Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 64954 Date: 11-14-2022

Date : 11/03/98

Page: 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : INSCOM/CSF

RECORD NUMBER : 194-10001-10145

RECORDS SERIES: DOD AFFILIATED PERSONNEL AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER: AC678001R - PAGES 1204-1213

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: USAF - OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

FROM : DAVID R. LAWRIE

TO: DISCO

TITLE : OSI COMMUNICATION

DATE : 10/30/68

PAGES: 10

SUBJECTS: REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET RESTRICTIONS: 1B, 1C, 3

CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED WITH DELETIONS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 03/08/95

OPENING CRITERIA: COMPLETION OF REVIEW BY AFOSI, OSI AND FBI.

COMMENTS: COORDINATION WITH AFOSI, OSI AND FBI HAS BEEN

COMPLETED AND DETERMINED TO BE RELEASED IN PART, PER

MEMO DTD 23 FEB 98.



IN REPLY REFER TO			DATE OF TRANSMITTAL	
04D74(24C)-3232	OSI COMM	UNICATION	3 0 OCT 1968	
TO:		SUBJECT	<u> </u>	
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DISCO		MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III		
		AKA: MITCHELL LIVI	▼	
	and the second second second		ELL, ERIC WILSON,	
		ALEX WILSON,		
FROM:		Male Born: 8 Mar 1	8, PA	
		SSAN: 167-18-1640		
DO 4		Vice President, Sio	nics, Inc.	
	-	Atlanta, Georgia		
REFERENCE				
OSI Form 158, SU	BJECT and file as al	bove, dated 14 Octobe	r 1968	
		ICABLE TO ABOVE SUB		
INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED	AND REPORTS WILL BE FORWAI	RDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.		
X ATTACHED & REPORTS OF INVESTIGA	TION. THIS MATTER IS P	ENDING X CLOSED.		
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REPORT OF PRIOR INVESTIGATION/S				
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WHEN ATTACHMENT(28) 2		***	IFICATION OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE	
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DAVID R. LAWRIE, Chief			23 FEB 98	
Counterintelligence Div	ision Call	INCRITIAL		
DEL FORM 158		57.11	S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965-768-54	

ETAITED STATES AIR FORCE MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL III THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS AKA: MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION MITCHELL WERBELL, ERIC WILSON, REPORT MADE BY ALEX WILSON, (FNU) THRAFT WILLIAM A. OUTTEN, SA Male Born: 8 Mar 18, PA; SSAN: 167-18-1640 s dv PERIOD Vice President, Sionics, Inc., Atlanta, GA 24 May-5 Jun 68 STATUS OFFICE OF ORIGIN REPORT MADE AT FILE NR. RUC DO 4 04D74(24C)-3232 DO 21 CHARACTER DATE DOD INVESTIGATIONS - GENERAL - SPECIAL INQUIRY 7 Jun 68 REFERENCE ROI, DO 4, 22 May 68 **XXXXXX DETAILS: On 24 May 68, a search of the indices, OSI District 21, Langley AFB, Virginia, by JOHN W. GLYNN, file clerk, revealed no record identifiable with SUBJECT, his adult relatives, or references as listed on DD Form 48 executed by SUBJECT on 9 Feb 68.

2. On 5 Jun 68, records of the Registrar's Office, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia, as reviewed by BETTY J. MOHLER, Recorder, for WILLIAM A. OUTTEN, SA, failed to reveal SUBJECT ever attending that institution. Mrs. MOHLER stated

that records in her office are maintained on all students since 1842.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

COSTINED

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: 21 AUG 98
Chief, Defensive Operations & Investigations
DECLASSIFIED ON: 23 FEB 98

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (AFR 124-4)

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DISTRIBUTION DO 4 (DISCO-Action-1)	3	WITHIN USAF This is a privileged document under military law. This report may not be reproduced or given additional dissemination except as authorized by AFR 124-4. If this report is classified see also AFR 205-1.	FILE STAMP	
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DO 6 (FBI, Atlanta-Info-l)	3	Te QX. Handly, SA	051	
File		LEWIS J. KOLB, Colonel, USAF Commander 1205		Reviewed By AFOSI For Public Disclosure In Accordance With
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OSI FORM 6b

