

DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 4/22/201

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10279-10113
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 105-91841-39

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : SEE TITLE
FROM : [Restricted]
TO :
TITLE : [Restricted]
DATE : 00/00/0000
PAGES : 20
SUBJECTS :
[Restricted]
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1B; 1C; 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 11/14/1997
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE
COMMENTS :

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

Our Ref: SF.52/5

MCT-15 REC-35

"X"

16th May, 1967.

Classified by 1/14/96
Declassify on: OADR SF10

James HAWTHORNE

McAndrew
Edwards
Wainwright
5-1

Please refer to my memoranda reference SF.52/5 of 9th February and 7th March 1967, and to your memoranda in reply dated 17th February and 2nd March 1967.

2. In view of the serious security implications of the allegations relating to plans to smuggle arms into the Bahamas from Europe, and the need to elicit the truth of these allegations, contact with HAWTHORNE was maintained both in the Bahamas and in Europe, which he visited again in March allegedly to make contact with those concerned with arms smuggling. He did in fact leave for Europe via the U.K. (where he was refused permission to land being already the subject of an exclusion order) on 21st March, some two days before (so I understand) your Miami Office notified the Bahamas Police that he is currently regarded as a fugitive.

3. During the course of his visit to Europe, he and his contacts have been subjected to an intelligence type investigation while at the same time contact has been maintained with HAWTHORNE for the purposes of determining the truth or otherwise of his story.

4. As a result of our investigations we are now satisfied that:

- (a) HAWTHORNE's story about arms being purchased in Europe for use in the Bahamas is without substance, and
- (b) HAWTHORNE did have some part to play in plans involving certain other U.S. as well as U.K. citizens to ship arms (within the letter of the law) to Central America with a purchase certificate to be provided by the Nicaraguan Government, and possibly for trans-shipment elsewhere. This deal is believed to be worth 4,000,000 dollars, and no doubt HAWTHORNE and his American contact, Samuel BENTON (at present in London) hoped to make a handsome profit themselves.

MI-5
MAY 17 1967

5. HAWTHORNE was last heard of by us staying at the Frankfurterhof Hotel in Frankfurt, Germany, as a guest in either Room 126 or 162, and registered in the name of RICHARDS - actually the name of his recently acquired British wife, Marian A. RICHARDS. He is without funds even to cover his hotel bills and (least of all) his telephone bill for calls made to the Colony Club, in London, to Dino CELLINI in Madrid and Lisbon, and to Ralph FARRA (@ FARRARA) his English accomplice, in arranging arms deal referred to at (b) above.

6. I passed the information about HAWTHORNE as at paragraph 5 above to Mr. Bledsoe today by telephone, and said that as far as we were concerned we had no further use for HAWTHORNE, and would

ENCLOSURE
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

MAY 25 1967
/be glad ...

JUN 6 - 1967

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET
2 - 9

be glad to see you take appropriate action in conjunction with the West German police authorities, subject to the source of your information not being quoted outside the F.B.I.

7. As a service we are not concerned with arms traffic to Central America and will be making no further enquiries on this matter. Nevertheless, we think you may find the various reports of our contacts with HAWTHORNE to be of interest both in the Domestic Intelligence and Special Investigative Division, and in this connection I attach:-

- (a) A Security Service internal memorandum dated 21st March 1967.
- (b) A Security Service surveillance report dated 14th April, referring to a meeting between Ralph ~~FARRA~~ ^{England} @ ~~FARRARA~~ (born 26 February 1918 and on record with us as an associate of arms trafficking up to 1956), and a U.S. citizen named Louis KUZIN.
- (c) A Security Service note of 27th April headed OXFORD (the code name used for the operation involving HAWTHORNE).
- (d) A press cutting dated 28th March 1965 which appears to relate to the KENNEDY referred to in the report at (c) above.
- (e) A Security Service note on a meeting with HAWTHORNE in Frankfurt, 28th/29th April.
- (f) A note of a telephone conversation subsequent to the meeting at (e).
- (g) A note on Sam BENTON dated May 1967, prepared as a brief for Special Branch, Scotland Yard in the hope that they would feel able to interview BENTON while in the U.K. In the event this interview did not take place.

8. The paper at (g) above refers to Dino ~~CELLINI~~ in Toronto; ^{Canada} the R.C.M.P. have been advised of this possibility. The latest information we have about the arms order which HAWTHORNE and his friends were chasing is eventually destined for Peru, and that an ^{Spain} American company "~~Americas Finanzaz Inc~~" of New York, may be the intermediaries. ^{Port}

9. The information HAWTHORNE gave about a Venezuelan freighter, off loading arms at Cooperstown to a person named SAWYER is, we believe entirely without foundation. Regarding the other references in the material referred to above to Columbia and Panama, we propose to report on these ourselves to C.I.A. as soon as we are able to complete a balanced report which will take into account all information available to us.

Encs:

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

(2)

James Russell HAWTHORNE - OXFORD

The above named arrived at London Airport on Tuesday 21st March at 08.30 hours. Following advice from the Governor Bahamas prior warning of his arrival was given to the Chief Immigration Officer who was also asked to give the Security Service and/or Special Branch the opportunity to interview him.

