

JFK BOX 29
FOLDER 16

Beth Lichtenfels

0003416

SECRET

(1)

July 3, 1978

DDO Moore J. Winston - Base Docs

Spec TSINGTHO - Intel I ["Duck"]

11111401

Aug - Sep 1945

Transportation facilities in Tungtao District

DDO Charles, Bernard Joseph Base Docs

July 1968 Mem for the record

July Conversation w/ [EUMENS - 1]

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

Charles - Bernard J. Charles was released
on June 20 after paying a ransom of \$250,000
(Dr. Hactan Bour) (handprinted in)

Signed [Wilma R. Van Slyke]

Mc I

US I - Charles, Bernard J.

US Dept of Justice - ANS Miami Fla

Dec 29, 1966 - DORS 4/21/73

US address - Consulate General of Haiti, ^{Miami} Fla

July 17, 1966 - DORS - 1/13/66

US address - Haitian Consul NYC

May 3, 1967 - DORS 4/21/73

US address - Wall of Astoria NYC

Dec 4, 1966 - DORS 4/21/72

US address - Embassy of Haiti, Wash DC

USA Intel Info Cable Dec 19, 1966

Haiti, Mid Nov. 1966 Power Jockeying Among
[SECRET] Civil Leaders

source - [Haitian student - member of clandestine
Catholique action Prosocial Movement] Received

1043-10332

(1/25)

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(2)

following info from 4 different sources w/ access to opposition & pro-Duvalier circles including [Frang Leroy private secretary to agriculture & Minister Victor Kerver Constant]

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"Within Duvalier's entourage are 3 persons vying for power after the fall of Duvalier. They are Joseph Edmond Charles - President of Haitian bank of Commerce Louis Sesenor, Minister of Finance & Lucien Cambone Minister of Public Works. All 3 are outwardly pro-Duvalierist & there are no signs that they intend to try and overthrow Duvalier themselves.

Joseph E. Charles has the support of former assistant finance minister Louis Leger & Cyprien Charbonnetier Minister Victor N. Constant, plus that of several businessmen in Port au Prince.

16-8

July 21 1966

3939

Classified Message - Secret - Cite [Port au Prince]

[Excerpt - 1] reported July 19 following

from a high ranking palace source who claims obtained info from top palace personality that S. J. Charles traveled to Italy to arrange contact & payment of \$25,000 to [WOFACT] officer who keeping Duvalier informed re [WOFACT] plans for Haiti (word "word" added in)

SJS papers - 7/7/66

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US address - In transit

date & place of admission 6/28/66 NYC

Classified Message June 20 1966

Cdr. Claude Raymond, Sr. Roger Lefontant, Port au Prince Univ. Minister Leger & du Vallier's private secretary Pierre Beaubien applied US Consulate 17 June for transit visas for special mission to London. Pres requested 2 w/ stay US going to UK & 2 w/ stay on

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(3/RS)

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3

return trip demand Charles travelling as inspector
Haitian Embassy - Consulate separately Transit
visa for Trip to Europe.

Letter to Dir. of FBI
from: Dir. of Plans
Sub: Charles

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Reference is made to the IS-7 request form concerning
Subj. who entered US on 3 April 1966. The files of another office
of this Agency contain the following info more recent than
contained in TSC SDB - 312/00477-44 dated Oct 9 1964.
Sub: Inquirer re: the desirability of buying aircraft for
Haiti:

source (US national, ⁸ [40 yrs] exper. in ⁸ [tobacco
industry]) Charles was specifically referred to as Sub
banker & financial manager. Charles was regarded as
being very close to the power & having ready access
to Sub. Source describes CFC as croak & poor liar & not
to be trusted. In 1954 Charles was negotiator on behalf
of Haitian govt w/EC in England for modernization of
Haiti's telecomm system. As a result of this contract -
Haiti experienced a great political scandal - 4 million
dollar contract delivered 1 million worth of goods.
Charles was also pres of Haitian Banana Corp. org
operated by Eric Dupontaur & Col Prosper - went
bankrupt. Charles headed Esprit Oils Co former
agent of Louis de Joux. Charles principal ^{assistant} ~~partner~~ in
tobacco industry was Henry Sclaitt who was dir
of Haitian Tobacco Monopoly. Is believed to be
Charles' hatchet man - in verification.

