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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: MAY 11 1961

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (2-312)

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES
NM

Re Miami teletype to Bureau, 5/3/61.

Enclosed are nine copies of letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above at Miami.

MM T-1 is [MM 639-S.] (RM)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 mac/ce
ON 5/4/94 (JFK)

Miami will continue to follow activities of captioned organization through established sources.

GERALD PATRICK HENNING was interviewed in connection with case entitled "JAMES LINWOOD GENTRY, Jr. - IS - CUBA; RA - CUBA", Bufile 105-78365.

- P
- ② - Bureau (Encls. 9) (RM)
- 3 - Miami
(1 - 105-3973)

RJD:mgw
(5)

James (re Gentry)

Place cc:
105-86406 (Henning)

ENCLOSURE

~~Classified by SP6 B/B/ce~~
~~Declassify on: OADR 4/30/85~~

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Classified
6-19-85
JFK

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w/enc.
5-23-61
LTC/pw

FBI REC-39
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MAY 16 1961

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EX-112
INT-SEC

68 JUN 6 1961

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2-312

Miami, Florida

MAY 11 1961

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE FOR INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT.

KP 10-16-97
SW/MSK
11-4-97
(JFK)

Re: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES

The April 26, 1961 edition of the "Miami News", a newspaper published daily in Miami, Florida, contained an article stating that a new group calling itself the Anti-Communist Legionnaires intended to ask the United States Government for recognition and to supply it with arms and materials. A spokesman for the group said that young Americans were sickened by what happened to the brave band of Cubans that invaded Cuba the previous week and want to help them.

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The article stated that the commander of this organization, former Army Major George Tanner, age 37, of West Palm Beach, Florida, said the group is going to be trained for guerrilla combat. The men's ages range from 19 to 37 and most of them have had some military experience.

B. APPROX. 1721-1743-197

Paul Alvic, age 24, from New York City, second in command, stated the group was not getting paid, was not looking for money, but the communists would have to be fought sooner or later and that the United States' welfare was at stake as well as Cuba's. He said the present need was for uniforms, food and a large place to train the men. Alvic said the group is not connected with any agency of the United States Government or Cuban rebel organization. The men in the group have drifted in from some 20 different states, having been previously turned down at Cuban recruiting centers. The organization included a judo expert from Lexington, Kentucky, and an intelligence man with Korean War experience.

B. APPROX. 1721-1743-197

Classified by SP6 PAF/604
Declassify on: OADR 4/30/85

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*classified
6-19-85 MS*

AGENCY State, CIA, INS, Customs,
REQ. REC'D Env, Asst Asst
DATE FORW. 5-22-61
HOW FORW. R/S
BY MS/2R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2-1693-3
ENCLOSURE

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8MA/GCE
ON 3/3/94 (JFK)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES

On April 28, 1961, MM T-1, who has been connected with Cuban revolutionary activities for the past three years and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the leader of this organization, a tall American with a blonde mustache, name unknown, was recruiting in Miami for membership in this organization for future military action against Cuba. This leader claimed that he was awaiting clearance from the United States Government, which he expected to obtain in about two days, and that he was in contact with different Cuban revolutionary leaders.

MM T-1 said this American leader claimed to have worked with Sergio Sanjenis, former Castro Government official presently in jail in Cuba for counterrevolutionary activities.

MM T-1 advised that Ed Colby of New York City had joined this group and is active in it. MM T-1 explained that Colby is an American citizen of doubtful reliability who has been previously connected with Cuban revolutionary activities. MM T-1 explained that this organization claimed to have between 45 and 50 members in Miami. Some of the members were staying at the Hotel Cuba, some were living in Miami Bayfront Park, and some were meeting at the Hotel Everglades.

On May 1, 1961, Alexandra Kambis Boada, Cuba Hotel, 17th and Flagler Streets, Miami, Florida, advised that there were some Americans residing at that hotel and that at 11:00 A. M. that day, Julio Fernandez, a representative of the Frente Revolucionario Democrático (FRD), an anti-Castro organization, was going to talk to some of the Americans at that hotel.

