

Highlighted changes between 2025/104-10164-10112.pdf and 2023/104-10164-10112.pdf - fresh pages only

COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO. OO- B 321/36801-68

SUBJECT Clemard Charles Statement That He Will Attempt Duvalier Overthrow Feb-Mar 69/ Charles Comment On No. 2 and 3 Men In Duvalier Regime; Confirmation by UK Consul General/Weak Condition of Banque Commerciale d'Haiti/Background On Various Personalities and Their Present Location

DATE DISTR.

23 DEC 1968

NO. PAGES

2

REFERENCES (300)

C-DCB-54950

DATE OF INFO. Dec 68

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Haiti/Dec 68

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US citizen; independent businessman who has visited in Haiti for extended periods during the past four years. He is currently attempting to promote private financial backing for installation of generating equipment at the Barrage de Peligre dam and for educational television in Haiti.

[This report was developed and prepared by a US Army representative assigned to the office of preparation.]

1. I recently spent approximately three days in Haiti (9-12 Dec 68) and while there had extended visits with Clemard Joseph Charles, President, Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, and also owner of a sisal plantation and mill. Present during my visits with Charles was his personal assistant and confidant, Ludovich Celestines. Charles, a devout Catholic, personally told me that he intended to attempt to overthrow Duvalier. He has made specific plans for this overthrow in late February or early March 1969. He claims that he definitely has the Army and the Catholic Church with him, and that the overthrow will be without bloodshed.
2. I had not intended to contact other officials or individuals in Haiti. However, on the last day of my stay I was invited to visit with Clovis M. Desinor, formerly Haiti's representative to the UN and currently Dr. Duvalier's Minister of Finance. He is said to be the No. 2 man in Haiti - next to Duvalier. Present at the meeting with Desinor was his assistant, Dr. Herve Boyer and reportedly the No. 3 man.

BACKGROUND

3. I first met the individuals mentioned above in 1965-66 while on an extended stay in Haiti for business purposes. I was introduced to Charles by Max Howe, a driver assigned to me by the Haitian Government and whose wife, Raymonde, was the personal secretary for Charles. Howe continued to drive for me on that first and subsequent visits to Haiti except on this latest visit when he was absent in the US. *Eyes*
4. When I first met Charles he was President of the Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, owned the Sisal plantation and mill, also owned a tannery financed by West German interests, and was the President of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Haitian correspondent for the First National City Bank of New York. During the period approximately one year prior to June 1967, Charles put into effect a system of Social Security (Office of National Assurance) which was working well and liked by the Haitian

INFORMATION REPORTING INFORMATION REPORT

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O-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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sent 12/11/68

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COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO. 00-E 344/21215-68

SUBJECT Cleward Joseph Charles Has Reportedly
Paid US\$200 Thousand Ransom And Promised An
Additional US\$400 Thousand in Return for
Release from Prison And Reinstatement As
President of Commercial Bank of Haiti

DATE DSTR

26 JUL 1968

NO PAGES 1

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. Jul 68

PLACE & DATE ACQ. -----/Jul 68

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth, official of an import-export company. Source maintains close contact with Haitians in the US and with prominent business and political figures in Haiti.

1. Effective 10 Jul 68, Cleward Joseph Charles was reinstated as the president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti (CCH), as announced in the Haitian public press. A stockholders' meeting is scheduled for mid-Aug 68.
2. I have heard from previously reliable sources that Charles was compelled to pay to the Government of Haiti (GHI) the sum of US\$200 thousand (not Haitian gourds) as the price of reinstatement as head of the CCH. Charles has also promised, as part of the price of reinstatement, to pay an additional US\$400 thousand. This total of US\$600 thousand closely approximates the US\$605 thousand cited earlier as the "ransom" for Charles' release from prison. I understand that the US\$200 thousand has already been paid. Where Charles got this sum I do not know. He could have withdrawn the US\$100 thousand which he has on deposit at the First National City Bank in New York City; I do not know whether or not he has done so. It seems clear that President Duvalier has decided that the possible long-term benefits of allowing the bank to function (and thus enabling Charles to raise the required US\$400 thousand and also possibly attracting foreign investment capital to Haiti) outweigh the benefits of refusing him permission to operate until the total "ransom" should have been paid.

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Initial draft version
of document
for review and
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COUNTRY: **Haiti**REPORT NO: **CO-321/16309-68**SUBJECT: **Invaders Have Grimed Control of Quartier Morin And Citadelle Laferriere/Government of Haiti Has Adopted Defensive Attitude/Reported Execution of 100 Prisoners in Port au Prince/Status of Giscard Joseph Charles**

DATE DISTR:

NO PAGES:

REFERENCES: **DCB Case: 47,590**DATE OF INFO: **20 Jun 68**PLACE & DATE ACQ: **xxxxx/20 Jun 68**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth, official of a US import-export enterprise. Source makes occasional trips to Haiti and has many contacts among Haitian business and political figures both in the US and in Haiti.

