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CHARLES SMALL, SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS OF  
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# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (100-358086)

DATE: 3/10/70

FROM : Legat, Mexico City (66-364)

SUBJECT: SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS (X)(u)

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KPVI-27-98

ReBulet 1/29/70 captioned as above, which in part advises that material relating to various individuals similar to that enclosed with ReBulet, should best be incorporated in an LHM under the captioned security subject with whom the individual in question was in contact, or in a general memorandum suitable for dissemination under the caption, "AMERICAN COMMUNIST GROUP IN MEXICO (ACGM), SM - C", Bufile 100-422116.

This matter has been given very careful consideration by this office. In the past this office has endeavored to conform with the Bureau's instructions as set forth in Bulet 2/23/65 captioned "CHARLES NELSON SMOLIKOFF, SM - C (Bufile 100-12632); BERTHE MAE NEAHAM SMOLIKOFF, SM - C (Bufile 100-421747)", in handling communications relating to American residents who are in contact with ACGM associates either directly or by mail, as shown by our informant coverage and the highly confidential coverage available through CIA, [redacted] (s)

In Bulet of 2/23/65, the attention of this office was called to the fact that communications had been submitted under the caption of the SMOLIKOFFs relating to their contacts and communications with other individuals wherein the contents primarily concerned the other individuals who were located within the jurisdiction of the various field offices. The Bureau pointed out that the practice of grouping information which primarily concerns individuals other than the subject of the case file creates administrative problems in handling that information, both at the Bureau and in the field offices having investigative interests in the matter. The Bureau desired, therefore, that when information concerning persons in the United States was received incidental to investigations effecting Mexico City subjects, that information should be submitted under the caption of the individual or individuals involved and it was desired, therefore, that future communications should bear individual captions.

3 - Bureau

(1 - Liaison)

1 - Mexico City

HR: NLE/ako

(4)

100-12632- REC-19

EX-117

(JFK)

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Past experience has shown that contact with ACGM associates on the part of visitors from the United States is frequently of more than usual significance. As the Bureau is aware, the ACGM is not a formal organization and therefore, has no "members". The name American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) is a term developed by informants of this office several years ago to designate the American communists who had for one reason or another left the United States and taken up residence in Mexico. Those individuals were not merely ordinary cell members of the CP USA prior to their arrival in Mexico but occupied leadership positions in various functions of the CP USA. While in Mexico they have continued to maintain their communist-oriented ideology and firm desire to see the government of the United States overthrown. The bifurcation of the communist movement in the United States resulting from the development of the Chinese communist theories and programs, as well as the development of the "New Left" and the appearance of militant black nationalism, is reflected among the associates of the ACGM. Although these individuals vary in their support of the Soviets, the Chinese, the New Left and the militant black nationalists, they still retain the common denominator of dedication to the overthrow of the U. S. government. Although not openly engaged in subversive activities in Mexico in order to avoid being expelled by the Mexican government, they have continued to support subversive movements in the United States by giving both moral and financial support to those subversive groups. (u)

The ACGM is a very tightly-knit group and coverage as well as attempts to infiltrate informants into the group, has shown that they accept on an equal basis only visitors previously known to them as "fellow revolutionaries" or who come to Mexico well documented and recommended by "trusted" comrades in the U. S. Any person to whom suspicion is attached through failure to obtain proper recommendations is ostracized. (u)

In view of the makeup of this group, coverage has been concentrated largely on the principal figures who are contact points for Americans coming to Mexico, such as CHARLES SMOLIKOFF, and ELIZABETH CATLETT MORA (Bufile 100-395934) through highly confidential sources available [to CIA] as well (S)

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While coverage is concentrated insofar as possible on the SMOLIKOFFs, the MORAs and the BELFRAGES, information is available through informant coverage and confidential coverage maintained by CIA, concerning other associates of the ACGM who although not as prominent as contact points are nevertheless as selective in the political orientation of the people they accept in their homes and with whom they freely associate. Admittedly, coverage is not complete enough to reveal all of the subversive statements and activities of the American visitors who are in contact with these ACGM associates, but it is believed that their acceptance by the established ACGM associates is a very good indication of the political orientation of those visitors. Since the visiting Americans come from widely scattered parts of the United States, this office is in no position to evaluate their subversive potential in the absence of prior correspondence from the Bureau or the domestic field. Whenever any information is received which might assist in identifying the visitor or the locale from which he or she originates in the U. S., this office has furnished that information to the Bureau and the interested field office for information and any action deemed desirable. Even though the limited coverage available to this office in some cases does not reveal actual subversive activities on the part of the visitors, the fact that they are accepted as contacts by associates of the ACGM is sufficient grounds to alert the Bureau and the interested field offices concerning the foreign travel of probable security subjects. (K)

This office remains vigilant to fulfill the Bureau's responsibilities in detecting and identifying potential couriers, Espionage agents and individuals who might be operating in a covert intelligence capacity. To satisfy this responsibility, logical sources are constantly reminded to remain alert to the identification of individuals visiting Mexico and who contact subjects of interest residing in Mexico. Because of the subversive potential of ACGM associates and these visitors, it is believed that initial inquiries by the domestic office involved would be desirable whenever possible to determine the residence and employment of the visitor and review records for previous subversive activity. A determination as to whether, in the light of information developed, the visitor represents a danger

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