

[ELIAS CHAJET]

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 60, 93D CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fred D. Thompson
FROM: Howard Liebengood
DATE: June 12, 1974
SUBJECT: DIGEST OF INTERVIEW WITH ELIAS CHAJET
RE: STURGIS/ANDERSON

Elias Chajet, 48 years old, was interviewed by the writer at his Miami Beach, Florida home on July 11, 1973, in the presence of William M. Howell and Edwin B. Kaiser. Chajet was born in Havana, Cuba; has resided continuously in the United States since 1954; and has been a United States citizen since 1959.

Chajet has known Frank Sturgis well for two years, having first met Sturgis shortly after Chajet founded CHIPP (Citizens' Help for International Political Prisoners) in May of 1971. Sturgis was active in CHIPP, which Chajet described as a humanitarian venture designed to raise funds and petitions for Communist political prisoners throughout the world. Sturgis was a regular companion of Chajet, who would tell Chajet of his activities and how they would lead to funds to enable CHIPP to succeed and Sturgis to recapture Cuba. In early 1972, Sturgis spoke of a "big project" and mentioned that his boss was E. Howard Hunt, a "higher-up in the White House". Chajet recalls being introduced to Hunt, who was leaving Bernard Barker's office one day as Sturgis and Chajet were arriving. During this period of time, Sturgis was making frequent trips to Washington.

Chajet said that he took Sturgis to the airport on Friday, June 16, 1972, and that Sturgis indicated this trip was part of the "big project" that would give them enough money to liberate Cuba and fund CHIPP.

Chajet said he was aware that Sturgis had been very close to Jack Anderson. As Chajet understood it, Sturgis was born in the United States, went to Cuba to fight for Castro, and lost his citizenship. Sturgis regained his citizenship through assistance from Anderson and

Senator George Smathers. Chajet stated that Sturgis spoke of Anderson often and talked with him regularly on the telephone. Chajet remembers that Sturgis told him in July of 1971, when they were active together in CHIPP, that Anderson "owed him some favors." Chajet was of the impression that Sturgis was in contact with Anderson regarding the "big project" and was certain he would have confided in Anderson while in Washington, D. C.

Chajet noted that after the Watergate, both Sturgis and his wife were in contact with Anderson. Mrs. Sturgis told Chajet that Anderson had offered her funds and a place to live in Washington if she wanted to come up there. Chajet explicitly remembers Sturgis, while out on bond in the late summer of 1972, asking him (Chajet) for a ride to the DuPont Plaza Hotel to see Jack Anderson. Chajet drove Sturgis there and waited in the car for twenty minutes while Sturgis went inside. When Sturgis returned, he showed Chajet several \$50 bills and told him the trip was successful, advising Chajet that he'd received the money from Anderson.

Shortly before Sturgis returned to jail after the trial, Chajet said that he detected a rift in the Anderson/Sturgis relationship. Sturgis told Chajet that he did not want to see Anderson any more. This surprised Chajet because of the closeness of their relationship before.

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