

74-40605

Notes by DCI
4/25/74

28 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Reported Involvement of James McCord in Cuban Operations While an Agency Employee

1. In a recent review of James McCord's service records, information has been revealed indicating that he was involved in Cuban operations, contrary to earlier reports by this Agency to the various investigating authorities. Aspects of this are still uncertain and we are attempting to clarify the matter; this report is being made before the question is likely to be fully resolved in view of the fact the Senate Select Committee is scheduled to end its operations 30 June.

2. On 7 June an employee of this Agency reported that he had been informed that the Department of Justice was exploring the theory that James McCord never left CIA employment, based on an analysis of McCord's Federal service which had led to the conclusion that he was not qualified for retirement. In the process of checking McCord's record the following statement by McCord was found in his application for retirement under CIARDS:

"During the latter part of 1955 - 1962 period, the writer was case officer for three agents for DD/P

[Redacted]

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

The transcript of a meeting of the CIA Retirement Board on 11 June 1970 shows McCord being credited with being "an actual case officer for Cuban agents - for 24 months," from 1960 to 1962. The minutes of the meeting summarized the point with less detail.

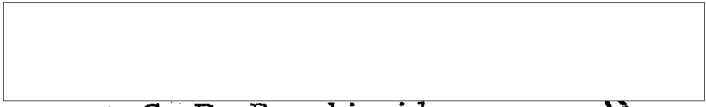
[Redacted]

(b)(3)

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3. Despite the above records, the Office of Security has reservations about the actual extent of McCord's involvement in Cuban operations, feeling that it was most likely limited to headquarters planning. Whether it was a planning role or active operations it does seem that there was some involvement in "Cuban matters," contrary to the statement in the attached memorandum of 21 June 1972, copies of which have been distributed to the various investigative authorities.

4. An intensive review is being made of records and the memories of persons who may have some knowledge of the period, but a definitive statement is not expected for some days yet, until after the termination of the Senate Select Committee. The findings may only result in an innocuous rewording of the original statement, to the effect that McCord did have a headquarters planning responsibility for certain Cuban operations. It may require a more positively phrased acknowledgement of his direct involvement in operations, handling agents targetted against Cuba. While this may prove to have no relation to Watergate, if reported after the termination of the Senate Select Committee the delay may be interpreted as some sign of bad faith on the part of the Agency. In this sense only, at this time, it is suggested that you may wish to consider reporting the recent development of the question to members of the Senate Select Committee Staff before it ceases its operations.


S. D. Breckinridge
Acting Inspector General

(b)(3)

Attachment: A/S

cc: DDM&S
OGC
OLC
Dir/Security

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21 JUN 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION : Mr. Arnold L. Parham

SUBJECT : James Walter McCord, Jr.
Everette Howard Hunt, Jr.

1. Reference is made to your request for information concerning the possible official Agency association of Mr. James Walter McCord, Jr. and Mr. Everette Howard Hunt, Jr. with certain Cuban-born individuals involved in the Watergate incident of 17 June 1972.

2. This is to advise that the duties and area assignments of Mr. McCord as an Agency employee provides no indication that he would have been involved in Cuban matters. He was not assigned to the Bay of Pigs program in the early 1960's and his more recent responsibilities through August 1970, established no such ties. This does not preclude the possibility, however, that he might have developed personal acquaintances which are not recorded in official personnel and security records. Most certainly, we have no pertinent information since his retirement.

3. As an Agency employee, Mr. Hunt was involved in certain operational activities relating to South American countries. He is known to have had some ties with Mr. Bernard L. Barker, who was born on 17 March 1917, at Havana, Cuba, of American parents.

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4. The above information is for your use only and should not be disseminated outside your Bureau. Please transmit any information on this matter to the attention of the Director of Security.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:



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Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

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