10 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

VIA : [redacted]

SUBJECTS : STURGIS, Frank Anthony
aka: FIORINI, Frank

HUNT, Everett Howard, Jr.

1. The attached memorandum, dated and captioned as above, resulted from a review of Office of Security material concerning Frank Anthony Sturgis, aka: Frank Fiorini, to further substantiate the Agency's recent public statement to the effect that Sturgis was never connected with the Agency. The writer found no information in the material reviewed which would contradict the Agency's public statement; however, it is apparent that an unknown group has backed some of Sturgis's activities.

2. The attachment is designed as a lead paper only--it should not be considered definitive--to show a line of investigation that can be pursued. The writer will attempt no further official research into this matter without approval from higher authority.

Document Number: 851-1059-B
for FOIA Review on: MAR 1977

Attachment

10 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECTS: STURGIS, Frank Anthony
aka: FIORINI, Frank

HUNT, Everett Howard, Jr.

1. In his book, Give Us This Day ("The Inside Story of the CIA and the Bay of Pigs Invasion..."), on pages 98-103, Everett Howard HUNT, Jr., gives an account of some of the activities of Pedro Luis DIAZ LANZ who defected from Castro Cuba in mid-1959 as the first chief of Castro's air force. HUNT points out that in October 1959 DIAZ LANZ piloted a small plane dumping hundreds of anti-Castro leaflets over Havana. DIAZ LANZ's copilot on the flight is identified as Frank FIORINI, aka: Frank STURGIS. HUNT goes on to describe what would appear to be personal contacts with DIAZ LANZ in the Miami area, utilizing the services of Bernard BARKER in his contacts with DIAZ LANZ and other Cubans. HUNT further describes his attempts to involve DIAZ LANZ with the Agency in the invasion, but HUNT's overtures were not accepted by Headquarters. The concluding paragraph of this account states:

> "After the invasion the Kennedy Administration could not do enough for Manuel RAY. A cozy post was secured for him in Puerto Rico as Chief of Munoz Marin's housing projects. I am sure that no equal effort was made in behalf of Pedro Luis DIAZ LANZ, for our national tradition has become one of shabby discrimination against known anti-Communists."

NOTE: HUNT's contacts with DIAZ LANZ occurred during the period circa October 1960 to circa November 1961 while HUNT was assigned to Miami.

2. Office of Security files / and / concern Pedro Luis DIAZ LANZ but reveal no use of DIAZ LANZ in the Cuban invasion or other Agency operational matters. File / concerns Marcos DIAZ LANZ, the brother of Pedro Luis DIAZ LANZ. The file reflects that Marcos DIAZ LANZ was the Deputy Chief of Castro's air force until his defection in July 1959.

There is information showing the mutual involvement of Frank FIORINI with the DIAZ LANZ brothers in anti-Castro activities until at least the summer of 1963.

3. Information in the file of Frank Anthony STURGIS, aka: Frank FIORINI / , reflects that from circa May 1960 to at least January 1961, STURGIS was living in the Miami area training a group of Cuban and American volunteers for a military invasion of Cuba.

Reportedly, STURGIS' invasion group in January 1961 was calling itself, "Brigada Internacionale," with variations of "International Anti-Communist Brigade" and "Anti-Communist International Brigade." One of the sub-units of the "Brigade" was identified in the press in July 1961 as being a paratroop unit called "Intercontinental Penetration Force" or INTERPEN. The Commander of INTERPEN was identified as Gerald Patrick HEMMING, Jr., . The Office of Security file of STURGIS contains nothing further until October 1968, when his arrest was announced in October 1968--while still heading the "International Anti-Communist Brigade"--for his

involvement in a group attempting to enter Guatemala to "clean out anti-Guatemalan guerrillas." At that time FIORINI claimed that two men who were sponsoring his operation were Bob HOWELL, allegedly a friend of the Kennedy family, and a General BIDDLE, member of the (John) Birch Society.

4. To return to the events of the early 1960's, in July 1962 an article appeared in the New Orleans States Item by Bill STUCKEY, concerning an anti-Castro training base established on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. This unit was identified as INTERPEN, headed by Gerald Patrick HEMMING, Jr. The article inferred that INTERPEN was still part of Frank FIORINI's (STURGIS) "International Anti-Communist Brigade." This particular unit received nationwide publicity in 1967 when New Orleans District Attorney GARRISON alleged that INTERPEN was involved in the assassination of President John F. KENNEDY and that INTERPEN members were connected with CIA.