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AKA: MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS MITCHELL WERBELL, ERIC WIISON, ALEX REPORT OF INVESTIGATION WIISON, (FNU) THRAFT REPORT MADE BY Male Born: 8 Mar 1918, PA JOHN R. CAMERON. SA SSAN: 167-18-1640, Vice President PERIOD Sionies, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia (U) <u> 29 May - 19 June 1968</u> STATUS OFFICE OF ORIGIN REPORT MÅDE AT FILE NR. DO 4 PENDING DO 6 04D74(24C)-3232 CHARACTER DATE DOD INVESTIGATIONS-GENERAL - SPECIAL INQUIRY ROI, DO 4, 22 May 1968 SYNOPSIS DCASR-Atlanta records failed to reflect Sionics, Inc. in either active contract or pre-award stage. FBI, Miami, Florida files contain message stating SUBJECT had been in contact with Haitian Counsel General in Miami in an attempt to sell a supply of firearms. Allegedly, SUBJECT's plan was to accept money for firearms but fail to deliver them. FBI, Miami, files contain no unfavorable information concerning listed reference MAGRUDER. MAGRUDER, in interview, claimed no knowledge of unfavorable information concerning SUBJECT and recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust. Atlanta, Georgia Credit Bureau files disclosed five collection accounts, two federal tax liens and one lawsuit against SUBJECT. Weighborhood investigation in Powder Springs, Ga. disclosed SUBJECT in residence there from 1949 to present. Developed reference MEREDITH advised SUBJECT has been self-employed most of the period he has known him and has engaged in several business ventures, one of which was growing tropical fruit in the Dominican Republic. All references were aware SUBJECT's latest venture is the development of silencers for weapons. None claimed any knowledge of unfavorable information and all recommended him for a position of trust. DUN and BRADSTREET records reflect Sionics, Inc., incorporated in August 1967 in Fulton County, Ga. Company reportedly engaged in sound and flash modification of weapons. FBI, Atlanta, files contain no information regarding Sionics, Inc. officials except SUBJECT. DCASR-Atlanta, Industrial Some of the information contained in this report (Synopsis and paragraph #3) has been obtained from sources other than the USAF. Dissemination of that information cannot be made outside the USAF without consent of the originating agency. DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: 21 AUG 98 Chief, Defensive Operations & Investigations DECLASSIFIED ON: 23 FEB 98 DISTRIBUTION FILE STAMP This is a privileged document under military law. DO 4 (w/atch) This report may not be reproduced or given addi-(DISCO-Action-1 (w/atch) GLASSIFIED BY 5 tional dissemination except as authorized by AFR 124-4. If this report is classified see also AFR 205-1. DECLASSIFY ON: 25X Dir OSI (w/atch) APPROVED FOR THE COMMAND .FBI, Atlanta (Info) (w/atch) BY FBIJEK TASK FORCE File (w/atch) eviewed By AFOSI Chief, CI Division RELEASE IN FULL For Public Disclosure

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JFKARCA, 1992

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RELEASE IN PART

TOTAL DENIAL



SYNOPSIS (Cont)

Security Office records reflect facility security inspection begun on Sionics, Inc. in February 1968 at the request of U.S. Army Research and Development Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Sionics, Inc. apparently developing a device designed to be used with a classified Army project. Civil law enforcement agency checks in Atlanta and Powder Springs, Ga. negative concerning SUBJECT.

DETAILS

- 1. On 29 May 1968, a check of the Indices, OSI District 6, Robins AFB, Georgia, at the request of SA GRADY H. CLICK, disclosed no information concerning SUBJECT; his spouse HILDEGARD HEMMERICH WERBELL; his daughters D. MICHELLE C. WERBELL and KAREN MARGOT D. WERBELL; his sons MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL and GEOFFREY BAUDOIN WERBELL; or his listed references ROBERT VERSHEN, ISADORE T. COHEN and PEYTON M. MAGRUDER.
- 2. On 4 June 1968, files of the Financial Services Office, Defense Contract Administrative Service Region (DCASR), Atlanta, Ga., reviewed by HAROLD W. BAGLEY, Chief, at the request of the writer failed to reflect any information pertaining to Sionics, Inc. BAGLEY also telephonically contacted the Chiefs of the Contract Operations Branch and the Contract Pre-Award Monitor Division who both advised they had no information pertaining to Sionics, Inc.
- 3. On 5 June 1968, the files of the FBI Field Office, Miami, Florida, were reviewed by Mr. THOMAS FALIS, Complaint Clerk, at the request of SA ROBERT G. HUGHES. Files reflected that a PEYTON MAGRUDER (not further identified) made a complaint to the FBI in 1958, regarding certain officers of his business (Coral Roofing Co) who were trying to take his business away through the use of bankruptcy. MAGRUDER felt that this was a violation of the federal bankruptcy laws. FBI declined to investigate. In addition to FBI memos concerning MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, III on file with OSI, Miami FBI Office furnished copy of a CONFIDENTIAL message dated 15 Nov 66 from Director FBI to the Miami Office which is set forth verbatim as follows:

"Haitian Revolutionary Activities"

"On November eight last a Confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that MITCHELL WER BELL, American adventurer from Powder Springs, Ga., had been in contact with EUGENE MAXIMILIEN, Haitian Consel General in Miami. MAXIMILIEN reportedly (5) agreed to purchase a supply of firearms from WER BELL, which firearms

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23 FEB 98



DETAILS

are currently stored in the Dominican Republic. On November fourteen last the above source advised that according to WER BELL, MAXIMILIEN met with him on the night of November nine last at the University Inn, Coral Gables, Florida, where WER BELL was registered under the name THRAFT. At this meeting MAXIMILIEN agreed to pay WER BELL the sum of twenty thousand dollars for these firearms. WER BELL stated MAXIMILIEN subsequently departed for Haiti to obtain the money for purchase of these firearms from President DUVALIER, and that MAXIMILIEN was expected to return to Miami on Tuesday, November fifteen next.

'WER BELL said although MAXIMILIAN would obtain the money from President DUVALIER, MAXIMILIEN had no intention of delivering the firearms to the Haitian President. WER BELL said MAXIMILIEN has been cooperating with ROLANDO MASFERRER ROJAS and has been meeting secretly with MASFERRER in a meeting place outside of Metropolitan Miami. MAXIMILIEN has agreed to turn over the firearms obtained through WER BELL to MASFERRER for use on the latter's planned invasion of Haiti and overthrow of DUVALIER. WER BELL has agreed to make these firearms available to MASFERRER once he has received the twenty thousand dollars from MAXIMILIEN.

"WER BELL confidentially advised the source that he, WER BELL, was planning to accept the twenty thousand dollars from MAXIMILIEN, but to would delay delivery of the arms to MASFERRER until after the invasion of Haitai, in order that he could keep both the twenty thousand dollars and the firearms. WER BELL said that MASFERRER has sufficient arms for the invasion and did not need the firearms now in the Dominican Republic.

"WER BELL also stated that MASFERRER claims to have seventeen boats and a force of between two hundred and three hundred men ready to depart for this invasion of Haiti and hopes to depart from Miami within the next week. WER BELL also stated that a large group of HAITIANS were standing by in the Dominican Republic to assist in these invasion efforts." (\mathcal{M})

4. On 10 June 1968, Mr. PEYTON M. MAGRUDER, 757 Malaga Ave., Coral Gables, Fla., employed as Consulting Engineer at Sionics, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, telephoned SA RICARDO GONZALEZ, OSI Detachment 612, Miami, Fla., from Georgetown Inn, in Washington, D.C. (Phone 202-333-8900) and advised that he wanted to be interviewed telephonically. He stated that he would be working out of state and did not know when he would return to his home in Coral Gables, Florida, or to his home office in Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that he has known SUBJECT personally

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DETAILS

since 1950 as they were in the advertising business together from approximately 1950 to 1953 at Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that he has had occasional to frequent contact with SUBJECT at Miami, Fla., and various other locations in the U.S. from 1953 to the present, as friends and business associates. He advised that he considers SUBJECT to be loyal, of good character and morals, capable, reliable, trustworthy, honest, emotionally stable and financially responsible. He knew of no nervous or mental illness of SUBJECT, or association with subversive organizations. He knew of no association of SUBJECT with persons of questionable reputation or character. He stated that he knew that SUBJECT was once accused of making some kind of illegal sale of firearms, but to the best of his knowledge, this was not true and that he knew SUBJECT had placed a libel suit against the person and organization that furnished this information. He advised that he knew of no relatives of SUBJECT residing in foreign countries. He knew only that SUBJECT has made several business trips to various countries in South America. MAGRUDER recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust.

5. On 6 June 1968, files of Credit Bureau of Atlanta, Inc., 136 Marietta St., SW, Atlanta, Georgia, reviewed by JOHN RITTER, at the request of the writer, disclosed a credit file pertaining to MITCHELL L. WERBELL, III was established in May 1947, Address listed was Rt. #1, Powder Springs, Ga. The file was last cleared in June 1965. The file reflects five collection accounts as follows:

	1.00	1 11 1
12	Mar 56 - Banda's Bazaar, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla	\$ 54.80
26	May 58 - Bishop Office Equipment, Orlando, Fla	100.00
14	Jul 62 - Dr. William L. Eubanks -	18.00
9	Oct 63 - Collection firm not shown -	28.20
	Jun 65 - Holiday Inn -	75.69

Also, two federal tax leins were listed, one for \$14,076, dated 7 Dec 1954, case B-2946 and the other \$6282.69, dated 7 Apr 1961, Case B-3740. Finally, the file lists a suit, Watt Publishing Co., Oregon, Ill. vs SUBJECT, for \$5132.09, no date shown.

