

TOP SECRET

35

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Wides. And that was the same procedure throughout
2 the period?

3 Mr. Sarno. Yes, sir.

4 Mr. Wides. Up til '67?

5 Mr. Sarno. Through '67. Well, let's see, now. No, sir.
6 Well, it was, because later they made the ~~AMUTS~~ group, it
7 became a branch, and they brought in a very senior officer to
8 be the Branch Chief, and I was considered the Deputy Branch
9 Chief. Mr. Dimmer brought in the senior officer.

10 Mr. Wides. And you don't feel like you can give us his
11 name?

12 Mr. Sarno. There's no reason not to. He is retired now.
13 Bill Caldwell.

14 Mr. Wides. What contact did you have with a man who
15 called himself ~~Sam Wides~~?

16 Mr. Sarno. He was the Chief of the MI Group, the Cuban
17 Chief.

18 Mr. Wides. ~~Boagman Sam Janis~~

19 Mr. Sarno. ~~Sam Janis~~

20 Mr. Wides. And he was your principal contact?

21 Mr. Sarno. He was my principal -- he was the head, the
22 Cuban head of it.

23 Mr. Wides. Are you familiar with the history of the ~~AMUTS~~
24 group that he prepared in the late '60's, or worked on?

25 Mr Sarno. In the late '60's?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

42

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Sarno. Nobody ever approached me on it. They were
2 outside of Miami, but the thing that happens is the Chief of
3 the Miami group, when an ~~AMT~~ would leave --

4 Mr. Wides. This is Mr. ~~San Jente~~?

5 Mr. Sarno. When one of the ~~AMT~~ would leave for his
6 reasons, they would always maintain contact with Mr. ~~San Jente~~
7 when they would move to any area, and all they would do is to
8 report on Cuban exiles in that area.

9 Mr. Wides. And would the fact that they were leaving and
10 going to another area be reported by you, back through channels
11 to Washington for relay to CIA personnel in the area where
12 they were going? Was this ever done?

13 Mr. Sarno. Yes, it was done, yes.

14 Mr. Wides. And was it not uncommon in the case of Cubans
15 going to the New York area? Does that happen fairly frequently?

16 Mr. Sarno. Well, since it was handled in such a loose
17 way, in that it was between ~~San Jente~~ and this individual and
18 we didn't have them on the payroll.

19 Mr. Wides. You mean you didn't have them on the payroll
20 in the sense of employees, they were regularly paid agents,
21 informants?

22 Mr. Sarno. They were given funds by ~~San Jente~~ which
23 obviously were authorized for sort of like operational expenses.

24 Mr. Wides. Excuse me. You're talking about when they
25 were in Florida, or when they were moving?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

44

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

1st Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Wides. Chicago?

2 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

3 Mr. Wides. Anyplace on the West Coast or the Southwest?

4 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

5 Mr. Wides. Boston?

6 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

7 Mr. Wides. So you only recall persons who had been in

8 ~~about~~ telling -- why don't we refer to him as ~~San Juan~~

9 that they were going to another city as being New York and
10 San Juan?

11 Mr. Sarno. New York and San Juan are the only two I ever
12 recall they ever had any ~~about~~ or ex-~~about~~ or people that had
13 been in the organization went.

14 Mr. Wides. Now when they went and they recruited other
15 people, was that ~~San Juan~~ suggestion or under his supervision?

16 Mr. Sarno. They usually collected a group around people
17 that they trusted.

18 Mr. Wides. Was that up to ~~San Juan~~ supervision and
19 direction?

20 Mr. Sarno. He directed them to do it, yes. I didn't even
21 know the individual, I never met him. It's one individual.

22 Mr. Wides. Did he speak to you about the fact that he
23 was going to do this, ~~San Juan~~

24 Did he consult with you on it?

25 Mr. Sarno. Well, I believe it came up -- I knew the fellow

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

45

1 was leaving, because he was taken off of the role as being in
2 Miami, and we may have discussed his being used while he was in
3 New York in case anything ever came up.

4 Mr. Wides. Do you recall discussing it?

5 Mr. Sarno. Well, yes, we did discuss it, obviously it
6 was discussed, because this fellow came up with a big thing
7 when they were going to bazooka the UN building.

8 Mr. Wides. Was this one of the Novo brothers -- or was
9 either of the Novo brothers in ~~AVANTI~~ in Florida? I believe
10 this is the name of the two people who were arrested at the
11 time.

12 Mr. Sarno. No, the ~~AVANTI~~ that was in New York is the one
13 that discovered the plot and we informed the Bureau and the
14 Bureau moved in on it.

15 Mr. Wides. You informed the Bureau?

16 Mr. Sarno. We informed the Bureau of that shelling of
17 the UN, and it was the ~~AVANTI~~, this one ~~AVANTI~~ up there who got
18 the information.

19 Mr. Wides. And he relayed that to someone in New York, or
20 back, through ~~San Javia~~, to you?

21 Mr. Sarno. He relayed it to ~~San Javia~~ and we -- he
22 informed us, and we in turn advised our base in New York who
23 in turn advised the Bureau.

24 Mr. Wides. Which base is that, the Domestic Operations or
25 the Security Office?

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 West Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

48

1 been a cable or something coming down and giving the boys
2 credit for the thing. .

