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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Haiti** REPORT NO. OO- ^{AS} ~~B-321/14367-68~~

SUBJECT **Rearrest of Clemard Joseph Charles/Charles Is Not Able to Raise US\$605 Thousand Ransom/Data 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 DISTR. 22 MAY 1968

DATE OF INFO. **to 16 May 68** NO. PAGES 2 REFERENCES DCS Case: 40,556 47,540 SUPPLEMENT TO: OO-B-321/14068-68

PLACE & 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. Clemard 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 OO-B-321/14068-68.]. 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 gourds. Nobody is interested in investing in a bankrupt country. Even Charles' reported willingness to pledge as collateral his extensive holdings in Haiti (essential oils 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 1965. 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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imprisoned in 1967, the Haitian authorities (no additional data available) compelled him to sign a number of blank checks of these two banks. The authorities then cashed a check for US\$10 thousand, which the bank honored. When the Haitian authorities next presented filled-in checks, however, the bank refused payment, because it knew of his arrest and refused to believe that he had signed a check after his arrest. The Haitian authorities then abandoned their attempts to lay their hands on the rest of the money.

5. It is possible that President Duvalier might settle with Charles for the US\$100 thousand on deposit in New York, when, as and if he finally realizes that Charles is not able to raise the original US\$605 thousand demanded. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that Charles has other funds secretly deposited outside of Haiti. It must be recalled that he acted for some time as courier for President Duvalier, periodically took money for the President to Switzerland and deposited it there for him. Charles may therefore have utilized the opportunity to deposit some of his own money outside of Haiti.
6. If Charles did in fact deposit money of his own in Switzerland or some other locality outside of Haiti, President Duvalier may know or suspect that he has done so. He definitely does know about Charles' US\$100 thousand in New York. Accordingly, Charles' 11 May 68 rearrest may be the preliminary to renewed pressure to induce Charles to part with his New York money and/or the funds which he may have secreted elsewhere outside of Haiti.

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