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JFK Assassination System Identification Form

Date:

7/7/2015

Agency Information

AGENCY:

SSCIA

RECORD NUMBER:

157-10014-10159

RECORD SERIES:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

AGENCY FILE NUMBER:

07-M-64

Document Information

ORIGINATOR:

SSCIA

FROM:

KELLEY, ROBERT

TO:

ELDER, WALTER

TITLE:

DATE:

07/14/1975

PAGES:

25

SUBJECTS:

BISSELL, RICHARD

KENNEDY, ROBERT

HELM, RICHARD

DOCUMENT TYPE:

REPORT

CLASSIFICATION:

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CURRENT STATUS:

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03/22/2000

OPENING CRITERIA:

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CCBOX 437

Date: 08/07/95

Page: 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

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(COMPARTMENTED)

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July 14, 1975

Mr. Walter Elder Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters Langley, Virginia

Dear Mr. Elder:

This will confirm the request I made on behalf of Mr. Schwarz in our telephone conversation this morning for copies of any reference in appointment books, daily diaries, calendars, logs or similar records relating to the following meetings, and any memoranda of conversation or other record thereof:

- 1. Meetings between Richard Helms and Robert Kennedy in the periods
 - a) November 30, 1961 November 1, 1962
 - b) August 1, 1963 November 22, 1963
- 2. Richard Helms' meeting with President Johnson regarding the three CIA Inspector General Reports
- 3. Meetings between Richard Bissell, McGeorge Bundy and W. W. Rostow in the period November 5, 1960 through February 15, 1961.

In addition, please provide a copy of any reference in appointment books, daily diaries, calendars or logs which relate to meetings among Messrs. Dulles, Bissell, Edwards or Cabell in the period August 1, 1960 through November 30, 1960, and any memoranda of conversation or other record of such meetings.

As we discussed, this information is needed for the hearings that are scheduled for Thursday, July 17. We will appreciate your efforts to supply this information before that date.

Sincerely,

Robert Kelley

Via Courier

RK/cm

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

351-4076

Review Staff: 75/1616

16 July 1975

Mr. Frederick A. O. Schwarz, Jr.

Chief Counsel

Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect To Intelligence Activities

Room G-308

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

In response to your request of 14 July 1975 about records of meetings by Agency officials (and confirming my telephone conversation with Mr. Kelley), the attached information is forwarded for your information.

Sincerely,

Wast Elder

Assistant to the Director

Attachment: As stated

RECL.

JUL 16 1975

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions.

007789 Classified by _ Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 116522 exemption schedule 53 (1), (2), (3) Automatically declausified on Date Impossible to Determine

16 July 1975

SUBJECT: Mr. Schwarz's 14 July 1975 request for information concerning meetings between Mr. Helms and Robert Kennedy, between Mr. Bissell and Mr. Bundy or Mr. Rostow, and a four-party meeting involving Mr. Dulles, Mr. Cabell, Mr. Bissell, and Mr. Edwards.

RESPONSE:

1. Concerning meetings involving Mr. Helms and Robert Kennedy during the periods 30 November 1961 - 1 November 1962 and August 1963 - 22 November 1963:

Our review for the above dates of memorandums of records written by Mr. Helms during the period 1951-1964 yield the following records which are attached at Tab 1:

		•
Date	Subject	Comment
23 January 1962	"Briefing of the Attorney General"	Memo on briefing of Attorney General by Mr. Helms and three other Agency officials prior to a round-the-world trip taken by the Attorney General.
30 January 1962	CIA Officer	Memo of conversation between Mr. Helms and Attorney General.
16 October 1962	''Mr. Hoover and AELADLE''	Memo of Conversation between Mr. Helms and Mr. Papich in which Mr. Helms refers to an undated discussion with the Attorney General.
16 October 1962	"MONGOOSE Meeting with the Attorney General"	Memo on a meeting in Attorney General's office attended by the Attorney General, General Lansdale, Col. Patchell, General Johnson, Robert Hurwitch, Hewson Ryan, and Mr. Helms.
22 August 1963 FROM	"The Dunlop Case"	Memo on briefing of Attorney General on Dunlop case by Mr. Helms.
16 1975		CLASCIFIED BT 018186

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE DE E. O. 11952, EXEMPTION CATEGORY:
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AUTOMATICALE DECLASSIFIED ON

