

SECRET

MHFNO: 98-1283498

SENSIND: RYBAT

PAGE: 1

SECRET

FRP: 2

STAFF

ACTION: LA/MXO (912) INFO: LA/DEFLT, LA/LGL, LA/MXG, LA/MXSTB, LADORECORD, LIMITED, MDSX, ODPD, ORMS/LA, RYBAT, FILE, C/LA (2/W)

98 1283498 ASP PAGE 001 IN 1283498
TOR: 272121Z APR 98 MEXI 27976

S E C R E T 272129Z APR 98 STAFF

CITE MEXICO CITY 27976

TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR.

FOR: LIMITED DISSEM LA/MXO INFO LA/SA, LA/MXG

SLUGS: WNFNTEL RYBAT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RECONTACT OF LITAMIL/9 REQUEST FOR FILE REVIEW

REF: A. DIRECTOR 784515 98 1247758
B. MEXICO CITY 26721 98 0975333

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: PLEASE SEE PARA 6.

2. IN SUPPORT OF<JFK ASSASSINATION>REVIEW BOARD EFFORTS, STATION IS WILLING TO ATTEMPT RECONTACT OF LITAMIL/9 (T/9) TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REQUESTED REF A. HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT, ASSUMING REF B PARA 3 IS IDENTICAL TO T/9, HE IS AGING AND POSSIBLY EVEN BEDRIDDEN. THE ONLY FEASIBLE LOCATION FOR RECONTACT WILL BE HIS HOME, WHERE HE APPARENTLY LIVES WITH THE FEMALE WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE DURING 26 MAR 98 PRETEXT CALL, AND WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ALONE WITH HIM.

3. IN ADDITION, STATION BELIEVES THAT TO THOROUGHLY ANSWER ALL OF REF A QUESTIONS, THE OFFICER CONDUCTING THE RECONTACT SHOULD IDENTIFY HIMSELF AS A USG EMPLOYEE AND EXPLAIN THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT T/9'S NAME WILL BE EXPOSED IN AN UPCOMING *DECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE<JFK ASSASSINATION.> ASSUMING THAT TOROCKAWAY COMMITTED ITSELF TO KEEPING T/9'S NAME AND TOROCKAWAY RELATIONSHIP SECRET, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS ALLOW T/9 TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC BY ENGAGING IN A FRANK EXCHANGE ON CURRENT REVIEW BOARD PROCEEDINGS. WHILE POSSIBLY UPSETTING TO T/9, SUCH A DISCUSSION WOULD BEST ALLOW US TO DETERMINE ANY NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS ON T/9 HIS FAMILY, HIS PENSION AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, POSSIBLY RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE.

4. ALTHOUGH STATION DOES NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO RESPOND TO REF A QUESTIONS, WE SUSPECT THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE PENSIONS TO EXPATRIATES. EVEN IF THIS WERE THE

SECRET

SECRET

MHFNO: 98-1283498

SENSIND: RYBAT

PAGE: 2

CASE, STATION OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN HAVANA SEEM TO RECALL THAT THE STANDARD CUBAN PENSION IS CURRENTLY WORTH LITTLE MORE THAN SEVERAL DOLLARS PER MONTH. THEREFORE, ANY SEVERING OF T/9'S CUBAN PENSION WOULD NOT LIKELY HARM HIS FINANCIAL POSITION.

5. PER REF A QUERY REGARDING EFFECT OF T/9 EXPOSURE ON OTHER STATION OPERATIONS, WE DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO EXPLAINING TO ASSETS CURRENTLY ON THE BOOKS WHY THE NAME OF A FORMER--AND STILL LIVING--TOROCKAWAY ASSET WAS OFFICIALLY DECLASSIFIED BY THE USG, WHEN WERE DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THAT ASSET ON TOROCKAWAY'S BEHALF WOULD PERHAPS HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HQS IS SEARCHING FOR ADDITIONAL T/9-SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE AN ARGUMENT AGAINST DECLASSIFICATION OF T/9'S IDENTITY AND WE HOPE TO ASSIST IN THAT ENDEAVOR. HOWEVER, ON A BROADER SCALE, IF T/9'S IDENTITY AND ROLE WERE TO PROMINENTLY APPEAR IN THE MEXICAN PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY TO DECLASSIFICATION, AT THE LEAST WE WOULD EXPECT A MODERATE EROSION IN OUR ASSETS' CONFIDENCE THAT TOROCKAWAY IS ABLE TO PROTECT THEIR IDENTITIES. AS WE EXPECT OUR ASSETS TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP FROM THEIR SIDE OF THE EQUATION AND HAVE OFTEN MADE THIS A MATTER OF CONTENTION WITH ASSETS, SOME AGENT HANDLING PROBLEMS COULD ENSUE WERE WE TO APPEAR LESS THAN COMMITTED TO FULL PROTECTION OF THEIR IDENTITIES. FUTURE AGENT ACQUISITIONS COULD ALSO BE COMPLICATED BY THE DECLASSIFICATION OF T/9'S NAME, AS C/O'S WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO WORK THAT MUCH HARDER TO CONVINCING MEXICANS THAT WE CAN PROTECT THEIR IDENTITY FROM THE TYPICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN LOCAL PRESS.

6. REQUEST HQS COMMENT REGARDING NEED FOR RECONTACT OF T/9 AND REQUEST FILE REVIEW SO THAT WE WILL BE IN A FIRM POSITION FROM WHICH TO ENGAGE T/9. ALTHOUGH T/9 MAY NOT RECALL DETAILS OF ANY RECONTACT PLAN AFTER THE CONSIDERABLE TIME ELAPSED SINCE WORKING AS AN AGENT, PLEASE PROVIDE ANY DETAILS (I.E. ALIAS OF LAST HANDLING C/O) WHICH COULD SERVE AS BONA FIDES. FINALLY, REQUEST HQS PROVIDE EXPLANATION *OF EXACTLY HOW T/9 IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE <JFK ASSASSINATION> AS T/9 IS SURE TO PUT THIS QUESTION TO OUR OFFICER.

7. FILE: LITAMLL/9. DECL BY: 2147034 CL REASON: 1.5(C) DECL ON: X1; DRV HUM 4-82.

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

SECRET