Kambis said that Jerry (Last Name Unknown), a tall blond American, claimed to be a former aide to William Alexander Morgan, an expatriated American and

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Re: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES

S. W. Third Street and 1925 S. W. 4th Street, Miami, the latter address being a house owned by a Mrs. Hamilton, who furnished some of these members with free food and housing prior to her throwing them out. (S)(u)

MM T-1 described George Tanner as white male, American; 38 - 40 years of age; light brown hair; 5' 7"; 165 lbs.; from West Palm Beach, Florida; former member of the National Guard; unemployed; claims to own home in West Palm Beach, Florida, and is engaged to be married to a nurse. (S)(u)

MM T-1 said that between ten and fifteen members of the organization are usually in Bayfront Park unsuccessfully trying to recruit additional members but claim that more members will be coming from different parts of the United States. MM T-1 said that Ed Colby is usually with Jerry and that their present residence is unknown. FLA

MM T-1 stated that Tanner selected different individuals in this organization to be officers and appointed the majority of the members as either captains or majors. When it became obvious that Tanner knew nothing about military affairs and was doing ridiculous things, the organization threw him out and Jerry Hannon became the leader of the organization. Hannon has claimed he left the Cuban Revolutionary Army more than a year ago, says he works with Sanchez Arango, who claims he is sending a PT boat with supplies to Cuba and will try and obtain support from the United States Government and Cubans for the Anti-Communist Legionnaires. (S)(u)

MM T-1 said that the training camp established by this organization in the Florida Everglades is located somewhere two or three miles west of the Tamiami Fishing Camp on the Tamiami Trail between Tampa and Miami, Florida. After about two days at this camp, a forest or park ranger told them that they would have to move and they could not remain at that camp site but would be free to operate at a site about ten miles west of where they were. (S)(u)

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Re: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES

MM T-1 advised that it had been ascertained that Hannon and Colby and two more men were temporarily residing at a house located near 10th Street and S. W. 9th Avenue, Miami, Florida. That night Colby and Hannon were expected to meet with five Americans who are U. S. Army Reservists and will be offered jobs as instructors for this organization. MM T-1 described these Americans as (First Name Unknown) Mc Farland, white male, age 22 years; (First Name Unknown) Razon, an American in his 20's; another white male American, name unknown, and (First Name Unknown) Davis, a Negro.

FLA

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B. APPROX 1931

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On May 3, 1961, Sergeant Charles Sapp, Intelligence Unit, Miami Police Department, advised that Arthur Milton Redmond and Dan Merlin of 4241 N. W. 24th Avenue, Miami, on that date drove past Bayfront Park, Miami, and shouted "Viva Fidel". In the fight that followed, Redmond and Merlin, Walter Alfred Craven, Karl Knoch, Ray Emory, Hargraves and Alonzo Allen were arrested. Sapp said that with the exception of Merlin and Redmond, the other persons involved were members of the Anti-Communist Legionnaires who had been frequenting Bayfront Park. Sapp said the leader of this organization is Jerry Hannon, white male, about 29 years of age, 6' 8", residing at the Hotel Cuba, Miami.

LOC. FOR ALL

FLA

On May 3, 1961, Alonzo Allen, 777 N. W. 28th Street, Miami, advised that he had been a member of this organization which had been in existence for about a week. The original idea was started in Oklahoma or Texas. Different American military veterans came to Miami looking towards joining anti-Castro rebel organizations for some military action against the government of Cuba. George Tanner, who until recently was the leader of this loose-knit organization, claims to have contact with very important persons but two days previously was expelled from the organization. As of two days ago the organization had 46 members and Allen was the Intelligence Officer or person

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Re: ANTI-COMMUNIST LEGIONNAIRES

On May 5, 1961, MM T-1 advised that inasmuch as the invasion of Cuba by anti-communist rebels on April 17, 1961 was a failure, the morale of Cuban revolutionists in Miami is very low. MM T-1 explained that the different established Cuban revolutionary organizations have never recruited Americans, have never taken Americans and, although these organizations would accept many donations of equipment, generally never took Americans along on proposed military expeditions.