CIA

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28 August 1963	'Meeting of the NSC Executive Committee re South Vietnam-6:15p.m. 28 August 1963"	Memo on meeting attended by President, the Vice President, representatives of State, Defense, Treasury, Justice (Robert Kennedy), USIA, White House Staff, and CIA (Carter and Helms).
29 August 1963	'Meeting of the NSC Executive Committee re South Vietnam - Noon, 29 August 1963''	Memo on meeting attended as above.
29 October 1963	"White House Meeting on Vietnam-4:20 p.m., 29 October 1963"	Memo on meeting attended by President, Vice President, Attorney General, and partipants from State, Defense, White House Staff, and CIA (Messrs. McCone, Helms, and Colby).
20 November 1963	"Cuban Arms Cache in Venezuela"	Memo on separate briefings of the Attorney General and the President on Cuban Arms Cache by Mr. Helms and the former Deputy Chief of Station in Caracas.
2 Concorming	a form name masting inco	Aving Moseye Dullog Cabell

2. Concerning a four-party meeting involving Messrs. Dulles, Cabell, Bissell, and Edwards at some time during the period 1 August 1960 - 30 November 1960:

Mr. Dulles' calendar bears an entry for 25 November 1969 showing that his schedule for that day included a budget meeting with the DDCI (then Gen. Cabell) the DDP (then Mr. Bissell) and the DDS (then Col. White). (See Tab 2). There is no entry for a four-party meeting involving Edwards during that period.

3. Concerning any meetings between Mr. Bissell and Mr. Bundy or Mr. Rostow between 5 November 1960 - 15 February 1961:

We have been unable to locate any record of such meetings.

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SECRET

23 January 1962

MENERATION FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUPJECT: Driefing of the Attorney Consral

- 1. The Atterney Ceneral was briefed for cixty minutes this morning in preparation for his trip. Fir. Fits Cerald covered Japan and Indonesia, Ir. Critchfield speac on Iron, and Ir. Enryby briefed on Berlin.
- 2. Pursuent to your request, I saled the Atterney General if he had had an opportunity to discuss with the Secretary of State the possibility of a stopover in Induan. He said that he had raised this notion and that it had been decided that he should push on with his veryege and not stop in Imped.
- 3. I gave the Attorney General photographs and biographical electrons of our Station Chiefs in _____ Taiped, Hong Econg, Djakarta, Teheran, Hone, Berlin, and The Hague. He said that he would make an elicit to see our positor representative in each stop he makes and asked that appointments to see him be made through his Special Assistant, Hr. John Seignathalor, who will be traveling with him. I am serving a cable to the field covering these context instructions.

he file briefing seemed to go extinicatorily, we ensured the questions which appeared to interest the Attorney Ceneral, and we are sealing him the report on Communist China derived from the documents ceptured abroad. He indicated a particular interest in cooling this paper.

Richard Relms
Chief of Operations, RE/P

oci m/P

16 RHelms/ecd - 23 Jan 62

Distribution: Orig & 1 - addressee

1 - DD/P chrono

1 - DD/P subject

30 January 1962

PERCRANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CIA Officer

I spoke with the Attorney General on 30 January 1962 and told him that we planned to worsen the CIACONDITION along the lines set forth in cable. He asked if this would make the /so sick that he would not be fit to travel if released. I told him that this would not be the case, that what we wanted to do was to make him look peaked rather than be the healthy, robust-looking man he is now. The Attorney General inquired if we thought this would do some good. I replied that high Indonesian authorities have become very concerned when the ulcers first developed last fall and that they had overruled the doctors in insisting that the /be taken to Bandung for hospitalization in a cooler climate. I summarized by saving that I could not see how it could do any harm and might do some good. At this point, the Attorney General agreed that we should go ahead.

Richard Helms Chief of Operations, DD/P

REUZ.

16 October 1962

MEMORANDEM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hr. Hoover and AMADIA

- 1. Mr. Sam Papich, FBI Limison representative, came to see me at 5:15 P. M., 15 October. He referred to the telephone call which the Director had placed to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover but which was taken by Mr. Balmont in Mr. Hoover's absence from the city. Mr. Papich said that the Director's request that Mr. Hoover see ABIADIA had been taken up with him upon his revurn. Mr. Papich stated that Mr. Hoover's ensure was "Mo".
- 2. In explanation, Mr. Papich indicated that Mr. Hower felt that AMADIA manted to see him simply on the basis of ego and that there was no useful information to derive from such an encounter. I pointed out to Mr. Papich that the last time the Attorney General can AMADIA, he explosized to me that one should play up to the ego of an individual such as AMADIA. This rejoinder simply caused Mr. Papich to sails.
- 3. Mr. Papich ended this part of our meeting by saying that Mr. Hoover was consistent in his policy not to receive defectors, agents, criminals, or other controversial figures. I told Mr. Papich that Mr. Hoover's refusal clearly had implications as for as ARMANA's cooperation with the FSI is concerned. Mr. Papich said he realized this.