1. The Government of Haiti (GOH) has issued claims that the invaders of 20 May 68 have been wiped out and that total victory against them has been achieved. A special Thanksgiving mass was celebrated recently in Port-au-Prince to commemorate and celebrate the event. On the surface, things are politically quiet.
2. The realities soon, however, to differ to a marked degree from the foregoing. Although the populace has remained quiet, it does not believe the GOH claims of total victory. In point of fact, the invaders have not been wiped out and they have succeeded in gaining control of the small town of Quartier Morin and of the Citadelle Laferriere (both situated near Cap Haitien). The GOH has decided not to begin military operations against them, but to adopt a defensive attitude and wait and see what happens. The GOH realizes that to dislodge the rebels from the citadel, which is located in very rugged terrain, would be extremely difficult militarily and would be quite inadvisable politically, because the citadel has strong, emotional historical associations for Haitians. To bombard it into rubble, which would be the only feasible way to recapture it, would create resentment among the populace. Accordingly, the GOH seems prepared to do nothing, in the hope that the rebels will fade away. Such an eventuality seems unlikely, however, because the invaders have not only succeeded in gaining control of the two above-mentioned places, but also have succeeded in rallying about 140 of the local populace to their side. Reports in the US Spanish-language press of 12 Jun 68 stated that the rebel force is now 300 strong and that 140 of these are local people who have rallied to them. My information corroborates those figures. The populace in Port-au-Prince expects further action from the rebels. The latest rumor (and the word "rumor" must be emphasized) in Port-au-Prince are that another invasion will be launched into southern Haiti this time, and that Cuba has infiltrated a number of illegal entrants.

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORTU **20****CONFIDENTIAL**REF ID: A
201-321/16309-68S **20**

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CONTROLLED DISSEM**CONFIDENTIAL****NO DISSEM ABROAD**COUNTRY HaitiREPORT NO CO-A15
S-321/14367-68

SUBJECT Rearrest of Cleonard Joseph Charles/Charles Is Not Able to Raise US\$605 Thousand Ransom/Dates Concerning Charles' US Bank Accounts/President Duvalier Might Settle for US\$100 Thousand Cash/Charles Has Credit of US\$300 Thousand in National Bank of the Republic of Haiti And Claims an Additional US\$100 Thousand.
DATE OF INFO to 16 May 68

DATE DISSE 22 Mar 68NO PAGES 2REFERENCES DCS Cases: 40,55647,540SUPPLEMENT TO: CO-S-321/14068-68PLACE & DATE ACQ Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 4-7 May 68/-----, 16 May 68 (Paragraph One only)
THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**SOURCE**

Source maintains close contacts with Haitians in the US and with prominent business and political figures in Haiti and travels at irregular intervals to the Caribbean countries.

1. Cleonard Joseph Charles was rearrested at 1600 hours 11 May 68. His present whereabouts are not known to me.
2. It became clear, during the period between 3 May 68 and 16 May 68 that Charles would not be able to raise the ransom sum of US\$605 thousand. His release from prison, which took place on 25 Apr 68, was apparently contingent on his ability to produce that sum. (Collector's Note: See CO-S-321/14068-68, J. Immediately following his release, Charles attempted to interest foreign investors in subscribing to a fund of US\$605 thousand. This sum was to be placed in a reorganized Banque Commerciale d'Haiti, formerly Charles' private preserve, and used to pay off depositors and to stimulate investment in Haitian enterprises. Charles soon learned, however, that the present political and particularly the present economic conditions in Haiti were such as to discourage foreign investors from risking their money there. Nobody would invest US dollars. Nobody wants guards. Nobody is interested in investing in a bankrupt country. Even Charles' reported willingness to pledge as collateral his extensive holdings in Haiti (essentially oil and various other business enterprises, land, buildings and Haitian government bonds) failed to change the negative opinions of those approached as possible investors.)
3. Charles holds a receipt from the Banque Nationale de la Republique d'Haiti (BNRH) in the amount of US\$300 thousand dated 1966, and claims from the BNRH another personal credit of US\$100 thousand, dated 1968. He does not, however, hold a copy of any receipt for the latter sum. Charles apparently cannot utilize these sums, or his credit for them, to pay off the US\$605 thousand ransom.
4. Charles' current visible cash assets consist of US\$100 thousand, deposited in the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company and the First National City Bank, both of New York City. He originally had US\$110 thousand in these two banks. When he was first

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COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO

OO-322/14068-68

A-1 822

SUBJECT: Clement Joseph-Charles Must Raise US \$605 Thousand Before He Can Resume His Banking And Other Activities/Outline Of Charles's Plans/President Duvalier Reportedly Hopes To Improve His Image And To Attract Foreign Capital And Business Activity/ Reasons Continue Concerning Possible Reorganization Of Haitian Government
DATE OF INFO: May 68

DATE DSTR:

NO PAGES: 8

REFERENCES DCB Cases 40,556 and 47,540
Supplement to: OO-S-321/12106-68

PLACE & DATE ACQ: Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 68

THIS IS UNVALIDATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth. Source maintains close contacts with Haitians in the US and with prominent business and political figures in Haiti and travels at irregular intervals to the Caribbean countries.

