

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Letter*	<p>Berle to Whitney Shepardson with attachments*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RIF per CIA visit</p> <p>*SANITIZED copy opened 8-27-84</p>	<p>2-19-43*</p> <p>5/18/12</p>	A

FILE LOCATION

Berle Papers, Box 48, State Dept. Correspondence, 1938-44, Sh

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

February 19, 1943

Dear Whitney:

I refer to some proposed operations which it was suggested might be handled through Messrs. Enrique and Raul Godoy.

I enclose a copy of a strictly confidential letter written to me by the American Ambassador to Cuba, with some enclosures. The Ambassador thinks this may lead you to revise your conclusions in respect of the use to be made of these people.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:

As stated.

Mr. Whitney Sheperdson,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.

A-B:AAB:ES

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
Authority 2/14/09 CIA Visit
NARA PMH Date 5/18/2010

(COPY)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Habana, February 10, 1943

Dear Adolf:

With reference to your verbal indication to me during my December visit to Washington respecting Enrique and Raul Godoy, shortly after my return to Habana Mr. Ernest Cuneo from Donovan's office called on me, reviewed La Metropolitana situation and expressed the hope that I might be able to intercede with the Minister of State to obtain passports for the Godoy brothers to proceed to Spain for the purposes with which you and I are familiar.

Since there is always a chance of a slip between the cup and the lip I deemed it unwise for me to request a Cuban diplomatic passport for these gentlemen, but as I promised Cuneo, I did speak to the Minister of State informally saying that I understood the Godoys might wish a United States visa and since I understood that they could get priorities for transportation across the Atlantic and otherwise were responsible people I had issued instructions that they should be given the visas, and I thought he might be interested in this information as bearing on the issuance of their passports. The Minister of State thanked me, said it was useful and that he anticipated no difficulty in connection with their getting passports.

An aspect of the situation has now arisen however which might involve complications and embarrassments for the Godoys, the Metropolitana, possibly Donovan's outfit and therefore our government. I enclose copies of postal intercept no. MI-160444, and telephone intercepts nos. 5349 and 5531. No. MI-160444, although not entirely surprising, is shocking. No. 5349 indicates that perhaps Enrique Godoy is trying to get the same piece of business, whether on behalf of La Metropolitana or only of himself

is

The Honorable
Adolf A. Berle, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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Authority CIA oversight visit 7/14/09
NARA PMH Date 5/18/12

is not clear. In the process he is apparently in cahoots with Guillermo Alonso Fajol, President of the Senate and one of the most corrupt politicians in Cuba. As per no. 5531 Godoy appears to be dealing with Jaime Mariné, whom I consider the most corrupt of all the politicians here. Whether Mariné would be able to fix things up with Amadeo Lopez Castro--and therefore Mrs. Batista--is another question again.

You will recall that in our conversation in Washington I expressed doubt as to the reliability of the Godoy brothers. I think my qualms have been fully justified by the enclosed intercepts and I therefore question whether Donovan would wish to be represented in such an extremely confidential capacity by men who would resort to these antics. Still more I fear that in any exposé which might come as a result of this modified version of an Al Capone-O'Bannion rivalry the true ownership of La Metropolitana might be made public with resulting embarrassment.

While I understand Donovan's organization is not to operate in this hemisphere, this case presents a fairly good demonstration of the unwisdom of taking on anyone from the other republics in any capacity and especially in a confidential one without consulting our own mission in the particular place involved.

Of incidental interest, the references to the "professor" in no. 5531 I believe are to Ambassador Concheso.

With all best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Spruille Braden

Spruille Braden

Enclosures.

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Telephone Censorship

Serial No. 5531

Station: NYTP Date: 1-22-43 Time observation started: 2312
Total time: 10 min.

From: Dr. Alonso Pujol (D) To: Enrique Godoy (F)
President of Cuban Senate Godoy & Sayan
Waldorf Astoria Hotel Reparto Kohly
50th St. & park Ave. Havana, Cuba
New York, N. Y.
Tel. No. EL 5-3000 Tel. No. FO 3960

List: NA

List: 6038

Recording identification Language
12-0913B 10-20 Spanish

REASON FOR REPORT - OF GENERAL INTEREST - CCC 1621 - POLITICAL
SENT VIA TELETYPE ATT #234 of 1-23-43

F reporting on his activities since his departure from here states that he saw Zaydin, had a most interesting talk. Told him all own points of interest and he took good note of them. Promised to tell Amadeo, so as to avoid a repetition of the occurrence at the Embassy meeting a few days ago. He was under the impression that efforts were being made to eliminate the "professor".

Saw Jaime and also explained everything to him. Took note and promised to speak to Amadeo, but while in the waiting room, F met Amadeo, went up to his room for a 45 minute conversation. Amadeo stated his suggestions had not been made with any view that they be harmful to F's personal interests. F sincerely believes that Amadeo tried to find a conciliatory way of adjusting the matter at hand. However, Amadeo's suggestions had not been opportune and have not been mentioned since.