2. HAWTHORNE was to be refused leave to land under the terms of the entry in the Home Office Suspect Index.

3. He duly arrived and informed the Immigration Officer that he had married (at Nassau in mid-February) a British Subject - Marion RICHARDS - who was now staying at the Carlton Towers. In view of this new circumstance the case was referred to the Home Office who confirmed that HAWTHORNE should not be allowed to enter the U.K.

4. In the meantime we had been advised of the arrival and I went to London Airport. I introduced myself as arranged by HSB Bahamas and subsequently had a Special Branch representative join me. I introduced him as a "colleague". HAWTHORNE was not given my name.

5. In questioning HAWTHORNE I confined myself to two broad objectives:-

- (i) to check the story previously told by HAWTHORNE of his visit to Geneva in December 1966.
- (ii) to establish the reason for his present visit, what his intentions were, who his contacts were to be and finally how the Government of the Bahamas was involved.

The December Visit to Geneva

6. Regarding (i) HAWTHORNE told me that shortly after his arrival in London he had made contact with:-

- (a) Ralph FARRA
- (b) Len WESTON England
- (c) Vick ?

He knew that he could meet these individuals in the coffee shop of the Hilton Hotel any afternoon and that they would organise the supply of arms. With WESTON and Vick, in the latter's Jaguar, the party drove to Geneva crossing the channel at Dover. HAWTHORNE travelled under his own name but did not remember which port he arrived at in France nor where Switzerland was entered - he was asleep for most of the time. He said that he did not have any entries in his passport for this trip as the immigration formalities had not required this. He did not on either the outward or inward boat have to fill in any landing cards. He had had to visit a passport officer on board the ferry but was unable to give a satisfactory description of the procedure.

7. The trip to Geneva took one day and the party arrived one morning. After the Letter of Credit was found unacceptable all returned.

/immediately.....

~~ENCLOSURE~~

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

- 2 -

immediately to London. He then went to South Wales to the home of Miss. RICHARDS. He kept their room on at the Carlton Towers during the whole of his visit to the U.K.

8. During the time he was in London FARRA, WESTON and Vick concluded an arms deal worth 4,000,000 dollars. HAWTHORNE did not know the details.

9. Because of HAWTHORNE's failure to give satisfactory circumstantial detail of his visit to Geneva I am convinced that this trip did not in fact take place.

The Current Visit to Geneva

10. I asked HAWTHORNE if he would now produce the Letter of Credit which was to have been handed to him at Nassau prior to his departure. He said that this had not in fact happened and that BENTON had taken this from Miami or New York to London and was now at the Carlton Towers where he would give it to HAWTHORNE. I also asked HAWTHORNE for identifying details including addresses of the three individuals at (a) (b) and (c) above, but he said that his wife, who had travelled in advance of him, had these in her baggage at the Carlton Towers. All that he could recall was that WESTON's flat was close to the Cumberland Hotel.

11. As a result of further questioning HAWTHORNE said that he had come to London at the present time at the behest of McLANEY and his role was to make the necessary introduction to FARRA and the others. For this service he would get 10% of the Letter of Credit which was for the sum of 250,000 dollars. He did not then know at which Bank this was to be drawn. Having got this detail of the order from BENTON (who did not know FARRA and the others) HAWTHORNE would make the necessary contacts at the Hilton and from there he would then go to Geneva to draw the money, pay this over with the order and then collect his 10%. HAWTHORNE did not know what the delivery details would be but he thought that the Bahamas were the point of unloading. He did not know for whom the arms were required - he admitted that it was difficult to see what use Premier Pindling could make of them although he inferred that Pindling knew of the transaction. He thought that McLANEY's intention was to resell at a profit elsewhere than the Bahamas.

12. Referring to PROBINSKY, HAWTHORNE said that he was McLANEY's right hand man who had been part of the investment in the Bahamas. McLANEY had brought Pindling to power and now expected gambling concessions. PROBINSKY had an office next to Pindling's and the latter turned to PROBINSKY for advice and guidance. PROBINSKY was aware of the reason for HAWTHORNE's present trip. PROBINSKY had visited London in February and was now back in Nassau.

13. I asked HAWTHORNE what he would do if he was finally refused leave to land (at that time the Home Office was still considering his case). He had not considered alternative arrangements but would have to consider this with his wife. He had already rung her at the Carlton Towers and she was on her way to the Airport ready to accompany him. He did not see any point in going on to Geneva and was vague in his replies when asked what action, if any, he would take to pursue the contact with Len WESTON and Vick.

/14.....

(2)

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

-3-

14. Little progress was being made at this stage of the interview, HAWTHORNE being more interested in knowing why he was refused leave to land and speculating as to whether it was because of his gambling antecedent. He admitted he was wanted by the Belgians and also that he had been sentenced to ten years in the U.S.A. but had not served the sentence as by appeals he had had this reduced to two years and he was still appealing. This process had cost him 1,000,000 dollars and his view was that the U.S. authorities were more interested in breaking people such as him financially than in putting them in gaol.

15. I accordingly broke off the meeting. I subsequently discussed the course of the meeting with the Special Branch representative. He agreed to question HAWTHORNE's wife on her arrival at the Airport. He also undertook to warn Dover to keep a look out for BENTON in case he tried to rendezvous with HAWTHORNE on the continent. I provided BENTON's particulars as furnished by the F.B.I.

16. After my return to Head Office the Special Branch representative rang me to say that HAWTHORNE and his wife were on their way to Frankfurt en route for Luxembourg, and also that HAWTHORNE, in order to avoid having his wife questioned had admitted that he did have in his possession identifying particulars of FARRA and Co. which are as follows:-

FARRA - Telephone No. Ambassador 7733
Extension 496 - Apartment N.

