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ELLIFF, JOHN
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FBI

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Curt Smothers

FM: John Bayly *JB*RE: Interview of Papitch, former FBI liaison with CIA
May 25, 1975

June 5, 1975

Mr. Papitch was interviewed by John Eliff in the presence of Burton Wides and myself in Room 607 of the Carroll Arms for about 4 hours.

He appears to be a reflective, ingenuous, and agreeable former FBI agent who has a considerable reservoir of experience and opinion. He was forthcoming and cooperative but stated firmly that he has considerable concern for Bloc Intelligence efforts and a great admiration for both the CIA and the FBI.

At the onset, he presented a brief history of the CIA's relations with the FBI and traced Hoover's suspicions regarding the CIA -- as well as his aloofness from it -- to a residual resentment which sprang from both Hoover's innate parochialism and the agency's recruitment of FBI personnel -- particularly those with Latin American backgrounds -- in the late '40's and early '50's. Papitch stressed more than once that Hoover was a solitary silent colossus who had his own sources and contacts and the best sense of political realities of any official in Washington.

Directed toward the matter of operations, Papitch mentioned that the FBI and CIA ordinarily undertook no joint efforts, and never co-operated on any electronic surveillance efforts. In this regard, Papitch contrasted the views of Belmont, whom he lauded, with those of Sullivan and DeLoach. Papitch also adverted to the difficult "grey" areas in which there was a confusion or duplication of jurisdiction with the CIA, and cited specifically the questions of penetration of foreign embassies and missions in this country as well as the recruitment of counter intelligence groups by CIA. (Papitch stated that he often refused CIA requests for CIA recruitment efforts.)

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Papitch reviewed the history of the Riha case and outlined how confusion led to Hoover's abrupt decision to terminate liaison with CIA. Papitch also adverted to CIA's concern in '68 or '69 that certain of its employees were being recruited by radical associations and thus CIA sought the assistance of the FBI.

Papitch also mentioned the following:

- 1) FBI had a San Juan, Puerto Rico, office as well as a Mexico City office.
- 2) An FBI agent went to the Dominican Republic during the 1965 crisis at President Johnson's direction to investigate.
- 3) Many problems arose from CIA's attempts to recruit Cubans in Miami and several squabbles developed from the conflicting interest of FBI and CIA.
- 4) On occasion CIA gave FBI "products" and "items of interest" derived from its mail opening operation in New York City.
- 5) Without exception, each and every American newsman in Moscow has been approached and attempted to be recruited by the KGB.
- 6) The CIA has provided the FBI information for criminal prosecutions, but never information which has tainted prosecutions.
- 7) Ober asked the FBI if the Bureau objected to the insertion of an Agency asset in a domestic dissident group so that the asset could obtain "credentials" for further foreign work. (Operation Lodestar) Papitch agreed but asked for the identity of the CIA "insertion".
- 8) In '69 an FBI source/asset went to Italy as a student although Papitch recommended transfer of the source/asset to the CIA.
- 9) Papitch has no recollection of Jane Fonda or Robert Vesco and only a hazy recollection of notional Marxist/Leninst groups and CIA funding of a \$2.9 million FBI operation in New York City (M-11-25(en)).

JB:dk

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