

1 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Conversations with Harry Hermsdorf re June COBB.

On 28 July Harry Hermsdorf informed Jean Pierson that he was going to Habana on Sunday, the 31st, and would contact June COBB. He was reminded that the Branch was not in accord with his contacting her in Cuba. He replied that Col. King was interested in the case, and besides "he wanted some stamps autographed by CASTRO" and June could get it done.

I discussed the proposed trip with ⁰³ [Clark Simmons] who suggested that I see Harry again to clarify the Branch feeling about the Cuba contact, to determine just what the trip was really for, and as a last resort, if Harry intended to go anyway, to arrive at some means of communicating with COBB since the plan he had set up with her previously could not be satisfactorily backstopped.

On Friday morning, the 29th, I again discussed the proposed trip with Harry, and reiterated again the WH/4 position re COBB. I also inquired the purpose of the trip - whether it was primarily for the purpose of contacting COBB. Harry said, "No, he had other business but that as long as he was there he thought he would drop in to see her. When I asked when and where, he replied probably at her apartment about ten or eleven at night. In reply to my query as to whether this was not a rather strange time for an unannounced visit, he said that there were several entrances to the building without going past the desk. He also said that he would be travelling under Austrian papers as Heinrich Heubner from Jamaica and would arouse no suspicion communicating with

I expressed some doubt over the security of the means of alerting COBB set up by Harry during her June trip to the States since it was not backstopped. There is also a lack of security in Harry's previous visits to COBB's apartment during his May visits. We had discussed the possibility of her apartment being bugged and while he recognized this possibility, did not seem too disturbed about it.

After talking with Harry, it was apparent that he would attempt to contact COBB. I therefore discussed with Ralph True and Joe Langan the most secure method to handle COBB'S arrival in the States for her next interview and polygraph. It was decided to give Harry the name of a hotel into which COBB should check upon arrival after she had received our signal to make the trip. I phoned Harry on Sunday and reminded him again that we did not approve of his contact with COBB in Habana, but that if he intended to do so despite our feeling in the matter, that he should set up some signal by which we could alert her for the trip, and also tell her she was to check into the Statler Hotel near Penn Station. The approximate date set for her next interview would be the week of the 22nd of August.

Jean Pierson

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