

MOUS/MR

*O. Z. / ...*

FORM NO. 14 4-1-68	DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON	DATE 11/21/68
INTERDEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE		
REFERRED TO Mr. William McDonnell, Liaison Section - FBI		
RE: Anti-Castro Group (IACB) recently apprehended in and deported from British Honduras Ref: Telephone conversation 11/21 with Mr. Rockner		
WRITER <input type="checkbox"/> HAS <input type="checkbox"/> HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THIS REFERENCE		
<p>COMMENTS: Attached proposed telegram to AmConsul, BH for your clearance - almost all info in telegram is from FBI files.</p> <p>Background: GOBH security officials (British nationals) who conducted interrogations and investigation of this group have requested information on identities and background of the expedition. We would like to be as forthcoming as possible without compromising anything or anybody; also, since we would now like more details from the GOBH (para. 3 of telegram), it is a little less awkward to make the request if we simultaneously give the British Hondurans some response to their request. Is there anything here which should not be said to the GOBH (paras. 1 and 3) or on an FYI basis to our Consul (para. 2)?</p> <p>If possible, I would appreciate it if you could telephone me after you have had a chance to look this over.</p>		
<p><i>11/22/68 Regina Eltz</i> State advised no objection for Section Chief R. W. ... Eltz advised that accuracy of content extracted by state from our material has not been checked against our files. Also advised that British Intelligence is cognizant of this.</p> <p><b>ENCLOSURE</b></p> <p>REC-83 105-172694-57</p>		
SIGNATURE Regina M. Eltz, OIC British Honduran Affairs		
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ARA/CEN/BH - Rm. 5915 - ext. 5913 or 2970 Code 182		

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INFO: **Asconcul, BELIZE**  
**Ambassy, MEXICO**  
**Ambassy, TEGUCIGALPA**  
 STATE **Ambassy, GUATEMALA**

SUBJECT: Background on Thirteen Americans Detained in  
 REF: Belize 665

1. May pass following information on confidential basis to COEN Security  
 Officials:

(a) International Anti-Communist Brigade (IACB), aka the "Secret Army of the IACB" founded by Sturgis, aka Fiorini and ~~and~~ Bocelli, is one of many anti-Castro groups in Miami area. Fiorini leader and motive force with Buchanan a top assistant; active membership in effect consists of those Fiorini can recruit at given moment for an escapade.

(b) Frank Angelo Fiorini born December 9, 1925, Norfolk, Virginia. Legally changed name to Frank Anthony Sturgis 1953 but has since used former name Fiorini and other aliases; resides 2515 NW 122nd St. Miami and is used car salesman. Was involved in smuggling arms to Castro prior Batista's overthrow; after Castro took power 1959, Fiorini given captain's rank Cuban Airforce. He soon broke with Castro and helped "bunk" Evans with anti-Castro leaflets October 1959 and reportedly in 1961. Founded IACB late 1960 or January 1961. But service Cuban Airforce lost citizenship 1960

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ARA/CEK - Thomas F. Killoran

SCE - Mr. Jochimsen (substance)  
 CCA - Mr. Wollan (draft)  
 G/P:MC - Mr. Philip (substance para.3)

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM DRAFTING OFFICE CO.

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Amconul, BELIZE.

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but ruling reversed 1961. Fiorini has reputation as braggart and liar and appears more adventurer than dedicated political extremist.

(c) Jerry Buchanan (apparently aka <sup>Connell</sup> ~~Connors~~ in BH) born 11 March 1939 Brevard, North Carolina. First U.S. army discharge "undesirable" later changed to honorable; discharged again as "undesirable" 1959 after re-enlisting under alias. Convicted 1959 breaking and entering and forgery and sentenced three years Florida penitentiary. Membership IACB dates from about 1961.

(d) No significant information on remaining eleven, although most have record some arrests or detentions; identities follow (BH aliases in parentheses):

Robert Paul Curtis 11/18/37 Buchanan, West Va.; Laurence Eugene Francis ~~Coyle~~

(aka Herbert ~~Fender~~ <sup>B</sup> 8/3/42 Minneapolis; <sup>MUN</sup> Max Gonzalez (aka Coman) 12/29/29

New York City (numerous arrests, sentenced one year 1959 for grand larceny);

James Edward Holtshouser 2/27/41 St. Louis; Ernest Ray Manning 9/17/46 Atlanta;

James Walter Wells 1/19/37 Center Hill, Florida; Franklin Delano Hulbert 1/4/33

Scranton, Pa.; Mickey Boland ~~APB~~ <sup>B</sup> 4/24/42 Winter Beach, Fla.; Richard Gale

Brown <sup>P</sup> 4/26/47 Garden City, Mo.; Charles William ~~Jones~~ <sup>Jones</sup> rpt I Jones (aka Jones)