D congratulates F on his optimism about Amadeo.

F further reported that Jaime and the "professor" had a meeting with some of F's competitors and Jaime called one of the leaders and insisted that he drop opposition. Therefore F has an optimistic perspective.

Spoke to Arturo, who is not a legislator. His "neighbor" informed F that everything is centralized in the Institute and that F is

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the

the preferred person.

Also spoke to Sariego (?) who is also very optimistic. He has been trying to obtain for F diplomatic status, but has encountered difficulty in obtaining interview with José Agustin, as he was attending a matter of frozen credits with Spain. However, favorable consideration was given the request, and as soon as the credit matter is disposed of, formula will be found for F's appointment.

D stated that he has the formula, will tell F about it when he arrives next week.

F also spoke to Fernando and Veru Mendieta, who also have optimistic view. But F finds that that is not the way the general public sees it, since public opinion radiates from the sugar crop problems. D suggests not to give much information to these two, as he will explain this matter personally to F on his arrival, meanwhile not to create new associates and cut them short.

F stated that he had seen the "professor" had long conversation. Stated (the professor) that F should not have gone to someone else with complaint, and if he had not seen him before it was due to the numerous conferences and work.

RF:ES

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Telephone Censorship Serial No. 5349

Station: NYTP Date: 1-19-43 Time observation started: 1320
Total time: 11 min.

From: Enrique Godoy (F)
Godoy & Sayan
Metropolitan Bldg.
Habana, Cuba

To: Guillermo Alonzo Fajol (D)
Cuban Senator
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
New York City

Tel. No. M 9860

Tel. No. ELD 5-3000

List: 6038

List: NA

Recording identification
14-0446A 45-56

Language
Spanish

REASON FOR REPORT - CCC 1621 - ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

SENT VIA TELETYPE ATP 168 of 1-19-43

F called to request D's help in obtaining interviews with Premier Zaydin and Col. Marine regarding a certain decree, nature of which was not disclosed. He is quite concerned as "the foreigner (evidently an American), the man who is responsible for the 400,000 tons" has been talking extensively with his friends at the Institute, and as this man represents a competitor, F fears he will lose the business. D assured him he would immediately telephone above named gentlemen on his behalf, and promised to return to Havana in time to swing things his way.

Note: This point of conversation was somewhat vague. No direct mention was made of the deal in question.

Conversation turned to the sugar problem and F stated there was a general attitude of optimism. Jose Manuel (Casanova) told F, "things were moving on china wheels". Arturo (Mañas) is equally hopeful and because of conversations held between the Ambassador and others it is expected things will come to a head in two or three days. There will not be any change in the quantity or price; the only modification will be in shipping expenses and the 400,000 ton stock pile. Expectations are that an in between

proposition

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proposition will be adopted in this connection.

F continued, all business is paralyzed. The Government refuses to deal with any other problems but the general public is very hopeful. F feels a decision must be reached within a week as otherwise a very "uncomfortable" situation will arise.

Observation by IBM:ES

copy/mmy

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Postal Censorship Record No. MI-160444

From: J. C. Pagliery
Manager and Lawyer
The London Assurance

To: Sr. Amadeo Lopez Castro
Embajada de Cuba en Washington
Washington, D. C.

Date: Nov. 30, 1942
Language: Spanish
Examiner 4947

ECONOMIC

SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION BY SUGAR & INSURANCE
COMPANIES

The envelope contains two letters. A translation of the entire texts of both is quoted below. The cover letter says:

"Dear Sir:

"You will recall our introduction of Mr. E. Montoulieu, and the conference about a plan for an insurance policy to cover the 1943 sugar crop.

"In this conference the idea came up of fortifying this operation, giving it the angle of charity to the Poliomyelitis Hospital that is sponsored by the wife of our honorable President.

"In accordance with the suggestion I wrote a letter to the wife of the President, a copy of which is enclosed, making use of our mutual friend, Mr. P. Alvarez Canas, in order that the letter, through your wife, will reach Mrs. Batista.

"This morning Mr. Alvarez Canas called me saying that he had spoken with your wife (EX: Mrs. Castro) who told Mr. Canas that she gave you the letter, which you put in your pocket, in order to make the negotiation possible during your present trip to Washington, and that it will be convenient to write you reminding you of it, at the right moment.

"Another advantage of the plan, which I have omitted, is that the commissions could be split and the money remain in Cuba.

"I have confidence in your aid.

"Very sincerely,

J. C. P.
Manager and Lawyer"

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NARA pmf Date 5/18/12

The other letter, a carbon copy, sent within Cuba, is as follows:

"November 4, 1942"

"Mrs. Elisa Godinez de Batista
Presidential Palace
Havana

"Dear Madam:-

"For the 'Poliomelitico' Hospital that you propose to establish, I wish to make the following insurance deal that will permit you to obtain at least the sum of \$101,250.00.

