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SUBJECTS :

MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL III

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-107-02

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-97459-211)

DATE: 6/16/65

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (105-1612)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/29/97 BY 5668 SDJ/mde
(JFK)

SUBJECT: NATIONALITY GROUP COVERAGE - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Re Bureau teletype dated 6/10/65 referring to LEGAT teletype number one and Knoxville letter dated 6/7/65, captioned "DOMSIT". Knoxville furnished information regarding MITCHELL WERBEL.

MITCHELL WERBEL undoubtedly is identical with MITCHELL L. WERBELL, III, Route 1, Powder Springs, Ga.

The Atlanta indices in regard to MITCHELL L. WERBELL, III, reflect he was mentioned in the investigative matter Dr. ELMER HENRY LOUGHLIN, RA-Haiti, N. Y. Origin, Bufile 97-3808.

On 12/13/62, WERBELL was reported residing in Guatemala City. On 1/9/63 it was determined through credit bureau of Atlanta records a Federal Tax Lien #61-7090 for \$6,282.69 was outstanding against WERBELL.

Guatemala Fla. Eng. Gen. N.Y.

On 3/14/63 MITCHELL L. WERBELL was interviewed at his residence in Powder Springs, Georgia. On this occasion WERBELL advised he was president of Communication International, Inc. and is engaged in the field of Public Relations.

France Italy

On 9/11/62, the U. S. Customs Office in Savannah, Ga. was advised that information had been received from a Confidential Source (AT 1762-C) of unknown reliability regarding a possible illicit international traffic in arms and ammunition which may be in violation of our Neutrality Laws, to wit:

Communications International, reportedly an advertising concern with offices at 1602 Rhodes-Haverty Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., is doing business with one General FONDOSA of Costa Rica, and may be negotiating to provide a large quantity of arms for use

- 4 - Bureau RM
- 1 - Knoxville RM
- 2 - Atlanta (1 - 105-1612)
- (1 - 2-35)

DOMINICAN DIA

REC 37

105-97459-211¹⁰⁴ #11/1/65
copies made

AFM:mel

(7)

for review at FBIHQ by JUN 17 1965

HSCA re 10/16/77 Reg
Re: War Belle



JUN 29 1965

U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SEC. 104-10000-1

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AT 105-1612

in a revolutionary attack on the present regime in Cuba (CASTRO). Ostensibly these arms were to be purchased in Belgium for shipment to Costa Rica by Communications International. It is noted that MITCHELL C. WERBELL of Cobb County, Ga. was identified as President of Communications International. One JOE KANE of 805 Peachtree St., Atlanta, was also identified as having some unknown connection with Communications International, Inc. along with one SAM McCONNELL of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

No information was received from Customs as to action taken in this matter of arms from Belgium to Costa Rica for General FONDOSA.

On 10/12/64 AT 1762-C reported that MITCHELL WER-BELL, resident of Powder Springs, Ga., is now in the Dominican Republic.

In January 1958, case captioned EDWARD SCOTT GALLANDT HOLLER, was. ETAL, ITSMV, ITSP, CRV, Bufile 26-23004, Birmingham Origin, MITCHELL WERBELL advised Subject HOLLER unknown to him. HOLLER in September 1957 passed three worthless checks drawn on the account MITCHELL WERBELL, advertising, amounting to approximately \$200.

In case captioned JOSEPH MEROLA, was., ITSP (Bufile 87-39831) MITCHELL L. WERBELL, III, of Powder Springs, Ga. was mentioned prominently. MEROLA is described as a top jewel thief and was reportedly in contact with WERBELL in October 1959 regarding a possible Cuban PESOS swindle. The extent of WERBELL's participation this matter unknown to Atlanta as Chicago was origin in this investigation. WERBELL was also in contact with MEROLA 2/28/61 and 3/4/61.

The Clerk's Office, U. S. District Court, Atlanta, reflects that MITCHELL WERBELL, Inc. on 11/21/57 filed a petition for bankruptcy. In 1959 the bankruptcy file failed to reflect final adjudication of this petition.

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In May 1962, MITCHELL WERBELL, III, accompanied one EMANUEL FIRESTONE, aka, MANUEL LEONIDAS FUEGO GOMEZ, and J. A. KANE of 805 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga., at which time offer was made of small arms, ammunition and five hundred trained mercenary troops to the Guatemalan Ministry of Defense to fight Communism. Lt. Col. AGUILAR de LEON, Acting Minister of Labor of Guatemala requested information regarding these individuals. It is noted MANUEL FUEGO was subject of Registration Act case, FBI #4008419, (Bufile 97-3224). In this investigation WERBELL was described as being involved in a plan to ship arms to Equador.

J. A. KANE described as an associate of WERBELL, and a business partner in certain ventures is subject of an ITSP violation, Bufile 87-73553, JOSEPH A. KANE, ITSP, wherein certain stock certificates of Union Oil and Gas Corporation of Louisiana were used as collateral for bank loans, for which offense he was sentenced 6/12/64 in Superior Court, Fulton County, Ga.

On 9/25/62, IC JAMES W. MURRAY reviewed the passport file maintained by the U. S. Department of State, Passport Office, on MITCHELL L. WERBELL, III, from which the following information was obtained:

WERBELL, whose address was listed as RD #1, Powder Springs, Georgia, and whose occupation was reflected as "Public Relations-Adv. Executive" was born 3/8/18 at Philadelphia, Pa.

In response to a passport application dated 5/25/62 at Atlanta, Georgia, WERBELL was issued passport number C301433 on 5/29/62, at Miami, Florida. In this application WERBELL stated his intention to travel to England and Germany on business and listed his approximate date of departure as 6/15/62 from New York City. The above passport was restricted from travel to Albania, Cuba, and those portions of China, Korea, and Viet-Nam under communist control.

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REVIEWED BY ^{DUS} ~~JEK~~ TASK FORCE
ON 4/8/98 nym/dak
 RELEASE IN FULL
 RELEASE IN PART
 TOTAL DENIAL

105-974 59-211-104