

AMLASH/1

28 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with AMWHIP/1, New York City, 20 August 1964

1. Meeting Time/Place/Purpose. This meeting was held in the offices of AMWHIP/1 from 1200 until 1430 and from 1815 until 2000 on 20 August 1964. The purpose was to discuss MHAPRON matters and to brief him for his coming trip to Europe and the expected re-contacts with AMLASH/2 and UNSNAFU/19.

2. Details of Meeting.

a. "El Mago" ROBRENO. According to ROBRENO's father who is presently living in exile in New York City, EL MAGO is presently living in Madrid at Pension HISPANA, Ave. Jose Antonio 44, Plaza del Callao; telephone No. not known. A/1 will go Madrid to see EL MAGO on MHAPRON rqsms, and then take him to Paris for a few days, if he is willing. (EL MAGO should be useful for gleaning information from the Embassy types while in Paris.)

b. Jewelry Deal. According to AMWHIP/1, there have not been any transactions since the initial ones of 300,000 and 10,500 in June 64. He had expected to receive a packet of jewelry per month worth ca. 50,000 dollars. A/1 also wrote some time ago (June 64) to UNSNAFU/19, but has not received an answer to date. It is not known at this time whether the lack of further jewelry packets is just poor administrative procedures on the part of the Cubans, or whether perhaps A/1 is suspect for some reason by the Cubans. This should be resolved when next A/1 meets with U/19.

c. FAL Equipment. A/1 stated that he felt one of the first things EL MAGO would ask him was about the FAL equipment which AMLASH/1 has requested. A/1 was told that the silencer for the FAL did not exist and that it probably was not feasible to attempt to adapt a make-shift one, according to weapon authorities. The matter of a telescopic sight was

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not discussed. A/1 was told that special equipment for a rifle such as the FAL was difficult to procure as the weapon was designed primarily as a general-purpose combat weapon, not for special tasks. A/1 then asked about the possibility of purchasing a special weapon in Europe and have EL MAGO take it back with him. He was told that such special rifles (probably for hunting big game) were undoubtedly available in Europe, but that this did not solve the biggest problem of how to get it into AMLASH/1. He was told that such a gun or any part of it would undoubtedly be highly suspect if EL MAGO tried to bring any such items into Cuba. It is apparent, however, that this topic will continue to be one of concern to all persons connected with the AMLASH/1 operation until it is resolved. Perhaps the best bet would be to level with AHLASH/1 at the next meeting and tell him that such equipment will not be forthcoming from KUBARK or ODYOKE sources, together with the reasons why not.

d. Acquisition of Cuban Pesos. A/1 stated that he had called Ricardo BORDO's son in Philadelphia several times (confirmed by telecons earlier between undersigned and A/1 in New York) but that in each case, the son had stated that he had received no packages from his father from Mexico during the latter's last time in that city. A/1 thought this indeed strange. The undersigned opined that perhaps it was difficult to obtain pesos today due to the stringent currency controls now in force in Cuba. We suggested to AMWHIP/1 that he not pursue this problem with BORDO further, as any over-zealous efforts on his part to obtain the currency might come to the attention of the Cuban authorities. Of course, if BORDO does produce the pesos at a later date (with no additional prompting from A/1), they will be readily accepted.

e. Eduardo PERNAS. A/1 ^{not so. He is a wife - told} stated that he believed long-time Comme Vincentina Antuna was the mistress for many years of Eduardo PERNAS, a jeweler acquaintance of A/1's who owned (until intervened several weeks ago by the Castro government) part of the jewelry firm of Pernas Gomez y Cia (Consulado) located on the corner of San Miguel and San Rafael Sts, Havana. PERNAS also had a store in Mexico City. According to A/1, PERNAS is now out of Cuba in Mexico, and should have some interesting information to provide, since he was so close to ANTUNA for many years. PERNAS can be reached at his store, Plaza de la Constitucion 7, Mexico City, telephone No. 13-32766. (Bqs traces on one Eduardo PERNAS, possibly identical with above PERNAS are attached.)

PERNAS is originally of Spanish nationality. This lead has been passed to the ~~WHITMAN~~ shop for follow-up. A/1 stated that he believed PERNAS's business was protected from intervention up to this time through the intercession of ~~VENTUNA~~ (AMNHIP commented that his business along with those of most of his friends suffered their fate quite some time ago.)

CI's action taken

f. Raymundo TORRES ("El Guajiro"). TORRES called A/1 from Mexico City with a message from AMLASH/1 for A/1 (see below). At that time, TORRES out from Cuba on a trip, was staying at the Hotel Guardiola, Ave. Madero and San Juan de Letran, phone 218580. Later he moved to Hornes 74, Apt 304, Mexico, D.F. A/1 stated that TORRES was all right and apparently was trusted enough by AMLASH/1 to deliver an innocuous message and letter, the latter being not so harmless. A/1 stated that TORRES was given to drinking and took dope upon occasion. (No identifiable traces on TORRES).

g. AMLASH/1. LASH sent A/1 the accompanying letter mailed by TORRES from Mexico. The text is self-explanatory. It has been decided that there would be too much room for suspicion if KUBARK tried to have LASH invited to the cited National assembly of Surgeons. A/1 has an acquaintance with one Manuel RODRIGUEZ, who was in 1959 a medical student and President of the Mexican F.E.U. He suggested that if he could locate RODRIGUEZ, he might be able to have him formally invite AMLASH to the Assembly, as the latter desires. A/1 has not seen RODRIGUEZ (on whom there are no identifiable traces) for about three years, but believes that there is no risk in attempting to locate him and asking this favor. It is perhaps worth the effort, although admittedly it is a long shot. It should be noted that RODRIGUEZ's father is believed to be a communist, but that, according to A/1, RODRIGUEZ is not. (This would actually not be a problem, providing RODRIGUEZ believed that he was just doing a favor for A/1 who desires to see his old friend LASH.) The note added to LASH's letter from "Marzo" is from Marcelino ARTIME Vega, who was used as a cut-out for mail between LASH and A/1 prior to the October 62 Crisis. MARZO is a former phys. Ed instructor in the Batista era, and is presently employed at Los Hermanos store selling jewelry. He is trusted by LASH and A/1, needless to say.

3. There were no incidents of a security nature which came to the attention of the undersigned. A/1 will be contacted telephonically concerning arrangements and advice on the AMLASH/1 letter. If necessary, a personal meeting will be arranged prior

to A/1's departure for Europe the weekend of 29 August.

William E. Wainwright
WE/SA/EOB

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