ANS - 4/11/66

US address - Haitian Cons. NYC

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(2/RS)

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Info report - CIA. # 000-324/0631-66

Sudy Charles

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Source [US National, sales rep for [US Tobacco] manufact.]

Through attempts to establish business connections, ^{in Haiti} source learned that a reportedly privately owned tobacco co known as Le Tabac Haitien - SA is directed by CJC a bench Haitian who also happens to be Pres. of Commercial Bank in Haiti. This cigarette manuf. firm is direct descendant of long defunct Haitian - Amer. Tob. Co. Le mas ego - Le Tabac began ordering mod. quantities of leaf tobacco & providing letters of credit to pay for it. First encounter of Charles, ^{subject} attempted to enlist source's principal's financial assistance to the sum of \$300,000 deferred the offer. Offered resume.

1946 - appt. controller General of Danana Seed Co. of which he became Gen Agent in 1948.

1953 - went to London as a Member of Econ Mission sent to Eng by Haitian Govt & reg. in 1954 a contract of GE in Country.

1957. appt. member of Econ Mission to Brit's conf. held in Brussels.

1960 - Created Banque Commerciale d'Haiti of which he is Pres. & dir. Gen. Also pres. of 17 other firms he headed.

Is exclusive agent for GE Country & General Shareholder A.C. - formerly Pres. of Chamber of Commerce of Haiti.

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Sales - List of Courses

Sales of American - San Fran 1st Nat of Boston
First Nat. City Bank - NY Boston
Miami Hannon's Trust NY Pa. Am - Miami
Living Trust NY SECRET France, Switz, also

(PS)

INS 2-13-66

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(4)

US address - Haitian consulate NY

INS - 12/13/64 same -

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Classified Message - Nov. 10 1964

DeM mail intercepted announcing death of Antonio Sabonovic in Puerto

re: ref B see also [27] [147PA] 359 index, at least social contact between ^{Mohammed} Fayad, DeM + Polish rep Galecki

CIA Info Cable Oct 9 1964 Inquires re: possibility of buying aircraft for Haiti.

Place + date acquired - US, Miami Oct 7, 1964

Source - US citizen who operates bus in Haiti where he enjoys friendship of many military + govt. leaders + who is a former military officer + a trained reporter.

"On or about Oct 3 1964 the Aviation Investors Co of Fort Lauderdale, Fla, received an inquiry about the possibility of buying a C-119 aircraft for the Colombian govt. The call was made by Raymond (not further ID) to Saunders U. Roberson, an aviation investors co employee, who agreed to investigate the proposed aircraft purchase.

On Oct 5 Roberson received a telephone call from a man who ID himself as "Clash" (phonetic). re: possible purchase of a P-51 aircraft ostensibly for the Colombian govt, but it was actually intended for Haiti. Roberson agreed to meet w/ "CLASH" at the Congress Bldg in Miami to discuss both purchases.

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Source comment: Roberson is a Caucasian born 1917 who once attempted sugar neg in Haiti, where he became known to several Haitian Govt. officials including CJC. Field comment: Another source previously reported that Charles had unsuccessfully attempted to buy a F-28 aircraft in Arizona

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(RS)

Dr. Transfer + Cross Ref.

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April 24, 1964

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Charles has influence of Duvalier + reportedly ~~is~~ is closely allied with the deM's in their activities in Haiti.

See Transfer

May 21, 1963

Sub. has returned to Haiti + is seriously being considered as next pres.

Items May 17, 1963

At CIA request on May 14, 1963, P/S Balog had a farewell interview w/ Haitian banker. Took place at "Shell" room at Park Sheraton Hotel in NY. Charles produced a letter from Wm. Felix Wasserman (40 WALKER ST. NY) addressed to Humphrey ^{H.H.} According to Charles Wasserman + HH are good friends. It was a letter of introduction for Charles. Due to critical period of Haitian relations w/ Castro + that the Admin. might begin to look for men w/ Charles' ability. Charles was unable to make another trip to DC to see HH. He asked his friend + business partner, Joe Dwyer, Tampa to present ~~Wasserman's~~ ^{Wasserman's} letter to HH. Offered to cooperate w/ US Cont. "Three" one of Captain's "Balog friends".

Charles' career except Charles was a former ambassador of Haiti to US. No promises were made concerning his offer. Signed, Jay B. Lee

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May 10 1963 Memo

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April 29 1963 - Donach Mattack, Somestri Espl. Ltrm ACS1 telephoned to the effect that a banker named Charles had left Haiti 6 days earlier - had just arrived in NY.

