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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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STURGIS, FRANK - WITNESS
NAVARRO, WILFREDO - WITNESS
OLSEN, ROBERT - COMMISSION STAFF
ROETHE, JAMES N. - COMMISSION STAFF
CUBA
ASSASSINATION
JENIS, SAM
BAY OF PIGS
HUNT, E. HOWARD
HAVANA STATION
DISCUSSION OF ASSASSINATIONS OF SEVERAL TOP CUBAN LEADERS

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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supposed with the assistance of this ship -- was supposed to hijack a Russian vessel, and in hijacking this Russian vessel, I was supposed to go off the coast of Venezuela, receive assistance from the local Cuban colony there, plus the officials that I was in touch with of the Venezuelan Labor Party, to assist and use the hostages and the ship to approach the Cuban Government for the release of Cuban political prisoners. It was a known fact at that time that Fidel would not release the prisoners. That would be a propaganda victory, in one aspect to this operation. But the main overall idea was that when Fidel refused to release the prisoners, it was then going to be where we were going to ask for the release of the USS PUEBLO and the American crew that was captured and being held by the North Koreans. This was to create -- the capture of this Russian vessel was to create an international incident, possibly put world pressure on the Russians to release the American crew members and the USS PUEBLO.

OLSEN: Did that ever take place -- did you ever meet that ship off the Mexican coast?

STURGIS: No, sir. I went off the Mexican coast; I went into a small town called Progreso (?sp); at the time in 1968, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I did rent--lease--a boat in Progreso, Mexico; I went off the coast with this boat; I gave a written document to the captain of the boat that if this boat and the crew and myself and the members of the group were captured either by any foreign government, that he would have a document signed

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go over it briefly, of people I have been in contact with in the past who were, I believe, to be CIA agents. Many of these are my personal friends, and many of them have worked with me.

OLSEN: Would you leave that list for us in writing, and then just quickly run over the names right now/^{without discussing them}so that we can get them on the record, and then leave the paper with us?

STURGIS: All right, Sir. One is he was a CIA man in Havana.

OLSEN: (interrupting) Just give us the names.

STURGIS: Ragelio Gonzalez Corso in Havana; Rafael Hanscom, in Havana; Ray Sanstrom, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, lawyer; Ricordi Lorie; Salvador Aller; Paul Bethel in Havana and also Miami; Captain Antonio Montis Yunkles⁷-- he is very close with General Wesson of the Dominican Republic and a very good close friend of mine; Colonel Gerard de Berly, his business office 800 Douglas Road, Ceral Gables, phone number 448-7453, he was communications chief of CIA before the Bay of Pigs invasion.

OLSEN: Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?

STURGIS: Yes, sir.

OLSEN: We are going to have to put another belt on, Frank.

[end of Tape #9]