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File 201

2 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: June COBB (201-279,841)

1. Friday afternoon, March 30th, the undersigned received a call on a sterile phone from Subject, who advised that she was in Washington to appear before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security. The hearing had been held that morning. I arranged to meet Subject at the Willard Hotel. A room had been arranged by Mr. Jerry MULANE, TFW/Security, in the name of Joan PRICE. Before meeting Subject, the undersigned informed Lt. Col. DAVIES, C/TPW/INTSI, and discussed Subject's debriefing with Mr. Clark SIMMONS, C/WH/POA. Operational funds in the amount of \$25 were obtained from TFW/PIN.

2. The meeting took place in Room 605, Willard Hotel at 1830 PM. Subject was in good spirits and expressed her pleasure at seeing the undersigned again, saying she had carefully memorized the (sterile) phone number in the hope that she could recontact me through it. She was not aware that the number was reactivated when we heard of her pending arrival. Subject looked tired and colorless despite her animated conversational tone and usual rapidity of speech. She is staying at the Hotel Continental, Room 442, (NA 8-1672), until today at the expense of the Subcommittee.

3. The Subcommittee hearings, according to Subject lasted approximately 4 hours. The members appeared to be interested in four main points:

- a. AREVALO'S book, The Shark & The Sardines, and particularly in whether it was financed from Cuba; and, what Subject knew about the publisher, Lyle STUART;
- b. Her connections with the Fair Play For Cuba Committee;
- c. What Subject knows of any connection between the Cuban CP and

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recently publicized narcotics traffic in Miami;

d. Subject's general background and activities in Cuba.

Subject stated that she had given the Subcommittee certain papers she had concerning the book, and had given them what information she had concerning the author and the publisher. She informed the Subcommittee that she was not a member of the Fair Play Committee, but was in contact with Richard GIBSON and other members of the Committee. Subject told the Subcommittee that she she was not aware of any connection between the Cuban CP and the narcotics entering Miami. She gave them her general background and told them of her work in Cuba - she told the undersigned that her employment record apparently so confused the Subcommittee that they did not press for additional details, and she was thus able to avoid any direct questions which might have proved embarrassing regarding her connections with us.

4. COBB informed the undersigned that she has written letters to Herbert H. HUMPHREY, Delesseps MORRISON, and Richard GOODWIN, concerning the paragraphs about President KENNEDY which were deleted by Lyle STUART from The Shark & The Sardines (preface). Subject also said she had called Richard GOODWIN after the appearance of the White Paper on Cuba, and called to his attention to the fact that the preface to CASTRO'S History Will Absolve Me, attributed to Luis CONTE Aguirre, did not appear in the original Spanish edition, but was written for the later English translation (apparently after CONTE changed his views).

5. COBB stated that after the hearings, two reporters from the Journal American, Don FRASCA and John MITCHELL, approached her for statements on CASTRO, the Cuban invasion, and the importation into Florida of narcotics from Cuba. They did refer to CIA in a rather oblique fashion in asking if

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any other Government agencies such as the FBI, Narcotics Bureau or CIA, had been in touch with her concerning these matters.

6. Tad SZULC of the New York Times/and Drew PEARSON'S assistant, ANDERSON, also contacted her. (She had dinner on Saturday night with SZULC at Trader Vic's, and on Sunday, ANDERSON provided her meal. Both were interested in her personal views on CASTRO - SZULC particularly discussed an interpretation he had done of CASTRO's latest harangue, in which he expressed the opinion that CASTRO is changing his position. ANDERSON was interested in persuading Subject to write an article for Parade, Washington Post Sunday supplement, based on her personal experiences. He had a photographer take pictures to be used if she submitted such an article. (The undersigned advised her that if she did in fact prepare such an article, we would want to review it before she submitted it.). Subject also stated that SZULC was not in favor of the planned visit of Guatemalan president, YDIGORAS. (~~At the time of the visit, YDIGORAS was in Guatemala.~~))

7. Subject discussed at some length her association with Carlos Manuel PELLEGER. She feels that basically he is not a devout Communist but that his value to the Party is such that many of his indiscretions are overlooked. She named as friends of PELLEGER, a Carlos POLANCO (roommate), a (fnu) VITERRI; she also referred to his sister Augusta HOLLINEDO, who resides in Guatemala, and whom Subject contacted on her trip. COBB mentioned one Neftali MURCIA, @ Raul Nestor FUENTES, a Salvadorian, as a friend of PELLEGER. I inquired whether there had been any mention of Cuban subversive activities in Mexico, and she replied that Carlos PAZ Tejada, Guatemalan Minister of Defense, had reportedly recieved some funds from Cuba. (I believe the Neftali MURCIA mentioned above was the source of this.)

8. COBB showed the undersigned snapshots and Life articles with pictures of PELLEGER. She also explained that PELLEGER didn't want her to carry the

*Charles
Harrison
Robert Schuler
at the time of the
visit*

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Soviet propaganda which she was carrying when she was arrested in Guatemala, and suggested that she clear herself with the press. He apparently suggested that she write to Time in reply to the article which appeared about her.

9. Other individuals mentioned by COBB included an Argentine, Dr. WORTHEIN, who, according to PELLEGER, is still in the hills of ORIENTE with a mobile health unit despite some differences with the CASTRO regime, and who might be of possible interest to us. She also mentioned Edelberto TORRES, whom she has met, and his son Humberto TORRES Pinero, presently a guerrilla in the Guatemalan hills.

10. Subject requested that the undersigned return certain letters which she had previously given me from AREVALO, Cesar RODRIGUEZ, and Sara GUASH. She also requested that a copy of Communism in Latin America by Schneider, written under State Department grant. The meeting ended at approximately 10:30 PM. I arranged to meet her on Saturday morning with the letters. I was to call her at her hotel at 12 noon, however, I was unable to make contact with her until 3:30 since she had gone to see Ambassador De Lessups MORRISON. Her mission with him, as with SZULC, was to get before the press AREVALO'S desire to clarify the deletions made from his book and its preface. He had urged COBB to contact as many individuals as possible and express his real views on the book.

11. Contact with Subject was finally made at 4:00 on Saturday and the letters Subject requested were returned to her. Subject returned to her hotel at 4:40 to meet SZULC for the dinner mentioned in paragraph 6. She had been invited to meet Amb. MORRISON after a reception which he was to attend. I told Subject I would contact her on Sunday.

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Jean T. Pierson
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TFW/INTEL/x8904