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Joseph Dyer had written to Gen Delmas commencing CJC to the US govt.

Mattack alerted Col Jim Kair in Miami to contact Dyer for > info on background of CJC.

May 1 1963 Mattack advised CJC staying at Park Sheraton NY & had called since her name had been supplied to him by Dyer. CJC had appts to see LBJ, Sen Keating & Cong Rogers. CJC willing to talk to reps of Mattack's office. Mattack said Haitian desk man would go to CJC & invited CJC to go along. James Saloy accompanied NY office. Due to familiarity w/ French language.

May 2 1963 Dyer interviewed by Col Kair in West Palm Beach. Dyer had appt CJC as director of his bank in Haiti.

Charles wanted to see JFK & went to White House received by special appt. see.

May 3 1963 Saloy reported a 5 hour session w/ CJC. In obtaining background info. Copies of info sent to ACS1 w/ div. + Latin Amer Branch.

Meeting held w/ de M + CJC - (see prior notes) in course of conv. CJC desired to see Mr. Wise (State AID) to discuss US aid to Haiti. Request passed along to State. Mr. Rogorski had called her back to pass along to the Haitian desk man's extreme displeasure that anyone in the US would be in official contact w/ CJC. Considered CJC shady, too close to de M. Mays Sturty decided w/ WIT division and as a result of meeting w/ CJC the DIPP Haitian desk had ~~SECRET~~ plans to contact.

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Wayne Nelson DD/P coordinator called on May 7 to
inquire concerning CJC. Said AC81 was concerned that
due to set up in appts to ~~see~~ ^{SECRET} CJC, charges might be
made that AC81 had ~~interfered~~ ^{obstructed} a CIA contact w/
Charles. Later said AC81 was satisfied with handling.

Mattack was of the opinion that W should play ball
w/ CJC. signed AF Czaykowski

11111408

Enclosed in open envelope "Plan for the Econ. Social Dev.
of Haiti" by CJC

Bendine - Purdeen - advisor to Banque Comm.
& to Mr. Charles (paternal father) Ours Choc paste
factory in Pa.P. (taken from Summary of Haitian
Hearing Co. by Gde M)

Booklet - Banque Commune d'Haiti w/ picture
of CJC 1963

DOB 4/21/23

Info report CIA May 10 1963 OOB - 3,260,765

source - 215 citizen former journalist

4 hour interview. CJC believes this is the
last chance for us to save Haiti.

List of personal supporters -

Clovis Desnoes - Sec of Commerce + Industry. + a
good friend - (in side page written - Ambrose I HARRVETT
(201-345-467) told the FBI in Nov 62 that Desnoes is
one of 2 card carrying Communists in Govt)

Tim Peret - Former Haitian military attache in DC
If CJC was not made president he would accept
Sec of Finance + Econ Affairs. Present Sec - Herve
Boyer has leftist tendencies (written in: HARRVETT
described Boyer as the 2nd card carrying commie known
to her)

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Quoted as saying "The tyrant (desnoes) may
be killed by the army" before 22, May 1963

May 9 1963 [Contact] Lt. SECRET

[WUBK 4/1] said that he had encountered CJC at Wash. Nat. Airt. ~~at~~ CJC was enroute to Chicago accompanied by G de M. although no explanation was given.

signed [Frank³ Stone]

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Memo of May 22, 1963 Report from Balog
CJC discussed by [redacted]

Memo May 24, 1963 from Balog or May 6, 1963
① Had private conversation w/ CJC. CJC wanted to deal w/ US officials w/out G de M. Feared any indiscretion would result in wife's death. Had just received promise from VP of Chan. Manhattan NYC for \$2 million loan to be used for construction of housing in Haiti.

② Bank in Port-au-Prince

VP LBJ suggested CJC discuss this matter w/ Edmund Wine, AD, State Dept. For purpose of consultation w/ Wine + a meeting of colleagues "friends of Col. Balog" Charles flew to DC on May 7.