WESTON - Telephone No. Paddington 1415
Address: 34 Scourcliff Close, W.1.

Vick - Ambassador 4350

It was also established that his wife's previous London address was Flat E10 Sloane Avenue Mansions and that she was travelling on her 1958 passport. She was very surprised at what had happened and did not appear to be in her husband's confidence about the reason for his present trip. HAWTHORNE had previously said that she had come to the U.K. to visit her parents at Easter. She was disappointed that he would not see them.

17. Before HAWTHORNE left he showed some interest in identifying George RAFT's solicitor.

18. Regarding further contact HAWTHORNE was told to ring the S.B. office at LAP who would then if necessary get in touch with me.

19. A subsequent enquiry made at the Carlton Towers revealed that BENTON had not arrived by 22nd March 1967 and was not staying there by 22nd March 1967 either under his own name or the aliases he is known to use.

2

(3)

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

(b)

A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section.....E.5.....

Subject.....FARROW.....FARROW

Officer.....A.B. Arnott.....

Nickname.....

Copy to.....

PF. No.....

A.4 Ref.....E...745.v.3./13.....

Day....Friday.....

Date.....14th April, 1967.....

Following your telephone request on the afternoon of Friday 14th April we were able to get some officers to the Grosvenor House at 16.00 hours.

2. Initially our officers could not identify anyone as FARROW from the photographs in their possession, in the lounge of the hotel. However, our officers did discover two characters who seemed likely to be of interest and a certain amount was heard of the conversation towards the end of their tea.

3. The two men taking ^{Lou Kuzins} part in this meeting are referred to hereafter as the 'cockney' and a man who was subsequently identified as Louis KUZIN of 19100 West 8 Mile Road, Southfield (Detroit) Michigan, U.S.A. This man is employed by Shelly Company. KUZIN is (or was) ^{English} staying in room 809 of the Grosvenor House for four nights. He was due to leave on Monday 17th. His American passport number is H 127252 issued in ^{Germany} New York.

4. From 16.00 to 16.45 the 'cockney' monopolized the conversation and KUZIN listened apparently intently.

5. The following snippets of conversation were gleaned:-

- a) The cockney spoke about jewelry and said 'The next time I saw it Marge was wearing it'.
- b) He was next heard to talk about Ben and Françoise concerned in an event in Paris which involved \$26,000.
- c) Our officer thought he heard the names Vic and Bet mentioned.
- d) He then talked about 'scrap', referred to somebody as a 'tank' and later talked at length about Germany. Our officer gathered that he had bought some goods in Germany for \$20,000 and their true value was ?\$150,000. He talked of some goods which our officer interpreted to be assemblies of some sort, probably engines or the like for mechanical vehicles of some sort.

/He mentioned .

(4)

SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section.....

Subject.....

Officer.....

Nickname.....

Copy to.....

PF. No.....

A.4 Ref.....

- 2 -

Day.....

Date.....

He mentioned the figure of 1650 in connection with these items and this brought a whistle of amazement from KUZIN.

/our officer

- e) He also mentioned 200 Tanks but / could not gather any other details of this.
- f) It appeared that KUZIN is going to Germany and part of the reason for this trip is to see 'Hoffner'. He is going to Darmstat and Manhiem. All this was overheard from the cockney, who suggested that KUZIN should stay at the Palace Hotel in Manhiem, it being the best.

No Log

g) He also mentioned the names Jack Ellis and Joe Levy, and our officer also thought he said that Ralph (pronounced Raylph) was coming to join them at Grosvenor House at five o'clock. Several other towns in Germany were mentioned, the most frequent being Frankfurt, but our officer could gather no details of this. The cockney spoke of money on several occasions, always large sums and always in dollars.

- h) From 16.45 until they separated at 17.30 KUZIN joined in the conversation but our officer was not in a position to hear what he said.

6. Both the men frequently admired and remarked on young attractive girls who happened to pass through the Hotel lounge. Even to the extent that their conversation would cease abruptly while each concentrated on the passing of the girl in question.

7. When they parted KUZIN stopped the cockney paying the bill and told the waiter to charge it to room 809. The cockney left the hotel and got into a grey Jaguar K Y K 140 D. KUZIN collected his key and disappeared upstairs.

8. These events were reported to you verbally by our officers.

/9.

(5)

SECRET

SECRET

A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section.....	Subject.....
Officer.....	Nickname.....
Copy to.....	PF. No.....
	A.4 Ref.....

- 3 -

Day..... Date.....

9. Attached is a photograph of the cockney who is described as follows:-

British male aged 45 - 48. Height 5'9"-10". Medium build. Large round head, light grey hair on sides, bald on top. Round face, tanned complexion. Broad nose, wide nostrils. Wearing dark blue suit, blue shirt, blue tie and black leather shoes. Of very smart appearance. Smoked cigarettes and spoke with a cockney accent.

10. KUZIN is described as follows:-

American male aged 42-46. Height 5'7"-9". Medium build. Long head, dark brown hair, parted on left hand side. Thin face, sallow complexion. Long thin nose which has been broken some time. Wearing black mac, black mohair suit, black leather shoes. Smoked cigarettes and spoke with a North American accent. Had a large gold ring with a ruby in it on the small finger.