1. Clement Joseph-Charles was released from prison during the evening of 25 Apr 68 in return for a "summon" of US \$605 thousand.
2. Charles has been given until 24 May 68 to produce the US \$605 thousand. This sum must be in an irrevocable letter of credit on an American bank in favor of the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti. It has been intimated that the 24 May 68 deadline can be extended, should Charles be experiencing any really unusual difficulties in producing the required money.
3. In order to obtain his release from prison, Charles had to sign a memorandum of understanding that he would produce the US \$605 thousand plus some unidentified real property. These terms were agreed to by both Charles and his wife prior to the release. At the same time, Charles wrote a personal letter to President Duvalier asking for release and promising to hand over the money and property in question.
4. Charles is now under house arrest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
5. Charles's immediate resources consist of about US \$100 thousand in cash in two US banks (no additional data available), various homes, businesses (essential oils, an automobile dealership and others (no additional data available)), buildings, land and about US \$400 thousand worth of Haitian government bonds. He did have another US \$300 thousand in personal funds in Haiti. He can no longer count on this money to help raise the US \$605 thousand, however, because prior to his release from prison the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) confiscated it.
6. Charles has agreed to raise the US \$605 thousand on condition that it be used to pay off legitimate claims of depositors in his Banque Commerciale d'Haïti. He has stated that he will permit the money to be paid out only to those depositors who are able to produce documentary proof that they had deposited funds in his bank.

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COUNTRY Haiti	REPORT NO <i>PL(5) 523</i> OO- SECRET /14-068-68	DATE DISTR
SUBJECT Clemond Joseph-Charles Must Raise US \$605 Thousand Before He Can Resume His Banking And Other Activities/Outline Of Charles's Plans/President Duvalier Reportedly Hopes To Improve His Image And To Attract Foreign Capital And Business Activity/ Rumors Continue Concerning Possible Reorganization Of Haitian Government	NO. PAGES 2	REFERENCES DCI Cases 40,556 and 47,540 Supplement to: OO-S-321/12106-68
DATE OF INFO May 68	PLACE & DATE ACQ Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 68	
THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION		

SOURCE: Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth. Source maintains close contacts with Haitians in the US and with prominent business and political figures in Haiti and travels at irregular intervals to the Caribbean countries.

1. Clemond Joseph-Charles was released from prison during the evening of 25 Apr 68 in return for a "ransom" of US \$605 thousand.
2. Charles has been given until 24 May 68 to produce the US \$605 thousand. This sum must be in an irrevocable letter of credit on an American bank in favor of the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti. It has been intimated that the 24 May 68 deadline can be extended, should Charles be experiencing any really unusual difficulties in producing the required money.
3. In order to obtain his release from prison, Charles had to sign a memorandum of understanding that he would produce the US \$605 thousand plus some unidentified real property. These terms were agreed to by both Charles and his wife prior to the release. At the same time, Charles wrote a personal letter to President Duvalier asking for release and promising to hand over the money and property in question.
4. Charles is now under house arrest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
5. Charles's immediate resources consist of about US \$100 thousand in cash in two US banks (no additional data available), various houses, businesses (essential oils, an automobile dealership and others (no additional data available)), buildings, land and about US \$400 thousand worth of Haitian government bonds. He did have another US \$300 thousand in personal funds in Haiti. He can no longer count on this money to help raise the US \$605 thousand, however, because prior to his release from prison the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) confiscated it.
6. Charles has agreed to raise the US \$605 thousand on condition that it be used to pay off legitimate claims of depositors in his business Commerciais d'Haiti. He has stated that he will permit the money to be paid out only to those depositors who are able to produce documentary proof that they had deposited funds in his bank.

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TO: U.S. EMBASSY

FROM: MAILED

DATE OF INFO: 27 APRIL 1968

SUBJECT: CLEWARD JOSEPH-CHARLES HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON AND APPARENTLY MUST PAY PARSON OF US\$600,000

70 A (S) 322/13163-68
27 Apr 68

PLACE AND DATE ACQUIRED: --- 30 APRIL 1968

THIS IS BY REPORT NO. OO-A(S) 1316368

SOURCE DESCRIPTION: NATURALIZED US CITIZEN OF HAITIAN BIRTH. SOURCE MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH HAITIANS IN THE US AND WITH GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND POLITICAL FIGURES IN HAITI AND TRAVELS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS TO THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

1. CLEWARD JOSEPH-CHARLES WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ON THE EVENING OF 25 APRIL 1968 AND PROCEEDED TO HIS RESIDENCE. OUR SOURCE TELLS US THAT CHARLES IS BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MORALLY WELL AND IS NOW MAKING PREPARATIONS TO RETURN TO WORK.

