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## United States Senate

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 13, 1973

### MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Howard Liebengood

Subject: EDWIN KAISER, JR. INTERVIEW

On July 10-11, 1973, I informally interviewed Edwin Kaiser at the Airport Inn in Miami, Florida in the presence of Bill Howell and Armando Certs. The following summarizes the highlights of that interview.

### KAISER

Kaiser is a short, stocky, 38 year old native of Norwalk, Connecticut. He has had a stormy life history and is shabby in appearance. He was barefoot and dirty with a very serious burn on his foot. He will not discuss the circumstances of the injury but intimated that it arose from a recent revolutionary endeavor. He is one of the most militant people I have ever met. His stormy history started with an assault record when he was very young. He went into the Marine Corps but has a bad conduct discharge due to a fight. He then joined the French Foreign Legion where he saw combat in Africa in the late 1950's. He received a serious wound to his Achilles tendon while in the service of the Legion and was discharged as a result. He continues to receive to this day a disability pension from the French government. As a result of his foreign service, Kaiser lost his U.S. citizenship and returned to the U.S. in approximately 1960 on a foreign immigrant visa. He returned to Norwalk, Connecticut briefly, and then went to Alaska where he worked for two years in the Anchorage and Fairbanks area doing seismographic drilling and driving for an Alaskan bondsman with Mafia ties (named Duke Knuth). He returned to Norwalk in 1962, met his wife while visiting friends in Minnesota and married her (Sonia) in Watertown, South Dakota in September, 1962. They then returned to Norwalk for four to five years while Kaiser worked as a tree surgeon. They then moved to Alaska for two months and then to Hialeah, Florida four years ago. They have resided there ever since. His wife works for S & O Fixtures and Kaiser had a legitimate car wash for a while but has no legal occupation. He has become embroiled in the revolutionary endeavors of the Miami Cubans and works toward the liberation of Cuba with them on a daily basis. He has two children, a boy nine years old and a girl five years old, to whom he is very devoted.

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Approximately 2½ years ago he was involved in a plot to blow up a Russian tanker when he was booked as Edwin Neuman, but subsequently released after telling FBI's Dwyer that he was trying to prevent the destruction of a ship. He owns his own home but makes his living hand-to-mouth. He explains that there is much interplay (often violent) among competing Cuban revolutionary factions in the Miami area. He states that there are 500 different Cuban revolutionary organizations in the Miami area. Kaiser has been affiliated with the following organizations since he has been in Miami:

Alpha 66  
Cubanos Unidos  
Brigade 2506  
The Terente Plan  
CHIPP  
MRR

His primary activities in these organizations has been in the area of military training, i.e. in the Everglades. Although Kaiser is not certain of the date, he knows that he has regained U.S. citizenship, primarily through the efforts of one Father Bonn of Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, and Donald Irwin, a cousin of Kaiser's by marriage, and former Connecticut Congressman and now mayor of Norwalk.

#### STURGIS AND KAISER

Frank Sturgis has been involved in the same organizations as Kaiser and they have become close friends in the past several years. Kaiser was instrumental in introducing Sturgis to Elias Chajet when CHIPP was formed. Sturgis and Kaiser had hoped to use CHIPP funds in time to fund the liberation of Cuba. They also planned together the "Sunward Plan." This was a plan authored by Sturgis and Kaiser to commandeer the ship Sunward by means of American Cubans armed with automatic rifles. Arrangements had been made to hijack the vessel to Costa Rica with the full cooperation of Figuers. They would then negotiate a prisoner exchange with Havana by putting pressure on the approximately twenty different countries having hostages on the boat. They would also sell the vessel to fund an attack on Cuba. They were unable to recruit enough men for their mission and it was consequently scrubbed.

Kaiser says that he understands Sturgis went to the Sierra Maestra with Castro during the Castro revolution. He (Sturgis) was also involved in the kidnapping of the race driver Juan Manuel Fangio. When Castro came to power

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Sturgis was made a Commandante (Major) in the Castro airforce. Approximately 1960, Sturgis flew a bomber to Florida to seek exile upon realizing Castro was a communist. He has been extremely active in anti-Castro counter-revolutionary measures since then.

Kaiser saw Sturgis often during the past year and was aware that he had contacts in Washington, D.C., particularly a brother in the Pentagon (name and position unknown) and columnist Jack Anderson, of whom Sturgis often spoke.

Kaiser recalls that in approximately March, April, or May, 1972 he was at Sturgis' home working on a military chain of command for the liberation of Cuba (Kaiser has this in Sturgis' handwriting and will furnish if necessary) when Sturgis received a call from Anderson. Sturgis returned from the telephone and sat on the couch and asked Kaiser if he wanted to make "big money." Kaiser asked what it was. Sturgis replied that it was an operation requiring that he start a riot against the Vietnam Veterans Against the War at the Republican convention in Miami. Kaiser asked if it were politically motivated and Sturgis said it was and Kaiser said he wanted nothing to do with it. Sturgis said that others in the anti-communist Brigade were involved and that Jack Anderson was backing it. Kaiser was not interested and nothing more was said about it. It was nonetheless this remark that caused Kaiser to later suspicion that Anderson had double-crossed Sturgis, noting that suspicion is a way of life in the Miami Cuban community where double agents abound.

It should be noted that Kaiser has a terrible memory for dates. He does not read the newspaper or follow current events other than those pertinent to the Miami Cuban military movements. Kaiser now feels that if he can prove that Sturgis was duped by Anderson he could save face for the Cuban movement and expose a source of long standing grief to both the U.S. and Cuban movement.

#### ARMANDO CERTS

Certs attended the interview with Kaiser and is the source of information pertaining to Carlos Armenias' knowledge of the McGovern related drug dealings. Unlike Kaiser and Howell, Armenias is a handsome, heavysset, well kept Cuban. He is friendly but cautious and committed to exposing those who have tricked Sturgis and discredited the Cuban movement. He is active in MRR which is Artime's organization (Movement for Recovery of the Revolution) which supposedly had some CIA backing from time to time. Certs was the youngest navel officer in the history of Cuba prior to his defection and by comparison very credible in appearance. Unlike Kaiser he does not tend to puff either his bravery or his accomplishments. Certs, Armenias, and Kaiser have made a tape which Howell has given me on which I'm told tells the Armenias story. Hence, I spend little time discussing the matter with Certs directly as his knowledge is second hand.

HSL:brc