11-1963

Agent Report

Bern Porter

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(LOCAL AGENCY) On 23 October 1963, a check of the records of the Intelligence Division (ID), Headquarters, Police of Puerto Rico (PPO), Hatillo, Puerto Rico, was conducted with the assistance of Miss Angelina Medina, Files Clerk, concerning John Forbes, an alleged acquaintance of Bernard Ra-Ian PORTER.

A subsequent report, undated, signed by Ali Velazquez, ID agent, indicated that Morales de Maldonado reported that Professor Bernard PORTER had recently arrived in Barrio Castaner and had received a great amount of correspondence, all addressed to PORTER at general delivery. Morales de Maldonado became suspicious of PORTER, when in one of his postcards addressed to an unrecalled person abroad, he mentioned that EZ had arrived in Puerto Rico only recently from Russia. Morales de Maldonado also believes some portion of what was written was in code, since he was unable to understand it and it held no meaning for her. PORTER was a friend of Forbes, the Administrator of the Health Cooperative of Barrio Castaner, and who is regarded as a Communist. The last sentence of Velazquez' report stated that Forbes should be investigated.
No additional information was available regarding the nature of the relationship between Forbes and PORTER or regarding any known association between Skipper Geller and SUBJECT.

AGENT'S NOTES: According to Spanish tradition, a person's surname is compounded, consisting of the last name followed by the mother's maiden name; however, many persons now drop the mother's name.

Attention is invited to Forbes' full name. Eckinger would be Forbes' mother's maiden name.
(MISCELLANEOUS) On 24 October 1963, Mrs. Julia Morales de Maldonado, Postmistress, Barrio Castaner, Lares, Puerto Rico, and who resides adjacent to the post office building, was interviewed at her residence concerning Bernard Harden PORTER, and she furnished substantially the following information concerning SUBJECT:

Source first met PORTER in the early part of 1962, when HE was appointed a teacher of English at the Escuela Segunda Unidad de Castaner, Barrio Castaner, Lares, and visited Source's office to inform her of HIS arrival in the community. Source only had verbal contact with SUBJECT two or three times a week on the occasions when HE visited Source's office looking for HIS mail. During one of their conversations, Source offered SUBJECT a post office box; however, HE declined the offer inasmuch as HE stated that HE always received HIS mail through general delivery. While in Barrio Castaner, SUBJECT resided in La Casa Grande (The Big House) a two story wooden house which belongs to the Insular Government, and which is rented to government employees or to influential individuals during their stay in Barrio Castaner. Source last had contact with SUBJECT about a month after HIS arrival in Barrio Castaner, when HE left the community, allegedly because of illness.

Although, Source has no definite proof that PORTER is or was a Communist, Source, as well as Ana Luz Ramos, a clerk at the Barrio Castaner post office, started to suspect that something funny was going on with SUBJECT, when HE started receiving a tremendous amount of correspondence from different parts of the world to include Cuba. On one occasion, Source noticed a postcard addressed to SUBJECT which was written in what Source and Ramos called "code" inasmuch as they could not understand it. A day after this incident, SUBJECT sent a postcard to an unrecalled person, informing this person that HE recently had arrived from Russia, no further details. According to Source, the people of the community of Barrio Castaner were commenting that PORTER acted strangely, inasmuch as HE spent a great part of HIS leisure time taking photographs of various sites around Barrio Castaner. Also it was rumored that PORTER was an acquaintance of John Forbes, Administrator of the Public Health Cooperative, Barrio Castaner, who is regarded in the community as a Communist sympathizer. Forbes has been working in Barrio Castaner for over five years. Source became aware of Forbes' alleged Communist sympathies when she read in the press sometime ago that the Police of Puerto Rico were conducting an investigation of a group of subversive elements, and Forbes' name was mentioned as one of the group's associates. Source disclaimed knowledge of the degree of association that PORTER had with Forbes or with other possible Communist elements. To the best of Source's knowledge, PORTER never associated with Skipper Geller, an alleged Communist, who worked as the Director of the Community Youth Recreation Center, Barrio Castaner, because PORTER left Barrio Castaner before Geller's arrival in the area. Source did not know if any association exists...
between PORTER and Geller.

Morales de Maldonado declined to recommend Bernard Harden PORTER for a position of trust and responsibility with the US Army establishment. Morales de Maldonado is willing to have the above information released to SUBJECT with or without the identity of the Source being revealed. She is willing to appear before any court, board, or hearing, in open or closed session, that may be called concerning PORTER and is also willing to submit a sworn statement concerning the veracity of the above information.

AGENT'S NOTES: It is the opinion of the undersigned that the above Source possessed no firsthand knowledge of either PORTER or Forbes and gained the majority of her information from town gossip.
AGENT REPORT
(AR 381-131)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT
PORTER, Bernard Harden
Civilian, SSN: 093-10-2471
DOB: 14 February 1911
POB: Houlton, Maine

2. DATE SUBMITTED
29 October 1963

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER
X7 127 349

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(LOCAL AGENCY) On 28 October 1963, a check of the records of the
471st INT C Detachment, Fort Brooke, Puerto Rico, was conducted with the assistance
of Miss Blanca Roman, Clerk-Typist, concerning John Forbes, an alleged acquaint-
ance of Bernard Harden PORTER. The check revealed no record of Forbes.
(LOCAL AGENCY) On 1 November 1963, a check of the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), San Juan, Puerto Rico, was conducted by Arnold W. O'Brien, Special Agent, concerning John Forbes, an alleged acquaintance of Bernard Harden PORTER. The check revealed the following information: