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REC-53

EX-137

61-10611 441

Date: August 3, 1961

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: BERNON FERGUSON MITCHELL
WILLIAM HAMILTON MARTIN
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(ESPIONAGE)

12-20-83
Classified by 3803 RDD/ltj
Declassify on: OADR
2/13/84
(SLS SLJ/BCL
5/15/98-JFK)

Reference is made to your letter of July 17, 1961, concerning the captioned individuals. It was requested that any additional information reflecting upon the relationship of Nicolas Georges Damascus, aka Damascou, and his sister, Anastasia Georges Damascus, aka Damascou, with Justo Sierra Casasus, on the latter's contacts with representatives or agents of the Castro government in Cuba, or on Sierra's continued contacts with Kazantsev or other suspect Soviet officials or agents in this country or elsewhere be forwarded to your Agency.

This Bureau has no information regarding Damascus or his sister. There is likewise no information reflecting on the contacts of Justo Sierra Casasus with representatives or agents of the Castro government. Other than the information already in your possession regarding possible contacts in 1954 between Sierra and Boris A. Kazantsev, there are no indications of contacts between these two men since Kazantsev's departure from the U.S. June 23, 1954.

USA info Declassified Nov 17 1998
from letter 2/2/98. mld

With regard to contacts between Sierra and other Soviet officials, it was reported by a source which has furnished reliable information in the past that in March of 1950 Don Justo Sierra, First Secretary, Mexican Embassy was among a number of foreign diplomats who had accepted an invitation to attend a cocktail party given on March 3, 1950, by Aleksander Ivanovich Zinchuk, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the USSR (Press Division) (S) [S] 10092-3851 p.4] (U)

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Malone _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Ingram _____
- Gandy _____

LW:mhd

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NOTE PAGE 2

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Director
Central Intelligence Agency

(S)(u)

Your Agency is aware of contacts between Justo Sierra, then First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy, with G. P. Pokrovsky, Attache of the Embassy of the USSR. You may wish to refer to your SCDB 34225 dated February 12, 1951 (65-60372-16)

The Diplomatic List for June, 1961, Department of State publication 7210, shows Mr. Justo Sierra to be Counselor of the Mexican Embassy (S)

With regard to the practice of law in Mexico City on the part of Justo Sierra Casasus, a foreign source in 1943 advised that one Justo Sierra had a law office in Mexico, D.F., with one Jack Oskerman and one Victor Mayo not otherwise identified. A source of information who had furnished reliable information in the past reported that in 1946 one Justo Sierra was the attorney of Merry Fahrney, an American expatriate in Mexico City. Merry Fahrney had associated with prominent Nazis and suspected Nazi agents (65-44570-37) (65-25864-170)

Should any information come to the attention of this Bureau indicating any relationship between the present Counselor of the Mexican Embassy, Washington, D.C., and Nicolas Georges Damascus, his sister, Soviet agents or representatives of Castro, you will be notified (S)

1 - Director
National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

(S)(u)

NOTE: Classified "Secret" because coverage of diplomatic establishments by Bureau is so classified. CIA is engaging in speculation. Reference letter apparently suggests a theory that because Nicolas Damascus, who reportedly lived at one of the hotels visited by Mitchell and Martin in Mexico City, had an apparent client relationship with the law office in Mexico City of the present Counselor of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., who has recently as 1954 broke a luncheon engagement with a Soviet diplomat and in 1957 received a phone call from a representative of the 26th of July movement, there might be some answer here as to the defection of Mitchell and Martin. The logic of all this is not too apparent (S)

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