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13 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SSD

SUBJECT : Covert Sites - General
#77 500

1. Reference is made to your recent request for information relative to individuals mentioned in In Cable 00349 from FR (Atlanta).¹⁰ Basis for the cable was FBI information concerning allegations that a Washington, D. C. office located some 4 or 5 blocks from the White House and leased to the Drug Enforcement Agency was being used by CIA as an electronic surveillance listening post. The Office, allegedly operated by a CIA officer, Lucien Conein, is purported to be subleased from Howard Gibson, head of the Washington office of the Atlanta based firm, Central Investigative Agency. The owner of the Central Investigative Agency was reputed to be Mitchell WERBELL, an Atlanta resident, who allegedly is a gun runner and private investigator. The FBI agent advised FR (Atlanta)¹⁸ that Gibson and Werbell are currently in litigation for some reason and that Gibson is probably capable of spreading the story about a CIA listening post in an effort to embarrass Werbell.

2. Subsequently you advised that it had been determined that the alleged site in question was Suite 1209 A, located at 1028 Conn. Ave. N. W. Washington, D. C. reportedly occupied by a firm of Security Consultants. You were advised at that time that review of Office of Security records reflected no connection by CIA with the office in question nor any current interest in any of the principals involved. O of S records reflect no existing interest in any office space at 1028 Conn. Ave. N. W. although one agency component has expressed a potential future interest in a Suite on the 10th floor of that building, La Salle Building, at 1028 Conn. Ave. N. W. To date it not only has not occupied that Suite but has not determined whether they shall proceed towards future utilization.

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3. Further, we were advised that Lucien E. Conien, former staffer (OS#5025) about whom there was much publicity in the past in connection with covert agency operations in the Far East, is now employed by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

4. Search of O of S records were negative as to: Howard Gibson; Security Defense System; Intelligence Services, Ltd.; and Advance Security Corp. O of S records reveal a file # 660 374 on one Steve Van Cleave; however, this file was only established in January 1974 as a result of inquiries and searches conducted then in response to an interest expressed by Lyle Miller, Office of Legislative Counsel. Van Cleave had apparently suggested to Washington sources that he worked for CIA in Latin America under cover of Coca Cola Company. This was false. John Patrick Muldoon is the Subject of O.S. file # 134 816. Muldoon is a former staff employee (1958-1972), who retired in November 1972. The latest file information indicates that he may be employed as the Washington representative of a firm, Security Consultants International. O of S records were negative re this firm. It is understood that an FBI inquiry re Muldoon is currently being handled by Mr. Tim Harrington.

5. Mitchell Livingston Werbell III (OS# 27686), was in the OSS briefly (7/45-12/45) during WW II and has repeatedly come to CIA attention through the years. He has a reputation as a "wheeler-dealer-con man -gun runner-soldier of fortune" and his activities, particularly in the F. E. and WH areas, continually brush up against CIA interests. In Feb. 1967, the Domestic Contact Service advised that Werbell III frequently volunteered information to their Miami office. The files reflect no other indication of CIA use of Werbell. In Jan. 1974, the Office of General Counsel (Mr. Diettel) was inquiring about Werbell's son, Mitchell L. Werbell IV, who was reputedly an officer in the Central Investigation Agency, Atlanta, Ga. The FBI conducted a National Agency name check at CIA on Werbell III in Sept. 1962.

John F. Meehan
Acting Chief, EAB