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DATE: 11-14-2017

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FEDERAL BUREAU
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FM SAN FRANCISCO (109-36) (P) (SQMAD 16)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

MIAMI IMMEDIATE

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CLASSIFIED BY: 5668 SLD/SCC
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See attached 0-70 70 AA9-CD-007 6/30/78

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE COLONEL CESAR QUINTEROS, CHIEF OF
GUATEMALAN SECURITY, FCI - GUATEMALA - TERRORISM.

[ON JUNE 23, 1978, A SOURCE OF QUESTIONABLE RELIABILITY
FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
(FBI): ON JUNE 21, 1978, THE ASSET WAS IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT
WITH A PROMINENT MIAMI ATTORNEY, BEN COHEN. COHEN IS CURRENTLY
BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIRE-
ARMS (ATF) AND IS UNDER SECRET INDICTMENT BY THE FEDERAL GRAND
JURY ON A WEAPONS VIOLATION. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT COHEN
INTRODUCED HIM ON THE TELEPHONE TO A WILLIAM BELL. BELL](S)

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PAGE TWO SF 109-36 S E C R E T

INDICATED THAT HE HAD TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN GUATEMALA AND WAS INTERESTED IN STARTING SEVERAL BUSINESSES THERE INVOLVING THE IMPORTING OF LUMBER, CATTLE, AND THE PRODUCTION OF SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS AND ALSO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEAPONS FACTORY IN GUATEMALA. BELL INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO USE THE SOURCE'S CONTACTS IN THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE HIS OWN BUSINESS INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY. IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING THE POLITICS OF GUATEMALA, BELL MENTIONED TO THE SOURCE THAT HE WAS AWARE OF A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE CHIEF OF GUATEMALAN SECURITY, COLONEL CESAR QUINTEROS. (X)

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, JUNE 22, 1978, THE ASSET WAS AGAIN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH BELL. THE ASSET DETERMINED FROM BELL THAT THE ASSASSINATION CONTRACT HAD ORIGINATED FROM LEBAGON AND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE RESULT OF A PERSONAL VENDETTA AND WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY TWO UNNAMED INDIVIDUALS. BELL INDICATED THAT HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO ASSASSINATE QUINTEROS. BELL INDICATED THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE BROTHERS AND BOTH WERE RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES OFFICERS. BELL INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE BROTHERS HAD BEEN ON THE ASSAULT TEAM WHICH LOCATED AND ASSASSINATED CHE GUEVARA IN (S)

~~SECRET~~

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

PAGE THREE SF 140-36 S E C R E T

BOLIVIA. BELL DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS BEING SIX FEET, FIVE INCHES TALL AND WEIGHING 270 POUNDS, AND "SOLID AS A ROCK." HE INDICATED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL'S BROTHER WAS ALSO QUITE LARGE IN STATURE. (S)

BELL STATED THAT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE CURRENTLY IN FLORIDA AND THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ONE OF THEM ON THAT DATE. BELL INDICATED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS TO OCCUR BEFORE THE JULY FIRST INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS IN GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA. (S)

THE SOURCE INQUIRED OF BELL WHETHER OR NOT QUINTEROS ON PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS WAS AWARE OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT. BELL INDICATED THAT HE HAD WARNED QUINTEROS OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND HAD IDENTIFIED THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS TO HIM. BELL STATED THAT THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS HAD BEEN IN GUATEMALA BEFORE AND THAT THE GUATEMALAN SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS KNEW THE INDIVIDUALS AND HAD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEM. BELL INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT ELECT LUCAS WAS NOT AWARE OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT UNLESS QUINTEROS HAD INFORMED HIM OF IT. (S)

BELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS KEEPING TRACK OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS AND WOULD KNOW AS SOON AS THEY LEFT FLORIDA AND (S)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE FOUR SF 100-36 S E C R E T

WOULD AT THAT TIME CONTACT QUINTEROS' STAFF WITH THE INFORMATION.

(S)

THE ASSET ASKED BELL WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS
COULD BE STOPPED IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEY LEFT THE COUNTRY.
BELL INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO BECAUSE THEY HAD TOO MANY
FRIENDS IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. BELL INDICATED THAT IF HE WENT
TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AND TALKED TO JACK KING, WHO HANDLES
CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND ASK KING TO PREVENT THESE TWO INDI-
VIDUALS FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY, KING WOULD PROBABLY REFUSE
BECAUSE THE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE STRIKE
FORCE PROSECUTING GROUP IN FLORIDA IN IDENTIFYING DRUG DEALERS
THERE. BELL STATED THAT THE STRIKE FORCE PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY
ANGRY WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT SINCE THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD
COOPERATED WITH THEM AND WERE CURRENTLY DOING SO. (S)

BELL INDICATED TO THE SOURCE THAT HE HAD KNOWN THE TWO
WOULD-BE ASSASSINS FOR A LONG TIME AND KNEW THEM TO BE EXTREMELY
CLEVER MEN WHO HAD DONE THIS TYPE OF JOB IN THE PAST. BELL
INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A LOT OF QUESTIONABLE
ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST WHICH HAD NEVER COME OUT INTO THE PUBLIC
LIGHT. HE INDICATED THAT HE KNEW ONE OF THE BROTHERS HAD BEEN (S)

