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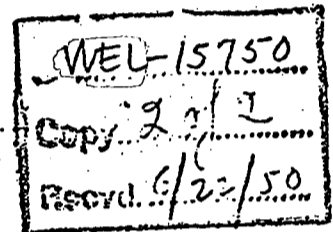
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Date of Information      See report

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Country :    MEXICO/U.S.A.

Subject :    Wilson Brown, American Dealer in Arms.



Remarks :    Our representative comments that "it is felt that a curb on BROWN's activities would be a major step in clearing up the arms traffic in MEXICO".

Source :    of report: Believed reliable  
              of Addendum: From several well placed sources whose reliability we have no reason to doubt.

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Mexico/U.S.A.Wilson BROWN,  
American Dealer in Arms.

1. Wilson BROWN, whose present address is the Hotel del Prado, MEXICO CITY, is a native born American, an ex-U. S. army administrative officer who has been involved in the purchase and sale of arms and aircraft in the Caribbean area for the past two years.

2. Wilson BROWN first came to MEXICO on the 19th February, 1948, and stayed at the CAJON HOTEL at various times until 4th May, 1948, when the management requested him to leave as he had created several unpleasant incidents in the hotel. During this time BROWN passed himself off as an airline executive connected with Eastern Airlines of 10, Rockefeller Plaza, NEW YORK CITY. It was learned BROWN had been a former assistant to the Public Relations Vice-President of Eastern Air Lines but had been discharged, before he ever came to MEXICO CITY. At a later date, Captain James FRICKE BACER, President of Eastern Airlines, denounced BROWN to a reliable source in no uncertain terms. It was also determined that the Eastern Airlines office in MEXICO had received a letter from a New York finance company which stated they had been informed that BROWN was employed by Eastern Airlines and that they would like to know BROWN's whereabouts as he owed them a considerable sum of money. After leaving the Hotel Cajon, BROWN moved to the "Hotel Maria Christina" where the manager stated he had great difficulty in obtaining the payment of bills. At this time he was living with a person whom he called Mrs. WILSON but who was found to be a Maria A. PARR, a Costa Rican, his mistress. BROWN must have been short of funds at this time because he passed several bad checks, but is believed to have made them good when faced with threats of jail.

3. Adolf SCHWEMMER, President of AVIACIONES INC., "Ingarran" front organization, with offices in NEW YORK, but operating chiefly in Central Europe and the Near East, is reported to have appointed BROWN the Company's Mexican representative in January or February, 1948. Soon after his arrival BROWN made contact with:

- (a) Francisco ESCOBAR de Lara, Mexican hotel owner and intimate of the President;
- (b) (Lt. Colonel) Xavier GONZALEZ Gomez, head of the Mexican Civil Aviation Department, and
- (c) Colonel, now Brigadier General Antonio CARDENAS Rodriguez, of the Mexican Air Force.

These contacts were made for the purpose of facilitating the purchase, transport and storage of arms and aircraft for "Ingarran".

represented interests in the UNITED STATES who were endeavouring to send food and other commodities to PALESTINE. BROWN described the interests as:

(a) Joseph RAUS, Suite 629, 1775 Broadway, NEW YORK.

(b) Samuel A. LICHTER, 570 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK... this man is believed to be the same person who purchased the ex-"Witt Clinton", ex-"Colonel Frederick C. Jones II" which was running between CITRUS and PALM BEACH as the S.S. "Kala Arlosoroff".

(c) Tom BRUNEL, 125 East 50th Street, NEW YORK.... BROWN alleged that BRUNEL had come to MEXICO and had guaranteed his expenses.

9. On the 25th February, 1949, a report was received that several Comandante C-45 aircraft from BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, were to be flown to MEXICO CITY so that Hank GREENSPAN and Wilson BROWN might pass them or sell them to a Jewish group for future delivery to PALESTINE but no confirmation that this deal took place was obtained.