"There exist recent instances of a similar operation used in the purchase by the United States of America of 400,000 tons of sugar, which deal will facilitate the negotiations that I wish to make now.

"The following figures are provisional, and will be determined by the Instituto Cubano De Establizacion Del Azucar and the Asociacion Cubana De Companias De Segurs: (EX: Established Cuban Institute of Sugar, and Cuban Association of Insurance Companies):

"Crop 1943 sacks of sugar.....	26,000,000
"Warehouses monthly average.....	6,000,000
"Value.....	\$45,000,000

"The premium for a year approximated 1.5%. This premium will be determined by the Instituto Cubano De Establizacion Del Azucar and the Asociacion Cubana De Companias de Seguros.

"15% of the premium will be dedicated to the hospital.

"5% of the commission for the Insurance Companies that will participate in this insurance, so there will be no reason for complaint.

"5% remaining for the one who signs for brokerage, manipulation, and also as Agent and Lawyer of the London Assurance.

"Whatever doubts you wish to clear up, I am at your disposal and wish to beg only one thing, that you keep this matter confidential.

"One is able to carry out a similar operation in honey.

"As

"As the time is short, I have to ask your special attention to this matter.

"You can be sure that I will put the business in the hands of the Association of Insurance Companies, and in case you prefer an American Company, I also can make a similar proposition.

"Yours sincerely."

copy/mmy

Box 48, 24

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Letter*	<p>DeWitt C. Poole to Berle*</p> <p>*SANITIZED copy opened 8-27-84</p> <p><i>Exempt from automatic declassification, Knocke, CIA, 29 Nov. 76</i></p> <p><i>Review on 12/31/2018</i></p>	11-12-42*	A

FILE LOCATION

Berle Papers, Box 45, State Dept. Corresp., 1938-44, Po

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

November 12, 1942

Dear Mr. Berle:

Raoul Aglion of the de Gaulle mission in New York tells us, very confidentially of course, that in his opinion General Giraud should form a North African Government in North Africa, drawing for this purpose upon the local French officials.

Over and against this Tixier and Andre Philip are plugging hard for de Gaulle.

Aglion fears that the British are now going to support, or at least encourage, de Gaulle as against the support which we are giving General Giraud. He calls attention to the fact (if it is a fact) that de Gaulle was invited to lunch with Churchill last Sunday, and this was the first invitation of the kind for more than a year.

Aglion foresees a conflict between de Gaulle backed by the British and General Giraud backed by the United States.

Sincerely yours,

DeWitt C. Poole

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Authority CIA oversight visit 7/14/09
NARA PMH Date 5/18/2012

The Honorable A. A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Downgraded to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by authority of 007622
date 31 JUL 1974

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(unless impossible, insert date or event)

[State Dept. Copy
"P"]

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
NOV 12 1942
MR. BERLE

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 12, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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The Honorable A. A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

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NARA PMH Date 5/18/2012

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Authority CIA Oversight Visit 7/11/08
NARA DMH Date 5/18/12

July 27, 1950.

~~SECRET~~

Re: National Committee for A Free Europe, Inc.

Dear Averill:

Your pressing work must be rearmament. Yet when respite permits, perhaps you can give a little attention to the National Committee for A Free Europe.

NCFE was conceived by George Kennan, created by CIA, and is suspended between it and State with contact only through Assistant Director of OPC, Frank Wisner. Finances (two millions plus a year) come from CIA unvouchered funds. It needs more guidance. It is headed by former Consul General DeWitt C. Poole (designated by CIA); its Chairman of the Board is Joseph Grew; its Chairman of Executive Committee, Allen Dulles. Active Directors are Dulles, Poole, Lucius Clay, Frank Altschul, myself and two or three others.

NCFE has an office in the Empire State Building and a radio station in Germany and is commencing broadcasts to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria. Frank Altschul supervises that; he wants full control. It subsidizes National Committees of all these countries, --political figures exiled by the Communist. Allen Dulles supervises that. It endeavors to salvage some intellectual remnants by supporting, modestly, exiled scientists and intellectuals, with help from me.

This is our chief East European political "counter-attack" program. It involves political policy so close to military policy that it is beyond the scope of any private group. Dealing with undergrounds or their equivalent requires most delicate and responsible decisions.

I need not stress to you the importance of this. American policy will be one thing if it depends only on the American Army, and another if it depends also on overseas popular support, crystallized into organization.

Could you have an assistant go into the situation, briefing you on the facts, then perhaps calling in Poole to consider the matter? I have, of course, consulted him before writing you. If the next Russian strike is in the Balkans, handling the contacts with which NCFE is charged would become of top importance.

Faithfully,

Honorable W. Averill Harriman,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

A. A. Berle, Jr. XIV 56