3/11/42 Echols, Ky.; Charles Orr ~~Connell~~ <sup>Connell</sup> 4/28/15 Pittsburg. Pa

(e) Over the years Fiorini has reportedly planned various harassments of Castro regime including raids on Cuba. None of schemes have succeeded except pamphlet drops Havana referred above. He has not been prosecuted. Some confidential reports prior October indicated Fiorini might again be planning invasion or infiltration Cuba. No information developed here to confirm

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~~existence~~ ~~subsequent~~ second boat or contingent. No record Dr. Frank Lyons and no indication IACB has "country director" for British Honduras. On arrival UK group interrogated and released but investigation continues to determine if sufficient evidence violation US law exists for prosecution (see paragraph 3). Group has maintained that target their operation Cuban coast and landing the result of mishaps.

2. BEGIE VII: Believe it still unwise to bring up with OCEH (or SOG) possibility group may at one time have planned stop Guatemala. Department unable locate Washington any evidence second contingent may be elsewhere Central America. Group itself continued to claim a sea rendezvous planned before proceeding Cuba, but only Fiorini claims ever to have seen fabled Col. Francisco Quesada, raising possibility Quesada is a Fiorini invention.

END VII

3. For use US law enforcement agencies, Consulate requested obtain from OCEH photocopies of documents and list (with manufacturer, serial numbers and other identifying data of weapons found in their possession.

END

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14  
ACTION ARA 16

INFO EUR 15,SCS 04,SCA 02,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,HI 02,INR 07,L 03,  
NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,RSC 01,SP 02,SS 25,USIA 12,FBI 01,SY 03,  
ORM 03,SSO 00,RSR 01, /115 W

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P 252230Z OCT 68  
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 890

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 665

SUBJECT: ANTI-CASTRO GUERILLAS HELD BY BRITISH HONDURAS  
REF: BELIZE 662

UK INTELLIGENCE OFFICER QUESTIONING GROUP HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING  
INFO AS BACKGROUND AND ASSIST IN HIS INTEROGATION:

- 1. IS ORGANIZATION EJERCITO SECRETO DE LA BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA ESTADOS UNIDOS STILL IN EXISTENCE.
- 2. WHO ARE THE LEADERS.
- 3. WHERE IS THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
- 4. WHAT ARE THEIR AIMS.
- 5. WHAT IS THE POSITION IN OR CONNECTION WITH THIS ORGANIZATION OF FRANK FIORINI ALIAS BONNELLI ALIAS BENELLI ALIAS STURGIS ALIAS STURCIS BELIEVED BORN 9TH DECEMBER 24, NORFOLK VIRGINIA.

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- 6. ARE THE FOLLOWING KNOWN TO BE CONNECTED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.
  - (A) JERRY BUCHANAN BORN 4 MARCH 39 PENNSYLVANIA NORTH

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ENCLOSURE

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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CAROLINA

(B) ROBERT (BOB) PAUL ~~CURTIS~~ BORN 18 NOVEMBER 1936  
BUCHANAN, WEST VIRGINIA

(C) HERBERT JOHN ~~FENDER~~ BORN 13 SEPTEMBER 1942 VERD BEACH,  
FLORIDA

(D) MAX ~~GORMAN JR.~~ BORN 29 DECEMBER 1929 NEW YORK CITY

(E) RICHARD GALE ~~BROWN~~ BORN 26 APRIL 1947 GORDON CANYON,  
NEBRASKA

(F) JAMES EDWARD ~~HOLTSHOUSER~~ BORN 27 FEBRUARY 1941  
ST LOUIS MISSOURI

(G) ERNEST RAY ~~HANNING~~ BORN 17 SEPTEMBER 1946 ATLANTA GEORGIA

(H) MICKEY ROWLAND ~~SABB~~ BORN 24 APRIL 1942 MIAMI BEACH,  
FLORIDA

(I) CHARLES ORR ~~CONNELL~~ BORN 28 JUNE 15 PITTSBURG,  
PENNSYLVANIA

(J) JAMES WALTER ~~WELLS~~ BORN 9 JANUARY 37 CANTER HILL, FLORIDA

(K) FRANKLIN DELANO ~~MULBERT~~ BORN 4 JANUARY 34 PENNSYLVANIA

(L) CHARLES WILLIAM ~~JAMES~~ BORN 11 MARCH 1922 ECHOLS, KENTUCKY

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7. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING A RENDEZVOUS WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED PARTY (POSSIBLY FROM HONDURAS REPUBLIC) ON OR ABOUT 22 OCTOBER OFF TURNEFFE ISLAND, BRITISH HONDURAS.

8. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING DOCTOR FRANK D. LYONS, M.D. (NO OTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE) SAID TO BE A DIRECTOR OR THIS ORGANIZATION WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BELIZE."  
TEPPER

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