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MCT-15 REC-35

"X"

16th May, 1967.

1/14/96
Classified by ~~_____~~
Declassify on: OADR SF10

James HAWTHORNE

McAndrew
EAB/DFB
(INFO)

Please refer to my memoranda reference SF.52/5 of 9th February and 7th March 1967, and to your memoranda in reply dated 17th February and 2nd March 1967.

2. In view of the serious security implications of the allegations relating to plans to smuggle arms into the Bahamas from Europe, and the need to elicit the truth of these allegations, contact with HAWTHORNE was maintained both in the Bahamas and in Europe, which he visited again in March allegedly to make contact with those concerned with arms smuggling. He did in fact leave for Europe via the U.K. (where he was refused permission to land being already the subject of an exclusion order) on 21st March, some two days before (so I understand) your Miami Office notified the Bahamas Police that he is currently regarded as a fugitive.

3. During the course of his visit to Europe, he and his contacts have been subjected to an intelligence type investigation while at the same time contact has been maintained with HAWTHORNE for the purposes of determining the truth or otherwise of his story.

4. As a result of our investigations we are now satisfied that:

- (a) HAWTHORNE's story about arms being purchased in Europe for use in the Bahamas is without substance, and
- (b) HAWTHORNE did have some part to play in plans involving certain other U.S. as well as U.K. citizens to ship arms (within the letter of the law) to Central America with a purchase certificate to be provided by the Nicaraguan Government, and possibly for trans-shipment elsewhere. This deal is believed to be worth 4,000,000 dollars, and no doubt HAWTHORNE and his American contact, Samuel BENTON (at present in London) hoped to make a handsome profit themselves.

MI-5

MAY 17 1967

5. HAWTHORNE was last heard of by us staying at the Frankfurterhof Hotel in Frankfurt, Germany, as a guest in either Room 126 or 162, and registered in the name of RICHARDS - actually the name of his recently acquired British wife, Marian A. RICHARDS. He is without funds even to cover his hotel bills and (least of all) his telephone bill for calls made to the Colony Club, in London, to Dino CELLINI in Madrid and Lisbon, and to Ralph FARRA (@ FARRARA) his English accomplice, in arranging arms deal referred to at (b) above.

6. I passed the information about HAWTHORNE as at paragraph 5 above to Mr. Bledsoe today by telephone, and said that as far as we were concerned we had no further use for HAWTHORNE, and would

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MAY 25 1967

/be glad ...

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be glad to see you take appropriate action in conjunction with the West German police authorities, subject to the source of your information not being quoted outside the F.B.I.

7. As a service we are not concerned with arms traffic to Central America and will be making no further enquiries on this matter. Nevertheless, we think you may find the various reports of our contacts with HAWTHORNE to be of interest both in the Domestic Intelligence and Special Investigative Division, and in this connection I attach:-

- (a) A Security Service internal memorandum dated 21st March 1967.
- (b) A Security Service surveillance report dated 14th April, referring to a meeting between Ralph ~~FARRA~~ ^{England} @ ~~FARRARA~~ (born 26 February 1918 and on record with us as an associate of arms trafficking up to 1956), and a U.S. citizen named Louis KUZIN.
- (c) A Security Service note of 27th April headed OXFORD (the code name used for the operation involving HAWTHORNE).
- (d) A press cutting dated 28th March 1965 which appears to relate to the KENNEDY referred to in the report at (c) above.
- (e) A Security Service note on a meeting with HAWTHORNE in Frankfurt, 28th/29th April.
- (f) A note of a telephone conversation subsequent to the meeting at (e).
- (g) A note on Sam BENTON dated May 1967, prepared as a brief for Special Branch, Scotland Yard in the hope that they would feel able to interview BENTON while in the U.K. In the event this interview did not take place.

8. The paper at (g) above refers to Dino ~~CELLINI~~ in Toronto; ^{Canada} the R.C.M.P. have been advised of this possibility. The latest information we have about the arms order which HAWTHORNE and his friends were chasing is eventually destined for Peru, and that an ^{Spain} American company "~~Americas Finanzaz Inc~~" of New York, may be the intermediaries. ^{Port}

9. The information HAWTHORNE gave about a Venezuelan freighter, off loading arms at Cooperstown to a person named SAWYER is, we believe entirely without foundation. Regarding the other references in the material referred to above to Columbia and Panama, we propose to report on these ourselves to C.I.A. as soon as we are able to complete a balanced report which will take into account all information available to us.

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James Russell HAWTHORNE - OXFORD

The above named arrived at London Airport on Tuesday 21st March at 08.30 hours. Following advice from the Governor Bahamas prior warning of his arrival was given to the Chief Immigration Officer who was also asked to give the Security Service and/or Special Branch the opportunity to interview him.