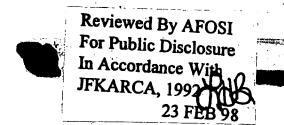
6. On 11 June 1968, the following law enforcement agencies criminal arrest records were reviewed at the request of SA WILLIAM B. TWINING and disclosed no information pertaining to SUBJECT:

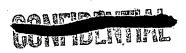
Powder Springs Police Department, Powder Springs, Georgia Cobb County Criminal Identification Bureau, Marietta, Georgia. Marietta Police Department, Marietta, Georgia.

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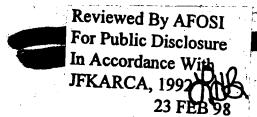
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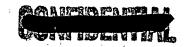
7. On 11 June 1968, a neighborhood investigation was conducted by SA TWINING in the vicinity of Rt. #1, Macland-Dallas Road, Powder Springs, Georgia. Mr. BOB MEREDITH, Commercial Artist, Rt. #1, Powder Springs, Georgia, advised the following in substance: He has been acquainted with SUBJECT as a personal friend and neighbor since 1962. SUBJECT has been in various forms of self-employment during the past six (6) years, to include advertising and the market of baby pants by the brand name "Handy Panty." SUBJECT resided in the Dominican Republic from approximately 1963 to 1965 doing business as a tropical fruit grower. SUBJECT's latest business venture is developing various modifications of hand-gun silencers. He has seen the weapons that SUBJECT is modifying and considers SUBJECT to be a legitimate businessman. PEYTON McGRUDER, a resident of Coral Gables, Fla., was previously associated with SUBJECT in the advertising agency and is presently helping SUBJECT promote the sale of his product. He has no knowledge of SUBJECT's means of income but is of the opinion that FRED BROWN, President of Sionics, Inc. is contributing a large share of the operational cost. SUBJECT has not made any trips putside of the United States for business or pleasure within the past two years. MERIDETH considers SUBJECT to be honest, trustworthy and extremely capable in the type of work in which he is currently involved. He believes SUBJECT would be loyal to the United States as SUBJECT emphatically denounces any form of Communism. He knows nothing of an unfavorable nature regarding SUBJECT's character. He recalled reading in a newspaper about SUBJECT being arrested for an alleged violation of the Neutrality Act involving the sale of firearms to a foreign country. However, to his knowledge, SUBJECT was cleared of the arrest and the charges against SUBJECT were dropped. He would have no reservation in recommending SUBJECT have access to classified Department of Defense material.

8. On 11 June 1968, HUGH LEE POORE, Chief of Police, Powder Springs, Georgia, and TY COBB VARNER, Grocer, neighbor to SUBJECT, Rt. #1, Powder Springs, Georgia, were interviewed separately by SA TWINING and advised substantially the same information as follows: have known SUBJECT since approximately 1949 on a casual basis. SUBJECT has been self-employed most of the past 18 years in advertising the production of rubber baby pants and the production of hand-gun silencers. SUBJECT worked in his home and up to 1965 made numerous trips to Carribean countries. They knew of nothing derogatory regarding SUBJECT's character. They considered SUBJECT to be loyal, trustworthy, capable and of good moral character. Several years ago, SUBJECT was in a bad financial state; however, it appears SUBJECT has done quite satisfactorily in paying his debts during the past two years. They recommended SUBJECT for a position of trust.

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DETAILS

9. On 12 June 1968, files of Dun and Bradstreet, Inc., 131 Ponce de Leon, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, reviewed by SYLVIA WILLIAMS, Clerk, at the request of the writer, disclosed one report concerning Sionics, Inc. It states the concern was incorporated at Fulton County, Ga. 21 Aug 1967, was allowed a maximum of 10.00 shares of stock at \$10.00 each and had \$1,000.00 paid in capital. It lists the officers of the company as follows:

FRED BROWN, President.
ARTHUR L. HARRIS, Chairman of the Board.
MITCHELL L. WERBELL, Vice President and Director of Research
JO FLORENCE, Secretary-Treasurer.

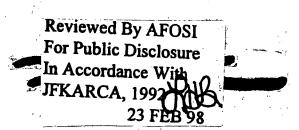
The operation of the company is shown as follows: "Conducts research and development in area of sound and flash modification of equipment in advanced weaponry. One employee besides officers for total of five. Location: Rents 2,000 square feet of fourth floor of multi-story office building located on Main thoroughfare. Job is located in Powder Springs, Ga."