5. The above noted Bill STUCKEY who wrote the July 1962 press article about INTERPEN and HEMMING is identical with the William STUCKEY who interviewed Lee Harvey OSWALD during a public broadcast in New Orleans in August 1963. According to testimony in the Warren Commission hearings by William STUCKEY and Carlos BRINGUIER (Cuban Student Directorate delegate in New Orleans) in early August 1963, Lee Harvey OSWALD came to BRINGUIER's New Orleans clothing store announcing that he, OSWALD, was a former Marine trained in guerrilla warfare who wanted to join an anti-Castro guerrilla group in New Orleans. (NOTE: Many of the INTERPEN group were ex-Marines, as was Frank FIORINI.) BRINGUIER claims he stalled OSWALD and several days later encountered OSWALD on the streets of New Orleans passing out "Fair Play For Cuba" leaflets. The encounter led to a disturbance, and OSWALD and BRINGUIER were arrested. BRINGUIER subsequently alerted STUCKEY to OSWALD which resulted in the broadcas interview. It is of note that BRINGUIER inferred he was knowledgeable of the anti-Castro guerrilla group training on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and even collected funds for the travel of two of the members to Miami when the group was disbanded.

6. The individual in INTERPEN of most interest to GARRISO was Loran Eugene HALL, aka: Lorenzo PASCILLO, aka: Skip HALL , who ostensibly arrived in Dallas, Texas, in Octob

1963, remaining until after President KENNEDY was shot. GARRISON also alleged that HALL was involved with the "Minutemen." The HALL file reflects that in August 1963 HALL was in Southern California, where he spoke before numerous meetings of the John Birch Society attempting to raise funds for an anti-Castro planned invasion of Cuba scheduled for mid-September 1963.

7. In June 1972 Frank STURGIS, E. Howard HUNT, Bernard BARKER, and others were arrested while burglarizing the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate, Washington, D.C.

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : [redacted] DATE: [redacted]

: Chief, [redacted]

SUBJECT : Anti-Castro Propaganda

1. [redacted] Office may be interested in the information contained in the enclosed article by Bill Stuckey which appeared in a magazine published in New Orleans. A copy of it has been forwarded to TFW.

2. Any questions pertaining to this memorandum should be directed to [redacted]

Enclosure: As stated above

[redacted]

Destroy upon Returning - 8-6-62

New Orleans States

Adventurer Works Hard to Establish

Item — Saturday 21 July 1962

Anti-Castro Base Near Covington

By BILL STUCKEY

Local Cubans and a shadowy American adventurer have been working feverishly—but unsuccessfully—for over a month to set up an anti-Castro guerrilla training base near Covington.

The American soldier-of-fortune, The States-Item learned, is Gerald Patrick Hemming, who goes by the nomme de guerre of Jerry Patrick. He claims to be an ex-Marine.

Patrick first popped into the news last summer when Miami newspapers found he was training anti-Castro guerrillas in the Everglades. He called his band the Intercontinental Penetration Force. Both he and "Interpen," however, dropped out of sight last fall after the FBI began checking to see if he was violating U.S. neutrality laws.

Last February, Patrick showed up in New Orleans, apparently at the invitation of local Cuban Revolutionary Council leaders and other Cubans who wanted to take direct action against Castro. With the help of anonymous U.S. patrons, the Cubans began supplying Patrick with machine guns, explosives and other military supplies.

STUCKEY

Patrick made regular trips here, slipping in and out of the port secretly in a modern, well-equipped PT boat.

Last spring, another anonymous U.S. patron offered the Cubans and Patrick a large tract of land—complete with airstrip on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Patrick agreed to set up a training base, handling classes of 50 or so Cuban recruits at a time. After completion of the training, the guerrillas would be like their Everglades counterparts, transported to Cuba secretly to work with the anti-Castro "Clandestinaje" (underground).

The men would also have been used to make lightning raids on the Cuban coast to divert the attention of Castro's militia from important sabotage missions.

Louis Rabell, local delegate to the Cuban Revolutionary Council, however, confirmed that last week the Miami council headquarters nixed the Covington base for undisclosed reasons.

Who is this Patrick?

RABELL DESCRIBES HIM as a rangy, six-foot-seven type who can shoot two heavy machine guns from the hip at the same time, cowboy style. Miami sources say he wears an Australian bush hat, sports a neat beard and wears his hair long and wavy. He's been described as an Erroll Flynn type in appearance, a French musketeer type and as the "biggest, strongest and handsomest" man in Interpen.

Although he claims his group has little money, local Cubans guess that he has extensive financial backing. His equipment is of the latest model, and the power boat he brings here periodically is "at least a $20,000 job."

Patrick tells Cubans he wants to topple Castro because the Fidelista regime imprisoned his Cuban wife on charges of "counter-revolutionary activity." She has been sentenced to 30 years.

