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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: December 31, 1954
Havana, Cuba

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba [(66-100)] (u)

SUBJECT: [HAVANA INFORMANTS] (u)
[ADMINISTRATIVE] (u)

~~SECRET~~ - AIR COURIER

[Conf Info S.IS - Cuba] (u)

Rebulet June 30, 1954 which instructed that we should submit a semiannual informant report on January 1 and July 1, of each year. (u)

There is attached hereto a memorandum dated December 31, 1954 entitled: INFORMANTS AND POTENTIAL INFORMANTS, OFFICE OF LEGAL ATTACHE, HAVANA, CUBA, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1954. (u)

The attached memorandum contains a brief description of each informant and potential informant presently being used or developed by this office. (u)

Our program to locate and develop new informants [in both the criminal and security fields] is being continued and is being given preferential attention by all of the personnel of this office. In addition, our efforts are constant to increase and improve our regular office and liaison contacts. The Bureau will be advised promptly of any important developments in this program. (u)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-29-94 BY SP8-Mac/ndc
(JFK)

Classified by SP6BTA/KC
Declassify on OADR 1/23/05

Attachment

ODA/JJK/WCS:JES

2 ENCL.

Serial
2/2/77 USG
Rothman
for review at HSCA
HSCA re 2/2/77
(See Bufile 62-117290)

RECORDED - 86

INDEXED - 86

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[64-4123-210594] (u) (66)
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DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 Mac/uk
ON 9-29-94

December 31, 1954
Havana, Cuba

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

[INFORMANTS AND POTENTIAL INFORMANTS,
OFFICE OF LEGAL ATTACHE, HAVANA, CUBA,
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1954] (U) (C)
#21,326 / SP8 BJA/col
Classified by
Declassify on: OADR/23/5

[HAV-4] (U) (C) This informant is LUIS DEL PINO who has been cooperating with this office since 1947. His cover has developed and he now operates an armed car service which provides excellent cover and also makes it possible for this informant to have ready and available on short notice assistants who are trained to function on surveillances. We are in daily contact with this informant and he handles numerous investigations for us every month. He functions principally on criminal and Selective Service cases. However, he has functioned well on numerous assignments which involve security subjects. He has recently developed an individual who has good prospects of developing as a source with Communist Party connections. (C)(U)

[HAV-6] (U) (C) This informant is VENANCIO LOPEZ SOSA, a young Cuban who is connected with one of the Cuban courts in Havana. This informant's activities are generally confined to furnishing us information available to him as a court attache and which information we could not otherwise obtain. He is utilized whenever needed and each time he is called upon he functions in an excellent manner. Our experience with him indicates that he is very discreet and we feel that he is very loyal to the FBI. (C)(U)

[CI HAV-11] (U) (C) This informant returned to Havana on December 6, 1954, after a protracted stay in Europe. He has in the past demonstrated on more than one occasion his value in criminal matters and also obtains a great deal of information on international floaters. He is renewing his contacts with American hoodlums and gamblers in Havana and it is believed that he will continue to be most useful during the current tourist season, especially in criminal matters. (C)(U)

[HAV-12] (U) (C) This informant is ARTURO NESPEREIRA AMARGO, an elderly Cuban who is a retired police officer. He is very active and turns in a very good quantity of work every month. Due to his age and experience, he is used on many types of investigations. He is especially useful for pretext interviews of subjects or possible sources in any sort of investigation. He functions in a discreet manner and has never caused any reflection upon this office or our operations here. (C)(U)

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ENCLOSURE

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[HAV-13] This informant was a member of the Cuban National Police from 1944 to April 1952 and now operates his own investigative agency. He is being used in investigations of security cases and in the development of new sources within the Cuban Communist Party. He has been found to be reliable in conducting surveillances and has the latest types of technical equipment to aid in his investigations. He has recently uncovered a promising Potential Security Informant that was formerly a member of the youth section of the Communist Party in Cuba and he is presently acting as a "cut out" in contacting this PSI. (u)