A copy of the Dun and Bradstreet report is appended to this report as attachment No. 4.

- 10. On 13 June 1968, files of FBI, Atlanta, Georgia Field Office reviewed by a representative of that office at the request of the writer, failed to disclose any record of FRED BROWN, ARTHUR L. HARRIS, JO FLORENCE or BEN KOHLER. (U)
- 11. On 17 June 1968, ELMO WOOD, Chief, Contract Operations Branch, DCASR-Atlanta, advised the Industrial Security Division, DCASR-Atlanta, was conducting a security survey on Signies, Inc.
- 12. On 18 June 1968, CLARENCE W. SENSER, Chief, Operations Division, Office of Industrial Security, DCASR-Atlanta, advised SA RALPH M. SNOW, Jr. and the writer his office had begun a facility Security Clearancy Survey on Sionics, Inc., 1655 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, Georgia. The survey was not yet complete as all of the necessary paperwork had not been completed by Sionics, Inc., and the required personnel security clearances had not been granted by DISCO. Any specific information concerning corporate sturcture and operations of the company would be maintained by the Facilities Division, Office of Industrial Security, DCASR-Atlanta.

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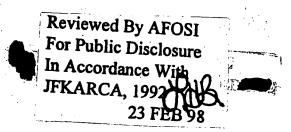
DETAILS

13. On 18 June 1968, Mrs. J. J. TURNER, Staff Security Specialist, Facilities Division, Office of Industrial Security, DCASR-Atlanta, advised SA SNOW and the writer her office received a letter from the U.S. Army Mobility Equipment Research and Development Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va., dated 1 Feb 68, requesting an Interim Security Clearance be granted to Sionics, Inc. The letter stated Sionics, Inc. has the capability to furnish aiming and firing devices for use with a classified Night Vision Goggle System. Security Agreement and Facility Security Clearance Survey forms have been prepared by DCASR and a list of the corporation officials was provided by Sionics, Inc. The officers as listed are: FRED NORTON BROWN, President and Chairman of the Board, SUBJECT, Vice President and Director of Research and Development, JOANN TUGGLE FLORENCE, Secretary-Treasurer, BEN KOHLER, JR., Assistant Secretary, ARTHUR L. HARRIS, Director, and MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, IV, Position not shown. Copies of these documents are appended to this report as Attachments 1 through 3. Mrs. TURNER also advised she has had several conversations with SUBJECT and as a result is of the opinion that SUBJECT and his son, MITCHELL L. WERBELL, IV, are designing and producing the devices and the others involved in the corporation are either financial backers or secretarial help. Although the offices of the company are located at 1655 Peachtree Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga., the majority of the work will be carried on at an off-cite location, Rt. #1, Powder Springs, Georgia. Mrs. TURNER also had telephonically contacted the Army Mobility Equipment Research and Development Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va. to obtain background material about Sionkics, Inc., and was told clearances for SUBJECT and other corporation officials would be required so they might attend classified demonstrations of the devices developed and produced by the company.

14. On 19 June 1968, files of the Fulton County Criminal Identification Bureau and Atlanta, Georgia Police Department, reviewed by JOSEPHONE PRESSLEY and JOHN E. TALLENT, respectively, at the request of the writer failed to disclose any record of SUBJECT, his family (with one exception), or Sionics, Inc., officials BROWN, HARRIS, FLORENCE or KOHLER. Police Department records reflect MITCHELL LIVINGSTON WERBELL, IV, was arrested 9 March 1968 for violation of the Beer and Wine Ordinance. The case was dismissed by the Atlanta Municipal Court. No further details concerning this arrest could be located.

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DETAILS

- 15. On 19 June 1968, review of FBI, Atlanta, Georgia Field Office files, at the request of the writer, failed to disclose any unfavorable information concerning BEN KOHLER, JR.
- 16. Paragraph No. 3 of this report is classified CONFIDENTIAL to conform to the classification assigned by the originating agency. The balance of the report is For Official Use Only.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Copy DD Form 374, Facility Security Clearance Survey, re: Sionics, Inc., dated 8 Feb 1968.
- 2. Copy DD Form 441, Security Agreement between DoD and Sionics, Inc., signed by FRED N. BROWN, President, Sionics, Inc.
- 3. Letter from Sionics, Inc. to DCASR-Atlanta, dated 8 Feb 68, listing officers and directors of Sionics, Inc.
- 4. Dun and Bradstreet Business Information Report re Sionics, Inc., dated 29 Feb 68.

For all Distributees One Copy of Attachments 1 through 4

PENDING

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