Now there is no hope of overthrowing the present Cuban Government by military action, consisting of only anti-communist Cuban rebels, and Cubans in Miami are asking for United States and Organization of American States intervention. The Cubans feel that they cannot overthrow the Castro Government alone and are depending upon outside help. Therefore, recruiting activity has ceased and although the Cubans are grateful that individuals and members of the Anti-Communist Legionnaires want to help, the Cubans are not interested. MM T-1 said that persons active in revolutionary activities do not expect Anti-Communist Legionnaires to leave Miami, participate in any action against Cuba and think it will be only a matter of time until the organization dissolves.

MM T-1 explained that Miami has been a place attracting all sorts of adventurers and opportunists and that the Anti-Communist Legionnaires is just one of the many such organizations that have come and gone.

V.e.H.
MM T-1 on May 5, 1961 advised that Colonel Roberto Casanova, Miami Beach, Florida, is one of the leading Venezuelan revolutionists in Miami, Florida, working to overthrow the present government of Venezuela. *X* Casanova has been contacted by one of the representatives of the Anti-Communist Legionnaires, has been told of the training camp the organization has in the Florida Everglades, and Casanova is expected to send a representative to inspect the training camp on either May 7 or 8, 1961. *J.S.M.*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 3 1961

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Malone
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Ingram
- Miss Gandy

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AND RELATED OFFICES
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SLIP(S) OF Classified by SP8mac/gcl
DATE 6-19-83 AKS

Classified by SP8mac/gcl
Declassify on: OPAW/SP8

URGENT 5-3-61 10-52 AM EST PS

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC, MIAMI 2 P

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8mac/gcl
ON 5/1/94 (JFK)

NEUTRALITY MATTER MIAMI

ANTI COMMUNIST LEGIONAIRES, NM. [MM SIX THREE NINE DASH] ADVISED THAT

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY HAS CAUSED ABOUT THIRTY AMERICAN ADVENTURERS
TO COME TO MIAMI RECENTLY TO JOIN ANTI COMMUNIST CUBAN CAUSE. THERE
IS NOW ABOUT THIRTY SUCH AMERICANS IN MIAMI. ABOUT TWENTY ARE IN
A CAMP OUTSIDE OF MIAMI HAVE NO HOUSING OR EQUIPMENT AND LIVE ON
SNAKES AND SWAMP CABBAGE. PRESENT LEADER OF THE GROUP IS JERRY
HANNON FROM CALIF. WHO CLAIMS TO BE FORMER AIDE TO WILLIAM ALEXANDER
MORGAN, EXPATRIATED AMERICAN IN CASTRO-S ARMY WHO WAS RECENTLY
EXECUTED. FIVE OF THESE AMERICANS ARE UNSUCCESSFULLY BUT OPENLY
TRYING TO RECRUIT IN MIAMI BAYFRONT PARK. FOUR OF THE MEMBERS HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED BY THE POLICE FOR MINOR VIOLATIONS. SOURCES SAY MAJORITY
OF THESE AMERICANS ARE IN EARLY TWENTIES, DELINQUENTS, VETERANS,
PSYCHOS AND UNRELIABLE. [MM SIX THREE NINE DASH] SAYS THESE AMERICANS
HAVE NO BACKING, MONEY OR WEAPONS, ARE NOT ACCEPTED INTO ANY

END PAGE ONE

Ch to State, CIA, ONI, OSI
Cristina, INS, AAG Yeagley, ACS
5-4-61

MAY 15 1961 RDS: [signature]

EX-112

25 MAY 10 1960 OBJECTION TO
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RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. KP 10-16-97

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SLD/KSP
11-4-97 (JFK)