2. HAWTHORNE was to be refused leave to land under the terms of the entry in the Home Office Suspect Index.

3. He duly arrived and informed the Immigration Officer that he had married (at Nassau in mid-February) a British Subject - Marion RICHARDS - who was now staying at the Carlton Towers. In view of this new circumstance the case was referred to the Home Office who confirmed that HAWTHORNE should not be allowed to enter the U.K.

4. In the meantime we had been advised of the arrival and I went to London Airport. I introduced myself as arranged by HSB Bahamas and subsequently had a Special Branch representative join me. I introduced him as a "colleague". HAWTHORNE was not given my name.

5. In questioning HAWTHORNE I confined myself to two broad objectives:-

- (i) to check the story previously told by HAWTHORNE of his visit to Geneva in December 1966.
- (ii) to establish the reason for his present visit, what his intentions were, who his contacts were to be and finally how the Government of the Bahamas was involved.

The December Visit to Geneva

6. Regarding (i) HAWTHORNE told me that shortly after his arrival in London he had made contact with:-

- (a) Ralph FARRA
- (b) Len WESTON England
- (c) Vick ?

He knew that he could meet these individuals in the coffee shop of the Hilton Hotel any afternoon and that they would organise the supply of arms. With WESTON and Vick, in the latter's Jaguar, the party drove to Geneva crossing the channel at Dover. HAWTHORNE travelled under his own name but did not remember which port he arrived at in France nor where Switzerland was entered - he was asleep for most of the time. He said that he did not have any entries in his passport for this trip as the immigration formalities had not required this. He did not on either the outward or inward boat have to fill in any landing cards. He had had to visit a passport officer on board the ferry but was unable to give a satisfactory description of the procedure.

7. The trip to Geneva took one day and the party arrived one morning. After the Letter of Credit was found unacceptable all returned.

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immediately to London. He then went to South Wales to the home of Miss. RICHARDS. He kept their room on at the Carlton Towers during the whole of his visit to the U.K.

8. During the time he was in London FARRA, WESTON and Vick concluded an arms deal worth 4,000,000 dollars. HAWTHORNE did not know the details.

9. Because of HAWTHORNE's failure to give satisfactory circumstantial detail of his visit to Geneva I am convinced that this trip did not in fact take place.

The Current Visit to Geneva

10. I asked HAWTHORNE if he would now produce the Letter of Credit which was to have been handed to him at Nassau prior to his departure. He said that this had not in fact happened and that BENTON had taken this from Miami or New York to London and was now at the Carlton Towers where he would give it to HAWTHORNE. I also asked HAWTHORNE for identifying details including addresses of the three individuals at (a) (b) and (c) above, but he said that his wife, who had travelled in advance of him, had these in her baggage at the Carlton Towers. All that he could recall was that WESTON's flat was close to the Cumberland Hotel.

11. As a result of further questioning HAWTHORNE said that he had come to London at the present time at the behest of McLANEY and his role was to make the necessary introduction to FARRA and the others. For this service he would get 10% of the Letter of Credit which was for the sum of 250,000 dollars. He did not then know at which Bank this was to be drawn. Having got this detail of the order from BENTON (who did not know FARRA and the others) HAWTHORNE would make the necessary contacts at the Hilton and from there he would then go to Geneva to draw the money, pay this over with the order and then collect his 10%. HAWTHORNE did not know what the delivery details would be but he thought that the Bahamas were the point of unloading. He did not know for whom the arms were required - he admitted that it was difficult to see what use Premier Pindling could make of them although he inferred that Pindling knew of the transaction. He thought that McLANEY's intention was to resell at a profit elsewhere than the Bahamas.

12. Referring to PROBINSKY, HAWTHORNE said that he was McLANEY's right hand man who had been part of the investment in the Bahamas. McLANEY had brought Pindling to power and now expected gambling concessions. PROBINSKY had an office next to Pindling's and the latter turned to PROBINSKY for advice and guidance. PROBINSKY was aware of the reason for HAWTHORNE's present trip. PROBINSKY had visited London in February and was now back in Nassau.

13. I asked HAWTHORNE what he would do if he was finally refused leave to land (at that time the Home Office was still considering his case). He had not considered alternative arrangements but would have to consider this with his wife. He had already rung her at the Carlton Towers and she was on her way to the Airport ready to accompany him. He did not see any point in going on to Geneva and was vague in his replies when asked what action, if any, he would take to pursue the contact with Len WESTON and Vick.

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14. Little progress was being made at this stage of the interview, HAWTHORNE being more interested in knowing why he was refused leave to land and speculating as to whether it was because of his gambling antecedent. He admitted he was wanted by the Belgians and also that he had been sentenced to ten years in the U.S.A. but had not served the sentence as by appeals he had had this reduced to two years and he was still appealing. This process had cost him 1,000,000 dollars and his view was that the U.S. authorities were more interested in breaking people such as him financially than in putting them in gaol.