About 30, Patrick claims to have served with the Marine Corps for more than four years, including a stint in the Far East as a sergeant with the Marine Air Wing. However, when Patrick first began to get headlines there, Miami sources said Marine records show no trace of either a Patrick or a Hemming.

Patrick also says he was a paratroop instructor with Castro in 1958, and stayed on with the Cuban regime until August, 1960. About the time he left Cuba, he was also involved in an "invasion" intended to topple the Somoza regime in Nicaragua.

Estimates of the size of his organization range from 30 to 100 men—Cubans, Americans, Latins, Canadians and others.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 28 1977

(2)

"We weed out all the crackpots and bums," he has said.

Interpen is connected with the International Anti-Communist Brigade headed by Frank Fiorini, another American who fought with Castro (and who was rewarded by becoming overseer of Havana gambling operations after Batista's fall). Now at odds with Castro, Fiorini claimed earlier this month that 20 of his men had landed in Cuba's Matanzas province.

• • •

BOTH FIORINI AND PATRICK at one time had connections with Sanchez Arango, former minister of foreign relations and education under pre-Batista President Carlos Prio Socarras. It's an educated guess that Patrick's big backer might be Prio, who reputedly left Cuba with a huge fortune.

Although the Patrick guerrilla base plan fell through here, there is enough happening to whet the appetite of any invasion-rumor connoiseur.

Last April, The States-Item confirmed for the first time that Cubans were trained here, at the old Algiers ammunition dump, for the Bay of Pigs invasion. Their Cuban leader, an ex-Castro officer named Nino Diaz, returned to Miami when the New Orleans force was unable to land.

Latest reports now are that Diaz and a group of from 50 to 100 men returned to Cuba within recent weeks, and are fighting now in the Sierra Maestra mountains of Oriente province.

• • •

AT LEAST EIGHT OTHER refugees who lived in New Orleans are now in Cuba with the underground, Rabell said. The only such refugee whose name he remembers, he said, is Carlos Lazaraba, a pilot.

Broadcasts from the three underground radio transmitters inside Cuba, which are occasionally received here on short wave, also indicate the presence of New Orleans Cubans on the island. A favorite code message to relatives here would go something like this—"Carlos Garcia says he certainly misses that grocery store back on Miro street." Other local landmarks are also referred to in the broadcasts.

And in Miami a tremendous wave of optimism has swept the large Cuban colony there, according to Girardo Abascon of the highly respected and informative Truth About Cuba Committee. (Abascon, former owner of a distillery in Cuba before Castro, was here recently. He and other committee workers translated important news items from Castro news media and circulate them in printed form throughout this country.)

All this comes on the eve of a significant Castro anniversary—July 26. On that date nine years ago, Castro first burst into Cuban headlines when more than 100 of his followers made a suicidal assault on the Moncada barracks, a Batista army base in Santiago, Oriente province.

AT HIS TRIAL FOR THE Monceda assault, Castro delivered an eloquent address outlining his program for a "democratic and socially just" Cuba—an address admired by many of his anti-Communist followers.

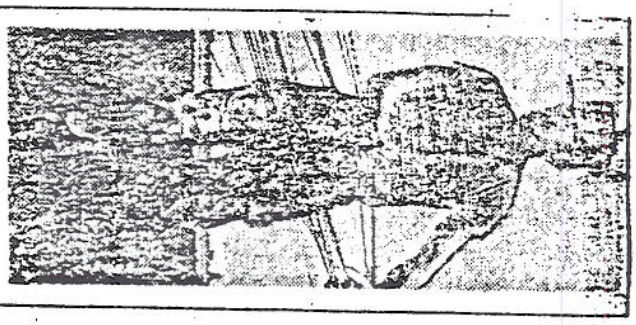
The upshot of the whole affair is that Castro's political group was named the "Movimiento 26 de Julio."

Abascon reports that Cuban press says Castro plans a tremendous demonstration in Santiago on the 26th in honor of the anniversary. It might be interesting to know what kind of demonstrations the anti-Castro underground are planning the same day.

Interestingly enough, a newly-arrived refugee, Eduardo Dominquez, told The States-Item he was in on planning that 1953 Moncada assault. He said he had known Castro as a student in the University of Havana (where Dominguez studied accounting).

Ah, but reliable old fate stepped in and Dominquez didn't get to go on the Moncada assault. Reason?

"I lost my pistol," he said.



ANTI-CASTRO SOLDIER OF FORTUNE JERRY PATRICK has been supplied with arms by local Cubans since February. Patrick, and his plan to open a guerilla training base here, are described in the column "New Orleans and the Americas" today on Page 13.