W. D. Hooper
W. D. Hooper

18th April, 1967

WDH/PMG

Enc.

(6)

SECRET

SECRET

* OXFORD

Ba. Is.

England

OXFORD re-established contact on 24th April, 1967 and Germany said that he was about to return to Nassau. Without prompting he admitted that he was unable to rendezvous with Ralph FARRA in Teneriffe but added that he had seen him when on his way back to the U.K. Here he was clearly lying as it is known FARRA returned to the U.K. direct from Madrid and that since his return he has not left the U.K. OXFORD said that everything was now organised and it has been arranged to see him in Frankfurt on Friday 28th after which it is his intention to return forthwith to Nassau.

2. FARRA has continued to avoid OXFORD and in the last week there has been no direct contact between them. OXFORD, however, is reported to have spoken to FARRA's girlfriend who was non-committal in her replies when OXFORD enquired about progress. FARRA has been reported as admitting that Len WAINSTAIN has been leaving his England 'phone' off the hook to avoid HAWTHORNE and other people who were trying to get hold of him.

3. Perhaps, however, the most interesting report has been one which relates to a business negotiation in which FARRA and Vick are undertaking in respect of a supply of arms to Nicaragua. An order for these is being arranged through someone called KENNEDY. Full details of the order are not known but included is ammunition for "100 anti tank recoilers". These recoilers are reported as being "rifles M40 or M40 A 1 or M40 A 1 C. 300 to 800 are required and the ammunition is 106 millimetres. 8 HEAT M344 A 1 with fuse, specification P.L.B. 3M501, quantity 50,000 to 100,000 or more".

4. According to our informant this is a genuine order from Nicaragua (as others have been in the past) and there is an "end user certificate" and contract. FARRA has pointed out that the Nicaraguans are working as intermediaries and have come to FARRA's source of supply as the order cannot be met in the United States. Reference was also made to "four months" and the impression given is that this is the time which would elapse between placing the order and delivery. There was nothing in this report to indicate that either OXFORD or the Bahamas are involved with this particular order.

5. John England The KENNEDY mentioned above may be a person who was reported in the U.K. Press (The Observer) a year or two ago as involved in a proposal to supply arms to South Africa through Nicaragua. A copy of this press statement is being obtained and if available in time for the current bag will be enclosed, if not it will follow in due course.

↗ April, 1967

SECRET

(7)

DATE: 11-14-2017

DA/E2

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

THE OBSERVER

(d)

28 MAR 1965

Date... 28 MAR 1965



CLEM FURNESS: 'I can arrange anything from a battleship to a textile plant provided it is legal.'

Shooting holes in UN arms embargo

by ERIC CLARK and ANDREW WILSON

THE United Nations has been warned of an international private operation—centred on London—to carry out a multi-million-pound arms shipment into South Africa.

Perfectly legal, but loaded with political repercussions, this operation is aimed at avoiding national embargoes and U.N. resolutions. It illustrates the devious methods the Verwoerd Government has to use to get round the now highly effective U.N. embargo.

Other international arms dealers, agents and contact-men have been informed that South Africa is ready to buy almost limitless supplies of small arms.

One of the principal figures able to throw light on this particular operation is a self-styled British arms "contact man"—57-year-old Mr Clem Furness, who operates through the small City premises of an old-established family business.

Mr. Furness, who in the past has arranged arms for Dr Castro in Cuba and the late Premier Lumumba in the Congo, says the contact "ring" between the suppliers and the South African Government is now on the point of completion.

An attempt has been made to get the arms shipped from Belgium to Nicaragua in Central America—where they would have stayed for a few weeks before being re-exported to South Africa.

England

B. APPROX 1908

Deposits in Swiss banks

The elaborate moves are necessary because of near-total international embargoes on arms to South Africa. Among the countries which have given the U.N. an undertaking not to export arms which would aid the enforcement of apartheid are Britain and Belgium. A definite order from a third "friendly" country is necessary before the arms can be moved out of Belgium.

Another man able to add a piece to the overall picture is 32-year-old Mr John Kennedy, ex-manager of singer Tommy Steele. According to Mr Kennedy an attempt was made—unsuccessfully—to arrange meetings with the Panamanian Ambassador in London, Senor Eusebio Morales.

The arms order—said to be part of a long-term series worth more than £10 million sterling—will be paid for with money already deposited in Swiss banks.

In his third-floor office in the City Mr Furness, an accountant, said: "As for me, I am not doing—and I would never do—anything that is illegal or which I thought was morally wrong. The South Africans are out shopping. I am solely a contact—a link—in the arms business. I can arrange anything from a battleship to a textile plant provided it is legal."

Two bare rooms

Mr Furness has occupied £6-a-week furnished accommodation in Selborne Road, Hove, Sussex, since October last year. He is known by neighbours as an electrical businessman. His London office, where we interviewed him, consists of two bare, almost unfurnished rooms in Devonshire Row. They are listed as the London premises of Lewis and Hall (Electrical) Ltd., a 32-year-old-firm of electrical contractors with registered offices in High Street, Birmingham, 14.

Present at the interview was his aide, a Mr Smith, who said: "Lewis and Hall are nothing to do with this side of the business."