2. OUR SOURCE HAS BEEN PERMITTED BY CHARLES, THROUGH A FRIENDLY PARTY, EDMOND VILAIRE, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, TO TRAVEL TO HAITI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE CHARLES WANTS TO TALK TO HIM. CHARLES HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO AGREE TO TAKE OUT A LETTER OF CREDIT IN FAVOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI IN THE AMOUNT OF US\$600,000. THIS LETTER IS TO REMAIN VALID FOR 30 DAYS FROM THE TIME IT IS TAKEN OUT. CHARLES HAS BEEN GIVEN A SHORT TIME (NOT SPECIFIED) TO PRODUCE THE MONEY AND THE LETTER OF CREDIT.

3. MADAME CHARLES COMMITTED HER HUSBAND TO THE FOREGOING COURSE OF ACTION. FOLLOWING HER OWN RELEASE FROM PRISON, SHE WAS VISITED BY AN UNKNOWN (TO OUR SOURCE) PARTY. THIS INDIVIDUAL SET FORTH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CHARLES WOULD BE RELEASED. THE CONDITIONS INCLUDED THE US\$600,000 MENTIONED ABOVE. MADAME CHARLES ACCEPTED THE CONDITIONS AND SIGNED A PAPER TO THAT EFFECT. HER SIGNATURE COMMITTED HER HUSBAND.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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CITE TDCB-315/0G106-68

DATE 9 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY: HAITI**DOI:** 30 DECEMBER 1967**SUBJECT:** AMNESTY OF PRISONERS**ACQ:** HAITI, PORT AU PRINCE (8 JANUARY 1968) - HTP 1126

SOURCE: A FORMER HAITIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT. HIS REPORTING HAS BEEN ACCURATE SINCE 1963. HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM A HAITIAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS ANTI-DUVALIER BUT WHO HAS CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS TO KEY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER ENTOURAGE. HIS INFORMATION HAS PROVED ACCURATE DURING THE SHORT PERIOD OF HIS REPORTING.

1. PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER RELEASED 187 PRISONERS IN A NEW YEARS AMNESTY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LUCIEN BELIZAIRE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DUVALIER CABINETS FROM 4 NOVEMBER 1958 TO 21 DECEMBER 1959, VERNER APOLLON, FORMER OFFICIAL IN THE TABAC REGIE,

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NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY

Haiti

REPORT NO. OO-B-321/00156-68

SUBJECT

Mme Clemard Joseph Charles Reportedly Released from Prison/Clemard Joseph Charles May Be Released from Prison

DATE DSTR. 4 JAN 1969

NO PAGES 1

REFERENCES
DCR Class: 40,556
OOB-321/36765-67
OOB-321/37063-67

DATE OF INFO. Late December 1967

PLACE & DATE ACQ. ----, Late December 1967

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth, official of a US import-export company. Source's business activities make it necessary for him to travel at irregular intervals to the various countries of the Caribbean area. During such trips, he maintains existing business and personal contacts and develops new ones.

I have learned that during the last week of December 1967 Mme Clemard Joseph Charles was released from prison. Reports persist that Clemard Joseph Charles will soon be released. No date has been indicated for the reported forthcoming release.

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NO DISSEM ABROAD

COUNTRY Haiti

REPORT NO. CO- B-321/36765-67

SUBJECT Rumored Release of Clément Joseph Charles

DATE DISTR. 27 Dec 67

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCE DCS CASE: 40556
49755

DATE OF INFO. December 1967

PLACE & DATE ACQ. ---, December 1967

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Naturalized US citizen of Haitian birth, official of a US import-export company. Source's business activities make it necessary for him to travel at irregular intervals to the various countries of the Caribbean area. During such trips, he maintains existing business and personal contacts and develops new ones.

I have heard that Clément Joseph Charles may be released at the end of December 1967. President Duvalier has reportedly sent people to restore Charles' residence to its former state and has ordered the return of the items which were stolen from the house at the time of Charles' arrest. Duvalier has also ordered new clothes to be sent to Charles in jail.

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Intelligence Information Cable

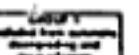
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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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032235Z CITE TDGS DB-315/63967-57

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIST 3 OCTOBER 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

DOI 30 SEPT 1967

SUBJECT

- 1. ATTEMPTS BY HAITIAN GOVERNMENT TO GET MONEY FROM THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES.
- 2. POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES FROM PRISON.

