

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

3 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SB  
Chief, FE  
Chief, EUR  
Chief, CCS  
Chief, NOCAD

SUBJECT : Compromise of Cover Facility  
in Current Use

1. We have recently received information that Philip F. Agee, a disaffected former staff officer who now is in contact with the Cuban DGI, has made reference to the Robert M. Mullen Company as providing cover for CIA and has identified [redacted] as an Agency employee under Mullen cover in [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

2. Due to the background of this case, we have been proceeding on the assumption that names mentioned by Agee are known to the DGI and may appear in publications. Our research in the present instance has been given an added sense of urgency because of the involvement of the Robert M. Mullen Company in the "Watergate 5" case.

3. The Mullen company has given cover to [redacted] CIA officers, all of whom are still Agency employees. These are:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Large redacted area]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

4. Based on our research, we do not believe the Mullen Company could withstand even a cursory investigation by counterintelligence or press representatives. It is a domestic company which has no foreign subsidiaries other than the ones in [Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Redacted] used by CIA for cover. Many of the Mullen officers also have connections with CIA, as follows:

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

a. Robert M. Mullen, Chairman, was introduced to

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

Mullen was instrumental in the formation of the Cuban Freedom Committee at the request of Richard Bissell, then DDP, but managed to keep his public identification with it at a minimal level. Mullen was the original owner of the Intercontinental Research Company, Inc., [Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Redacted] Mullen's name was not surfaced at the time. Mullen had some connection with the Christian Form, [Redacted]

b. Howard Hunt, vice-president, had known Mullen from World War II days when both worked at the Department of Commerce. O'Malley of our retirement staff went to Mullen to get an outline of qualifications for a public relations man, so he could recommend Hunt to General Foods; the result of the conversations was that Mullen hired his old friend Hunt himself, in April 1970.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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c. Robert F. Bennett, executive vice-president and designated president, is the son of Senator Wallace Bennett of Utah. Bennett is witting of the current CIA employees covered by the company and is probably witting of those previously under cover.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

d. Elizabeth Colclough, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, was witting of [redacted] Agency employees [redacted] since she was to be sent to [redacted] to help on the business aspects of company work in 1965 which the Agency men were too busy to handle. Cover records do not show whether she actually went, but she was informed of the cover situation.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

e. Amanda Abernathy, formerly Mullen's secretary and confidant, was cleared and witting. Mullen was able to get her a job in government, ostensibly to enable her to qualify for Civil Service retirement, but actually to ease her out of the company since she was on the verge of becoming [redacted]. She was undoubtedly witting of [redacted].

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

f. Earl Mindermann was president in 1971, but now is being replaced by Bennett. He was never cleared and presumably was not witting.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

6. In view of the flap potential inherent in the Agency's contact with Mullen, it is recommended that addressees delegate a senior representative to meet and devise a common approach to the Mullen problem.

~~Theodore G. Shackley~~  
Theodore G. Shackley  
Chief  
Western Hemisphere Division