



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida
January 17, 1964

JOHN ROBERT KLINNER

John Klinner

The files of the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contain the following information concerning the above individual:

His true name is JAMES EDGAR WETHINGTON however he has used numerous other names, including JOHN ROBERT KLINNER. He is white and is approximately forty years of age. He has FBI [redacted]. He has been arrested on numerous occasions on various charges. On February 16, 1956 he was sentenced in the United States District Court, Savannah, Georgia, following conviction for violating the White Slave Traffic Act, to serve five years in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. He was conditionally released on January 29, 1960 in custody of the United States Probation Officer, Savannah, Georgia. A Conditional Release Violator's warrant was issued for his arrest by the United States Board of Parole, Washington, D.C. on March 15, 1960, charging him with absconding supervision, loss of contact, and failure to report. KLINNER was apprehended by FBI Agents at Miami, Florida, on October 1, 1960 and turned over to the United States Marshal.

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KLINNER was one of a group of repatriates who arrived at Homestead Air Force Base, Homestead, Florida, on April 9, 1963 aboard a chartered Pan American Airways flight from Havana, Cuba. The April 10, 1963 issue of the MIAMI HERALD contained an article entitled "Nine Yanks Return After 43 Days in CASTRO Jail." This article described the repatriates as nine shipwrecked Americans who spent 67 days in Cuban prisons, including 43 days in

62-109060-2272 p. 1

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[JOHN ROBERT KLINNER]

solitary confinement. On this occasion information was received that [JOHN KLINNER] was born [November 13, 1923] at Detroit, Michigan. His United States address was shown as [200 S.E. 12th Street, Miami, Florida]

On January 7, 1964, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed. [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] learned that [KLINNER]'s true name was not "KLINNER" but was "WETHINGTON."

[REDACTED] returned alone to Miami approximately September 1, 1963. [JOHN KLINNER] remained in Nassau. About three weeks before Thanksgiving 1963 [JOHN KLINNER] appeared in Miami and was from time to time in contact with [REDACTED]. To the best of [REDACTED] recollection, about a week before Thanksgiving 1963 [JOHN KLINNER] told [REDACTED] that he has just returned from Cuba. On November 22, 1963, [REDACTED] and [JOHN KLINNER] were in [Burdine's Store] Miami, when it was announced that the President had been assassinated. [JOHN KLINNER] insisted that they return to [REDACTED] at once. Immediately upon returning to [REDACTED], [JOHN KLINNER] made a telephone call to someone whom he addressed as [Major.] To the best of [REDACTED] recollection [KLINNER] immediately asked the following question of the person to whom he spoke over the telephone - "Was it us?" or "Was he one of our boys or was he one of our group that did it?" [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] could not further interpret the meaning of the telephone call. [REDACTED] said, however, that [KLINNER] had engaged in further conversation indicating that he and the person to whom he was speaking were speculating whether any persons would be arrested in Miami as a result of the assassination.

62-109060-2272p. - 2 -

JOHN ROBERT KLINNER

[REDACTED] during the time [REDACTED] with JOHN KLINNER he often made reference to the fact that he was associated with the "Cuban Freedom Fighters" and made frequent telephone calls to persons whom he addressed as "the Major" and "WONG." When speaking to "WONG," KLINNER often used words or phrases which [REDACTED] assumed were in the Chinese or Japanese language. [REDACTED] said she did not know the substance of the telephone conversations. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] got the impression at times that they were made solely for the purpose of creating an atmosphere of importance on the part of KLINNER for her benefit.

[REDACTED] said she did not know what JOHN KLINNER did for a living; that he told her he received money from an aunt in Decatur, Georgia. While KLINNER lived with her, he associated with M. B. and C. B. YAMANIS, Blue Ribbon Shipping Company, Nassau, Bahamas, who own the British M/V ENAK. The ENAK docks at Miami every second Monday. When in Miami KLINNER may stop at the Ocean Ranch Hotel, 200 S.E. 12th Street.

[REDACTED]

Records of the Dade County Department of Public Safety indicate KLINNER was [REDACTED] January 11, 1964 on [REDACTED]

He was released the same date on bond.

Efforts are being made by this Bureau to locate KLINNER for interview.

62-109060-2272 p. - 3 -

JOHN ROBERT KLINNER

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62-109060-2272 p. - 4 *