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*62-5632/1*

*2/28/62*

24 AUG 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Newspaper Article by Edith Kermit Roosevelt

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. In response to your request, the Office of Security indices were searched in the names of the following individuals and a check made of the records of Task Force W:

CARDWELL, Don  
MASTRE, Oscar  
PORTUONDO, Rod  
RORKE, Alexander I.

3. Office of Security Indices contain no record of Don CARDWELL, Oscar MASTRE, or Rod PORTUONDO. However, the following information was found concerning RORKE:

a. EE-27955, a file on Alexander I. RORKE, was set up in July, 1960, pursuant to a request from OO/Contacts Division in connection with RORKE's potential as a source of positive foreign intelligence. Subsequent name checks conducted at ONI, ACSI, and HCUA were returned "No Record" on 2 November 1960. RORKE was approved for contact on 7 March 1961. However, it was noted that since he was a reporter, any classified information released to him during such contact would be carefully identified as such.

b. The FBI indicated that RORKE entered on duty with that Bureau on 4 February 1951 as a Clerk, Grade GS-2, \$2450 per annum. He submitted his voluntary resignation effective 11 May 1951 to devote full time to his studies.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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c. An FBI memorandum dated 18 January 1960 indicated that the Bureau interviewed RORKE regarding recent developments in Cuba and among counter-revolutionaries in the United States. RORKE, who resided at 51 Chambers Street, New York City, was a free lance newsman and photographer who taped an interview during November, 1959, with Edward SILVERMAN, Director in Charge of News and Special Events, Radio Station, WABC, New York City. This apparently was a follow up interview since RORKE had previously worked with WABC shortly after his release by Cuban authorities in August, 1959.

d. RORKE indicated he had received many threatening telephone calls at his home after his initial interview with WABC regarding his derogatory remarks concerning Fidel CASTRO. He stated that while he was held prisoner in Havana he was told that he would be taken care of by CASTRO agents working in the United States if he spoke out against CASTRO's regime. He indicated there was a large CASTRO espionage ring working in the United States with personnel operating on diplomatic passports. His information, RORKE claimed, came from such persons as Major William A. MORGAN. RORKE further advised he had been approached in the United States by one Frank DE LLUNDE who had worked for CASTRO in the United States during the revolution. DE LLUNDE advised RORKE to stop criticizing the CASTRO regime. The report went on to indicate the details of RORKE's meetings with various other individuals, including Frank NELSON, an American who formerly operated the frozen food business in Cuba, and Dominick BARTONE, President of the International Trading Company. According to RORKE, BARTONE was apparently involved in arms and plane sales and one of these planes had delivered revolutionaries into Nicaragua. RORKE believed that BARTONE also sold the plane which was used by the Cubans and Dominicans for the invasion of the Dominican Republic which took place on 19 June 1959. RORKE indicated he had been in contact with Cuban exiles; namely, General Manuel BENITEZ and Dr. Emilo NUNEZ PORTUONDO. RORKE indicated he was arrested at MORGAN's home in Cuba and was held without formal charges for nine days by Cuban authorities in August, 1959.

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4. Task Force W records contained no information concerning Oscar MASTRE and Don CARDWELL. However, the following information was found concerning RORKE and PORTUONDO:

a. Information dated 11 December 1961 indicated that Alexander I. RORKE, Jr., was involved in smuggling and violations of air navigation rules along with Robert F. SWANNER, William J. JOHNSON, and Frank STURGIS. Smuggled articles were 350 pounds of anti-CASTRO pamphlets for a Cuban air drop. Smuggling charges were not pressed.

b. A memorandum dated 19 December 1961 from the United States Border Patrol detailed the above described activity; however, nothing additional concerning RORKE's involvement was set out.

c. Information dated 25 September 1959 listed RORKE's address as 7 West 96th Street, New York City. RORKE had recently returned from Cuba after being held without charge from 9 to 14 August 1959. He had gone to Cuba to photograph an invasion of that country by forces from the Dominican Republic, making arrangements through Dominick BARTON in Miami to be advised two days prior to the invasion.

d. Information dated 23 February 1961 indicates that RORKE wrote an article concerning anti-CASTRO activities in Cuba for Argosy. OO/Contacts said RORKE appeared to be an adventurer type operating on the fringe of the Cuban counter-revolutionary activities. He had the ability to weave a few items of limited dissemination into a fabric of open knowledge, thus appearing extremely knowledgeable. OO recommended no further contact with him.

e. The latest information on RORKE is dated 12 September 1961 and indicates that he arrived in Amarillo, Texas, on 3 September 1961 accompanied by Sergio ROJAS, former Cuban Ambassador to Great Britain. They planned to purchase bombers in the name of a Panamanian photography company and take them to Guatemala or Nicaragua where they would be armed for use in bombing the Standard Oil Company refinery in Habana. Such bombing, they claimed, would help raise money for further action against Cuba. They claimed they represented only themselves and indicated that they had unofficial CIA approval.