Mr Furness, a white-haired, bespectacled Yorkshireman, talked of his part in the international



JOHN KENNEDY: 'If anyone did try to ship arms to Nicaragua he would have American gunboats breathing down his neck.'

here and wanted to order some arms I would want to know where they were for. If it was a revolution I'd want to be sure that it wasn't for this country or for anyone against its interest. I am unusual in this respect. Lots of them are only interested in the end profit."

He said he will not deal with the Middle East—"I don't want to be the man to put the spark in the powder-keg."

Would he arrange deals to South Africa? "South Africa will get arms."

To supply arms from a country which had not embargoed South Africa would not be illegal, he said, and added: "I would never do anything that was illegal. The South Africans need arms for their defence, not for aggression."

"I'm not a man who would personally buy or hold any arms. If you came in now and offered me them for five bob I wouldn't touch them."

DATE: 11-14-2017

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

THE OBSERVER

28 MAR 1965

Date.....

**Business
builder**

Mr Furness and Mr Kennedy, head of John Kennedy and Co., Ltd., a public relations firm in Knightsbridge, met early this year at a London hotel.

Mr Kennedy, the man who launched Tommy Steele, was brought up in New Zealand. He came to Britain in 1950 "practically penniless." By 1960, after finding Steele, he was admitting to owning investments totalling between £30,000 and £40,000.

Mr Kennedy, who was once described as a man who takes over ailing businesses, builds them up and sells out at the peak, is interested in the Panama Free Zone as part of his public relations business. He knows Central America.

"I had been mentioned to Furness because it was known that I knew the Somoza family in Nicaragua," he said. "That was the country Furness was interested in."

The Somozas, who include a former President, control all the essential services in Nicaragua, either directly or through the hands of their nominees.

Kennedy said that he and Furness talked of a huge stockpile of arms, said to be in Belgium, that South Africa wanted. "The Belgians were willing to release them from the country provided they had an order from a Government."

Mr Kennedy went on: "If anyone did try to ship arms to Nicaragua he would have American gunboats breathing down his neck. It just isn't possible.

"The idea that arms could be ordered by Nicaragua, imported into the country, and after three weeks or so—when everything had been settled—shipped to South Africa, just isn't practical."

**Request for
a meeting**

Mr Kennedy also said that he now knew that anyone helping ship arms to South Africa would be "doing something the British Government is against."

He said he had been asked to arrange a meeting with Senor Morales, 54, the man who has been Panamanian Ambassador in Britain since last year. "I wouldn't arrange it," he added.

South Africa—through Parliamentary statements and Press reports—has claimed in recent months that the country is self-sufficient in the production of small arms and ammunition. The arms are produced in South Africa by the South African mint, the Defence Ordnance factories and three factories set up by the African Explosive and Chemical Industries Ltd.

But despite South Africa's own output, Dr Verwoerd's Government is known to have sought substantial purchases of arms ranging from pistols to aircraft from European countries.

A U.N. Security Council resolution of August 7, 1963, called upon "all States to cease forthwith the sale and shipment of arms, ammunition of all types and military vehicles to South Africa." That resolution was followed by another on December 4 that year calling for an end to the sale and shipment of equipment and materials for arms manufacture and maintenance.

**Racial policy
condemned**

Most U.N. members agreed. The Belgian Government said: "The Belgium Government, which on numerous occasions has condemned the racial policy of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, has decided in accordance with this attitude to give effect to paragraph 5 of the Security Council resolution on December 4, 1963, by ceasing the sale of equipment and materials for the manufacture and maintenance of arms and ammunition in South Africa."

A Belgian Government spokesman said in Brussels last week that if South Africa tried to order arms from Belgium it would be refused.

In 1963 Belgium recorded the official export of about £1,100,000 worth of arms and ammunition to South Africa. For the first 10 months of last year the amount was down to about £14,000.

(9)

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRETOXFORDInterview at Frankfurt, 28th-29th April,
1967 and subsequent matters arising.

OXFORD was seen in the lounge of the Frankfurterhof Hotel on Friday 28th April. He told me that he had not, in fact, rung the Bahamas the night before as he said he would be doing. I have since gathered that he cannot afford to telephone.

2. I asked OXFORD to tell me what he had been doing since the interview at London Airport. Using details provided by the hotel of the various telephone calls he had made to assist his memory, he told me that he had not gone to Tenerife to meet Ralph FARRA as originally intended because the funds for the journey arrived too late. He had, however, spoken to FARRA on the telephone both in Tenerife and in London. He also said that he had made arrangements through SALVIN, manager of the Colony Club in London, for Sam BENTON to meet Dino CELLINI in Lisbon and there handover the Letter of Credit in respect of the arms for the Bahamas. FARRA subsequently met CELLINI on or about the 12th and concluded arrangements for the purchase of 1,000 side arms at fifty-five dollars each, 1,000 rifles at 125 dollars each and a million rounds of ammunition delivered. OXFORD having spoken to CELLINI on 12th April it was arranged that BENTON would meet FARRA on about the 17th or 18th in London, OXFORD having learned this from FARRA when he spoke to him on the telephone on the 17th, (see comment below). The arms were to be offloaded at Cooperstown and shipment is being arranged by Vick and FARRA from a port outside the U.K.

