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# Memorandum

**SECRET**

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [(134-6356)] (X)(U) DATE: 12/24/63

FROM : SAC, MIAMI [(134-238)(P)] (X)(U)

SUBJECT: [MM 639-S] (X)(U)  
[SI - CUBA] (X)(U)

Classified by *AP/clc/gel*  
Declassify on: OADR 8/9/83

app # 810481  
DECLASSIFIED BY *SP7 Mac/ste*  
ON 9/11/86

Re Bureau letter to Miami dated 11/14/63, entitled "ALEXANDER IRWIN RORKE, JR., IS - CUBA", (Bufile 97-4623) instructing Miami under caption of MM 639-S to furnish details of informant's trip to Guatemala, his connections with those making the trip, and the suspicions of the Guatemalan Government concerning this group's trip to Guatemala. (X)(U)

Informant advised that GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, an American mercenary, through contact with Miami attorney ELLIS RUBIN developed a plan whereby HEMMING and his mercenaries would look for RORKE at the expense of the insurance company who was the carrier on the airplane. After this was arranged through Miami attorney IVA KAY, a plane was rented and a pilot hired and on 10/2/63, DC-3 Aircraft, #NCL60445, departed from Miami with the following persons aboard: (X)(U)

CHARLES E. BUSH, owner and pilot of the aircraft;

HOWARD K. DAVIS, co-pilot;

CHARLES COLLIER, representative of an insurance company from Dallas, Texas;

IVA KAY, Miami attorney representing COLLIER;

ALLAN KENNEDY, student pilot;

GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, parachutist;

ROY HARGRAVES, parachutist;

JUSTIN WILSON, parachutist;

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-20-94 BY SP8 *[signature]* (SPK)

97-4623-  
NOT RECORDED  
98 JAN 3 1964

2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - Miami

RJD:bam *270*

64 JAN 3 1964

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 134-6356-59 (X)(U)

~~SECRET~~

[MM 134-238] (\$ (u))

[RAFAEL HERNANDEZ NODARSE, parachutist.] (\$ (u))

Informant explained that HEMMING, HARGRAVES, WILSON and HERNANDEZ, are all adventurers, mercenaries, unemployed, or of low moral character, who do not have any loyalty to any person or any cause. (\$ (u))

The DC-3 aircraft arrived at Merida, Mexico, on 10/2/63. It left Merida on 10/3/63 and arrived at Cozumel. On 10/3/63, it left Cozumel and arrived at Belize, British Honduras, and on 10/4/63, left Belize and arrived at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. (\$ (u))

In Merida, Mexico, the searchers asked people at the airport for any information they had concerning the whereabouts of RORKE and SULLIVAN. Airport employees were unable to furnish any information. (\$ (u))

HERNANDEZ went to a cabaret located near the airport in Merida, where he was told that RORKE and SULLIVAN had been there about three weeks previously; that they had arrived in a small plane; were in Merida for about three days; then went to Mexico City. After about four days, they returned to Merida and then departed for an unknown location. (\$ (u))

At Cozumel, Mexico, airport employees advised that they had seen RORKE and SULLIVAN. With them had been a third person. This person acted very nervous and was anxious to resume the flight. The airport authorities there presumed that RORKE and SULLIVAN left Cozumel for either Tegucigalpa, Honduras, or Managua, Nicaragua. (\$ (u))

At Belize, British Honduras, and Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, the searchers were not able to obtain any information concerning RORKE and SULLIVAN. No firm information was obtained at any point as to what actually happened to RORKE and SULLIVAN. (\$ (u))

When the DC-3 arrived in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. (\$ (u))

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[MM 134-238] (S) (u)

the occupants of the airplane were detained and flown to Guatemala City in a Guatemalan Air Force C-47 airplane. On arrival in Guatemala City, they were taken to the Air Force Headquarters and there detained. After a time, a group of Guatemalan Air Force pilots came to the headquarters and invited the search party to the officers' club for a party. At the officers' club, the search party was questioned very thoroughly by the Guatemalan pilots, who spoke English and readily admitted they were representing the Guatemalan Intelligence Service. During this period, HEMMING, WILSON and HERNANDEZ got drunk and furnished the Guatemalan pilots with much untrue information. HEMMING talked at great length against U.S. Government officials, U.S. Government policy, and the corruption and ineptness of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. HEMMING talked so unfavorably about the U.S. Government that the Guatemalan officers started suspecting him of being an agent of the Communist Cuban Government. The behavior of HEMMING, WILSON and HERNANDEZ was a source of great embarrassment to the others in the search party. (S) (u)

The search party was then lodged that evening at the Motel Plaza, Guatemala City, and although there were no armed guards, they were under surveillance and restricted to the motel. (S) (u)

On 11/5/63, CHARLES E. BUSH, the pilot for the searchers, was allowed by the Guatemalan Government to go to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and fly his DC-3 back to Guatemala City. (S) (u)

On 11/6/63, the searchers were taken out to the airport, allowed to board their plane, were ordered out of the country, and were escorted by a Guatemalan Air Force P-51. Thereafter, the DC-3 and the searchers returned to Miami, Florida. Informant advised that during the time the searchers were in Guatemala City, they were interviewed by both Guatemalan Government representatives and representatives of the U.S. military mission at Guatemala. (S) (u)

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[MM 134-238] (S)(U)

On 10/5/63, while the group was lodged at a motel and visited by the American Military Mission, BUSH, COLLIER and KAY were interviewed as a group by the mission. HEMMING and associates were interviewed at a later time by the military mission. During the interview HEMMING was abusive, belligerent and disrespectful and told the military mission that Senator THURMAN had an interest in this matter. (S)(U)

Informant advised that HEMMING and his group were dressed in an odd assortment of war surplus uniforms, fatigue suits and boots. HEMMING wore an orange colored flight suit. HEMMING and his associates were a disgrace to the U.S. and created a very bad impression. On the other hand, the basic dishonesty of the Guatemalan Government, coupled with its suspicions and its propensity to imitate a Class B movie, caused a great amount of confusion. (S)(U)

Informant claims that the Guatemalan Government is as dishonest, unscrupulous, and deceitful as is GERALD PATRICK HEMMING and his associates, and the encounter between the Guatemalan Government and HEMMING, et al, resulted in the Guatemalan Government being out-deceived by HEMMING's lies and insinuations resulting in the Guatemalan Government's deporting HEMMING and his group. (S)(U)

Informant feels that any responsible government would have immediately recognized HEMMING as nothing more than an adventurer. Informant was highly complimentary concerning the courtesy, dignity and restraint shown by the American Military Mission during the interview of HEMMING and his group. (S)(U)

For the information of the Bureau, details of this matter are set forth in a form suitable for dissemination in the case entitled "ALEXANDER IRWIN RORKE, JR., IS - CUBA", (Bufile 97-4623).

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2025-10-30