

DISPATCH

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Chief, IS

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FBI - NEW YORK

Chief of Station, (Copenhagen) 14-6

September 1961

RAMSEY's Meeting with KAWIR on 29 August 1961

NO INDEXING REQUIRED
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19-6

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1. Attached herewith is Arthur J. RAMSEY's contact report of a meeting with KAWIR on 29 August 1961. The purpose of this contact was to determine KAWIR's current relationship with the RIS, ascertain his future plans, and debrief him about his friend William Steinsmith, an American who lives in Copenhagen illegally, and who has written several pro-Castro articles for local newspapers. He is also known to maintain a contact since February 1961 with the local Cuban legation officer Gabriel Califora.

2. We have asked A SOURCE TO IDENTIFY Steinsmith, determine the reason for his living here illegally (without residence permit) and obtain as much additional data as possible about his source of income, activities, and contacts here.

3. We will keep Headquarters advised of future developments. This case has been discussed with THE FBI representative from London, who suggested that Headquarters coordinate this case with THE FBI in Washington.

4. Forwarded under separate cover are copies of KAWIR's consular file including documents concerning his newly acquired wife.

Attachments:

- A. Contact Report, h/w
- B. Copies of Consular file on KAWIR u/s/o SK w/10 in r/p/m NOT MICROFILM 12 Sept 61

Distributions:

- 2 - IS w/atts A; B, u/s/o
 - 2 - SR w/att A.
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3. Contact with ...

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2. General information

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CONTACT & CONTACT WITH KAMINSKY IN AUGUST 1961

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29 August 1961

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ATT A. ...

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The interest in STEINERTH was explained by our desire to find out why an American citizen resided in Norway illegally. After the informant KAWER was told that he should not reveal our interest in STEINERTH to anyone, and he promised to do so.

b) According to KAWER, William STEINERTH, age 27-28, is a native of New York. His parents reside in Bronx, but their address is not known to KAWER. He believes that the name is fairly rare and that it should be easy to trace their residence through the Bronx telephone directory. As much as KAWER knows, STEINERTH studied in New York (possibly at the City College) and in California (possibly at the UCLA). His major was education. STEINERTH is a free-lance journalist and lives or lives from the major earnings of his journalistic work. TO KAWER'S limited best knowledge and belief, STEINERTH has no other source of income.

c) At the present time, STEINERTH lives with his girl-friend, Tulla STEINERTH, at Barnevej 2. He is definitely not registered there. STEINERTH came to Copenhagen some 6-7 months ago. Before that time he lived in Trondheim, Norway. He had a 1-year residence permit for Norway. As far as KAWER knows, STEINERTH had a residence in Scandinavian countries in due to his desire to be with his girl-friend. The latter is of Norwegian descent, but lived a longer time in the USA, where she landed (first with her mother, possibly a coach, from whom she separated (but whom she did not formally divorce). She has a daughter, 10 years old, from that marriage, who is with her mother. KAWER does not know anything about STEINERTH, except that he is an American citizen. Tulla STEINERTH moved from Norway to Copenhagen, allegedly to study clothes design, but at the present time she has no money to attend any school or courses. In general, the couple lives from hand to mouth. At one time during the last winter, when they passed through a particular hard period, they stayed with KAWER.

d) KAWER met STEINERTH in winter 1960/61 and has been seeing him fairly frequently since spring 1961. KAWER did not provide a clear picture of how he met STEINERTH, but in the beginning it seems to have been a casual acquaintance through "a friend of a friend of a friend". In spring 1961 KAWER translated one of STEINERTH's articles on Cuba from English into Danish as a literary exercise. As a result of this work, they got to know each other more closely, but while they can be said to know each other well, KAWER does not consider STEINERTH a really close friend. In general, STEINERTH is a quiet and reserved person. KAWER characterized him as extremely well-read, interested in politics and economically, particularly "left of the center". The articles of which KAWER knows dealt with Cuba, the African question, the USSR (STEINERTH expressed some anti-Soviet views), and, more recently, with Vietnam. The article on Cuba was published in the Danish journal "Udsigten" (other articles were published in "Aktuel" and "Information"). STEINERTH writes only in English. He does not know any foreign languages well and has written a number of Danish and Norwegian articles on various subjects.

