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Contact

1 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel  
 ATTENTION : John K. Greenoy  
 SUBJECT : Mitchell Livingston Werbell III  
 REFERENCE : OCC 74-0844 dated 24 February 1976

A 127900

1. A review of DCD records indicates that Mitchell L. Werbell III was an occasional contact and source of this Division from 26 July 1959, when he first initiated the contact, until March 1971. It appears from our records that all of the contacts were at Werbell's volition and that at no time was he viewed as a particularly useful or reliable source. Werbell did provide unsolicited information which was reported by DCD in seven foreign intelligence information reports. In January 1976 DCD responded to a Freedom of Information inquiry from Werbell. Copies of the documents released to him are available from the DDO/PIC.

2. After meeting with Werbell at his own request in July 1959 the Chief of the Miami Field Office noted in a Memorandum for the Record that little credence could be placed in anything Werbell said. During succeeding contacts Werbell provided information which resulted in the following reports:

- a. Photographs of Cienfuegos Harbor, Cuba (1965)
- b. Dope and arms running, Dominican Republic (1965)
- c. Planned coup in Guatemala (1966)
- d. Political, economic, military situation in Dominican Republic (1966)
- e. Planned invasion of Haiti (1966)
- f. Planned invasion of Haiti (1966)
- g. Venezuelan request for arms (1967)

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3. In 1966 Werbell reported through our Miami Field Office on an effort by his own group to assassinate Fidel Castro. Our records do not indicate what was done about this information.

4. Also in 1965-1966 Werbell pressed for CIA assistance to his "Organization to Combat Communism." He provided a table of organization. In January 1966 Werbell hinted that he might meet with some other CIA representative in Washington, DC.

5. In 1967 Werbell reported on a possible attempt on the life of a Middle East diplomat while in the US. Werbell had received this information from a Chet Gray of Los Angeles. This information was passed to the FBI.

6. In 1971 Werbell's DOD security clearance was revoked, and he asked DCD for help. He was told that we could do nothing for him. At this same time Werbell was told that under no circumstances should he attempt to collect any information on behalf of DCD. He agreed but said he might be in touch with us again. In fact this was the last contact with Werbell.

7. Our records indicate that Werbell has a note from former DCI William Colby, a note resulting from a meeting of former OSS people, and that Werbell had attempted to use this note to promote his schemes.

8. In 1974 DCD provided information about one of Werbell's schemes to the FBI for dissemination. This information was not obtained from Werbell but from a person who knew Werbell. The information concerned a plot supported by Werbell to gain control of the island of Abaco in the Bahamas.

9. This same information and some earlier information from the same source mentions Colonel Robert Bayard (U.S. Army-retired) as an associate of Werbell's. DCD has not had contact with Bayard.

JACKSON R. HORTON  
Chief, Domestic Collection Division

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