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EYES ONLY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

2 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
SUBJECT: Documents Given Vice President Agnew
by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos

1. This memorandum is in response to your request via General Scowcroft that we analyze the file of documents given the Vice President by Philippine President Marcos, [redacted]

(b)(3)

2. These documents allege that there were a group of Filipino conspirators who made several attempts on Marcos' life during the first half of 1972. According to the documents, involved in these early attempts were two Americans, Samuel Cummings, an international arms dealer and Bernard Tractman, a long time resident of the Philippines who [redacted] has a criminal record. Tractman was alleged to have imported explosives provided by Cummings into the Philippines for the conspirators. After their early attempts failed the conspirators are alleged to have sent Tractman to New York to recruit two Americans who operated on the fringes of the New York underworld, Robert Pincus and August McCormick Lehman, Jr. Lehman and Pincus arrived in the Philippines in June 1972 from New York City. Lehman's confession states that he planned to attempt to assassinate Marcos from a Volkswagen van with a sniper scope equipped rifle. The plot

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SENSITIVE INFORMATION
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS INVOLVED

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was apparently uncovered by the Philippine authorities before it could be executed. Lehman and several Filipinos were arrested. Tractman and Pincus escaped

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

3. It appears from the documents the main motive of the Filipinos involved was a desire to kill Marcos in order to establish a new government which would permit them to gain control over gambling in the Philippines and to earn kickbacks by purchasing weapons for the Philippine armed services through Samuel R. Cummings. Lehman stated to a U. S. Consul, in refuting his confession, that he took the job at the request of the Mafia which only planned to see how much money they could extort from the Filipinos and that he had no intention of going through with an actual assassination attempt. In sum, the overall weight of the documentary evidence is that there was a loose and poorly conceived plan afoot to assassinate Marcos, but that it is doubtful that it would have ever been carried out.

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

4.

Lehman, however, according to his statement to the Consul, claimed he acted as an informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City before going to the Philippines. He claimed he played along with the scheme to collect information on the Mafia which he could later provide the FBI.

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6. The rest of the documents implicate the Malaysian Govern-
ment and

[Redacted]

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(b)(3)

Libyan

meddling

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
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[Redacted]

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

8. Pursuant to your instruction that this material not be
circulated elsewhere, we have not consulted other agencies about
it. I do suggest, however, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation
be asked for whatever light they can shed on the Americans involved
in this case. The original file is being returned herewith should
you wish to do so, or I would be pleased to handle it myself.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

James R. Schlesinger
Director

Attachment

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DRAFT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MARCOS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you again for your hospitality during my recent visit to your country.

Regarding the file of documents containing certain sensitive information which was provided me, the United States Government has begun, at my request, an investigation of the matter. I will be in touch with you if we are able to uncover further information.

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