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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

3 MAR 1967

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: [redacted]

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FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Redex Corporation; Redex-Pacific, Division of
Redex Corporation; Redex Vietnam, Inc.; Consolidated
Armaments, Inc. [redacted] of
above companies, 1404 New York Avenue NW.
William W. Turner, representative of both Redex
and Ramparts Magazine. [redacted]
[redacted] in Redex Vietnam, Inc.

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1. One William W. Turner, who is believed to be identical with William W. Turner who wrote an article on FBI "bugging" practices for the November 1966 issue of Ramparts Magazine, called on the headquarters of The Asia Foundation, San Francisco on 26 January 1967. He was described as a tall, clean-cut, sandy-haired young man in his early 30's and said he was a free-lance writer from Sausalita, California. He said he was also employed by the Redex Corporation and produced a business card which listed simply his name, Redex-Pacific, Division of Redex Corp. Turner said he was calling upon The Asia Foundation as the result of a telephone call from Mr. [redacted] in New York City. Turner identified [redacted] as a "free-lance writer who contributes regularly to the New York Times Sunday Magazine". He said Mr. [redacted] told him he was doing an article on American foundations and wanted current, complete background information on The Asia Foundation for his article. Turner then proceeded directly to the question of TAF's source of funds. Among other questions, he asked: is your income reported to the IRS? where can I examine these records? were you one of the foundations looked at by the Patman Committee? did you know that some American foundations have been used as a conduit for CIA funds?

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2. Turner was described as pleasant, deferent and otherwise a picture in studied innocence throughout the conversation. At the same time, he asked exactly the "right" questions. Turner never revealed a connection with Ramparts Magazine, and the official with whom he talked was not aware of Turner's or [redacted] connection with Ramparts.

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3. The recent publicity regarding Redex Corp. and its [redacted] raise interesting questions as to a possible connection between Ramparts and Redex. Copies of articles from the San Francisco Examiner of 8 February 1967, from the Washington Daily News of 28 February 1967, and from the Washington Post of 3 March 1967, are attached for your convenience. They indicate that Redex is engaged in a wide variety of activities including the sale of arms to foreign governments and individuals, spy equipment, anti-bugging devices, telephone scramblers, and at present are recruiting "topless go-go girls" for a night club to be opened in Saigon by [redacted] and one [redacted].

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4. Name checks of Agency files on subject individuals and organizations are being run and the Bureau will be informed of any pertinent information. (b)(1)
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5. [redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(3)

Attachments - 3

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ERA HINGO... Feb 8, 62
\$1495 Debugger

For Congressmen

By LESLIE H. WITTEN
Criminal Correspondent

WASHINGTON — An enterprising electronics executive, with an ear to Washington's wiretap jitters, has suggested to every congressman that a \$1495 do-it-yourself debugging kit belongs in every Capitol Hill office beside the water cooler.

The sales pitch also offers a scrambler for \$349, so congressmen can talk unmonitored.

But the manufacturer, Richard L. Bast, president of Redax Corp., has found his potential customers are less concerned about electronic snooping than he thought.

So far one senator and one congressman — Bast will not reveal even their parties — have made inquiries. He hopes trade will pick up when more congressmen return today after yesterday's blizzard.

The debugger weighs 28 pounds and has rabbit ears, a radar-like loop and a space-age panel of knobs and meters, but Bast insists even a child can operate it.

The "portable scrambler" looks like a second phone and fits over the regular receiver. It converts English into what sounds like Chinese and can be unscrambled only by a matched gadget on the other end of the line.

Each set of phones is coded differently to prevent eavesdropping by a maverick scrambler owner.

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D. C. MAN SEEKS GO-GO GIRLS

Topless Dancers Headed for Saigon

By JULIAN MORRISON

By late April or early May GIs based in Saigon will be enjoying 10 topless American go-go dancers imported for the city's newest night club by an enterprising Washington businessman and his Vietnamese partner.

For an admission fee of \$5 and a minimum of \$10 (beer will be \$1 a can, whisky \$2 a ounce) American troops can "observe" and talk to the dancers at The Saigon Discotheque A-Go-Go, the brainchild of Richard L. Bast of Washington and Nguyen Ba Lung of Saigon.

