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*Estimated files
and notes*

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

RYBAT

13 May 1954

Chief of Station, LINCOLN
Attention: WILLIAM D. PLAYDON
Chief, KUDOVE

CHARLES F. RENNELL

1. Conversations have, of course, been begun with CHARLES F. RENNELL, and two things are already quite evident:

a. There is absolutely no point in further urging him to do on down to LINCOLN and spend some time there. I passed him your thoughtful message and received a very abrupt reply in the negative. Despite his protestations (superficial) to the contrary, it is evident that he feels that he has been personally abused by LINCOLN and that it would serve no useful purpose for him to go there, even for a short tour of temporary duty. He may possibly come around on this, although I doubt it. The only possibility would be that you might succeed in a personal talk with him after he has had a chance to come down off the ceiling.

b. Second, despite RENNELL's present state of extreme agitation and his over-preoccupation with "documenting his case against LINCOLN's actions", there are certain features of his position which, in my judgment, definitely warrant study and consideration. However, this will take a little time to sort out here and further time to coordinate this matter appropriately with LINCOLN. RENNELL is keening to return to his station "for necessary clean-ups and such further useful activities as he can engage in" prior to final action on his presently-announced determination to resign from KUBARK.

2. It is my current view, having talked with him this morning for about 20 minutes and having heard from GALEBOND and NOTBOHN of their conversations with him, that the best thing to be done at the moment is to hold him here quietly for a time and let him cool off a bit. I have enlisted the assistance of FLETCHER KNIGHT and [] (the latter having known him from West Point days) in this hand-holding and steam-letting-off process. I understand that LINCOLN does not want RENNELL to return to his station in the near future or until some understandings have been very clearly reached with him concerning his activities upon his return. Please let me know if I am wrong in this impression.

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3. Now with regard to the meritorious elements of his position, or rather those which seem to me to contain merit: First in RENNELL's mind at the moment is the injustice which he says KUBARK (LINCOLN) has worked upon [] and [] He claims that they are in actual physical jeopardy and stand to suffer financially and business-wise as the result of what he put them into upon LINCOLN instructions. His formula for getting them off the hook I believe to be well-known to you. (The question is whether LINCOLN has any better idea on how to take these two gentlemen off the hook and otherwise quiet their concern and outrage, which -- according to RENNELL -- have reached such lengths that they are threatening to call on friends in the Congress to blow the operation, etc., etc.

4. The second point which seems to me to be eminently worthy of consideration, is to attempt to arrive at a new approach to ERRATIC which should at the least diminish his hostility and active undermining operations against CALLIGERIS and company; and at the most enlist ERRATIC as an ally whose forces could possibly be brought to bear upon the internal situation in such a way as to reinforce the CALLIGERIS effort. (If this course of action were to be adopted it would have the additional important benefit of serving as further very useful and much-needed confusion and deception as regards the WSBURNTS.) It is RENNELL's thought that in order to accomplish the desired result it would not be necessary to make him a direct party to or confederate of the CALLIGERIS operation. He could be given just enough direction and encouragement to enable him to come in with such resources as he has, shortly after the CALLIGERIS kick-off. The net of this thought is to try to get ERRATIC to take his guns off CALLIGERIS and level them against the WSBURNTS. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of RENNELL's representations to the effect that ERRATIC has some influence on Osorio and company and has at least partially succeeded in persuading them that CALLIGERIS simply does not have what it takes to do the job. In fact, RENNELL attributes Osorio's coolness and aloofness to this very thing.

5. Further, according to RENNELL, both CALLIGERIS and ERRATIC are devoting a large part of their respective energies to projects for the penetration of one another -- and both are very successful. Assuming even the partial accuracy of this assertion as regards the penetration successes of ERRATIC, he is in a position to do a lot of talking and contribute substantially to the blowing of the operation both generally and as regards ODYOKE responsibility and backing. If he is left strictly behind the 8-ball and becomes any more convinced than he already is of a "betrayal", he may well be expected to turn upon us with much violence. RENNELL states that he already believes he has been betrayed once before and that as a result of his having been hoodwinked into giving up information concerning contacts and sources on the earlier occasion, he lost a considerable number of his people inside through outright betrayal to the WSBURNT regime. /Although the precise significance of this point is not clear to me, I gather that it has reference to something which happened many months ago and prior to the current (LINCOLN) phase of this matter.7 Surely if there is any way in which he can be sweetened up this should be worth our while. I repeat that not even RENNELL is now urging that

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ERRATIC should be handed the baton or even urged too strongly to become an actual member of the CALLIGERIS team. What he does propose is that there be a loose association of interest between the two, including a "cease-fire agreement" and a concentration of the energies of both upon the common enemy. As I understand the matter, the arrangements and negotiations concerning this could be handled by ourselves, viz. "the group", and would not have to involve any direct dealings or negotiations between the two principals. However, it would be RENNELL's recommendation that [] -- who is believed by RENNELL to be well regarded by ERRATIC, should be sent to see ERRATIC, and should be the spokesman for the CALLIGERIS [] axis as well as the group. An important part of the "persuasion" would be a modest amount of financial assistance to ERRATIC -- given to him upon the understanding that he would cease his hostile actions and concentrate on the enemy. The binder on this would be promises of further financial assistance if he lives up to the agreement. The total amount suggested by RENNELL is \$10,000, with a down payment of \$5,000 or perhaps slightly more, at the time of the [] visit -- and with promises of additional modest amounts which would not have to be revealed exactly since they would be represented as stretching out over a period of time until the scheduled D-Day in October. This is of course deliberately intended as deception calculated to serve the double purpose of confusing the opposition who will probably learn something about it, and also quieting ERRATIC over the period of the coming weeks. Finally, in this regard, when CALLIGERIS does move (and assuming that his move will be according to our own present timetable) this could be represented to ERRATIC as either a jumping of the gun by CALLIGERIS or as something which happened spontaneously and which forced CALLIGERIS' hand requiring an earlier move on his part. And at this time ERRATIC would be urged to throw his forces into action in support of CALLIGERIS. If ERRATIC does, in fact, have anything inside, this could conceivably result in a second wave of anti-government effort rolling in at a time when it might be very much needed.

6. Please think these matters over carefully, discuss them to the extent you deem wise with the others, and let us talk about them in more detail next Tuesday. I would greatly appreciate receiving some guidance and other reactions from you before that time.

FRANK G. WISNER

DD/P:FGW [] 13 May 1954

Distribution:

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1 cc: DD/P "Eyes Only" file

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