

TO : Chief, Security Support Division Date: 17 October 1960
 ATTN : Fred Rucci, IR-1
 FROM : Acting Chief, Interrogation Research Division
 SUBJECT: COBB, Viola June IRD#: 40431

RETURN TO CIA
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IDENTIFYING DATA

1. Subject of this report is a thirty-three-year-old female American citizen born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, in August 1927. Subject was previously interviewed on 7 June 1960 under unsatisfactory conditions in that there was not sufficient time to interrogate Subject on reactions to specific questions.

2. During the interview with Subject on 7 June 1960, she constantly supplied voluminous information regarding many personalities in Cuba and in the United States, all of whom were involved in the present Cuban situation. It was felt by the interrogator that Subject, because of her position in Cuba, associates, and maneuvers, as well as her emotional feelings for the Cuban people and her stated strong belief and love of Fidel Castro's 26th of July Progress, would undoubtedly be a Security risk if another interrogation and polygraph testing could not be afforded.

3. It was agreed by all concerned, after review of the entire interrogation of Subject, that there were many present and future Security ramifications involving Subject and that as much investigation and research as possible would be done and plans would be made for the undersigned to reinterview and interrogate Subject.

4. Before Subject departed in June to return to Cuba, she was advised that the United States Government would no doubt want to talk to her at a later date and that she would be advised as to how to go about this. She was also advised that should she see a need to return to the United States she should do so and was given a means of contact with the appropriate officials on her return to the United States. On 16 September 1960, Subject made the decision to return to the United States. She obtained a two-month leave of absence without pay from her superior, Mr. Juan CRITA (NR/IRD), whom she gave the understanding that she was coming to the United States to see her father and for a rest. When Subject arrived in New York, she was contacted by JIARC representatives.

5. Arrangements were made for Subject to be interrogated by the undersigned and polygraphed at a covert site in Boston, Massachusetts, on or about 11 October 1960.

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DETAILS OF THE REPORT

1. Subject was interviewed on the 11th and 12th of October in Boston, Massachusetts. During the afternoon of 11 October 1960, Subject was interviewed during which time the following pertinent information was obtained. Subject began by advising the undersigned that she was most concerned about what she felt was a breach of security regarding herself and gave the following information.
2. Subject advised that one Diana ALEXANDRIA (NR/IRD), 120 East 72nd Street, New York City, New York, made contact with her sometime during the end of September. Subject stated that Diana had obtained Subject's telephone number from the LORENZ family and, upon obtaining her telephone number, called Subject. Contact was made with Diana by Subject; and since that time, they have had several social engagements with each other. During these associations with Diana, Subject was advised by Diana that she had a male friend who was seeing her frequently that worked for CIA. This male friend, Dick DANIELS (NR/IRD), had told Diana that June COBB was a very questionable person in the eyes of CIA and that if Diana should have contact with June COBB she should be very careful of her. Subject advised that Diana further stated that DANIELS was apparently in love with her and that an intimate relationship was in progress. DANIELS was inviting her, Diana, on occasions to his home in Connecticut. Diana further advised that this relationship between she and DANIELS had resulted in DANIELS obtaining a secretarial job for her with the welfare organization, MERRICO.
3. Subject stated that upon hearing this information she was quite concerned and reported this information to her case officer, "Aunt Elizabeth." Approximately two days later, Subject saw Diana again and she advised Subject that she had received a telephone call from Dick DANIELS accusing her of blabbing too much because he had received a telephone call from Washington reading the riot act to him for having told Diana about June COBB.
4. As a result of this, Subject is confirmed in her own mind that she is in touch with CIA. Up to this time, Subject had only assumed that it was CIA that was in contact with her. Subject, in essence, stated that to her way of thinking this was very poor Security on the part of CIA and she was amazed that such an incident as this could happen. Further information and details regarding this specific incident are subject of recording and can be reviewed for more details.
5. Subject advised the undersigned of another incident that has caused her great concern. This incident involves Estelle SKOLOV (NR/IRD), secretary for Doctor I. SNAPPER (NR/IRD), living at the Barbison Plaza Hotel