Memo May 24, 1963 Report NY 2147-3 For OO-A(S)

Czykowski - Balog

The situation concerning CJC's activities is just as fluid as situation in Haiti. CJC advised us that his friend of Matlack (see what I mean by fluid?) had changed his travel plans to DC instead of Tuesday. He (Czykowski) now expects to be in DC Thurs or Friday. CJC indicated he would be willing to go to DC sometime this week. We asked to see him again this afternoon. Our meeting (the 3rd) since this week. He asked us to see him

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(2/RS)

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again this afternoon Our meeting (the 3rd since
last Thursday" is scheduled at 1930. Balog (5th Lt
Capt Balog US Army to Charles) will get in
touch w/ Stuntz re: telecon after Balog Charles
meeting

11111410

May 3 Memo from Balog NY-2128-3

At his request on May 3 1963 we had an additional
interview w/ CJC. He informed us he had received a
telephone call from (Joe) Dyer, Pa. Dyer said (CJ
he could not see him over the weekend but would
visit him in NYC next Wed May 8. Prior to
that Dyer plans to meet in DC Jacqueline
Selman 3130 P St, a friend of Matlack's to
discuss things of mutual interest to Haiti.
Then Met Gd M & wife

20 II Charles DDC from [Mittell]

[Secret Contact] NY. On May 20 1968 [James A.
[Brien] told us that (CJ is seeking help in raising
the required ransom (for his release from prison) from
[Brien] himself [James A. of B & B Inter. Corp] 42
[Brien] + Dyer [Brien] Dyer are meeting
during the evening of May 20 1968 after which
[Brien] will take Dyer to airport. Dyer is to fly to
Haiti on May 24 1968 [Brien] said Dyer is a friend
of the family of Joseph P. Kennedy

Charles was arrested on ~~May 11 1967~~ June 23 1967

Confid Memo May 20 1968 Charles uses pseudonym
"Jacoby" in his confidential corner 0003425

Letter from Charles to Matlack dated June 6 1967
Thanking her for her kindness in 1963

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requesting US assurance that the 2 forces (Castro + Salguier) will be properly neutralized + requests for kind cooperation
hand delivered the letter. [Mr. Louis Brun]

Charles stayed in Em. 522 Albar Tower in May 1963

Secret Memo - Phone Call June 27 1967

code used by [CQC + Brun⁵]

Beel + Co - "Major Salgo + DOD

1st Nat. City Bank NY - US Govt

11111411

D & Co - Jerome Matlack

Howard Corp - Col ~~the~~ Burres a former military aid to Pres Johnson

Business trans - help of US Govt to Charles

"... as far as business is concerned, I received at my home a rep of Beel + Co. I am very happy now I think we have no further worry ^{concerning} the business transaction. He accepted to sponsor the business transaction w/ D. & Co. The Howard Corp + other business enterprises. This is a very big success & I hope that w/ the assistance of the 1st City Nat. Bank we'll make rapid progress. After all our efforts will not have been in vain & our field of business activity will be enlarged."

Classified Message June 28 1967 from [Port au P. ¹⁶⁻⁸]

Charles' life in danger - relying on US govt to protect him. US flag flies over central office of Commercial Bank

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June 23 1967 Memo - Report from George M. ...

Another Matlack has now been put out of

the contact between DCS + [Mr. B. ⁵] (Resum)

[L.B. ⁵ - Louis Brun]

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(5/25)

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(12)

Yellow Paper Marked Secret: ~~Mr. Matlack~~ June 21 1967

Sub

Mr. Musulin DO called to say that Dorothy Matlack had called to inform him that she had reached [Mrs. B] that per instructions [Mr. B] would pass info of Matlack to Zelig in NY. Mr. Musulin said that from his conversation w/ her he believed Matlack wanted to be cut in on this activity & wanted to receive copies of any disseminations.

11111412

June 15 1967 5
Sensitive Memo - [Brun] Burris discusses events in Haiti. Burris who thinks highly of CJC told [Brun] he fully supports CJC's plans & he will see LBJ ASAP.

Memo for Record - June 15, 1967 Agency Contact w/ CJC

CIA contact w/ CJC ^{in US} dates back to May 1963 when he was ~~met~~ in his suite in Hotel Willard in Wash DC by a rep of WH dir. Since that time he has made every visit to the US an occasion to talk to some US official. Most persistent of his approaches have been made to DC/NY which he believes leads him to OSD. Has never offered any evidence that he has some thing going for him inside Haiti. Names he has furnished have meant little or nothing. No hard info has been produced. Fabrication in some cases is obvious. CJC is trying to coerce the US into supporting his present aspirations.

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ANS - 5/3/67

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US address - W 100th Astoria - NY

(JS)