KAWER does not know anything about STEINERTH's background. He knows only that prior to his coming to Norway, STEINERTH worked in New York as a sort of clerk or messenger boy for the American Consulate.

tion. *KAWER* believes that *STEINSTEIN* has not traveled extensively and is possibly limited only to Mexico (when he studied in California) and Norway and Denmark.

KAWER knows *STEINSTEIN* only under this name and has never known directly or indirectly that *STEINSTEIN* could have used another name. He has seen an article written by *STEINSTEIN*, which was signed by "STEINSTEIN", but that seems to be only a spelling variation of the same name.

2) In connection with *STEINSTEIN*'s article on Cuba, *STEINSTEIN* visited the Cuban Legation. In this matter he met and got acquainted with the Cuban Charge d'Affaires, Gabriel CALIFORNIA, a very "intelligent and brilliant young man"; he is a very good linguist and knows English, French, Chinese, possibly some Japanese. *KAWER* himself was introduced to CALIFORNIA and has met him at least 3-5 times. Initially, CALIFORNIA and *KAWER* even planned to exchange some language lessons, but after two lessons their efforts petered out. CALIFORNIA, according to *KAWER*, is a 100% "ideologist", strongly anti-American, but has some reservations concerning the Russians and Communism, at least in his utterances towards *KAWER*. The nature of contacts between CALIFORNIA and *STEINSTEIN* is not really known to *KAWER*. He does not believe that *STEINSTEIN*, who *KAWER* judges as a rather independent person, performs any particular services for CALIFORNIA and doubts very much that *STEINSTEIN* gets any money from CALIFORNIA. As stated before, *STEINSTEIN*'s material situation is very poor. The only material guarantee he has is an assurance from his parents that they will pay his passage back to the United States.

KAWER stated that *STEINSTEIN* plans to return to the United States within 1-2 months. He will probably go to New York.

3) According to *KAWER* who is aware of the fact that *STEINSTEIN* resides in Denmark without a residence permit, the only known reason for *STEINSTEIN*'s coming first to Norway and then to Denmark was his desire to be with his girl friend (Tulla ZEMANOVIC). At one point, *STEINSTEIN* told *KAWER* that since he was planning to go back to the United States pretty soon, it did not really matter whether he had or had not a residence permit. In short, vis-a-vis *KAWER* *STEINSTEIN* represented his illegal residence as a case of personal negligence and indifference and as purely connected with personal reasons.

4) Summarizing the somewhat impressionistic data on *STEINSTEIN*, *KAWER* stated that he considers him to be "quite progressive", but not necessarily Communist. On the other hand, *STEINSTEIN* is not a type to have his soul easily and though *KAWER* has been knowing him for quite some time, he cannot make the claim to know him well. However, *KAWER* does not believe that *STEINSTEIN* is on any one's pay roll.

5. General Remarks

a) *KAWER* discussed *STEINSTEIN* fairly frankly and without any visible mental reservations, but he obviously did not provide a complete

picture of the man and their relationship. In all fairness to *KANTOR* he is not a good reporter in general, is not a very keen observer, and is not always able to concentrate on the topic at hand. But from the tenor of the interview and *KANTOR*'s total lack of any serious or relevant questions, it seems probable to assume that the questioning concerning *SMIRNOV* did not bother him personally. He does not seem to have any gift of insight concerning his relationship with *SMIRNOV* and it is very unlikely that the latter has been cultivating *KANTOR* on behalf of the KGB, if it is assumed that *SMIRNOV* has his contacts.

b) *KANTOR*'s financial status has not been clarified completely, but the gift of \$100,000 from his father in connection with *KANTOR*'s wedding and impending departure from Denmark does not seem to be unusual. In *KANTOR*'s description of his father's business, the latter has a small enterprise and is certainly not a wealthy man, but he has some modest means and savings.

6. Final instructions:

a) *KANTOR* asked for instructions for the event of a contact by the Soviets and was told that if such contacts and attempts of contacts should occur in the United States, he would have to contact the FBI immediately.

Arthur J. Ramey