ACQ 8 OCTOBER 1967, PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI, HTP 1101

SOURCE

A FORMER HAITIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT. HIS REPORTING HAS BEEN ACCURATE SINCE 1965. HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FOR PARAGRAPH 1 FROM A HAITIAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS ANTI-DUVALIER BUT WHO HAS CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS TO KEY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER ENTOURAGE. HIS INFORMATION HAS PROVED ACCURATE DURING THE SHORT PERIOD OF HIS REPORTING. PARAGRAPH 2 RECEIVED

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6-66 2007 EDITIONS

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TDCS DB-315/03967-67

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

FROM A HAITIAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS
OPPOSED TO DUVALIER, WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE
FILES OF A HAITIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE,
AND WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION.

1. ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE HERVE BOYER, EX-MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE (PORTION MISSING)
[REDACTED] FRANCOIS DUVALIER. BOYER HAD WITH HIM TWO BLANK CHECKS ON A SWISS BANK WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM DUVALIER BY CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, EX DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI. BOYER WAS SHOCKED WHEN THE SWISS BANK REFUSED TO HONOR THE CHECKS.
2. IT IS STRONGLY RUMORED WITHIN THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT THAT CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES WILL SOON BE RELEASED FROM PRISON.
3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCLANT, CINCSCO,
(ALSO SENT SANTO DOMINGO)
4. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: MISSING PORTION WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF IT MATERIALLY AFFECTS THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 00388

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

STATE/INR	DIA	NMOC/MC	(SECDEF)	JCS	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA/NMOC	NIC	RSA	OCR	SOO	AID
FBI								USA	ONE	DIA			

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GROUP 1
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S-E-C-R-E-T

290212Z

CITE TDGS DB-315/02404-67

DIST 28 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

DOX 25 JUNE 1967

SUBJECT VIEWS OF GENERAL GERARD CONSTANT ON PRESENT SITUATION

ACQ 26 JUNE 1967, PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI, HTP-1872

SOURCE A FORMER HAITIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT. HIS REPORTING HAS BEEN ACCURATE SINCE 1963. HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM A HIGH RANKING OFFICER IN THE HAITIAN ARMED FORCES WHO IS CLOSE TO GENERAL CONSTANT.

1. THE REASONS FOR PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER'S MEASURES AGAINST CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK ARE NOT HARD TO FIND. DUVALIER HAS

S-E-C-R-E-T NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

INDEX: YES NO
CLASSIFY TO FILE NO: 201-357029 (initials)

R-REF TO FILE NO:
FILE REF RET. TO WH/7/H/RE BRANCH

DESTROY R/R
BISSEN BY B.E. Beckman

DISSEM BY PER

ACTION IN (EJMD) R/D COPY

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2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

INFO:

VS, FILE, ADDR, CA S, C/PROG, CA/PROP, C/O/P, C/I/C S, PL

PRIN 23 Jun 67 97136

SECRET 231726Z CITE PORT AU PRINCE 4500

DIRECTOR INFO PANAMA CITY, REPLANT, SANTO DOMINGO, JMWAVE

INTEL

SUPDATA PARA 1 EVLEMON-2 FROM EVLEMON-6 **FROM COLONEL**

GRACIA JACQUES

PARA 2 EVLEMON-6

FIELD COMMEND FROM OBSERVATION AND TALK FRANCIS

D. RACHFIELD HAD WITH CHARLES.

FILED 231726Z

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ABNL	RT	WH/7/H/
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ABSTRACT	X	PHOTOCOPY

201-357029

23 Jun 67

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* ROUTINE

IN 97136

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

STATE/NSC	DIA	NHIC/MC	SECDEF	JCS	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA/NHIC	NIC	NSA	OCIO	SDO	PMR
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

REF ID: A65292
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SECRET

CITE TDCSDB-315/02303-67

DIST 23 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

DOI 22 JUNE 1967

SUBJECT CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE
 COMMERCIAL BANK

ACQ 23 JUNE 1967, PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI, HTP-1867

SOURCE A FORMER HAITIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO HAS THE
 CONFIDENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE DUVALIER
 GOVERNMENT. HIS REPORTING HAS BEEN ACCURATE
 SINCE 1963. HE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM
 A HAITIAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS ANTI-DUVALIER
 BUT WHO HAS CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS TO KEY MEMBERS
 OF THE DUVALIER ENTOURAGE AND HAS BEEN
 PROVED TO BE ACCURATE IN THE INFORMATION HE
 PROVIDES.

I. CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL
 BANK, HAS CAUSED PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER TO BE ANGRY
 WITH HIM. HE IS PUBLICLY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE PRESIDENCY
SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM / CONTROLLED DISSEM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN

PAGE 1 OF 7 PAGES

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	JCS	DECODE	NSA	NIC	AID	USIA	SDO	ONE	OCA	OAR	DGS	OSS	CIA/HMOS
																	FBI I&NS

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SECRET
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downgrading and
declassification

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S-E-C-R-E-T

CITE: TDCS BN-313/02061-67

DIST 15 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI

DOI 9 JUNE 1967

SUBJECT 1. CONTINUING BIDS BY CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HIS PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT
2. CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS IN HAITI

ACQ 9 JUNE 1967

FIELD NO.

SOURCE FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN WITH WIDE CONTACTS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE WHO IS BELIEVED TO REPORT ACCURATELY WHAT HE LEARNS. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM A CLOSE FRIEND OF CHARLES. THE CLOSE FRIEND AND CHARLES WERE AWARE THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD REACH U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

1. (SUMMARY: CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI, AGAIN IS PLANNING TO SEEK U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HIS PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO CHARLES, HE NOW HAS 290 SOLDIERS (OFFICERS AND MEN) WHO ARE READY TO STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND KILL PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER, AND HE HAS NAMED SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS AND "FELLOW CONSPIRATORS" THROUGHOUT HAITI. CHARLES SAID THAT HE AND HIS ARMY FRIENDS WILL GET RID OF DUVALIER,

8
4
3
2
1**S-E-C-R-E-T/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM*** (Classification) Defense Economic

NO PARENTS DATA/EXCLUDED DATA

COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	CSDB-312/CL605-67
SUBJECT	Further Plans of Cleonard Joseph Charles To Overthrow the Haitian Government of His Military Supporters and His Allies For Support from Haitian Exiles	DATE DISTR.	8 June 1967
		NO. PAGES	3
		REFERENCES	

DATE OF Mid-late May 1967
INFO.

PLACE &
DATE ACQ. (15, 22 May 1967)

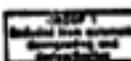
FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GLADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A foreign businessman with wide contacts in Port-au-Prince who is believed to report accurately what he learns. This information was obtained from a close friend of Charles who probably was sure that it would reach U.S. officials.

1. Cleonard Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, claims that since Maj. Coicca (fmu),¹ a close friend, has replaced Capt. Harry Tassy in the Presidential Guard, he (Charles) now has an access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the Palace and is in a position to carry out a coup against President Francois Duvalier "in the near future." Although no definite date has been set yet for the coup, Charles is convinced that it must be carried out "within the next few months" to save Haiti from economic and political chaos. Charles, and especially his military friends, feel that 1967 is the year of decision.
2. Although Col. Pierre-Louis (fmu),² commander of the Dessalines Barracks, was not named as a fellow-conspirator, Charles believes that Pierre-Louis knows of and approves his plans to overthrow Duvalier, and that he (Charles) "controls" the Dessalines Barracks through Pierre-Louis. Col. Octave Caillard is one of the key military figures on whom Charles pins his hopes. Caillard is thoroughly disillusioned with Duvalier and is willing to cooperate. Caillard fears that if Duvalier remains in power, Haiti's economy will be completely ruined and Haitian exiles receiving guerrilla training in Cuba may attempt to seize power in Haiti.
3. Charles has the support of Capt. Preval (fmu),³ of the Presidential Guard, and realizes that high-ranking officers loyal to Duvalier could cause bloodshed; Charles and his associates expect violence during the initial stages of the coup.
4. In addition to ships of the Haitian Coast Guard, Charles now has the use of a 352-ton converted landing craft (LC) which normally sails between Jamaica and Port-au-Prince carrying flour, fuel oil, etc.

5-3-C-R-E-T
IN INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE/COMINT CENTER ATTACHMENT



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

• ROUTINE

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PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIC	AID	USAID	SDO	ONE	OGR	ORR	DCB	CIS	CIA/HNCC
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CITE TDCSDB-315/01965-67

DST 8 JUNE 1967

COUNTRY HAITI**DOI LATE MAY 1967****0 22 2012**

**SUBJECT READINESS OF CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES
 TO OVERTHROW THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT**

ACQ 6 JUNE 1967**REF NO.**

**SOURCE FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN WITH WIDE CONTACTS IN PORT AU PRINCE WHO IS
 BELIEVED TO REPORT ACCURATELY WHAT HE LEARNS. THIS INFORMATION
 WAS OBTAINED FROM A CLOSE FRIEND OF CHARLES WHO PROBABLY WAS
 AWARE THAT IT WOULD REACH U.S. OFFICIALS**

ON 24 MAY 1967, CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF HAITI, SAID THAT HE WAS "100 PERCENT READY TO GO THROUGH WITH THE 'BUSINESS TRANSACTION'" AND DID NOT WANT TO WASTE TIME BECAUSE "LOCAL BUSINESS COMPETITORS" MIGHT GET AHEAD OF HIM. CHARLES REITERATED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT HIS TWO PRINCIPAL "FOREIGN COMPETITORS," I.E., FIDEL CASTRO AND DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER, BE NEUTRALIZED TO PREVENT THEM FROM SPOILING HIS "PROMISING BUSINESS DEAL."