3. It has not been possible to identify Cooperstown and when I spoke to OXFORD again on 8th May he told me then that CELLINI in Toronto had confirmed on 6th May 1967 that Cooperstown was the point of delivery and that the contact there was a person by the name of SAMYER, an individual who was interested in boats. I asked how the arms were to be delivered and OXFORD said that they were to be transported in a Venezuelan freighter which travelled between the U.K. and Venezuela and this would discharge the arms in the vicinity of Cooperstown. He thought delivery was to take place in the next two weeks. He did not know the name of the freighter although he had heard it, he said that this was a single rather than a double barreled name.

Comment

OXFORD's telephone receipts, a list of which are attached as an Annex, are retained in London and these indicated that he did in fact make the contacts claimed except where BENTON is concerned. There is no record of any telephone call to BENTON, the latter's name being significantly absent from the reports which have been provided by independent sources. In particular there is reliable information that BENTON was not mentioned nor discussed by OXFORD in the course of the conversation he had with FARRA on 17th April, nor was there anything in this discussion to suggest that an arms deal had recently been concluded between the two. BENTON, however, arrived at London Airport on the 7th May and has said that he will be staying at the Hilton for about four days before going on to Venezuela. He said he was in London on business.

Cooperstown is not identifiable and it was put to OXFORD that this might be Cockburn Town or Cornightown. He did not know which was the more likely but said that the name had been given by an Englishman in which case Cockburn Town may be the better bet, although it seems more likely that this is a figment of OXFORD's imagination.

SECRET

/Dino CELLINI.....

SECRET

-2-

Eino CRILLINI is an American gambler who was deported from the United Kingdom a few weeks ago. According to OXFORD he is now staying at the "Andre" hotel in Toronto.

4. OXFORD went on to say that the order on this occasion was for the same amount as before and that he rang Lou POLLAR in Geneva on 4th April who confirmed that the current Letter of Credit was good. OXFORD did not know which banks were now involved.

Sw. 721

5. Contrary to what OXFORD had told me earlier during a telephone conversation he now said that he had not seen FARRA since his last visit to London in December 1966. He had, however, spoken to him on the telephone and had met Vick (now identified as Cyril Victor ~~LEE~~) on 11th April in Frankfurt. Vick was accompanied on this occasion by Ken WATERFIELD and WATERFIELD's partner whose name OXFORD did not know, WATERFIELD and his partner were trying to raise £20,000 in cash immediately and £80,000 in the next few weeks in order to keep an insurance company under their control. They asked OXFORD if he could assist in disposing of "hot" jewellery to the value of £250,000.

Germany

England

6. By this time it was clear that OXFORD was unable or unwilling to voluntarily amplify the information he had given. I, therefore, put it to him that there was little truth in his story and stating that other sources of information had failed to confirm any of the facts he was giving. He resisted this suggestion. I, therefore, went on to say that I believed that he was, in fact, mixed up in another arms deal which did not involve the Bahamas but instead Central American countries. He denied this. I, therefore, put to him various names of associates of Vick and FARRA and asked if he knew who they were. Those names which he recognized were as follows:-

MAC (an associate of FARRA's) OXFORD had met MAC when in London but did not know his surname nor what his occupation was. He had had supper with MAC and other friends of FARRA.

Lou KUZINE (an American associate of Vick's). At first OXFORD did not admit the full extent of his knowledge of KUZINE but later was more forthcoming. He had met KUZINE in London in December. KUZINE was involved with FARRA and Vick in arranging a U.K. export licence for goods to the value of four million dollars to be exported to Teheran which was being handled through a bank in Zurich. In this connection Vick visited Zurich in December.

ARBITER & WESTON (a company of interest to FARRA and others). OXFORD said that this company had extensive gambling interests. Norman WESTON, one of the partners, was brother of Len WESTON and OXFORD says he met these people in the U.K. in December. The company was interested in gambling not in arms.

KENNEDY (an associate of Vick and FARRA in Brussels and apparently closely involved in arranging the supply and delivery of arms probably to Nicaragua. A person called John KENNEDY was reported in the "Observer" some two years ago as denying that arms were being shipped to Central Africa via Nicaragua). OXFORD had heard this name and thought it could have been the person whom WATERFIELD and his partner were due to meet in Brussels after leaving Frankfurt.

//.....

(11) SECRET

SECRET

-3-

7. At about this stage of the proceedings OXFORD started to overlook or forget his earlier denials and began talking about the larger arms transaction for Central America.

David (a contact of Vick's. A David SHAW of 4 Albemarle Street ^{England} has also been reported to be the owner of a car driven on one occasion by Vick). OXFORD said he presumed David was David SHAW and identified his office. He said that SHAW had come to the Bahamas with Norman and Len BENTON and FARRA in November last. SHAW was in the contracting business and provided the working finance for the arms deal. He was the "front-man" and had attended the meeting at Holynes Villas in Freeport before going on to the United States. OXFORD had subsequently seen SHAW in London at his office when he completed a real estate transaction with him on behalf of someone called Peter SIGILLI. ^{England} BA, IS

ALEC (an associate of FARRA's and Vick's). It is unlikely that OXFORD did in fact identify the real ALEC but instead spoke of an Alec MITCHELL, a U.S. citizen aged about fifty-five who was prepared to finance arms but not gambling transactions. MITCHELL ^{England} had his own jet aircraft and frequently visited London from Florida. He was in the Bahamas at the same time as SHAW and others but OXFORD was unable to say whether he knew of the meeting at Freeport. BA, IS

HOPFNER (a German associate of Vick and KUZING). OXFORD identified HOPFNER as a person whom Vick came to see in Mannheim about the beginning of April. HOPFNER was engaged in the arms business but OXFORD had not met him.

