

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Copy for Mr. []

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2003

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FEB 23 1954

: Chief of Station, Guatemala

: LINCOLN

INFO: Chief, WH

Operational

Undeveloped Recruitment Lead,
Subject of HGGA-593(30 Dec. 1953)

1. Subject's current status and possibilities of exploiting him as a controlled source of information were the subject of a conversation between you and a staff member of LINCOLN Base during the recent Station Chiefs' Conference.
2. For the purpose of mapping out a practicable course of action it may be mutually beneficial to retrace the origin and subsequent development of this lead. The basic documents on file here consist of a copy of PEURIFOY's personal letter sent forward as an attachment to HGGA-591 (Dec. 30, 1953) and the first of a series of memoranda prepared by an ODACID official forwarded under cover of HGGA-644 (Jan. 13, 1954).
3. Subject's full name and address also appeared in the notebook of one Marco Tulio MENDIETA, apprehended and expelled by the Nicaraguan authorities on 27 September 1953. MENDIETA's background suggests that he may be close to the communist movement in Guatemala.
4. As far as we can judge, the above-mentioned ODACID correspondence furnishes all the background data available to us as of this writing. HGGA-592, suggesting a close study of military personnel with government connections such as subject, presumably reflects information conveyed in HGGA-644, which thus stands out as the basic document from which further operational moves should evolve.
5. The information contained in HGGA-644 stems from a Czech national, a neighbor of subject's, and reached ODACID thru two independent channels, an unidentified "local person" and []
6. There is some reason for believing that subject's current position is at best a sinecure which does not afford him genuine access to power. The paucity of biographical information available here, makes it exceedingly difficult to offer more than conjectures. We would therefore like you to assemble all readily available data on subject and any pertinent information upon which an assessment of his capabilities in the field of FBSUCCESS can be based.

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7. The fact that subject's oppositional views appear to be widely known, of course bodes ill for the future security of the operation, we are thereby proceeding from the assumption that the information as reported to ODACID is basically correct and that we are not faced with a deception attempt, wittingly or unwittingly involving subject. In this connection we wish to place on record that CALLIGERIS in talking to ONTRICH referred to subject as "OK".

8. While it strikes us as important to do a more thorough casing job on subject, we do not wish to delay the initial contact any longer than absolutely necessary. The logical approach would seem to be to ascertain the relationship between ODACID's "local person" and subject's Czech neighbor. We shall require a modicum of biographical background on both. While it may not be possible to develop subject into a fullfledged source through the intercession of the "Czech neighbor", he may in the further development of this case become a valuable link in our communications chain, once an understanding on principle has been reached.

9. We see no objection in your discussing problems relative to an intensification of subject's exploitation with informed ODACID officials whose assistance is likely to be indispensable anyhow.

10. We should like to emphasize that LINCOLN attaches the very greatest importance to a successful development of this lead. While you should not consider yourself restricted at all in drawing up your own action plan, we wish to have an opportunity to go over it prior to implementation.

11. We must assume that subject is under a cloud as far as his colleagues to the left are concerned; most likely his actions and associations are being kept under closest and sustained surveillances. In order to make this a durable penetration we may have to go to some lengths in setting up secure communications, which may entail making this a third country operation.

12. We are awaiting your comments at the earliest convenient time.

GLP:br
23 Feb 54

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Distributions:
2-Guatemala
2-Chief, WH
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