SECRET

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PAGE FIVE SF 100-36 S E C R E T

IN DALLAS AND IN NEW ORLEANS WITH OSWALD IN 1963 BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS. HE SAID THAT THIS SAME INDIVIDUAL HAD ALSO BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE BEFORE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED. BELL INDICATED THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS MERCENARY AND HAD NO POLITICAL LOYALTIES. HE STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL HAD BEEN IN CUBA RIGHT BEFORE THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE WARNED CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT OF THE IMPENDING INVASION. (S)

BELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN ROOM 1240 OF THE FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA AND THAT HE WOULD BE REMAINING THERE UNTIL JUNE 28, 1978, AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD BE FLYING TO GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA. BELL TOLD THE SOURCE THAT HE COULD CONTACT HIM AT THE FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL OR IN POPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, AT THE EAGLE ARMS COMPANY, WHERE BELL IS THE TREASURER OF THE COMPANY. (S)

ON JUNE 23, 1978, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (ATF) ASSIGNED TO THE OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA RESIDENT AGENCY, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: HE INDICATED THAT RESEARCH DONE BY HIM THROUGH ATF SOURCES HAD

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

PAGE SIX SF 100-36 S E C R E T

DETERMINED THAT [WILLIAM BELL WAS A FORMER SPECIAL FORCES COLONEL WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT U.S. MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP.

BELL IS CURRENTLY THE TREASURER OF EAGLE ARMS CORPORATION IN POPANO BEACH, FLORIDA. EAGLE ARMS CORPORATION MAKES PROTOTYPE WEAPONS FOR NINE MILLIMETER AMMUNITION AND IS NOT LICENSED TO MANUFACTURE ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROTOTYPES.] (S)

[ON THE BASIS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY BELL,] (S)

HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE IDENTITIES OF THE TWO WOULD-BE ASSASSINS ARE A (FNU) PAPPY SHELTON, WHO IS A RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES MAJOR, AND HIS BROTHER, JOE SHELTON, ALSO A RETIRED SPECIAL FORCES OFFICER. HE STRESSED THAT THIS IS NOT A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION, HOWEVER, [IT FITS WITH THE INFORMATION THAT BELL

GAVE THE ASSET THAT] (S) ONE OF THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS WAS A MAJOR OF THE ASSAULT TEAM THAT ASSASSINATED CHE GUEVARA. THE ATF REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT [HIS SOURCES HAD VERIFIED THAT] (S) MAJOR PAPPY SHELTON HAD BEEN ON THIS ASSAULT TEAM [AND ALSO FIT THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY BELL.] (S)

[THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE SOURCE AND WILLIAM BELL WERE RECORDED BY THE SOURCE,] (S) A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS REVIEWED [THESE TAPES] AND CAN VERIFY THAT (S)

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PAGE SEVEN SF 100-36 S E C R E T

THE INFORMATION [PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE RELATIVE TO HIS CONVER-
SATIONS WITH BELL] ^(S) IS ACCURATE. ~~(S)~~

~~CLASSIFIED BY 7070, 2008 DATE BY 7070/ATP~~

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE SAN FRANCISCO TELETYPES, JUNE 22 AND 23, 1978, CAP-
TIONED "CESAR QUINTEROS (PHONETIC), FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER -
GUATEMALA," AND BUREAU TELETYPE TO SAN FRANCISCO AND MIAMI,
JUNE 24, 1978, CAPTIONED AS INSTANT MATTER.

THE PRECEDING INFORMATION IS SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

(U)

THE SOURCE MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE SECTION IS FORMER-

SF 9886-04 ^(S) (X)

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND
FIREARMS WHO FURNISHED THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS SENIOR RESIDENT
AGENT OF THE OAKLAND OFFICE, BILL MALLERY. (U)

SAN FRANCISCO NOTES THAT [THE ASSET RECORDED THE CONVERSA-
TIONS BETWEEN WILLIAM BELL AND HIMSELF AT HIS OWN VOLITION AND
WAS AT NO TIME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE FBI. ^(S)

THE ORIGINAL COPIES [OF THE TAPE RECORDINGS MADE BY THE
ASSET] ^(S) ARE BEING MAINTAINED BY THE ATF OFFICE IN OAKLAND FOR

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

PAGE EIGHT SF 109-36 S E C R E T

ANY POSSIBLE EVIDENTIARY VALUE THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF [BEN CONER]. (S)

THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CONTRADICTION IS NOTED BY SAN FRANCISCO.

[BELL INDICATED TO THE ASSET THAT HE HAD WARNED QUINTEROS OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT] (S), HOWEVER, IN REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE TO MIAMI QUINTEROS ADVISED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ADVISED OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT BY ANYONE. [BELL MAY BE LYING ABOUT ADVISING QUINTEROS OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT] (S) OR QUINTEROS HIMSELF MAY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE PLOT AND IS JUST PROTECTING HIS SOURCES. EVEN IF [BELL IS LYING] (S) ON THIS ONE POINT, ENOUGH [OF HIS STORY] (S) HAS BEEN CORROBORATED THAT IT SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. X

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