10. During the early part of 1949 it was determined that BROWN was in contact with a group of Panamanians including Arnulfo AMAR, present President of PANAMA but then an exile in MEXICO. On the 22nd April, BROWN and a number of others were arrested in PANAMA for plotting to overthrow the government and BROWN was thrown into jail. While he was in jail, BROWN published his life story in a series of articles in the Panama City newspaper "El Sol". These articles confirmed his participation in the efforts to supply the Zionists with arms and his connection with AREAS. There was some suspicion that BROWN had been "planted" in the group by the U.S. Embassy in order that the AREAS plot against PANAMA might be exposed before it became dangerous. The U.S. Embassy in PANAMA stated that this was not the case and that they regarded BROWN as a highly unreliable character, with an excess sense of his own importance who became involved in the plot on the chance of making money. When the affair looked as if it might become dangerous, the American Embassy stated that BROWN gave the whole thing away to the Panama Police in order to save his own skin. However, the U.S. Embassy in PANAMA stated that the U.S. Embassy in MEXICO had previously been taken in by BROWN and had employed him as a contact man. BROWN was released from jail in PANAMA in late August, 1949, and went to TEXAS and later to NEW YORK.

11. In September, 1949, Maria AMAR, whom BROWN alleges he carried in PANAMA sometime between April and August, 1949, was determined to be living at the Mrs. L. HUNTER, MEXICO, D.F. It was learned that she had been engaged in the occupation of prostitute for a period of some months.

12. BROWN returned to MEXICO CITY from the UNITED STATES on the 4th October, 1949. He took up residence at the HOTEL DEL TRAJE and appeared to be in funds. Soon after arrival, BROWN made contact with a number of Venezuelan political exiles, known to be plotting a revolution against their native country. He was also in several contacts with Julio AMAR, member of the Caribbean Legion, arms dealer and adventurer.

13. While BROWN was in the UNITED STATES between August and October, 1949, he obtained the position of Mexican representative for the MAIL SHIPING COMPANY, I. S., 52 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY. BROWN came to MEXICO armed with a letter of introduction to Alfonso MARTINEZ GARCIA, Manager of the BANCO INTERNACIONAL, S.A., one of the four big banks of MEXICO. This letter dated 5th October, 1949, was signed by R. S. MANNING, Second Vice-President of the GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, 140 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY, and recommended BROWN to the Mexican bank, stating that he was the Mexican representative of their good clients the MAIL SHIPING COMPANY, 52 Broadway, NEW YORK.

14. Wilson BROWN wrote a letter from 3225 Rosedale Avenue, DALLAS, TEXAS, (posted in that city on the 10th August, 1949) to Captain Justiano RAYES, c/o Office of Colonel Carlos SERRANO, Comra de Senadores, MEXICO, D.F. This letter read as follows:

"I thought I would write you a note to say that I have returned to the United States from Central America during the past few days and that I plan to visit MEXICO CITY again soon.

"I plan to go to NEW YORK next week and will fly from there to MEXICO CITY around September 10th. We have organized a well financed promotional program for Mexico and I hope to establish an apartment for entertaining in MEXICO CITY, as well as an office there. In that way we will be on a much sounder, better financed basis and should be able to accomplish a great deal more. I am looking forward to working with you".

Hasta luego

(Signed) Colonel Wilson Brown.

Captain Justiano RAYES is a representative of Colonel Carlos SERRANO and was involved with BROWN, GREENSPAN and Colonel Russell RAYES in obtaining arms for the organization supplying arms to TALSTAD.

*Source?*  
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15. Between the months of October, 1949, and January, 1950, BROWN although interested in certain legitimate export business, was also in frequent contact with Brig. General Antonio CARDENAS Rodriguez and Captain Justiano RAYES Relano and various other members of the Mexican Armed Forces previously involved in clandestine arms deals. Over the same period of months BROWN and Julio LOPEZ Escobedo were seen together frequently, and in January, 1950, BROWN was observed in contact with both LOPEZ Escobedo and José Horacio CERRIGUENZ.