8. I reverted to the subject of arms for the Bahamas and asked OXFORD how this business began. He told me that the first contact had taken place about two months before the Bahamas election. In November PROBINSKY had come to Nassau and had taken FINDLING to McLANEY's house in Florida. At the meeting which took place to consider how FINDLING could be helped to power BENTON suggested that money should be raised to obtain arms. It was understood that if successful at the polls FINDLING would subsequently make appropriate concessions to McLANEY.

9. I asked OXFORD how he had got in touch with the Bahamas police and he said that HSB had come to him. I asked how this had been arranged and OXFORD said that when he was in Freeport he wanted a telephone installed in a hurry and had got on to the brother of the Minister of Telecommunications, the result of which was that his telephone was supplied immediately. ^{BA, IS} OXFORD then went and thanked the Minister, Roy SOLOMON, and the conversation turned to McLANEY, OXFORD indicating that McLANEY was going to back SOLOMON's political opponents. SOLOMON asked him if he would be prepared to come to terms with the Bahamian Government, OXFORD agreed provided SOLOMON paid his expenses. SOLOMON then arranged for HSB to see OXFORD which he did at Freeport. SOLOMON owed OXFORD 6,000 dollars.

10. OXFORD then told me that following these conversations SOLOMON and a Ministerial Colleague, Sir Stafford SANDS, wanted to recover certain papers which had been stolen from SANDS' safe and taken to the United States. The papers gave details of financial transactions involving payments from the Bahamas (i.e. the Casinos) to various individuals in the United States. OXFORD was employed to run down and recover these BA, IS

/papers.....

(12) SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

papers in order to prevent them falling into PIKOLING's hands. He did in fact manage to obtain some of them and these were now lodged in Philadelphia in an Attorney's office. OXFORD had obtained the papers by persuading two friends to rob a car. One person involved in all this had been indicted in the United States, his name was Avery ALLEN. Some of the papers had also come into the possession of Tex McREARY NO LOC who had worked for SANBOS. There were three parcels of papers in all and it was these which were the basis of the articles in the Wall Street Journal.

11. OXFORD then told me a little more about his last visit to London. According to him he was supposed to take an export licence out in the U.K. for the export of arms and left here on 29th December and first went to Mexico City in order to obtain a divorce. Having obtained this in nine days, he went to Columbia immediately afterwards and also visited Panama. His purpose was to find out whether arms could be sold in that area. He also wanted to know who he would be dealing with if he took out the export licence. His conclusions were that Guatemala, Nicaragua and a group in Brazil were all potential purchasers and he subsequently passed this information on to Vick. In Panama City he saw a jeweller who is a very close friend of the President, his name was Enrico NACCIAR whose company was Joyeria Ecma and whose jewellery store in Panama was right across from the Panama Hilton where OXFORD was staying. He came to an arrangement to deal through NACCIAR and then went on to San Andres where he visited another jeweller whose name was Jose BECALLEA. (San Andres is the Columbian island freeport lying East of Nicaragua). BECALLEA had a half interest in an emerald mine in Columbia and asked OXFORD to take some emeralds to the Richard Jewellery store in Miami. From San Andres OXFORD went to Jamaica and then on to Nassau.

12. OXFORD continued to insist that this was a separate transaction to the Bahamas business, the value in this case being four million dollars.

Comment

Independent sources indicate that OXFORD's associates are in fact currently engaged in a business transaction which is within the letter of the law to ship arms to Central America, the purchase certificate to be provided by the Nicaraguan Government. After arrival in Central America it seems likely that the arms will then be shipped elsewhere. OXFORD, however, only seems to be involved in the earlier part of the transaction that is to say to get the goods to Central America.

13. In the course of our conversation OXFORD referred to Mafia and their interest in gambling. He said that the contact on the Continent with whom he could get in touch if he wanted to obtain Mafia assistance was a person called "Fatsteak" who was Dutch and lived in Amsterdam. Another Mafia contact was Harcourt BLACKBURN. NO LOC

14. OXFORD then said that he had been involved in an operation to get arms to Cuba about six years ago. These had been shipped from New Orleans prior to which they had been stored at Riko BELAMY's LO mother's farm which was near New Orleans. Michael

15. I asked OXFORD why he no longer had his return ticket to Nassau, he said that he had to cash this in when advised to go to Paris. He also had to finance his wife's visit to the U.K. where she had just been but could only bring £35 back with her.

(13) SECRET

/16

SECRET

16. He identified a photograph I showed him of Len WAINSTEIN as being Len WENTON.

17. During our conversation OXFORD continually returned to the subject of as to how he would get back into the United Kingdom and mentioned that it had been suggested to him he could always go in through the back door. After some pressing he told me this was to go to Ireland and from there to the Isle of Man where he was to ask for "O'Sullivan" who would do what was necessary.

18. I advised OXFORD not to attempt this. He told me that his wife was contemplating writing to an M.P. appealing against his exclusion. OXFORD asked me if I knew why he was not allowed into the United Kingdom. I replied that I was not informed of the reason for the department's decision but I assumed there was some connection with OXFORD's gambling antecedents and his criminal record in the United States and on the Continent.