Richard Helms Deputy Director (Plans)

Distribution:

Original - Mr. Elder for the DCI

... : 1 cc - Chief, CI,

1 cc - Chiar, Sa

ight 1 cc - DD/P

SERBET

heroexhum for the record

SUBJECT: NO/KEOOSE Meeting with the Attorney General

- 1. At 2:30 this afternoon, the Attorney General convened in his office a meeting on Operation MUNICOSE consisting of General Lansdale and Colonel Patchell, General Johnson of the Joint Staff, Robert Hursitch of State (vice Ed Martin who was unable to attend), Hesson Ryan of USIA, and the undersigned.
- 2. The Attorney General opened the meeting by copressing the "general dissatisfaction of the President" with Operation MONGOSE. He pointed out that the Operation had been under tray for a year, that the results were discouraging, that there had been no acts of sabotage, and that even the one which had been attempted had failed twice. He indicated that there had been noticeable improvement during the year in the collection of intelligence but that other actions had failed to inflaence significantly the course of events in Cuba. He spoke of the weekly neetings of top officials on this problem and avain noted the small accomplishments despite the fact that Secretaries Rusk and McKemara, General Taylor, McGeorge Bundy, and he personally had all been charged by the President with finding a colution. He traced the history of General Lancdala's personal appointment by the President a year ago. The Attorney General then stated that in view of this lack of progress, he was going to give Operation MONOCEE more personal attention. In order to do this, he will hold a meeting every morning at 0930 with the KONGOOSE operational respresentatives from the various agencies (Lansdale, Harvey, Hurwitch, Ryan, and Ceneral Joinson).
- 3. The Attorney General spoke favorably of the sabotage paper which had been presented by General Carter this sorning to the neeting of the Special Group (Augmented). He obviously did not like the earlier nemorandum, since he felt it showed no "push" in getting on with the acts of sabotage.
- it. Then asked for my comments, I stated that we were precared to get on with the new action program and that we would execute it aggressively. I cointed out, however, that the objective of Operation MMCOSS would have to be determined at some point since the Cubana

18 1975

SECTIET

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with sion we have to work were seeking a reason for risking their lives in these operations. I retailed my conversation with the young Coban from the DRS who pointed out that they were willing to commit their people only on operations which they regarded as sensible. I defined "rensible" in Judan terminology these days as nearing an action which would contribute to the liberation of their country, another may of caying that the United States, perhaps in conjunction with other latin countries, would bail then out militarily. By point was specifically ecceed by Herson Byan. The Attorney General's rejoined has a plea for new ideas of things that could be one against that. In passing, he made reference to the change in atmosphere in the United States Government during the last twenty-four hours, and asked once questions about the percentage of Choans whom we thought would fight for the regime if the country were invaded.

5. The necting concluded with the reaffirmation by the Attorney General of his desire to hold a meeting each day, beginning tenorrow. He said that these meetings might later be changed to every other day when and if he finds a daily get-together is not necessary. The nectings are to last no more than one-half hour.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

Distribution:

Original - Hr. Elder for the DCI and DDCI

1 cc - Chief, TFW

1 cc - DD/?

22 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: The Dunlop case

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I briefed the Attorney General at 10:15 A. M. today on the Dunlop case at NSA. The information I had as of that time consisted only of the following: that the man had been under suspicion, that he had committed suicide some weeks ago, and that on 21 August his widow had turned over to CIC of the Army certain classified documents which she had found in the attic of her house. These documents were not identified.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)



MONORANDER FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the LEC Executive Committee re South Viet Nam - 6:15 P. M., 23 August 1963

1. The President came from his neeting with the Civil Pights leaders in the Cabinet Room to his office and summoned into the Cabinet Room the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The other members of the Executive Committee remained in his office. After about fifteen minutes, the President returned to his office with these three gentlemen, giving no indication as to what aspects of the South Viet Ham situation they had been discussing. He simply announced that three telegrams were being sent to Saigon:

- A) A personal message to Ambassador Lodge from the President. (No. 269)
- B) A general message from the Department of State to the Askassador. (DepTel 268)
- C) A telegrem from General Taylor to General Harkins. (JCS 3385-63)
- 2. Covernor Harrison pressed for stronger instructions designed to remove the Mhu's from the SVN Covernment. The President indicated that he wanted to get Washington and the field lined up on a co-ordinated approach to the problem and that in light of a message from Coneral Harking he wanted to proceed as outlined in the aforementioned messages. He ended the meeting by stating that the Executive Committee would meet again at now, 27 August.