The two men, who operate the firm of Redex-Vietnam, Inc., with headquarters at 1504 New York-av. n.w., are currently running newspaper advertisements in Washington, Baltimore and San Francisco seeking topless recruits.

LIE DETECTION

To qualify, Mr. Bast says, a girl must be between 21 and 23 years old, single, willing to sign a six-month contract and take a lie detector test.

"We don't want any hard-bitten strippers or prostitutes," Mr. Bast said yesterday. "That's the trouble with the joints the GI's frequent over there now — they get taken before they know it."

The Saigon Discotheque A-Go-Go, he said, will be a typical American go-go nightclub.

"For \$15 the GI will have rock 'n roll music (by two Vietnamese bands) to listen to, American girls to observe and American girls to talk to.

APPEAL

"Of course they'll be topless (only on stage) which I'm sure will appeal to the GI," he said.

He said the girls will wear "pasties" while dancing and will don a blouse or other covering when sitting at a customer's table or dancing with him.

"They will drink only ginger ale, provided by the management," he said, noting the widespread criticism of Saigon B-girls in present night clubs there.

He said he, personally, does not know the site

club, but said it will seat 700 persons initially with room to expand to accommodate 1100 if necessary.

ASSOCIATE

Those arrangements are being taken care of by his associate, Mr. Huang who, he said, has an "interest" in the Saigon Post, formerly published by the South Viet Nam Ambassador to the United States, Bue Dien.

Mr. Bast said the strict screening of prospective go-go dancers is necessary because of the high caliber he wants and because Redex-Vietnam will invest approximately \$1500 in each girl in transportation alone.

To that end, the lie detector test to be given each successful applicant includes such questions as "Do you believe the United States should be fighting in Viet Nam?" and "Is there anything in your background that would subject you to blackmail?"

SECURITY

Mr. Bast said one of the security problems the U.S. has encountered in connection with existing Saigon night clubs is that many of their B girls are Viet Cong agents.

"Our girls, of course, will be anything but," he said.

The girls will also be forbidden by their contracts to marry, and may have the contracts renewed only on the company's option. "After all, they have to be an asset to us. We're in business to make a profit," Mr. Bast said.

He said that if the Saigon club is a success, Redex-Vietnam plans others in Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay and in Bangkok, Thailand in response to the buildup of American forces there.

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WASH POST MAR 3, 1967

You Name It, Bast Has It—Fire

By Richard Sevro

Washington Post Staff Writer

If a wealthy Arab prince feels he'd like a few dozen Spanish machine guns or a clutch of Italian hand grenades, Richard Bast says he can arrange it.

If an American infantryman in Vietnam wants to send his sweetheart an electric blanket, Richard Bast says he can arrange it.

If a Hottentot potentate wants anything from a case of canned nuts to a plane-load of electronic spy equipment, Richard Bast can arrange that, too.

"I'm a middleman," says Bast.

He leaned forward in his swivel chair, his 6-foot, 1-inch, 169-pound frame nattily resplendent in a silk-lined black tuxedo suit he picked up in

Hong Kong with two pairs of trousers for \$55 (he is convinced it would cost \$200 in Washington).

"I'm in the export-import business," he said. "People in one country want merchandise from another country. I get it for them. You name the merchandise and I can get it."

He paused for a moment in his tiny, dark, paneled office on the ninth floor of 1201 New York ave. n.w.

A couple of days ago Bast made news when he revealed plans for his latest export—topless go-go girls.

The go-go girls are going to a nightclub Bast and a Vietnamese partner plan to open in Saigon.

They are going to call it the Saigon Discotheque A-Go-Go and Bast says he is opening it

because he wants to do something for our boys in Vietnam.

There is a profit motive, too. He plans to charge the GIs \$5 to get into his place and a minimum of \$10, which they may use up by drinking Japanese beer at \$1 a can (Bast is exclusive Vietnamese distributor for Sapporo beer) or whiskey for \$2 a shot.

If they are not drinking, they may be able to dance with one of the 25 go-go girls, who will be topless on stage but topped on the dance floor. Bast was asked if the servicemen will be able to use up their minimum faster by buying drinks for the go-go girls.