May 1967

SECRET

(14)

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

Annex

OXFORD

Details of Telephone Calls made by him and for which he provided
Hotel chits from the Frankfurter Hof Hotel, Frankfurt during April

<u>Date</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Cost. D.M.</u>
1. April 3rd	WATERFIELD - (East Knoyes 400)	18.20
2. April 4th	Lou POLLAR - Geneva	7.20
3. April 4th	WHI. 1212	13.50
4. April 4th	FARRA - Teneriffe	32.70
5. April 5th	FARRA - Teneriffe	4.20
6. April 6th	FARRA - Teneriffe	31.00
7. April 9th	FARRA - Teneriffe	31.45
8. April 11th	WATERFIELD - (East Knoyes 400)	8.40
9. April 12th	Colony Club (SALKIN) - London	6.60
10. April 12th	Colony Club (SALKIN) - London	11.40
11. April 12th	Dino CELLINI - Madrid	4.70
12. April 12th	FARRA - Teneriffe	33.00
13. April 13th	Dino CELLINI - Lisbon	5.50
14. April 14th	Dino CELLINI - Madrid	4.60
15. April 14th	Colony Club - London	7.20
16. April 14th	Colony Club - London	9.50
17. April 14th	Dino CELLINI - Lisbon	4.60
18. April 14th	Dino CELLINI - Estorie	47.50
19. April 15th	Dino CELLINI - Estorie	36.80
20. April 17th	Colony Club - London	13.50
21. April 17th	FARRA - Teneriffe	8.20
22. April 17th	FARRA - London	26.40
23. April 18th	FARRA - Teneriffe	8.40
24. April 19th	FARRA - London	6.00
25. April 21st	FARRA - London	20.10
26. April 24th	WHI. 1212	8.40

(15) SECRET

SECRET

(9)

~~Sam~~ ~~Benton~~ England

~~Samuel~~ ~~BENTON~~ @ ~~FINK~~ born ~~FINKELMAN~~

Born: 4th July 1920, Poland.
U.S. Citizen Passport No.: C.679720
Add.: 2448 S.W.17 Street, Miami,
Florida.

Part.

Sgt. Gibb at London Airport reported that the above had arrived at about 14.00 on Sunday 7th May from Rome on Flight BE.255. BENTON had been searched by Customs but nothing of interest was revealed. He said that he was here for about four days on business and thereafter he was going to Venezuela. He would be staying at the Hilton Hotel during his visit. He was carrying one suitcase, was about six feet two inches wore sunglasses, had a tanned complexion and was wearing a "shocking" orange polo neck sweater.

2. BENTON was previously mentioned in Special Branch report of 21st March 1967 reference 588/UNREG/555a-30a and 371/66/96-46a as the person with whom James Russell HAWTHORNE was going to rendezvous at the Carlton Towers Hotel in furtherance of the alleged illegal supply of arms to the Bahamas. HAWTHORNE has since been reported to say that he has had further contact with BENTON and that he had arranged a meeting between BENTON and Dino CELLINI in Lisbon in the early part of April. CELLINI is believed to be the person who was formerly connected with the Colony Club and who was deported from the U.K. as a result of his gambling interests. According to information received from Special Branch Bahamas, BENTON has been declared a prohibited immigrant by the Bahamas Government because of fraudulent practices in which he was engaged relating to share certificates. He is described as an associate of criminals and racketeers in the U.S.A. and had pre-Castro connections with gambling interests in Havana. In 1963 he was concerned in the collection of a large arms and explosives dump which was discovered in New Orleans. It was believed that these arms had been stored for use by anti-Castro forces. In 1965 he was charged in the U.S.A. for the transportation of stolen property (share certificates) across state lines but was found not guilty.

3. BENTON has been described as a thoroughly undesirable person who will engage in extra-legal activity if the financial reward is high enough.

4. In December 1966 the Bahamas police were informed that a group of American citizens led by Michael McLaney and including David PROBINSKY, Duke JORDAN, William HANLEY, Samuel BENTON, James HAWTHORNE, Irving SPIRO, BESHANGER and ?Vinn had agreed to raise finance and give assistance to what was then the opposition party (the Progressive Liberal Party led by Pindling) but which is now the Government. In exchange this group expected gambling concessions. The assistance which took the form of electoral help and also a supply of small arms in case there was a defeat at the polls. According to HAWTHORNE the first attempt to buy these arms fell through when a Letter of Credit for 250,000 dollars was refused by a Swiss bank. A second attempt is now being made and HAWTHORNE has said that the present Letter of Credit had been honoured having been brought to Europe by BENTON at the end of March. Apparently HAWTHORNE was supposed to rendezvous with BENTON at the Carlton Towers but failed to do so when he was refused entry to the U.K. According to HAWTHORNE it was

/BENTON.....

(16) SECRET

DATE: 11-14-2017

SECRET

-2-

BENTON who made the first suggestion at a meeting in Miami attended by Pindling that arms should be imported to the Bahamas.

5. The arms involved are said by HAWTHORNE to be 1,000 side arms, 1,000 rifles and a million rounds of ammunition. So far there has been no independent confirmation that such a plot exists. It has, however, been learned that HAWTHORNE and others are concerned in a much larger arrangement for the supply of arms to the value of four million dollars to be shipped from the Continent to somewhere in Central American and from there to a third unspecified country, not the Bahamas.

6. There is a possibility that BENTON is also involved in this larger transaction. It is equally possible that the smaller one does not exist and never has done so.

May, 1967

SECRET