

COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO. OO-B-3,260,765

SUBJECT Interview with/Clement Joseph Charles/  
Possible Duvalier Suppressor/His Ideas/  
Friends and Supporters/Interpretation  
of Current Situation

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1963

NO. PAGES 3

REFERENCES OO/CD Case 40556

DATE OF INFO. To early May 63

PLACE & DATE ACQ. ---/2 May 63

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: **US citizen, former Journalist**, who has followed developments in the Caribbean area closely for many months and maintains contact with persons directly concerned with the area.

His command of French and his habit of making detailed shorthand notes enable him to report with an unusual degree of accuracy.

1. On 2 May 63, we had a four-hour interview with Clement Joseph Charles, president and general manager of Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, Port-au-Prince, vice president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, and cousin of Joseph D. Charles, former Haitian ambassador to the US.
2. Clement Charles, whose PO Box in Port-au-Prince is No. 5751, told us that he was a man of peasant stock and that while a business leader he has the full confidence of the predominantly peasant population of Haiti, and, that with the additional backing of forcibly retired anti-Duvalier army officers, intellectuals, journalists and businessmen, he is in a position to become the head of a provisional government after Duvalier is removed. He believes the span between now and 15 May when Duvalier's term expires and 22 May, when his new term is scheduled to commence, will be the most crucial period for Haiti. He believes Duvalier is ready to institute a reign of terror, killing those who oppose him, and is willing to accept Soviet help. About two weeks ago the Polish charge d'affaires left Port-au-Prince for Poland, and Charles believes he carries Duvalier's request for economic and possibly military help.
3. As vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, he learned that in early April 1963 a Czechoslovak delegation arrived in Port-au-Prince, presumably to discuss trade matters, a fact which gave rise to rumors that it consisted of military technicians.
4. Charles firmly believes this will be the last chance for the US Government to help establish a democratic Haiti friendly to the US and save the country for a Castro-type Communist takeover. Although he has been on good terms with Duvalier, he now feels that the President "went crazy and must be stopped before he liquidates the opposition. Shortly after Charles made this statement he was called to the phone. Returning, he told us that one of his friends had been killed two days before by Duvalier forces. He declined to give the name of the alleged victim, but talked freely about some of his own influential supporters on whom he could rely with a firm pledge of holding free elections.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

• ROUTINE

## Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY HAITI

TDCS DD-315/00974-64

DATE OF INFO. 3 OCTOBER 1964

DISTR. 9 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

INQUIRIES REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF  
BUYING AIRCRAFT FOR HAITI

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES, MIAMI (7 OCTOBER 1964)

REF

IN 89699

SOURCE  
AND  
APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO. UFG-6004

UNITED STATES CITIZEN (C) WHO OPERATES A BUSINESS IN HAITI, WHERE HE ENJOYS THE FRIENDSHIP OF MANY MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND WHO IS A FORMER MILITARY OFFICER AND A TRAINED REPORTER, FROM SAUNDERS V. ROBERSON.  
APPRAISAL: 3.

1. ON OR ABOUT 3 OCTOBER 1964 THE AVIATION INVESTORS COMPANY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, RECEIVED AN INQUIRY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING A C-119 AIRCRAFT FOR THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. THE CALL WAS MADE BY RAYMOND (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) TO SAUNDERS V. ROBERSON, AN AVIATION INVESTORS COMPANY EMPLOYEE, WHO AGREED TO INVESTIGATE THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT PURCHASE.

2. ON 5 OCTOBER ROBERSON RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MAN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "RASH" (PHONETIC) REGARDING THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF A P-51 AIRCRAFT OSTENSIBLY FOR THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY INTENDED FOR HAITI. ROBERSON AGREED TO MEET WITH "RASH" AT THE CONGRESS BUILDING IN MIAMI TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF BOTH PURCHASES.

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