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f. The only information concerning Rod PORTUONDO was a cable (OUT 75394, 13 May 1960) which advised that one Rodrigo PORTUONDO had been approved as secretary of the Movimiento de la Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MRR). The MRR is one of the groups of anti-CASTRO Cuban exiles supported by this Agency.

5. Attached are the documents forwarded with your request.

[Redacted]

Sheffield Edwards  
Director of Security

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

Attachment:  
Original Request Documents

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8 August 1962

## MEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION

TO: THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR *[Handwritten signature]*VIA: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *[Handwritten signature]*

1. Edith Kermit Roosevelt, who up until now has been a supporter of CIA in her columns in the NEWARK STAR LEDGER, in the attached syndicated column in the SHREVEPORT (La.) JOURNAL of 21 July 1962, gives the Agency quite a beating on the strength of allegations by one Alex Rorke, Jr. "New York documentary film producer and lecturer, who coordinates daring 'free lance' raids against Cuba with Oscar Mastre, Rod Portuondo and other Cubans who took part in last year's abortive Cuban invasion."

2. Mrs. Roosevelt, who lives in New York City but works in Newark, used to correspond from time to time with Mr. Dulles on items of news interest, but seems to have soured according to the attached column.

[Redacted] (b)(3)  
(b)(6)

STANLEY J. GROGAN  
Assistant to the Director

Attach.  
Distribution:  
Orig & 1 - Add  
1 - DDP  
1 - TFW  
1 - CI  
1 - D/S  
1 - ER

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# Between the Lines— 'Free Lance' Raids

By Edith Kermit Roosevelt



NEW YORK — The Central Intelligence Agency has set up a "controlled opposition" movement to Fidel Castro. The purpose? To insure that no genuinely effective action against communism in Cuba ever occurs.

This charge is made by Alex Rorke, Jr., New York documentary film producer and lecturer, who coordinates daring "free lance" raids against Cuba with Oscar Mastre, Rod Portuondo and other Cubans who took part in last year's abortive Cuban invasion.

Rorke's group, the U.S. Freedom Fighters (P.O. Box 1812, New York City) has information that out of 400 Cubans sent by CIA to Cuba in the last six months about 320 men or 80 per cent have been captured and killed by Castro's police.

"THESE MEN who are being sent to an almost certain death are a trained, educated elite of potential leaders," says Rorke, a former U.S. military intelligence specialist.

Government funds are going to a few discredited Cuban exile politicians purely for "study" and "propaganda", he adds, but at the same time the CIA is planting agents in all Cuban exile groups to see to it that no military action is organized to liberate Cuba. Arms are confiscated and some of the more militant Cubans have been recruited supposedly for action in Cuba. But these Cuban patriots are forced to remain idle and isolated in military camps while every day their countrymen are murdered and the young children of Cuba deported to Soviet Russia.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS oppose the CIA policy of attempting to organize a large underground in Cuba. Large undergrounds are easily infiltrated and betrayed in a total police state. Furthermore, the CIA is giving its Cuban agents so much money compared to the average Cuban that it is little wonder that they are so easily detected by Castro's agents when they are infiltrated into Cuba.

By ED FREEDMAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Robert Brown and Bobb Rushing woke up this morning and learned they were no longer world champions.

The two 14-year-olds went to bed Friday night confident, for the time being, at least, that they were the record holders for tossing an ice cube back and forth.

They had flipped the package of coldness between them 1,700 times Friday, raising the mar-

## Spacecraft Launching Postponed Rocket Trouble Delays Venus Shot 24 Hours

CAPE CANAVERA Fla. (AP) — A strange radio signal in the booster rocket forced the United States to postpone for at least 24 hours an attempt to launch its first Venus spacecraft.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said another try may be made Sunday morning if no trouble can be pinpointed and corrected.

He reported only that a spurious radio signal was detected from the Atlas-Agena B rocket.

