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SUBJECTS : LIONION
MEXI PHOTO OP

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10246-10028

16 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH/EXO
SUBJECT : LIONION Project

1. LIONION is a new project which is submitted in the amount of \$10,478. This is a photographic surveillance operation targetted against the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. Two agents are involved; LIONION-1, a young Cuban lawyer in exile, and LIONION-2, his mother. The agents act as observers and photographers. LIONION-1 is also used as a dispatcher for the LIEMBRACE surveillance team, from which he is compartmented, to cover individuals associated with this target. These agents were previously used in connection with the unilateral telephone tap operation against the Cuban Embassy. The current photographic operation began in the latter part of 1962, and was previously funded under Cuban FI funds. The operation has provided valuable data for the identification of Cuban Embassy personnel and visitors, and on their patterns of action and personal associations.

2. The security of this operation, particularly the agent's cover for status and the communications arrangements, appear reasonably sound. Both agents know that they are working for AIS, and LIONION-1 was successfully FLUTTERED in October 1963. However, LITAMIL-7 and LITAMIL-9, who are penetrations of the Cuban Embassy, are aware of this activity, as they are used to help identify individuals photographed.

3. Approval for the LIONION Project is recommended. It is requested that, in order to assist Headquarters' evaluation, project reporting include details of CI/CE data furnished, and examples of leads developed from such information.

[Signature]
GERARD DROLLER
C/WH/POA

SECRET

NO DISSEMINATION.

CC OF ATT. #14 HIA MA-25110 R. SIDE OF HIA MA-25110 50-6-122/1

DATE JAN 1965
THRU
PLANS NO. 50-6-122/1

SECRET//NOFORN

PROJECT LIONION

- A. Identification. This is a technical (primarily photographic) surveillance operation against the PBRUMEN Embassy in Mexico City.
- B. Objectives. The operation is designed to (1) furnish photographic coverage during daylight hours of the entrances of the target installation, (2) dispatch physical surveillance teams against persons associated with the target, and (3) keep in readiness a listening post for the monitoring and recording of eventual technical penetration operations of the target.

The target installation is the PBRUMEN Embassy compound (including Consulate) in Mexico City. The above-listed objectives are accomplished by two trained, full-time surveillance agents who live across the street from the target.

The project is in consonance with Priority A, Objective 1, of the current Related Mission Directive for Mexico.

- C. Background. This project, herewith presented for approval for the first time, does not represent a new operation. LIONION activity has been going on since 1962 and costs have heretofore been charged to PBRUMEN FI funds. The operation produces photographs of persons associated with the PBRUMEN Embassy, both staff and visitors. These photographs are normally reviewed for identifications by the PBRUMEN section at the Station, then shown separately to LITAMIL-9 and LITAMIL-7 who are penetration agents working inside the target. They are subsequently forwarded to the CI section of WH/SA where they are shown to PBRUMEN intelligence defectors AMNIP-1 and AMMUG-1. Of those assets to whom they are routinely shown, LITAMIL-9 has to date made the largest number of identifications. The photos have proven of great value. Within hours of the arrival of a new Embassy staff member his photograph is in the hands of the Station. In addition to the identification of staff and visitors, the photos (accompanied by a log kept by the LIONION agents) reveal patterns of action (arrivals and departures) and details of personal associations (who associates with whom) which are of great value to the Station in mounting operations against the target.

In addition to photography, LIONION-1 and LIONION-2 are often called upon to do visual surveillance of the target installation and LIONION-1 is essential to the dispatching of the LIEMBRACE surveillance team against individuals associated with the target. Because of the presence of police patrol cars in the vicinity, the Station's mobile surveillance assets cannot come close to the target, hence the need for LIONION-1's dispatching services.

The presence of LIONION-1 and LIONION-2 also insures continued occupancy of a valued piece of real estate which will be used as a listening post when the Station succeeds in installing additional technical surveillance devices in the target in the form of concealed radio transmitters.

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DATE JAN 19 1965 THRU

