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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training
ATTENTION : Chief, Covert Training/OS/TU
SUBJECT : Covert Training for member of [CIWOOD]⁰¹ organization
REFERENCE : Proposed Training Curriculum for [CIWOOD]⁰¹ Trainees From CC/OS/TU

1. It is requested that covert training be given to the [CIWOOD] trainees listed below for the period of 8 March - 30 April 1965. This will be the second group of [CIWOOD] trainees under this program which was initiated by the [Venezuelan] Desk of Branch Three of III Division through Mr. [Rawleigh Taylor] Chief, Covert Training, in September 1964. The first group has been given an 8 weeks covert course ending on 26 February 1965. The trainees will be in Washington under the notional cover of "participating in military training courses" or possibly a "purchasing mission" for their Government. As such, they will not be formal [Liaison] visitors and will not be expected to enter Headquarters buildings, except for one day training in the R & S Building, or to meet Agency officials.

2. Project [CIWOOD] is a [Caracas Station Liaison] activity which has as its objectives the establishment of a [Liaison relationship] with the [Venezuelan Armed Forces Intelligence Service, (SIFA)] to permit CIA to improve the efficiency and capabilities of SIFA and provide CIA access to its intelligence base, and to eventually recruit a member of SIFA, Jacob B. MURSCHWOLD, a Staff Agent under non-official cover in [Caracas] is providing advice and guidance to SIFA and is obtaining intelligence information in return. It is believed that covert training can help improve the efficiency and

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24 internal security of SITA which will enable this organization to more effectively combat the extremist guerrilla and terrorist activity fomented by the Communist Party of Venezuela with aid and encouragement from Cuba. [Venezuela] is getting maximum attention from Castro in his effort to bring about communist take-over in Latin America. Besides the inherent value of the training itself, the creating of the training will help improve his daily operational association with SITA and enhance his opportunity of making a successful recruitment in the future. Orientation in Counter Insurgency is also being included to give SITA officials a greater awareness of the problem and thus to lay the ground work for future work in this field. 24

3. The responsible desk operations officer for this course will be Mr. William E. Cavan who will be known to the trainees as "Bill Cabal", the same identity he used with the first group. An Agency serviced telephone number, 638-3120 has been arranged and will be given to the trainees as a number where "Bill Cabal" can be reached in an emergency. This number is serviced 24 hours a day and Mr. Cavan is immediately notified to call the persons who asked for him at that number. Mr. Cavan is located in room 382613 of Headquarters Building, extension 4521. 03

4. The following is pertinent biographic data on the trainees:

a. Lt. Colonel Mario RAMONDO Lobato 06

DPOB: [La Guaira, Venezuela, 25 September 1923] 08

Marital Status: Married 9 April 1949. Has three small children.

Formal Education: High School, [Caracas] (dates unknown). A graduate of the Venezuelan Military Academy in 1950. Attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1950 and studied English at American University. In [1961] he attended the Argentine Army School of War for approximately 12 months. 08 10 09

Language Ability: Spanish and some English.
(English listed as "fair")

Present Status: Chief of Administration [of SFA] 08

Area Knowledge: Has visited the USA and Argentina

Previous Intelligence Training: None indicated, but has probably had some intelligence training either in the [Venezuelan Army] or his [Argentine] course. 08

Other: HIRSCHWOOD considers [Suarez] as a [potential] 24 recruit [on return to Venezuela] and suggests he be given special attention. 11

b. [Major Luis Alfonso OCHOA] 06

DPOB: [9 September 1928, Las Dantas, State of Bolivar, Venezuela.] 08

Marital Status: Married 1952, has 5 small children

Formal Education: High School, [Caracas], 1946-1950. Entered the [Venezuelan military] 08 service in 1948 and has taken intermediate and advanced courses in the [Venezuelan Infantry] School. 08 He has commanded rifle platoons and infantry companies and has been an instructor in the [Infantry] School of the Venezuelan Army. 08

Language Ability: Only native Spanish

Present Status: [SFA] official; exact title not indicated. 08

Previous Intelligence Training: not indicated

c. [Lt. Colonel Raul JIMENEZ Gainza] 06

DPOB: [16 December 1922, San Felipe, State of Yaracuy, Venezuela] 08

Marital Status: Married - wife is [Patilda Abreu de Jimenez] 06

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Formal Education: Not listed, but probably a graduate of the Venezuelan Military Academy. 08

Language Ability: Not indicated.

Present Status: [Deputy Director of SIFA] 08

Previous Intelligence Training: Not indicated

Area Knowledge: Not indicated.

Other: [Jimenez] has recently been named Deputy Director of SIFA and should be given deference as the leader of the group. 08

d. [Lt. Colonel Solis Antonio MARTINEZ] 06

DPOB: [3 August 1926, San Luis, State of Falcon, Venezuela] 08

Marital Status: Married, three children

Formal Education: High School, [Caracas] 1940-1944; Venezuela Military Academy 1944-1947 (graduate). Also completed specialized courses in [Infantry] Tactics and Tank Warfare, as well as the course of study given by the Superior War College of the Venezuelan Ministry of War. He has served in a variety of capacities within the Venezuelan Army since 1947, commanding everything from platoons through battalions as well as instructor of artillery. He has seen action against the guerrillas in the State of Falcon. He served in [Colombia] dates unknown, as a member of the Venezuelan mission to "Operation America". 08

Language Ability: Native Spanish, reads but does not speak or write English. His competence in understanding English is given as "fair".

