him by Brazilian General HUGO ALVIN at the time he was deported from the DR. WESSIN stated that the details of his expulsion from the DR were essentially correct as reported by the local press, to wit:

He was approached by Generals DEAN and PALMER of the U. S. Armed Forces and Brazilian General HUGO ALVIN, the ~~over-all~~ military commander in the DR. His offices were surrounded by armed units of the U. S. Armed Forces and he was directed by General ALVIN to relinquish his command to his first subordinate. Because of the display of armed force, WESSIN realized that to resist would have meant additional bloodshed in the DR and undoubtedly, would result in the wounding or death of his own troops, who he believed would have remained loyal to him. Recognizing the futility of resistance and to save his own troops, he relinquished his command as ordered.

WESSIN stated that United States Generals DEAN and PALMER advised him that the "constitutionalist" forces

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GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

under the command of General FRANCISCO CAAMANO had demanded his departure from the DR as a basis for further negotiations to settle the Dominican crisis. WESSIN thus believes that the United States acceded to these demands by the "communists." WESSIN pointed out that although he referred to CAAMANO forces as "communist," United States military officials referred to them as "constitutionalist" forces.

WESSIN fears the rapid expansion of communist influence in the DR and cited as an example the appointment on September 16, 1965, of MIGUEL SOTO as Secretary of Labor. This individual is a supporter of JUAN BOSCH and has made public statements which WESSIN believes reveal his communist ideals. WESSIN, however, could not recall the specific text of these statements and emphasized that while he had no documented proof of SOTO's communist affiliation, he nevertheless considered him as at least a communist sympathizer.

Another example of expanding communist influence in the DR is typified by the present Director of Passports, name unknown, who is believed by WESSIN to be communist because he instructed the deletion from Dominican passports of a stamped prohibition of travel to iron curtain countries.

WESSIN pointed out that his immediate future plans consisted of remaining in Miami, Florida, and awaiting his family from the DR. He has no intention of accepting the consular post proffered to him by the Dominican provisional government. He intends to live off of a pension awarded to him as a retired military officer.

It is noted that on September 15, 1965, Special Agents of the FBI observed that MARCOS DIAZ LANZ was in contact with General WESSIN at the residence of ANTONIO LLANO MONTES. On September 17, 1965, DIAZ LANZ was again observed in contact with General WESSIN, along with FRANK FIORINI.

On September 17, 1965, MM T-3, a Cuban exile who is personally acquainted with MARCOS DIAZ LANZ and FRANK FIORINI, advised as follows: 

[REDACTED]

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

MARCOS DIAZ is the brother of PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, former chief of the Cuban Air Force under FIDEL CASTRO. MARCOS DIAZ LANZ defected from Cuba at the same time as his brother PEDRO, when PEDRO denounced CASTRO as a Communist in about 1960. (u)

MM T-3 has known FRANK FIORINI for approximately six or seven years and described FIORINI as a U. S. citizen closely associated with the DIAZ brothers in anti-CASTRO activities since 1959. Previous to 1959, FIORINI associated with the DIAZ brothers in smuggling weapons into Cuba on behalf of FIDEL CASTRO during the BATISTA regime. (u)

MM T-3 described both MARCOS DIAZ LANZ and FRANK FIORINI as individuals who have become professional opportunists and who have attempted to enrich themselves by associating with anti-CASTRO and anti-communist elements. At the present time, MARCOS DIAZ LANZ is in desperate financial straits. It is the opinion of MM T-3 that the significance of MARCOS DIAZ LANZ' and FRANK FIORINI's contacts with General ELIAS WESSIN relates to their intention of exploiting the resources and facilities of General WESSIN for their own personal gain. (u)

On September 17, 1965, General ELIAS WESSIN advised Special Agents of the FBI as follows:

The newspaper article stating that he was deported from the DR at bayonet point is a figure of speech but WESSIN reiterated that he was forcibly retired and deported. WESSIN indicated that a newspaper article indicating that he intended to move to Puerto Rico and organize Dominicans against the provisional Dominican government is without fact since he did not release this information to the press and has no plans at the present time other than to await the arrival of his family in Miami, Florida. WESSIN made available a letter that he directed to the provisional leader of the Dominican government, HECTOR GARCIA GODOY. A translation of this letter is as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN [REDACTED]

"ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN
Brigadier General

"Miami Springs, Florida
September 10, 1965

"Dr. HECTOR GARCIA GODOY
Provisional President of the Dominican Republic
National Palace
Santo Domingo

"Mr. President:

"I am writing this letter a few hours after my arrival in Miami in order to explain clearly and definitely my position in regard to the recent events in which I found myself involved.

"The Dominican people are aware that, thanks to my loyalty during the grave events which began on April 24, our country is not completely dominated by Communism at this time.

