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SAC, WFO (97-1638)

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5/6/63

Director, FBI (97-3485)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

FRANK M. BARRY
RA - NICARAGUA

Classified by *SP 8 mrc/KSR*
Declassify on: OADR *(JFK)*

12-8-94

Reurlet 4/22/63 wherein you requested Bureau consider and advise WFO as to advisability of interviewing I. Irving Davidson, Arthur Walters, Orville Trask, Merton W. Hamilton and John Wayne regarding subject.

With regard to John Wayne, it is noted that in your letter you explained that you did not question subject concerning Wayne's alleged interest in building a hotel in Nicaragua as the source of this information was [WF 970-S]. Bufile reveals this interest of Wayne's has not been verified through any other source. Should Barry become aware of our interview of Wayne it would seem the effect, possible jeopardy of the source, would be the same as questioning Barry about Wayne. Actually we have here no more than statements made by Barry to Nicaraguan officials whom, it can be presumed, he desired to impress favorably. It cannot be assumed that Barry's statements regarding Wayne were entirely true. Under the circumstances, Wayne should not be interviewed.

Bufiles reveal that information has been developed through other sources that Walters, Trask and Hamilton have exhibited interest in the past in building a hotel in Managua, Nicaragua, and that they are all known to Barry. WFO is aware of this and has considerable information on file concerning them. Consequently, WFO should have made its own recommendations regarding these interviews. However, in view of Department's request that we ascertain Barry's activities in the United States on behalf of his foreign principal, you are authorized to set out appropriate leads to secure these interviews unless you possess information precluding same. It will be necessary for you to furnish auxiliary offices the necessary background of this case. These leads should be set out immediately.

Information developed thus far indicates I. Irving Davidson may well have pertinent information regarding Barry's activities. He should be interviewed promptly, assuming WFO is not in possession of information, unknown to Bureau, which would preclude this interview.

- 1 - 92-6389 (Arthur M. Walters)
- 1 - 92-6187 (Orville A. Trask, et al.)
- 1 - 2-1423 (I. Irving Davidson)
- 1 - 94-44903 (John Wayne)

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NOT RECORDED
MAY 7 1963
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2-7-28
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ACM:hc (9)

DATE: 11-14-2017

Letter to SAC, WFO
 Re: FRANK M. BARRY
 97-3485

NOTE:

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Basis of investigation is information we furnished Department from [WF 970-S*] and appearing in Drew Pearson's column indicating Barry was involved in payment of contributions by Nicaraguan President to 1960 campaigns of President Kennedy and Representative Flood of Pennsylvania. [According to [WF 970-S*]] after Pearson's column appeared, Barry asserted Davidson must have been Pearson's source as Davidson shares office space with Pearson's associate, Jack Anderson. Both Davidson and Barry are registered agents of Nicaragua and have spent considerable time in that country. Davidson in past has associated with officials of Teamsters Union. He has been interviewed on several occasions in past and been outwardly cooperative.

John Wayne, motion picture actor and producer, is member and past president of the anti-communist Motion Picture Alliance. On 6/9/60 Director wrote him letter of thanks for his assistance in connection with preparation of article about FBI for "National Geographic Magazine." Bufiles disclose no reason for not interviewing him except as stated above with regard to Barry. (94-44909-A; 94-3-4-94-91)

In 1962 Trask was professional football player with Oakland Raiders. Hamilton, a Texan, allegedly appeared in Nicaragua in 1962 with Trask, convinced Nicaraguan President his group should be granted contract to build a hotel there and gave \$50,000 check to show his good faith. Check bounced.

Walters lives in Norfolk, Virginia, and it appears he may have access to labor union funds, possibly those of Teamsters Union or a stevedores union. He is connected with the East Coast Warehousing Corporation, a small Company in Norfolk, and is described as having been involved in shady deals. He was convicted 4 times in New York in 1940s on bad check and petty larceny charges on one of which he was sentenced to serve 6 months in penitentiary.

Barry's Registration Statement gives purpose of his representation as formulation of security and arranging for security and protection of Nicaraguan President's family in U. S. If, as alleged, Barry is trying on behalf of Nicaraguan Government to secure construction of hotel in Nicaragua, above interviews may establish he is acting in violation of Registration Act.

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