16. On the afternoon of 28th February, 1950, while in the MOTEL DEL PABLO bar, BROWN told a person, tentatively identified as "CASTRO", a Nicaraguan, that he was interested in the purchase of guns, ammo, etc., and that he was representing the MAIL SHIPING COMPANY. Source also understood BROWN to say he also represented "Zer Associates" and "International Fiscal or Fish Corporation". BROWN also told "CASTRO" he had been in charge of

/aircraft.....

aircraft procurement in WASHINGTON during the war, and that he and his principals had recently made a deal with COLOMBIA, whereby the latter bought twenty-five aircraft from the U.S.A. and that he and his partners were selling twenty-five old Colombian aircraft to ASIA, EUROPE and VENEZUELA. BROWN went on to say he was interested in making a deal whereby Central American air forces buy surplus aircraft, particularly fighters, from the U.S.A. and then sell him (BROWN) their old airplanes. "CASTILLO" was puzzled at first and did not understand. BROWN then said that for "political reasons in U.S.A." his principals were unable to sell aircraft directly to customers in ASIA, EUROPE, etc. "CASTILLO" then saw the light.

17. In April, 1950, information from a contact of a friendly source confirmed that Wilson BROWN was working with various groups of Mexican officials and other persons in efforts to obtain arms in the UNITED STATES and other countries for import into MEXICO and for later re-export. In one particular case, it was ascertained that Brigadier General Antonio CARDENAS Rodriguez was in the market for 50,000 rounds of 50 calibre machine gun ammunition on behalf of the Dominican Government who were finding it difficult to buy this ammunition in the UNITED STATES for their own accounts. The friendly source's contact stated BROWN was involved in this transaction and added that BROWN would act as a go-between. At the end of March, 1950, Wilson BROWN informed Colonel George CHAFFIN, Air Attache of the U.S. Embassy, that he had been approached by the Mexican Government and asked to join the Mexican Secret Service. Other sources have reported that this was nothing more than a manoeuvre on the part of CARDENAS R. and BROWN to cover exchanges of money in payment for service rendered in connection with the sale of arms.

18. On the 12th April, 1950, BROWN was observed to be in contact with a Francis W. MADON, an American citizen, said to be a former pilot officer in the "Flying Tigers" who is reported to have been involved in the Haganah supply ring, which operated in the UNITED STATES and MEXICO between March and August, 1948.

19. As previously noted, Wilson BROWN obtained employment in the fall of 1949 as Mexican representative of the DRAKE SHIPPING COMPANY, 52 Broadway, and it was believed that the company was unaware of BROWN's past. However, it is reliably reported that Robert DRAKE is fully aware of BROWN's past and is himself involved in the arms traffic. Several sources reported that Robert DRAKE and Maria ALVARO de BROWN, Costa Rican, alleged wife of BROWN, were lovers for a considerable time. It is said that in August, 1949, DRAKE put up the money to obtain BROWN's release from the MANA CITY jail where BROWN was incarcerated for taking part in an attempt to overthrow the Panamanian Government.

20. An informant has received information that the DRAKE SHIPPING COMPANY, 52 Broadway, NEW YORK, filed a petition of bankruptcy on the 6th March, 1950, and that on the 11th April, 1950, a judicial authority, presumably in NEW YORK, declared the Company bankrupt, as it had failed to file a bond to cover its debts. The management of the HOTEL DEL PRADO questioned BROWN about this bankruptcy on the 26th April as he owes them some three thousand pesos. BROWN claimed he represented the "International Division" of the DRAKE SHIPPING COMPANY, a separate company, and t  
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a subsidiary, the "domestic" LEASE SHIPPING COMPANY  
had gone bankrupt. The H tel decided to give BROWN  
a few days' grace.

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