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in New York. Doctor I. SHAPPIR is a very dear friend of Subject's. He is approximately 70 years of age. Subject stated that she deeply loves Doctor SHAPPIR and his wife and has considered them as second parents. Since Subject's return to New York in September, Estelle SKOLOV has seen Subject and advised her that she had been interviewed by representatives of the FBI in their offices located at 69th and 3rd Street, New York City. SKOLOV was interviewed once in February and the second time sometime thereafter. Estelle, referred to by Subject as Sasha, advised Subject that the FBI man interviewing her told her that June COBB was a dope addict, a Communist, and involved in an abortion racket. Subject stated that during her visit in June 1960 she had attempted to contact Doctor SHAPPIR and found him very aloof. He later told her that he did not want to have anything to do with her. Since this contact in June, Subject has attempted to determine why this very dear friend no longer wanted to see her. Since Subject's arrival in September, she has attempted to see Doctor SHAPPIR, but he still refuses to have anything to do with her. As a result of the information that Estelle SKOLOV has revealed to Subject, Subject now knows the reasons why Doctor SHAPPIR will have nothing to do with her. Subject is most disturbed and put out as a result of this incident and insists that steps be taken to rectify the defamation of her character; or, at any rate, to confirm in Doctor SHAPPIR's mind that she is not considered by the United States Government a person as described by the FBI. As a result of these two incidents, Subject has stated that before she can agree to return to Cuba she wants the records straightened not only to her own satisfaction but to mainly reestablish her reputation with Doctor SHAPPIR and also confirm in her father's own mind that she is attempting to perform a vital service for the United States Government.

6. During the interview, Subject submitted voluminous information regarding personalities, FI, CP, and FM topics. These matters have been orally reported to Mr. [Clare] [SINERIS] of WH/4. The items mentioned above are submitted because of their Security ramifications. The other operational information gleaned from Subject will be the subject of a separate report and appropriately distributed.

7. Subject was given polygraph testing beginning at 1400 hours on 12 October 1960. During the polygraph interview the following questions were presented to Subject, discussed, and then polygraphically presented to her.

Test #1

40. Is your true name Viola June COBB?
41. Were you born in the state of Oklahoma?

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42. Were you born in the month of August?
43. Were you born in the year 1927?
44. Is your father's first name Jasper?
45. Do you believe in World Communism?
- 45a. Do you read Communist literature?
46. Would you support Communism in the United States?
47. Would you do anything for Communism to arrange the downfall of the United States Government?
48. Are you a Communist?
49. Do you believe in the basic theories of Communism?
50. Does any Communist in Cuba have control over you?
- 50a. Did you ever indicate to COLLINS you worked for American Intelligence?

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60. Other than with the United States Government, have you ever worked with any intelligence organization?
61. Have you ever served a Soviet or Satellite intelligence service?
62. Did you ever receive intelligence training?
63. Other than with us, do you have any intelligence connections you do not want to tell me about?
64. Are you an intelligence agent for anyone?
65. Are you an intelligence agent for anyone in Cuba?
51. Do you know and understand the basic theories and principles of Communism?

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Test 2

70. Have you attempted to hide any of your personal history from me?
71. Have you deliberately given us any false information?
72. Have you deliberately given us any false information about your life?
73. Have you reported to anyone in Cuban intelligence about your contacts with us?
74. Have you advised any representative of the Cuban Government about your contacts with us?

Test 3

80. Since age 13, have you ever engaged in sexual activity with women?
81. To your knowledge, have you committed any undetected crimes?
82. Have you ever received psychiatric advice?
83. Did you ever use narcotics?
84. Have you ever been a dope addict?

8. During polygraph testing, Subject had this interrogator stop the test to advise him that she could not answer this question (701) truthfully without first explaining two things. First Subject admitted that she had at some time in the past, the date she cannot specifically recall, filled out forms in the Department of State in which she had sworn that she lost her first passport. Subject stated that she did not lose her first passport; she still has it in her possession. She stated that she wanted to keep it for a souvenir and that when she went to the Department of State to report her loss of a passport she had a close friend with her. She said that she felt it would be most embarrassing when the Department of State representative said will you please fill out those forms confirming the statement that you lost your passport if she had refused to do so in front of her friend. She stated that this is the reason why she falsified her statement.