DINO CELLINI, FBI No. 2198122, American credit manager in the gambling casino at the Tropicana night club in Havana, is contacted on a regular basis. He is a good source of information on American gamblers and hoodlums operating in Havana and has been of value in the past on individual criminal investigations. It is anticipated that he will be used extensively in the current tourist season. (u)

IBIO ESPINOSA ESPINOSA, 22, is a Potential Security Informant. He has never been connected with the Communist Party, but he has indicated a willingness to join the party to obtain intelligence information and he displays enough enthusiasm and imagination to show that he might actually work his way into the confidence of the Communists. He is personally acquainted with several alleged party members and he plans to put himself in such a position that it would be logical for them to invite him to join in their PSP activity. His progress will be closely followed by this office and precautions will be taken to assure that he is not a PSP plant. (u)

ANGEL HUNJAN, a Potential Security Informant on Chinese matters, was originally developed by CI HAV-12 and is usually contacted through the latter as a cutout. HUNJAN has furnished valuable information on Chinese matters which has been confirmed from other sources and he appears to be developing in a very satisfactory manner. (u)

ALFONSO KIM, aka. KIM SOON CHUE, Jesus Maria No. 109, Havana, is a native born Cuban citizen of Korean parentage. He was recently contacted by CI HAV-12 in the investigation of a Korean matter and was found by him to be most cooperative. Source recommended that KIM be developed further as a source on Korean matters and this is being done. (u)

HARRY PEREZ FERNANDEZ, an ex-Captain of the Cuban National Police, is very closely connected with ex-President RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, who was a candidate in the Cuban Presidential elections of 1954. Through this source it was possible to have several interviews with GRAU prior to the elections and to obtain from him first-hand information on his political strategy and planning. Although GRAU made a last minute withdrawal from the elections, he continues to be a potent factor in Cuban politics and through the source, it is possible to keep abreast of the activities of GRAU. (u)

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(u) []
EGON ~~REISS~~ is a Potential Security Informant. We have been in contact with REISS for a number of years. He was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1916 and he came to Cuba as a refugee in March, 1942. He has been used as a contact on miscellaneous matters by this office since 1948. Recently we have been endeavoring to encourage REISS to make a connection with the Partido Socialista Popular (Communist Party of Cuba) because it is believed that he has the appearance, background, and intelligence to function well in such a capacity. He has been making very limited progress to date and it is believed he may be afraid of the consequences if he does make an entry into the PSP and then gets caught. We plan to continue our efforts to develop REISS and meanwhile he will be utilized on general contact problems and on translation matters where deemed advisable. He is of value to us as a linguist because of his knowledge of Spanish, German and Jewish dialects. (u)

(u) []
MIGUEL ~~RODRIGUEZ~~ is a Potential Security Informant. He was a member of the youth section of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP - Cuban Communist Party) in 1943 and 1944. He left them because he did not approve of Communism, but he is not openly known as "anti-Communist." He has attended two PSP meetings since he was originally approached by HAV-13 and has furnished information of value concerning the proceedings. RODRIGUEZ has several close friends that are in the PSP and he feels that there is a good possibility that he will be invited to join. He has requested, for his own security, that he be contacted through a "cutout" and has indicated that he will not sign any receipts. He is presently being handled through HAV-13. (u)

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NORMAN ~~ROTHMAN~~, FBI No. I52585B, spent considerable time away from Havana during the summer months due to the fact that the Sans Souci night club, operated by him, was closed. The Sans Souci is scheduled to be reopened on December 31, 1954, and it is anticipated that FCI ROTHMAN will continue to be a source of general criminal information. He is being contacted on a regular basis. (u)

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MIGUEL ~~TRIAI~~ ~~ESCOBAR~~, better known as "MIKE" ~~TRIAI~~, was the operator of the Sans Souci night club and gambling casino in Havana for a number of years. As such, he became acquainted with the principal American hoodlums and gamblers who frequented Cuba. He is now in the insurance business but maintains his contacts with the American hoodlum element. He is cooperative and it is believed he offers good possibilities of developing into an excellent criminal informant or source of information. (u)