

Memorandum W. R. Wannall to W. C. Sullivan

Re: FRANCIS NEWMAN ROSENBAUM
JOSEPH HIRSCH ROSENBAUM

97-3397

told this was not a matter within our jurisdiction and it was suggested that he contact State or the Department with regard to his offer. Immediately thereafter the Director wrote a letter to the Attorney General advising strongly against any Departmental cooperation with Ernst.

Ernst's supposed cooperation with Central Intelligence Agency is also an old claim. Central Intelligence Agency has acknowledged contact with Ernst at his request but has disclaimed any active cooperation with him.

Question now arises as to whether we should interview Ernst directly to determine if he has any pertinent knowledge of Rosenbaums' activities on behalf of the Dominicans. Based on results of Baron interview, it appears highly unlikely that Ernst would have any information relative to the subjects' reported role in arranging for the hiring of the Baron firm by Dominican authorities. A former Dominican official (Claudio Saillant), who served as secretary to former Dominican Ambassador to the United States Manuel de Moya, has advised that it is his recollection that Ernst furnished some information concerning his Galindez investigation to the Rosenbaums, who in turn passed it along to De Moya. However, Saillant had no specifics in this regard and his statements appeared to be based on general impressions, rather than any concrete facts.

Accordingly, it is not believed that an interview of Ernst would be productive in developing evidentiary data concerning the Rosenbaums. Moreover, based on Ernst's past record of opportunism and manipulating the facts to serve his own purposes, it seems quite likely that he would seek to use any FBI interview of him for ulterior ends. We, therefore, are not pursuing an interview with Ernst at this time.

ACTION:

This is for your information. New York is being instructed to conduct no interviews with Ernst regarding Rosenbaums in the absence of further developments indicating that he might have specific information of value.