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9. Subject advised that the second thing which she had done and is probably an undetected crime is giving, as she reported in her previous interview, a copy of her birth certificate in the name of Viola COBB to her close friend and associate, ROGALBA, whom Subject has previously mentioned. At this point, Subject advised that as a matter of fact the day that Subject arrived in New York in September at the custom's point she entered the United States as Jane COBB. Subject stated that a few days later she learned to her amazement that ROGALBA had also arrived in New York at the same custom's point at the airport under the name of Viola COBB. ROGALBA told Subject that the custom's inspector had questioned her as to whether or not she had a sister since another COBB had also arrived that same day.

10. Subject was instructed to obtain this birth certificate from ROGALBA immediately upon her return to New York and also to submit the original passport which she claims she has lost to Aunt Elizabeth as soon as possible.

11. During the testing, Subject stopped the test when confronted with the question: "Have you told ROGALBA anything about your contacts with us that you should not have told her?" Subject stated that on her day of departure from New York to meet Aunt Elizabeth at the airport she was under emotional strain because of the Doctor HANFMAN incident and because of her father's feelings and because, shortly after a phone call from Aunt Elizabeth, she was questioned by ROGALBA by a statement "I didn't know you had an Aunt Elizabeth." Subject came back at her in a fit of temper stating "Oh Damn it, you know I don't have an Aunt Elizabeth. Please leave me alone and don't question me any further." Subject feels that as a result of this emotional indiscretion, she has indicated to ROGALBA beyond a shadow of a doubt that she is dealing with American Intelligence. This is also based on the fact that in June, when Subject was first in the United States, she, ROGALBA, and L. AQUINO attempted to evaluate who was trying to interview Subject. It was the considered opinion of the three that it must be CIA and that Barry was a representative of CIA.

CONCLUSION

1. It is the opinion of the undersigned that Subject has not and is not serving Soviet or Satellite Intelligence organizations; that she is not serving intelligence organizations of Cuba; and that she has not revealed her associations with members of this Agency to members of the Cuban Government or Intelligence Service.

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2. With reference to her sympathies or beliefs in the theories or principles of Communism, it was established during the interview that Subject does not study nor does she make it a point to read Communist periodicals or publications. She was asked specifically: "Do you know and understand the basic theories and principles of Communism?" Subject answered that she did not, and it is believed that this is a truthful answer. Subject did admit, however, that Castro's famous dissertation "History Will Absolve Me" was basically the inspiration for her to go to Cuba and do what she is doing today. It is, therefore, indicative that Subject's intellectual vein is most sympathetic in this direction. It is felt that Subject is not a member of the Communist Party; that she is not a Lesbian, in support of this there is not any indication that she has ever engaged in homosexual activity; and that she is not a dope addict nor has she ever indulged in the use of narcotics.

3. It is not believed that Subject has committed any serious undetected crimes other than she has mentioned in the details above; that she is attempting to deliberately hide any information about her past; that she has ever received any intelligence training; and that she is an intelligence agent for any foreign government.

INTERROGATOR'S COMMENTS

1. Inasmuch as the undersigned has been requested by Mr. ⁰³ [Simmons] of JMARC to provide guidance and consultation to Mrs. Pearson of his staff during the contacts that have been made by her in the United States, the following comments are submitted for whatever value they may be worth.

(1) It is felt that Subject will be considered by the Castro Government as an attempt of American penetration into their circles should she return to Cuba. This opinion is based on the previous suspicions by the GR in Cuba of her activities - the recorded long-distance telephone calls in Cuba made to her and by her between her and Henry.

(2) The utilization of a telegram from her father from New York City in May or June 1960 requesting her to come to New York when her father never left Ponca City, Oklahoma. In other words this arrangement was not appropriately backstopped for any possible questioning or surveillance by the Cuban Intelligence.

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(3) The recent revelation by Subject that certain associates of hers in New York City assure she is in contact with CIA. The persons knowledgeable of this information are in direct contact, as the interrogation will reveal, with supporters of Fidel and the present Cuban Government, and there is no way to insure that this information is not or will not be in the hands of the Cuban Intelligence at this time. It is believed that a thorough evaluation of Subject's motivation, ideals, and concern for the Cuban people as well as her strong belief in Fidel's original "History Will Absolve Me" would indicate that Subject is highly susceptible to the Communist propaganda line; and, in her present frame of mind, she should be considered a person whose beliefs and ideals are far to the left and could be, unknowingly to her, a staunch follower and supporter of Communism. Because of this, it is further believed that Subject could be used as a tool of the Communists without her knowledge to achieve their means.

Ralph C. Trus

CR/IRD/RCF:als

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