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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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SUBJECTS : CHARLES, CLEMARD J

UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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AND AGREED TO BY THE ARRB, PER MEMO DTD 14 AUG 98.
1. Clerand Joseph-Charles was released from prison during the evening of 25 Apr 63 in return for a “rancé” of US $605 thousand.

2. Charles has been given until 24 May 63 to produce the US $605 thousand. This can must be in an irrevocable letter of credit on an American bank in favor of the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti. It has been indicated that the 24 May 63 deadline can be extended, should Charles experience any really unusual difficulties in producing the required money.

3. In order to obtain his release from prison, Charles had to sign a memorandum of understanding that he would produce the US $605 thousand plus some unidentified real property. These terms were agreed to by both Charles and his wife prior to the release. At the same time, Charles wrote a personal letter to President Duvalier asking for release and promising to hand over the money and property in question.

4. Charles is now under house arrest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

5. Charles’s immediate resources consist of about US $100 thousand in cash in two US banks (no additional data available), various homes, businesses (essential oils, an automobile dealership and others (no additional data available)), buildings, land, and about US $400 thousand worth of Haitian government bonds. He did have another US $300 thousand in personal funds in Haiti. He can no longer count on this money to help raise the US $605 thousand, however, because prior to his release from prison the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) confiscated it.

6. Charles has agreed to raise the US $605 thousand on condition that it be used to pay off legitimate claims of depositors in his Banque Commerciale d’Haiti. He has stated that he will permit the money to be paid out only to those depositors who are able to produce documentary proof that they had deposited funds in his bank.
7. Charles and several associates now propose to reorganize the Banque Commerciale d’Haïti, formerly his private preserve, into a corporate entity and to incorpo-
rate it in the US. The associates plan to raise US $500 thousand for this
new corporation. This sum will be separate from the US $50 thousand and will
serve to put the new banking corporation into business. Secretary of State and
at least five of the six directors of the corporation will be US citizens.
Two of the directors will be Charles himself and Louis Lortie.

8. President Duvalier is reportedly most interested in the new venture and is
anxious to see it succeed. He has finally realized that the economic situation
in Haïti has deteriorated so badly during the past 10 months that he must do
something before total bankruptcy occurs. Accordingly, President Duvalier wants
to improve his "image" in the eyes of the outside world, particularly in the US,
and by doing so hopes to attract investments and business activities from out-
side Haïti. He apparently hopes that the new, incorporated, Banque Commerciale
d’Haïti, will help attract such activity to Haïti and is therefore permitting
Charles to proceed.

9. (Collector’s Note: JFK Act 5 (g) (2) (D) described a possible recategorization in
the Haïtian government. This recategorization, sponsored by Duvalier, would
place Duvalier on the elevated plane of spiritual advisor and father of the
people and would, on the surface, at least, turn over to a president the day-
to-day management of Haïtian government affairs. Various names have been
mentioned for the position of president under the possible new system. The
name of Jean-Albert Foscard has recently been mentioned frequently in Haïti as
the possible new president under the rumored recategorization of the government.
Foscard is a son-in-law of Duvalier and lives in Haïti. He is in charge of
tourism. Some say that Duvalier listens to Foscard and is, to a degree,
influenced by him. I doubt this very strongly.

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