3 Mr. DeMarco. Do you recall now the name of this one
4 ~~NAME~~ who went to New York?

5 Mr. Sarno. His name was Enrique.

6 Mr. Wides. Could you spell that?

7 Mr. Sarno. E-n-r-i-q-u-e, that is his first name.

8 I don't recall his last name.

9 Mr. DeMarco. Lazarus?

10 Mr. Sarno. No. Lazarus is not a last name.

11 Mr. Wides. How many people did he have working with him?

12 Mr. Sarno. Sir, I don't recall, but I know there was more
13 than one or two.

14 Mr. Wides. And would ~~San Janis~~ give you reports that he
15 sent down to ~~San Janis~~?

16 Mr. Sarno. Yes, sir.

17 Mr. Wides. And what did the reports talk about?

18 Mr. Sarno. They were on Cuban exiles, groups, collection
19 of money, Alpha 66 and people of that group who were up in
20 New York City.

21 Mr. Wides. Was it your impression at the time that this
22 group had no contact with any CIA offices in New York?

23 Mr. Sarno. Which group, sir?

24 Mr. Wides. The group that this fellow Enrique had.

25 Mr. Sarno. Had no contacts with anybody else?

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

49

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Wides. With any CIA offices in New York. Was your
2 impression that the only contact that he had with CIA was all
3 the way back through Miami?

4 Mr. Sarno. I believe that was the case, yes, sir.

5 Mr. Wides. You had no understanding?

6 Mr. Sarno. Well, obviously once this thing came up, we
7 put this fellow in contact with somebody in the base up there
8 who in turn delivered them to the Bureau.

9 Mr. Wides. And this was the Domestic Operations Base, not
10 the Security Office?

11 Mr. Sarno. Domestic Operations.

12 Mr. Wides. Now thereafter, did they keep contact with
13 this group?

14 Mr. Sarno. I cannot recall.

15 Mr. Wides. Did you continue after that incident to get
16 reports through **San Venero**

17 Mr. Sarno. I believe so, yes.

18 Mr. Wides. With no indication whether they were also in
19 touch with the Agency?

20 ~~Mr.~~ Sarno. No, sir.

21 Mr. Wides. You weren't curious, or did you ever inquire?

22 Mr. Sarno. Well, I would believe it to be that they were
23 not in contact with anybody up there, because if the report
24 were to come down, they would probably have indicated in their
25 report that they had passed this information on.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

50

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Mr. Wides. No, I mean after that, after they were put
2 in touch with the base.

3 Mr. Sarno. That's what I was speaking of. Many reports
4 that came there after, they would have indicated that it had
5 been passed, and I don't recall ever reading a report from
6 them that he had passed the information on to any contact up
7 there.

8 Mr. Wides. Do you recall any instance in which the
9 Agency asked, through you, and in turn through **Mr. Sarno** that
10 particular people in New York be watched or investigated?

11 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

12 Mr. Wides. How would they decide what groups or what
13 individuals to penetrate or keep under surveillance?

14 Mr. Sarno. Well there were the active groups. This
15 fellow used to come down to Miami and he would talk to **Mr. Sarno**
16 **Mr. Sarno** and **San Jents** would tell him, here is people here who
17 are talking about collecting money, about a supposed operation,
18 how much money are they getting for it --

19 Mr. Wides. Where would he get that information from, from
20 you?

21 Mr. Sarno. Get what?

22 Mr. Wides. Where would **San Jents** get that --

23 Mr. Sarno. The MI group knew more about what was going on
24 in Cuban operations in the Miami area than we did, so most of
25 the information we obtained was through them.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

55

1 [REDACTED] in regard to any kind of harrassing action against those
2 groups?

3 Mr. Sarno. No, sir, never.

4 Mr. Wides. Do you know if any members of [REDACTED] may have
5 been used in these kinds of activities without your express
6 direction or not as part of its CIA task?

7 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

8 Mr. Wides. You never heard anything about it?

9 Mr. Sarno. Never heard.

10 Mr. Wides. In Florida also?

11 Mr. Sarno. In Florida also.

12 Mr. Wides. What about with regard to Puerto Rico and
13 [REDACTED] going there. Tell us about that.

14 Mr. Sarno. Well, there were several [REDACTED] who left Miami
15 and went over to Puerto Rico. There is a large Cuban community
16 in Puerto Rico with the attendant Cuban exile groups, and it
17 was the same thing as was going on in New York. They would
18 collect data on what these groups were doing, operations that
19 they were preparing, funds that they were collecting, et
20 cetera.

21 Mr. Wides. Did you see those reports as they came in?

22 Mr. Sarno. Yes, they came in and [REDACTED] would prepare
23 them and send them into the office.

24 Mr. Wides. When did they start including reports on
25 Puerto Rican affairs?

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

56

1 Mr. Sarno. Never.

2 Mr. Wides. No discussion in those reports --

3 Mr. Sarno. Never once did they write up about Puerto
4 Rican political affairs. I never once saw a report.

5 Mr. Wides. Did you ever have any discussion with **San Juan**
6 or anyone involved in the Puerto Rican Cuban community about
7 Puerto Rican affairs?

8 Mr. Sarno. Never.

9 Mr. Wides. Was there a station operating at that time
10 for the Caribbean in Puerto Rico?

11 Mr. Sarno. No, sir.

12 Mr. Wides. During the entire period, '61 til about '67?

13 Mr. Sarno. To my knowledge, there wasn't. There was
14 not a station.

15 Mr. Wides. Do you want to go ahead?

16 Mr. DeMarco. Just a couple.

17 You mentioned, or it was touched upon earlier, the
18 period of time you were actually in Cuba, 1961.

19 Mr. Sarno. '60 and '61.

20 Mr. DeMarco. What requirements were levied upon you when
21 you left to go to Cuba?

22 Mr. Sarno. None.

23 Mr. DeMarco. Well, you'd better explain that. I don't
24 understand that answer at all. You just went on a vacation?

25 Mr. Sarno. I was transferred from a foreign country to

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD & PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

TOP SECRET