"Of course not," Bast said. "There are not going to be any GIs in this place. That's just what we want to get away from."

Bast is taking time out from

his busy schedule to interview applicants himself. "The boys and the girls have told me," he said, "that they are relieved to find that I'm not a lecher or old man."

Bast is 52. After he interviews applicants, they are photographed in black and white, by a professional photographer. Bast paid \$100 for the resulting 6x10 photo copies. He will carefully select his final decision. The girls' contracts will have to be signed in a month. He says he will earn \$50 a week in a room, board and the girls' transportation included.

A Pentagon spokesman said the Defense Department has no jurisdiction over recreational clubs in Vietnam. However, other sources said Bast could run into trouble if he

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n Guns to Go-Go Girls

South Vietnamese government, which might refuse to issue visas if the U.S. Government requested such an action.

But it would be a mistake to think of Richard Bast as exclusively concerned with such chesty matters. In fact, he is worried lest people think of him primarily as a night club operator.

"I am a merchandiser," he said. "I am a reputable businessman who is not a neophyte in the ways of international marketing."

Bast is the president of three companies:

- Redex Viet-Nam, Inc., which in addition to girls, imports Japanese cars (the Isuzu Bellett with a 1500 cc engine), scotch, bourbon, Japanese and Philippine beer, and a wide variety of electronic equip-

ment, ranging from television sets to spy devices.

- Redex Corp., which sells almost anything to anybody in foreign countries other than Vietnam.

- Consolidated Armaments, Inc., which sells mostly small arms — machine guns, rifles, pistols, hand grenades — to foreign governments and private individuals overseas.

All companies are headquartered in Bast's office in Washington, two rooms which are only slightly bigger than a couple of telephone booths. His secretary sits in one room; Bast is in the other. In the room with Bast are some file cabinets, two telex machines for sending and receiving orders for overseas business, a desk and a photo copy machine.

In addition to his New York

Avenue office, there is a warehouse on L Street ne. and also a shop in Arlington where technicians assemble electronic spy devices for the Redex Corp.

Bast spends about seven months of the year in his Washington office; the rest of the time he is traveling, winning friends and influencing buyers.

He declined to estimate his yearly gross, smiled and said: "Just say we do a nice business." Nor could he estimate his profit margin. "It varies, depending on the merchandise. Sometimes it is only 3 or 4 per cent, other times it is as high as 50 per cent."

Whatever the take, it is enough to keep him in mohair.

See Bast, B1, Col. 6

BAST—From Page B1

Want Anything Special? See Bast

suits, oversized gold-colored cufflinks, a 1965 Cadillac Fleetwood and a home in Chesterbrook Woods, Va., which he estimates is worth \$60,000. "I like nice things," Bast said.

He lives in Chesterbrook Woods with his wife, Edith; a son, two daughters, a mongrel dog and two cats. Also in the house is a tiger skin rug which he picked up in Calcutta, and a mounted fish identified as a wahoo, which Bast says he caught off Montego Bay.

The customers, governmental and private, that buy arms, spy devices and other merchandise, according to Bast, are in French West Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Greece, Saudi Arabia, France, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand and South Vietnam.

Richard Bast is a man who

understands the value of having a good credit rating. He keeps handy a reference letter from the First National Bank of Washington and one form his counsel, Bernard Margolius.

"My service is a question of integrity with me," Bast said. "I feel that when I am dealing with overseas clients I am in a sense representing this country. I have to be honest."

Bast is a native of Washington. After his graduation from Eastern High School he was employed briefly as an apprentice pressman at The Washington Post. Then came service with the Marines in Korea. Bast says he received the Purple Heart there.

After the Marines he returned to the presses briefly, but that work did not appeal to him. He had suffered a slipped disc and his back hurt.

In 1954, he was employed by John J. O'Brien, a Washington lawyer, as a private investigator and process server. He started the Redex Corp. in 1960. He is still licensed as a private detective.

"I've come a long way from the pressroom," he said. "Life has been good to me. I am a living example that there is an opportunity for people with integrity who are willing to work."

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