* President, Vice President

State: Rusk, Harrisan, Hilsman, Nolting

Defense: Molarara, Gilpátric, Taylor, Krulak

Treasury: Dillon

Justica: Robert Kennedy

WIA: Eurron

Distribution:

DECI - Mr. Elder for the DCI

C/ 73

White House: Bundy, Forrestal, Clifton, Smith

CIA: Carter, Helms

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms Deputy Director (Flans)

MENDRAHDUA FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Neeting of the NSC Executive Committee Te South Viet Nam - Noon, 29 August 1963.

- 1. The meeting had before it Saigon Enfel 375 from Ambassador Lodge and MACV cabla 1566 from General Hardins, as well as CIA reports of the Comein/ CIA Officer Sith Cenerals Minh/Shiam and another CIA /Officer Sith Bui Diem and General La Van Kim.
- 2. There was again what has become the usual presentation by the various participants as to the desirability of a quick coup against Dien/ Man, the effort to save Diem but unload Man, and the deliberate approach of attempting to ascertain whether or not the SVM generals have a coup plan and the carabilities for carrying it out. It gradually became the serse of the group that General Harkins should be instructed to confirm to the 57% generals that the approaches from CIA were bond fide and represented the views of the United States Covernment. In addition, it was felt desirable to attempt to find out through Conein's talk with Ceneral Kin, scheduled for 30 August (Saigon time), what the SVN generals were in fact planning to do. General Taylor felt strongly that General Hardins should be asked to pass on whatever the generals proposed as to its military feasibility. He wanted to be sure before other actions are taken that a coup is actually lined up. There was concern that the S/N generals were maneuvering to get the United States to do their planning for them. and the consensus appeared to be that every effort should be made to see that this is an STN coup and not one run by the Americans. It was falt that any amouncements about the storoing of United States aid or the leaking of 7th Fleet movements should be held up tending more information about 57% coup planning. It was agreed that the Agency would discuss with Mr. Hilsman certain ideas which we might implement to either get a comp started or help carry it out. (Flars are now being developed and will be discussed with State late today.)
- 3. A telegram giving the sense of the meeting was to be drafted by the White House Staff for Presidential approval.
- h. The White House, State, Defense, and CIA were asked to hold only one file each which contained policy/operational telegrams involving the President personally.

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- 1. The meeting and before it Saigen Called 375 from Cabausadur Lodge ami 1967 caule lifth from themend eardine, no well as JM rejerme of the Comminativities and Sain State Silve Comminativities and Saint State Silve Saint State Silve Saint State Silve Saint State Saint Saint Saint Saint State Saint State Saint State Saint State Saint Saint
- William deal with the best today.) charted or hedy earry it one. Alland are now being developed and will be िया सिर्वेष्ठाच्या देशाच्यांच वेरेश्वत स्थापित । श्रेतिय प्राधित वेर्णावेश्वयते । ११ अस्तिय । ११ व देशपूर्व ा भारत हैं। इस्तार स्वायन स्वयं क्षाय के प्रायत के प्रायत है कर स्वायन स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स् ladicing of Tin Meet personers arould in held up panding core in unnation that any emphasements were the oterphase of Indteld States all an the that this is an hill composed not one ran in the freshone. It mas folk ताप क्षिक consensus appeared to be क्षेत्रक शिलातृ स्थितिका अवस्थि का पार्वेश कि प्रवास wars tanourering to yea the Paland States to to their Manning for them. that a coup is actually liked up. There eas concern that the Six generals restations the factor of the form of the test of the first that th त्। आपुत्र एक प्राप्त । द्रव जिल्हा वर्ष अध्यक्षकात्रका प्राप्त विश्ववस्त्रम् । स्वतिव्यवस्त्र अत्र ५० एद्रव समुद्रम् -Land planinging in 100. General Caplor Cald stangly also Annord Sarkins Majacheduled for 30 luquet (fletigon time), what the 30% generals were in folk decirable to atterest to find one durings durelysts balk with Commud. to the fill present that the agminators there is a similarly the constituted the content of the then end the completitions for earlying th out. It wouldn't comme the same of the promp that threem! the mould to just maked to confirm duce a sour agreemed High and act in inchestic upartages on infragrence for in, the alliers to cave them but unload thu, and the deliberate approach Teach descripting gree sales a la grabitationalist est a selengiolist of a selengiolist of an include 2. There was again what has become the wood processoning in the
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USIA: The control of the control of

Treasury: Dillon.