"An elementary sense of honor as a military man prevents me from accepting the position of Consul General in Miami for a Government which has availed itself of foreign troops to send me into exile by force. I told this to Generals ALVIN and PALMER when they notified me that I was Consul in Miami.

"The afternoon that Generals ALVIN and PALMER informed me that I was to leave and a Lieutenant in the United States Army prevented me from going to my house to pick up my clothes and my passport, I firmly decided that I would not serve your Government, either in the Consulate of Miami or in any other position.

"Never did I imagine that a military man of my rank would be taken to the airport dressed in full uniform and taken out of the country with a bayonet at his back.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN [REDACTED]

"The United States officials who ordered my departure from Dominican territory in such a humiliating manner have dealt the death blow to the fight for Democracy in America. Can you imagine the effect that this action against my person by the O.A.S. and the United States Government will have on the military men of Latin America?

"Do you believe that the military men of Latin America will be disposed to fight against Communism when they know that they will be paid for doing their duty by being expelled from their country and ousted from their military career?

"When the United States troops arrived in the Dominican Republic, after the men under my command had been violently attacked by a Communist crowd, seeking vengeance and death, I never imagined that those same troops, making common cause with the enemies of Democracy would remove me from my country in a way which does little credit to those who call themselves the leaders in the fight for the survival of the Western World.

"I arrived in Miami without a passport, without money and with a suit given to me by the soldiers at Fort Amador in Panama, but I still have my dignity and my name. Men who are fighting for an ideal cannot be destroyed, and even though they may be physically eliminated that ideal will remain inalterable.

"I have always been an honest soldier and the U. S. Intelligence services know that for they have searched all the banks in the world for evidence to besmirch my reputation.

"At this moment, I find myself obliged to break up my home, to sell my furniture and my house and to leave my family. In order to maintain that home which I will have to start up again in exile, I have

[REDACTED]

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

[REDACTED]

"only the pension to which I am entitled after 21 years of service in the Armed Forces of my country.

"My departure from my country presages grave events for the cause of Democracy. What self-respecting Dominican will be disposed to assume responsibilities when Communism launches its final attack against our country?

"At the present time, the world is fighting for survival in the face of the Communist threat, and it is necessary for men with deep convictions to assume the defense of Democracy. Those men cannot be destroyed in order to satisfy political ambitions, nor in order to appease Communism, without leading us to total destruction.

"My departure from my country will be a disgraceful page in the political history of the Dominican Republic and for its governing officials, who, like yourself, are responsible for it. No Dominican can remain unmoved by such a monstrous deed, and the day will come when the truth will win out against treachery and deceit.

"I repeat to you that I cannot accept the appointment as Consul General in Miami, because it would mean serving a Government which has betrayed Dominican Democracy, and it would mean being disloyal to the brave soldiers and officers who accompanied me during those tragic days when blood flowed over the soil of our country.

"I cannot betray those soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces because that would be an act of cowardice. I cannot abandon the Dominican people because that would be a denial of the ideals of DUARTE, SANCHEZ and MELLA. I cannot turn my back to American Democracy, because that would mean opening the doors to Communism in order to deal the death blow to our way of life.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

[REDACTED]

"As General JUAN SANCHEZ RAMIREZ said in the battle of Palo Hincado, when he defeated the troops of Emperor Napolen:

"The death penalty to the soldier who turns back; the death penalty to the drummer who sounds retreat; and the death penalty to the officer who orders it, even though it be I, myself."

"I, Mr. President, will never order retreat. My brave soldiers and officers, my beloved Dominican people, my sacred fatherland, will always find me honorably fighting in the front lines against the traitors who try to deliver us to an ideology which represents a system of slavery and brutality.

"I hope that the United States Government will make no further mistakes and that it will understand that sacrificing democratic military men is not the best way to hold back the advance of Communism. I trust that the United States is able to break up that network of infiltrators who are conspiring against Liberty in their own land and in the very offices which handle their international affairs.

"As I publicly criticize the action against my person, it is not my intention to furnish weapons for Communism to attack the United States. I wish to state that I repudiate the action of these evil North Americans who are causing a loss of prestige to that great nation, and I trust that there will soon be a proper rectification of the mistaken policy which has been followed in my country.

"Remember, Mr. President, that it will be difficult for you to oppose the Communist conspiracy by committing injustices against the military men and the democratic people of our country.

"If you were going to act that way, it would be necessary to maintain permanently the presence

 
GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

"of foreign troops in our country, and that would be equivalent to a definite surrender of our sovereignty.

"Very truly yours,

(Signature illegible)

"Copies to:

General HUGO PANASCO ALVIN
General BRUCE PALMER
Mr. ELSWORTH BUNKER
General DEAN"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
September 17, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 134-1191

Title GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN

Character INTERNAL SECURITY -
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned
as above at Miami, Florida

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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