

23 September 1968

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Re: [redacted]

1. One of our informants recently came over the Marvin Margolis Agency's activities in the public relations business. The source indicated that the agency had a series of regular meetings with the [redacted] and public government since the [redacted] in the [redacted]. The informant also mentioned that [redacted] in 1960, which has never been [redacted] for [redacted] according to our source's [redacted] and of which [redacted] was the principal partner. The source mentioned in a covering letter that he had been [redacted] Margolis's activities without fee for a period of two weeks.

2. The source in question has been engaged in the public relations business, and was asked for any articles concerning the Margolis business and publicity campaign, and asked particularly how it was that he had worked for Margolis for so long without fee.

3. The source advised that early in 1968 an unidentified individual set up a special account in The Empire Trust Company, New York City. The purpose of this fund was to finance the above-mentioned Margolis business and publicity campaign. The source was then approached by a man named C. L. Rice, Rice is an oil and natural gas dealer and geologist and has an office at [redacted] New York City. Rice's name throughout has been to [redacted] for the special account mentioned above. The account, in his name, was opened at [redacted] and was being forwarded all bills to Rice at [redacted] New York City. When the [redacted] of Margolis [redacted]

HH-6470

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CONFIDENTIAL
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4. During the Spring of 1954, the Cuban and other persons set up an organization called "Pueblo Libre de Cuba, Inc." The purpose of this organization is to raise money to finance a revolution against Castro. The following individuals are identified as being involved with "Pueblo Libre":

a. Douglas R. Hull.--Hull is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Levy, Galtsoff, Goldberg, and Hill. His firm has its principal office at 45 South Street Place, Great Neck (Long Island), New York (Tel: 207-6000), and a branch office in Manhattan (300 Seventh Avenue (Tel: CH 9-6670).

b. Mrs. Kate Taffo.--Our source did not further identify Mrs. Taffo. She is, according to another source, a lady who has been involved in running arms to Cuba and other such activities. The other source volunteered this information during the course of a conversation regarding other matters.

5. At about the time that "Pueblo Libre" made its appearance there also appeared on the scene an individual named Dan Wax, who represents himself as a "retired New England shoe manufacturer now living in Florida". Wax interested himself vociferously in "Pueblo Libre" and at the same time alienated Hull, Taffo and our source. In consequence, the "Pueblo Libre" people have never done anything with that corporation, but have let it remain inactive. Their reason for so doing is that they don't trust Wax and do not wish to get involved with him. In answer to the inquiry as to the reason for their mistrust of Wax, the source stated simply that they have no specific reason, but that they just don't wish to work with him. They don't trust him. Consequently, "Pueblo Libre" has remained a paper organization; no money has been raised through it.

6. Our source stated that Hull and Mrs. Taffo both grow suspicious of Wax and are not willing to do anything about "Pueblo Libre". They want the new corporation to be dedicated to the halting of the spread of Communism throughout the Western Hemisphere and they want it to have various subcommittees. The

CONFIDENTIAL
HA-6495

Chief, FBI/CSA
 10/2/54

...surprisingly, these would be a ... source and his two colleagues ... directed solely at Cuba ... appeal, of course, the ... is to overthrow Castro. ... Northern Hemisphere ... interest in their eyes. ... the decision to target about "Patria Libre", ... only towards Cuba.

7. Our source and his friends have everything ready to go, but need money. The source wished to make a start by getting Sanchez, Varona, and Bergues to sign a political alliance and to publicize the said alliance by means of a press conference and subsequent publicity devices. The money, of course, would be used to finance the revolution against Castro.

8. Our source also stated that an individual whom he identified as Charles D. Reeves is putting up the money to make a political movie starring Paul Douglas, Burt Lancaster, and others. The source told that Reeves is affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company.

9. Finally, our source told him that from the context of the entire affair he had discussed it in detail with Mr. Frank (?) O'Brien, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City. Mr. O'Brien may be reached at LE 5-7700, Extension 202.

10. We would appreciate ME Division comments regarding any interest in the above proposal. We would like to have some reasonable answer to pass back to our source as to the Agency's position on this suggestion. Please contact Mr. Robert S. Travis, CE/CS, Support Branch, Extension 2540, for further information on this matter.

11. Thanks very much.

RSTravis/ja

E. M. ABERCRAFT

cc: Index

SOURCE: [JOHN D. CRIFTER] (per request to H. H. by Index)

HA-6495

Office Memorandum

TO : Chief, Contact Division
FOR : Support Branch
FROM : Chief, New York Office
SUBJECT: Possible Political Operation in Cuba

1. John E. Mitchell, Jr., of the New Haven Resident Agency, has not advised the possibility of a political operation in Cuba. He has, however, advised that he has seen three months ago a certain number of newspapers which were similar to those which were published in Cuba, but with a different name, i.e., "The People's Voice". Mitchell stated that he would like to see the original copy of the newspaper for possible consideration for possible consideration. Mitchell also stated that he had seen a certain number of newspapers which were similar to those which were published in Cuba, but with a different name, i.e., "The People's Voice".

Mitchell feels that what follows could be one of two things. First, it could be part of a political operation which the Agency has already launched. Mitchell would not say it sounds a bit like this. If it is indeed an operation which has been launched, well and good. The only comment which Mitchell will make in this case is that some people talk too much. Second, it may be a genuine proposition. Mitchell feels that this, too, could be the case, because he thinks that his source would not have broached the subject, unless he (the source), at least, were unwilling. In any case, the story follows.