S-E-C-R-E-T/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

SUBJECT: Plans of Clemand Joseph Charles,
President of the Commercial Bank
of Haiti, to Overthrow the
Duvalier Government.

REF ID: A64412/03-03-67

28 May 1967

NO PAGES 2

AUDIENCES

DATE OF INFO: Early May 1967

PLACE & DATE ACQ.: (9 May 1967)

INFO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNVERIFIED INFORMATION. SOLICIT SOURCE FOR ALL SOURCES. APPROVAL OF CONTENT IS UNKNOWN.

SOURCE: A foreign businessman with wide contacts in Port-au-Prince. Source reports frequently, but his information is believed to be reliable. He received the information from a person close to Charles.

1. In discussing the possibility of overthrowing the Duvalier Government in the near future, Clemand Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, said he now is ready to execute his long-planned scheme to seize power with his military and civilian friends in Port-au-Prince, with or without the help of the U.S. Government.¹ If he fails in his efforts to obtain U.S. support for his plan, Charles still intends to go ahead with the plot, but he said the execution of his scheme will take more time. However, Charles believes that it is in the best interest of the U.S. to give him all necessary help in an effort to get rid of President Duvalier who has brought Haiti to the brink of total economic collapse.²
2. Charles said that he has rifles and hand grenades hidden "somewhere in Haiti" and that through his good friend General Octave Cayard,³ commander of the Haitian Coast Guard, three Haitian boats, which carry cannon, will be under his control. Cayard cannot furnish enough ammunition for the cannons, but Charles hopes to obtain the necessary amount from the U.S. Government. He would like to get the ammunition from the U.S. aircraft carrier, DANGER, which has been on duty in the Caribbean area for some time.
3. Besides Cayard, Charles has the support of an unnamed high-ranking Haitian Army officer. Charles and his military and civilian friends plan to set up a provisional junta and get rid of the "enemies of Haiti," that is, Duvalier and his supporters. After the consolidation of power in the hands of the junta, Charles plans to run for President and is convinced that he can win since he has many supporters in Port-au-Prince as well as in the rural areas of Haiti. Charles claims that he "controls" the Catholic and Episcopal clergy, teachers and students, several businessmen, and key militiamen in the rural areas who are waiting for his signal to overthrow the present regime.

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Report
Indicates that source
communicates, or
otherwise interacts with
the subject

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY: Haiti REPORT NO.: CS-311/05457-67

SUBJECT: Efforts by Haitian Civilians DATE DISTR.: 10 May 1967
And Military to Gain Power NO. PAGES: 2
In Haitian Government REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.: April 1967

PLACE & DATE ACQ.: 28 April 1967

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISE OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A foreign businessman who has lived in Haiti for a number of years and who is acquainted with high officials of the Haitian Government. He is an untested source. Source obtained this information from a high-level Haitian Government official.

1. Haitians Clemand Joseph Charles and Herve Boyer are contending for power in the Haitian Government, and each has hopes of succeeding President Francois Duvalier. Although they are working together and will join forces in order to get rid of Duvalier, they probably will start fighting between themselves once this objective is obtained.
2. Colonel Jacques Laroche is the military's primary contender for power, and undoubtedly he will be the one to consolidate a military movement against Duvalier. Since the dismissal of high-ranking military officers by Duvalier in November and December 1966, Laroche has enjoyed the greatest power within the Army.
3. If Duvalier is assassinated, it is likely that there will be bloodshed in the streets. In this event, it would be the Army who would step in immediately and control the situation. Despite the fact that the Army is small and weakened from its loss of high-ranking officers, it still would be powerful enough to neutralize any effort by the Haitian militia (VSN) because the VSN is disorganized and would be unable to cope with the confusion which would be caused by an unnatural death of Duvalier. However, if Duvalier dies a natural death there would be less chance of hostilities because the people around Duvalier would have a better chance of taking power.
4. There is little chance that Duvalier will step down from power voluntarily because of his pride. However, in this respect his family, particularly Mrs. Duvalier, has constantly encouraged him to give up the presidency and appoint a successor.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA	AID	CGS
CINCUSO F (Also sent Port-au-Prince)							

OM/INT	2	WH/7/IR	2	VHQ/GA	3			TX-1173
GA/PROP	1	WH/PRTN	1	VHQ/WAVE	4			NP
WH/2	1	WIC/NO	1	WH/PAINT (CINCUSO)	1			(MVOUNT-1)
		WIC/FX	1					CS-311/05457-67
TOTALS	TX 2, CI 2, VI 3, GA 3, WH/000 3 (1), WH 7 (2), DO/H 1.			LIAISON			COORDINATING	RELEASING
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NO FOREIGN PASSWD/controlled DISSEM

COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	CSDB-312/01438-67
SUBJECT	Plans of Clemond Joseph Charles, President of the Commercial Bank Of Haiti, to Overthrow the Duvalier Government	DATE INSTR.	22 May 1967
		NO. PAGES	2
		REFERENCES	

DATE OF Early May 1967
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ. (9 May 1967)

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE, HEADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A foreign businessman with wide contacts in Port-au-Prince. Source reports infrequently, but his information is believed to be reliable. He received the information from a person close to Charles.