15. I accordingly broke off the meeting. I subsequently discussed the course of the meeting with the Special Branch representative. He agreed to question HAWTHORNE's wife on her arrival at the Airport. He also undertook to warn Dover to keep a look out for BENTON in case he tried to rendezvous with HAWTHORNE on the continent. I provided BENTON's particulars as furnished by the F.B.I.

16. After my return to Head Office the Special Branch representative rang me to say that HAWTHORNE and his wife were on their way to Frankfurt en route for Luxembourg, and also that HAWTHORNE, in order to avoid having his wife questioned had admitted that he did have in his possession identifying particulars of FARRA and Co. which are as follows:-

FARRA - Telephone No. Ambassador 7733
Extension 496 - Apartment N.

WESTON - Telephone No. Paddington 1415
Address: 34 Scourcliff Close, W.1.

Vick - Ambassador 4350

It was also established that his wife's previous London address was Flat E10 Sloane Avenue Mansions and that she was travelling on her 1958 passport. She was very surprised at what had happened and did not appear to be in her husband's confidence about the reason for his present trip. HAWTHORNE had previously said that she had come to the U.K. to visit her parents at Easter. She was disappointed that he would not see them.

17. Before HAWTHORNE left he showed some interest in identifying George RAFT's solicitor.

18. Regarding further contact HAWTHORNE was told to ring the S.B. office at LAP who would then if necessary get in touch with me.

19. A subsequent enquiry made at the Carlton Towers revealed that BENTON had not arrived by 22nd March 1967 and was not staying there by 22nd March 1967 either under his own name or the aliases he is known to use.

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(3)

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(b)

A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section.....E.5.....

Subject.....FARROW.....FARROW

Officer.....A.B. Arnott.....

Nickname.....

Copy to.....

PF. No.....

A.4 Ref.....E...745.v.3./13.....

Day....Friday.....

Date.....14th April, 1967.....

Following your telephone request on the afternoon of Friday 14th April we were able to get some officers to the Grosvenor House at 16.00 hours.

2. Initially our officers could not identify anyone as FARROW from the photographs in their possession, in the lounge of the hotel. However, our officers did discover two characters who seemed likely to be of interest and a certain amount was heard of the conversation towards the end of their tea.

3. The two men taking ^{Lou Kuzins} part in this meeting are referred to hereafter as the 'cockney' and a man who was subsequently identified as Louis KUZIN of 19100 West 8 Mile Road, Southfield (Detroit) Michigan, U.S.A. This man is employed by Shelly Company. KUZIN is (or was) ^{English} staying in room 809 of the Grosvenor House for four nights. He was due to leave on Monday 17th. His American passport number is H 127252 issued in ^{Germany} New York.

4. From 16.00 to 16.45 the 'cockney' monopolized the conversation and KUZIN listened apparently intently.

5. The following snippets of conversation were gleaned:-

- a) The cockney spoke about jewelry and said 'The next time I saw it Marge was wearing it'.
- b) He was next heard to talk about Ben and Françoise concerned in an event in Paris which involved \$26,000.
- c) Our officer thought he heard the names Vic and Bet mentioned.
- d) He then talked about 'scrap', referred to somebody as a 'tank' and later talked at length about Germany. Our officer gathered that he had bought some goods in Germany for \$20,000 and their true value was ?\$150,000. He talked of some goods which our officer interpreted to be assemblies of some sort, probably engines or the like for mechanical vehicles of some sort.

/He mentioned .

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A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section.....

Subject.....

Officer.....

Nickname.....

Copy to.....

PF. No.....

A.4 Ref.....

- 2 -

Day.....

Date.....

He mentioned the figure of 1650 in connection with these items and this brought a whistle of amazement from KUZIN.

/our officer

e) He also mentioned 200 Tanks but / could not gather any other details of this.

f) It appeared that KUZIN is going to Germany and part of the reason for this trip is to see 'Hoffner'. He is going to Darmstat and Manhiem. All this was overheard from the cockney, who suggested that KUZIN should stay at the Palace Hotel in Manhiem, it being the best.

No Log

g) He also mentioned the names Jack Ellis and Joe Levy, and our officer also thought he said that Ralph (pronounced Raylph) was coming to join them at Grosvenor House at five o'clock. Several other towns in Germany were mentioned, the most frequent being Frankfurt, but our officer could gather no details of this. The cockney spoke of money on several occasions, always large sums and always in dollars.

h) From 16.45 until they separated at 17.30 KUZIN joined in the conversation but our officer was not in a position to hear what he said.

6. Both the men frequently admired and remarked on young attractive girls who happened to pass through the Hotel lounge. Even to the extent that their conversation would cease abruptly while each concentrated on the passing of the girl in question.

7. When they parted KUZIN stopped the cockney paying the bill and told the waiter to charge it to room 809. The cockney left the hotel and got into a grey Jaguar K Y K 140 D. KUZIN collected his key and disappeared upstairs.

8. These events were reported to you verbally by our officers.

/9.

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