2. One of Mitchell's cleared sources, recently sent him a brochure written by Dr. Carlos Marquez Sterling, who was not to be further identified here. The source enclosed with the brochure a series of reprints from US newspapers dealing with Marquez's activities and public pronouncements since his arrival in the US. The brochure in question demonstrated the ways in which Fidel Castro has presented a distorted and false picture of the Cuban Constitution of 1960, which has never been revealed (Mitchell, according to Mitchell's understanding) and of which Marquez was the first author. The source reported in a covering letter that he had been contacted by Marquez's activities without fee for a period of two months, and that Marquez had been working in Cuba. He also stated that the brochure was a copy of a document which Marquez had written in Cuba.

08851

SUBJECT: Possible Political Operations in Cuba

38. The source told Mitchell that early in 1960 an unidentified individual set up a special account in the name of Frank Robinson, New York City. The purpose of this fund was to finance the efforts contained in the above mentioned publicity campaign. Mitchell's source was then approached by a man named E. L. Rice. Rice is an oil and natural gas driller and geologist and office in charge at the following address: 20 Broad Street, New York, New York (Tel.: DA-4-1448). Rice's role throughout has been to administer the special account mentioned above. The account, incidentally, amounted to US\$5,000. Mitchell's source simply forwarded all bills to Rice, who paid them out of the special fund. When the money ran out, the source's activities on behalf of Marquez came to a halt.

39. During the Spring of 1960, the source and some friends set up an organization called "Puebla Libre de Cuba, Inc.". The purpose of this organization is to raise money to finance a revolution against Castro. The following individuals are identified as being involved with "Puebla Libre".

- a. Douglas P. Null. Null is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Levy, Gutman, Goldberg, and Null. This firm has its principal office at 45 North Station Plaza, Great Neck (Long Island), New York (Tel.: HU-7-6010) and a branch office in Manhattan (363 Seventh Avenue (Tel.: CH-4-6670)).
- b. Mrs. Kate Taffe. Mitchell's source did not further identify Mrs. Taffe. She is, according to another source of Mitchell's, a lady who has been involved in running arms to Cuba and other such activities. The other source volunteered this information during the course of a conversation regarding other matters.

40. At about the time that "Puebla Libre" made its appearance there also appeared on the scene an individual named Dan Wax, who represents himself as a "retired New England shoe manufacturer now living in Florida". Wax interested himself vociferously in "Puebla Libre" and at the same time alienated Null, Taffe, and Mitchell's source. In consequence, the "Puebla Libre" people have never done anything with that cooperation, but have let it remain inactive. Their reason for so doing is that they don't trust Wax and do not wish to get involved with him. ~~Wax's source stated the reason for their mistrust of Wax,~~ the source stated simply that they have no specific reason, but that they just don't wish to work with him. They don't trust him. Consequently, "Puebla Libre" has remained a paper organization; no money has been raised through it.

41. Mitchell's source stated that Null and Mrs. Taffe both know Aureliano Sanchez Arango and Antonio Varona. They and Mitchell's source want to set up a new corporation, forgetting about "Puebla Libre" and Wax, with a wider ostensible aim than that of "Puebla Libre". They want the new corporation to be dedicated to the halting of the spread of Communism throughout the Western Hemisphere and they want it to have various subcommittees. The subcommittees would be geographical in nature. Thus, not surprisingly, there would be a subcommittee for Cuba.

HH-6495

SUBJECT: Possible Political Activities

Mitchell's source and his two children, David and Susan, are active in the New Haven area. Mitchell's source has been in contact with David and Susan since they returned from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967. Mitchell's source is concerned that the children are being indoctrinated in the Marxist-Leninist ideology of the Communist Party, USA, and is particularly concerned about their activities in the New Haven area.

Mitchell's source and his friends have been discussing ways to help the Cuban cause. The source wishes to work toward building a political alliance and to publicize the Cuban cause by means of a press conference and subsequent publicity drives. The money, of course, would be used to finance the revolution against Castro.

Mitchell's source also stated that an individual whom he identified as Charles D. Reeves is putting up the money to make a political movie starring Paul Robeson, Diana Lynn, and others. The source told Mitchell that Reeves is affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company.

Finally, Mitchell's source told him that from the outset of the entire affair he has discussed it in detail with Mr. Frank (P) O'Brien, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City. Mr. O'Brien may be reached at IE-5-7700, Extension 202.

Mitchell told his source that he would submit the information and the proposition for funds and let him know the reaction. Please inquire of WE Division, 100, (a) whether or not they are interested in financing the proposed operation, or (b) whether or not the mysterious \$50,000 came from them in the first place or, alternatively, the whole thing is their property. If alternative (b) is the case, Mitchell's source is clearly unwitting. Please advise Mitchell whether or not he should tell his source that CIA is not interested in his proposition or that he should tell him in the first place without letting him in on the secret, or what. Mitchell's source is not involved in this whole thing and wishes to discuss it with you. Please advise Mitchell so advise John H. Mitchell, of the New Haven Resident Office, to make the arrangements, subject to approval for his usual activities. Thank you very much.

J.J. Conroy
July 2, 1968

[Handwritten notes and signatures, including a large 'N' and 'H.H. 6/25']