Area knowledge: Subject's only travel outside of Venezuela was to Colombia

Previous intelligence

Training: None indicated but probably has had some intelligence training during his military career.

Other: He is Chief of Investigations of the SIFA and will probably return to this position. It is possible that he is aware of Station's police liaison with Venezuelan political police (DIGEPOL), without knowing the details of the relationship.

FOA's for training have been granted for [Fajardo and Martinez] and are pending for [Ochoa] and [Gomez]. It is assumed that the trainees are aware of the Agency affiliation of HURSCHEWOOD and that the training will be conducted by CIA. The Director of SIFA is aware of HURSCHEWOOD's CIA association and was also received by the DCI on 21 July 1964 during a visit to the U.S.

6. Training Requirements: The training should be held in a safehouse, conducted in Spanish and on a full time basis. The suggested dates are from 8 March through 30 April 1965, which have been approved by Chief, Covert Training, OS/TR. The trainees will use actual military training cover during the training period, and it is not anticipated they will enter Headquarters building. They will be taken into the R & S Building for a one-day indoctrination in Seals and Flaps and Audio Surveillance. Requests for this entrance will be covered in a separate paragraph. A one-day orientation course in Counter Insurgency is also discussed in a subsequent paragraph as well as an extensive two-week course in Flaps and Seals for [Major Ochoa] at a TSP Safe House.

7. Requirements for OTR/OS/Covert Training: [Station Caracas] has submitted the following recommendations as areas which should be covered in the training of these officers: OTR/OS/Covert Training may modify and/or adapt the list as necessary.

- a. The Organization of Clandestine Activities
- b. Security
- c. Observation and Description (Casual)

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- d. Surveillance
- e. Agent Acquisition
 - 1. Spotting
 - 2. Assessment
 - 3. Recruitment
 - 4. Training
 - 5. Management
 - 6. Termination
- f. Clandestine Communications
- g. Counter Intelligence
- h. Interrogation
- i. Reporting
- j. Intelligence Research and Analysis

8. It is requested that Ground Branch of SOD make the services of Colonel Valeriano available for a one-day orientation in the latest techniques used in the field of counterinsurgency. The trainees are well aware of the general problems and history of fighting guerrillas and are actively engaged in operations at the present. It is suggested that the instructions stress use of intelligence in combatting guerrilla groups and means of procuring it to include the creation of intelligence nets among peasants in the afflicted areas. It is also believed that any current information on modifications in the tactics of Mao Tse-tung would also be of value as would be examples of the use of psychological warfare programs against the guerrillas and the intellectual leaders of the communist party, considered as the moving force behind the guerrilla movement in Venezuela. It is proposed that Mr. Cavan, who would use the alias of "Bill Cabal", take the trainees to the office of Valeriano and that Valeriano be introduced as a consultant of CIA who is very knowledgeable of counterinsurgency problems. Valeriano, as a member of the International Police Services Academy, has talked to other Latin American officials on this problem as part of his overt duties. It is believed his talks will make SIFA more aware of the threats of insurgency movements and also be the ground work for possible future association with SIFA or the Venezuelan Government in the counterinsurgency

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field. Through Mr. [Elio] ⁰³ Chief of the Ground Branch of S(O), and Mr. Wall, of the same branch, one-half day orientation course was given to the first trainees who suggested that a full day would be sufficient due to the level of the above trainees and the experience they have in this field.

9. ⁰³ Arrangements have been made with Mr. Luria and Mr. [Fritz Hekol] of TSD/Training to provide [Major Luis] ⁰⁶ Alfonso Ochoa with a Flaps and Seals course for the period of 19-30 April at a TSD Safe House. It is believed the Flaps and Seals course will benefit CIA because it will offer HERSCHWOOD the opportunity to maintain closer contact with [Ochoa] who will be responsible for this type activity in SIFA. [SIFA] proposes to make a concerted effort in the letter intercept field to keep better informed of the extreme leftist efforts to overthrow the [Venezuelan] government, and it is felt that HERSCHWOOD can keep abreast of the operation. Because of [SIFA's] ²⁹ responsibilities, it is believed that the more efficient effort that [SIFA] can make in this field will result to the benefit of CIA. [Major Ochoa] would take the first six weeks of the covert training course then devote the last two weeks to the Flaps and Seals course.

10. It is also requested that TSD/Training provide a one-day course in Audio Surveillance and Flaps and Seals for the other three trainees at the R & S Building. This should be a very general briefing with the least possible emphasis on complicated, expensive equipment that might be later requested by the trainees. It is believed this general introduction will give the [SIFA] ²⁹ trainees some idea as to approaches and problems involved in these fields as well as the pitfalls that should be avoided. This one-day course was given to the first three trainees who appeared impressed with the concepts exposed to them. This subject has also been discussed with Mr. Luria and a firm date has been selected for the training. The OTH instructor will accompany the trainees and act as translator.

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It is requested that CI/CA obtain permission for the visitors to enter the H & S building for this training which is scheduled for the 19th of April.

DESMOND FITZGERALD
Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

Concurrences:

DC/CI

DDP Training and Qualification Review

03
WH/3 [WECAVAN] 1p (24 Feb. 65)

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