State: Rusk, Harriman, Hilsman, Holting Defense: McMamara, Gilpatric, Taylor Krulak

The President, Vice President

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WASHINGTON

SECRET

August 29, 1963

AGENDA

Meeting with the President on Vietnam

August 29, 1963 -- 12:00 P.M.

- 1. Policy -- Ambassador Lodge's reply
- 2. Defense -- General Harkins' reply
- 3. Intelligence -- CAS cable
- 4. Next steps
- 5. Document control

SECRET.

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29 October 1963

HIMORAEDUM FOR THE FICORD

SUBJECT:

White House Meeting on Vietnam

4:20 P.M., 29 October 1963

PARTICIPANTS:

The President Vice President Attorney General

State

Secretary Rusk

Under Secretary Harrisan Under Secretary Johnson

Mr. Mendenhall

Defense

Secretary McHamara General Taylor Ceneral Krulak Fir. William Bundy

White House

Mr. Nelsonge Sundy Liternol Leadons and

Fr. Bromley Smith

CTA

Fir. John A. Eccone Mr. Richard Helms Mr. William E. Colby

- The meeting opened with a CIA briefing on the disposition of military forces in the Saigon area and a discussion of the different coup groupings active in Vietnam. The Propident directed that a mossage be sent to Saigon presenting the specifics of this briefing for the concurrence or comment of Ambassador Lodge and General Haridine, as the figures indicated that any coup attempt in Saigon would meet considerable UVII resistance.
- Secretary Rusk commented that Dism and Nhu must know a good deal about the coup talk and that both sides in a coup would be apt to ask the United States for assistance. We would have the problem of being silent or taking a position against prolonged fighting leading to a possible civil war. He pointed out that civil war



Would disrupt the conduct of military operations against the VC.

He believed we should minimize our involvement in this coup and allow Ambassador Lodge to return on schedule. The President commented that Ambassador Lodge's departure need not be delayed but that General Harkins should be placed in charge if any coup should begin. He and General Taylor commented that the problem was not an overall balance of forces but that the role of few leaders would be decisive in a coup situation. It was suggested that General Harkins, Charge d'Affaires Trueheart and CAS chief act as a committee to direct any coup operation. Mr. McCone countered with the view that CAS chief should not be involved in such a policy-making function although he would be in a position to provide technical advice to Ceneral Harkins and Trueheart as well as carry out their instructions in the operational field.

- 3. The Attorney Ceneral commented that a coup in Vietnam was not one in which the United States could take a hands-off position since we were involved in the success or failure of the war there. He expressed concern that the present course of action was putting the whole future in the hands of relatively unknown generals. He pointed out that President Diam was a fighter and would probably react most sharply and adversely to the United States. He stated that we should know more about this coup and that failure could spell disaster. He falt that the United States was risking too much based on flimsy evidence.
- it. General Taylor commented that his impression was that the military were not interested in politics but only in getting on with the war. He added that even a successful coup would have a bad short-torm effect on the war since the confusion and changes of personnel such as province chiefs would lead to a setback. He Recome stated that he agreed with General Taylor that even a successful coup would create a period of interregum and confusion which might only be solved by a second or third coup. The President questioned whether such wide changes in province chiefs would necessarily have to follow a successful coup. Secretary Rusk stated his belief that a quick, successful coup would bring better leadership to Victnam. Covernor Harrizan stated his belief that unless a change in government was brought about, the war will run down and be lost since Diem does not have the leadership qualities necessary to carry the country to victory.
- 5. The President stated that if the forces in Saigon were not clearly in favor of the coup, we should discourage its launching. He asked that we list the key units and our estimate of their

loyalties and if the balance was not clearly indicative of a cuick victory, we should reconsider. In this connection he agreed that Arbassador Lodge might dalay his departure from Caigon Long enough to make such an investigation. Secretary McNamara stated Ambassador Lodge would read this as a change in his basic instructions and in his belief that up to now we would support or at least keep hands off a comp. He commented that Ambassador Lodge will have some difficulties in passing over the leadership of the coup effort to General Harkins since General Harkins has been brought very little into recent planning and discussions. He asked that Ambassador Lodge be given the option as to when he would depart. Secretary Busk reiterated the basis criteria for United States action, i. e., that we would not stimulate a cowo but that we would not thwart one if it offered the prospect of increased military effort in the war, popular subport and improved working relations with the United States. The President agreed that Amoussador Lodge should determine his own decarture time.

6. After a separate drafting session, the meeting resumed to go over a draft telegram with the President. He directed a number of thanges, particularly to bring out his belief that what we say to the generals could be highly decisive as to whether they launch a comp and that this action is not entirely out of our hands. Secondly, he wanted to emphasize that the burden of proof must be on the coup forces and whether they have the strength to win quickly. If not, we should discourage them. Hr. Emmdy expressed concern regarding the security of these meetings on Vietnam and the absolute importance of keeping these discussions secret. He further directed that any policy telegrams from any Agency be cleared with the White House and that the White House be given a copy of operational traffic which might in any way indicate policy judgments.

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms/William B. Colby DD/P C/FS

Distribution:

Original - The Director

1 cc - DDCI

1 cc - DD/?

1 cc - DD/I

I cc - C/FB

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EVES ONLY

20 November 1963

HEMORARDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cuban Arms Cache in Venezuela

- 1. At 5:00 P. M., 19 November, the former Deputy Chief of Station in Caracas, and I called on the Attorney General to show him one of the submachine gums which had been retrieved from the arms cache found by the Venezuelan authorities in early November on the Paraguana Peninsula of Verezuela. Hast week, the Attorney General had told me that it would be most useful if the Agency were to produce some gun or other piece of military equipment which had actually been sent from Cuba to another country in Latin America. Therefore, we briefed the Attorney General in detail on the material in the cache and the means by which we had been able to demonstrate that the origin of the arms was Cuban. He examined the submachine gun and the supporting photographs which show serial numbers and the Cuban Army shield. While we were talking with the Attorney General, he took a telephone call in another room. Upon his return, he said that he had been speaking with the President and that we were to go to the White House within thirty minutes to show this gun to him.
- 2. The President was briefed on the origins of the submachine gun and on the methods used to establish that it had come from Cuba. We also described in detail what was found in the arms cache and the purposes for which the materiel was intended. We referred to the fact that mortar shells had been found wrapped in the unique air-drop gear which the Agency had devised for use at the Bay of Pigs. The President inquired about how the military equipment had been transported to Venezuela, our reply being that we believed it had been by boat since a small aluminum craft with an outboard motor had been found three hundred yards from the actual cache site. We then pointed out that President Betancourt desired to surface the finding of the Cuban arms cache at a time of his choosing prior to the Venezuelah presidential election on 1 December. The President agreed that President Retancourt should be given this opportunity. He further stated that the United States Government should do nothing about surfacing its interest in these arms until a decision has been made on what steps the United States wants to take in retaliation against Castro. He gave no suggestions as to what line of action he desired to pursue but made it clear that he would expect some recommendations to be forthcoming after the matter had been fully considered by appropriate agencies. We



informed him that the problem was already being worked on by Alexis
Johnson, Paul Nitze, and representatives of this Agency. I specifically
cleared with the President showing the submachine gun and other evidence
to interested officials of State and Defense.

3. It was clear that both the President and the Attorney General were intensely interested in this concrete example of Castro's export of arms for subversion. There was no opportunity with either gentleman to give a detailed briefing on other evidence of Castro subversive activity in Central and South America.

(शिंडाहरी) शेंटोशन प्रान्ड

Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

(A briefing of Acting Secretary of State Alexis Johnson and Assistant Secretary Edwin Martin plus Nr. Nitze and other Pentagon officials is scheduled for 2:30 P. M. today.)

Distribution:

Original - Mr. Elder for The Director

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Addendum to 20 November 1963 Hemorandum for the Record Subject: Cuban Arms Cache in Venezuela

When the meeting ended, the President arose from his rocking chair and stood beside the coffee table looking toward the Rose Garden. I leaned over and picked up the submachine gum from the coffee table. As I did so, I said to the President on the spur of the moment, "I am glad the Secret Service did not catch me bringing this gum in here." The President's face lighted up, he grinned, and instantly reacted, "Yes, it gives me a feeling of confidence." The former and I then went out one of the French doors on to the portice and walked around to the Cabinet Room where we had left a briefcase. As we walked down the hall, we saw the President again signing mail at the corner of Mrs. Lincoln's desk. He had interrupted work on his correspondence to take us into his office for the conversation.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

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