1. In discussing the possibility of overthrowing the Duvalier Government in the near future, Clemond Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, said he now is ready to execute his long-planned scheme to seize power with his military and civilian friends in Port-au-Prince, with or without the help of the U.S. Government.¹ If he fails in his efforts to obtain U.S. support for his plan, Charles still intends to go ahead with the plot, but he said the execution of his scheme will take more time. However, Charles believes that it is in "the best interest of the U.S. to give him all necessary help in his effort to get rid of President Duvalier who has brought Haiti to the brink of total economic collapse."²
 2. Charles said that he has rifles and hand grenades hidden "somewhere in Haiti" and that through his good friend Colonel Octave Cayard, commander of the Haitian Coast Guard, three Haitian boats, which carry cannons, will be under his control. Cayard cannot furnish enough ammunition for the cannons, but Charles hopes to obtain the necessary amount from the U.S. Government. He would like to get the ammunition from the U.S. aircraft carrier, Bunker, which has been on duty in the Caribbean area for some time.
 3. Besides Cayard, Charles has the support of an unnamed high-ranking Haitian Army officer.³ Charles and his military and civilian friends plan to set up a provisional junta and get rid of the "enemies of Haiti," that is, Duvalier and his supporters. After the consolidation of power in the hands of the junta, Charles plans to run for President and is convinced that he can win since he has many supporters in Port-au-Prince as well as in the rural areas of Haiti. Charles claims that he "controls" the Catholic and Episcopal clergy, teachers and students, several businessmen, and key militiamen in the rural areas who are waiting for his signal to overthrow the present regime.

~~RE~~ Re Memo to Board
dated 16 May 1967 - (Exhibit-1)
Capt. Walter Brown

8-2-2017

NO FOREIGN BUREAU/CONTROLLER REGISTERED

(Note: Field distribution indicated by "X") (Also sent FOB-CW-X-1000)

INFORMATION REPORT IN FORMATION REPORT						REC (Date) 1988-01-20
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DA/FACP	1	WU/FRM	2	WU/HAVE	1	
WU/R	3	WU/PI	1	WU/FACY (CINCDO)	1	
		WU/CA	1			
TOTALS	III 2, CI 2, PI 3, CA 3, WU/COG 3 (1), WU 5 (2), DO/B 1.			LIAISON		

INFORMATION REPORT FORM - ON-A-REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY	Haiti	REPORT NO.	CS DB-312/01625-67
SUBJECT	Further Plans of Clemand Joseph Charles To Overthrow the Haitian Government; His Military Supporters and His Bids For Support from Haitian Exiles	DATE DISTR.	8 June 1967
		NO. PAGES	3
		REFERENCES	

DATE OF INFO.
Mid-late May 1967

PLACE &
DATE ACQ. (15, 22 May 1967)

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISEMENT OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Clemand Joseph Charles, president of the Commercial Bank of Haiti, claims that since Maj. Coicou (fm),¹ a close friend, has replaced Capt. Harry Tassy in the Presidential Guard, he (Charles) now has an access to arms and ammunition in the basement of the Palace and is in a position to carry out a coup against President Francois Duvalier "in the near future." Although no definite date has been set yet for the coup, Charles is convinced that it must be carried out "within the next few months" to save Haiti from economic and political chaos. Charles, and especially his military friends, feel that 1967 is the year of decision.
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S-E-C-R-E-T
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM

STATE	SLA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	MIA	AF	CGS	WLT
CINCPAC	4							1

(Also sent Port-au-Prince)

INFO REMAINED IN REPORT - INFORMATION IN THIS FORM								
SI/ID	1 AF/345/2	2 WHC/PY	3					SI-1156
SI/CP/MR	1 WH/1 PY	1 WHC/CA	1					SRS (HQ3: EVIDENCE-1)
	1 WH/R	1 WHC/HQ	1					CINCPAC-312/01625-67
GA/INT	1 WH/7/HQ	1 WHC/WAKE	1					CONFIDENTIAL RELEASED TO CIA
GA/PROP	1 WH/PLDN	1 WH/PACTY (CINCPAC)	1					CIA
TOTAL	12 2, CI 4, PY 3, GA 2, AF 2, WH/COG 3 (1), WH 5 (2), DO 1.	LIAISON						