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## Random musings on history, politics, and more

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# Friday FOIA Fun: Robin Moore

[Robin Moore](#), author of the classic special-forces book “*The Green Berets*” (and co-author of the “Ballad of the Green Berets”), died in February of this year. With much patience and wrangling, I managed to get a copy of, well, at least parts of his FBI file. Some of the documents – referenced in other, later memos – seem to be missing, perhaps destroyed; most of the remainder are heavily redacted; some were referred to “another agency” for review. Assuming, as seems safe, that this second party is the Defense Intelligence Agency, it’ll probably be, oh, five years from now before anyone knows the full details of Moore’s government files. In the meantime, however, you can take a look at what’s been released so far.

Moore’s file, incidentally, is number 94-61092; the “94” prefix is *officially* “Research Matters and General Correspondence”, but in practice it seems to have been used for other stuff – like investigations of general “subversives” – as well.

Click on any of the images below to see them full-sized.

The first page I’ll be showing you is mostly redacted, but includes some biographical information not (yet, hint, hint) on his Wikipedia page:

~~SECRET~~

Memo Mr. Brennan to Mr. Sullivan  
Re: "THE GREEN BERETS" BY ROBERT LOWELL  
MOORE JR AKA ROBIN MOORE

(S) [Redacted] b1

(S) [Redacted] b1

THE AUTHOR - ROBERT LOWELL MOORE JR AKA ROBIN MOORE

Moore was born 10/31/25, the son of Robert Lowell and Eleanor Turner Moore. He graduated from Harvard in 1949, married [Redacted] in 1952 and divorced her in 1956. He served as a European correspondent for the Boston Globe in 1947, served as a television producer in New York City, 1949 - 1952, and since 1952 has been connected with the Sheraton Corporation of America (hotel chain). Moore's father reportedly was the founder of this corporation. Moore has handled public relations and advertising matters for the firm and in addition has done writing in his spare time. He resides at Concord, Massachusetts and his office is located at 470 Atlantic Ave., Boston, Mass. He is a member of several social clubs in New York City and in Boston and has occasion to spend considerable time in Jamaica where he owns real estate.

b6  
b7c

[Redacted]

~~SECRET~~

"D.J. Brennan, Jr" was a "top Hoover aide" of some sort, according to Time Magazine.

These memos are all from 1965, but, as we'll see in a moment, the FBI were aware of Moore at least as early as 1963:

~~SECRET~~

Memo Mr. Brennan to Mr. Sullivan  
 Re: "THE GREEN BERETS" BY ROBERT LOWELL  
 MOORE, JR., AKA ROBIN MOORE

Moore claims that in 1962 he met <sup>then Vice-</sup>President Johnson in Jamaica and at that time he was also introduced to a Colonel [redacted] described as an aide to President Kennedy. Moore has indicated that as a result of this initial meeting, he was able to establish contact with the White House who assisted him in establishing contact with people in the Pentagon. Through these contacts, arrangements were made to take the training with the Special Forces at Fort Bragg.

b6  
 b7C

#### REVIEW OF BUREAU FILES

In 1963, the Bureau developed information indicating that Moore, described as a wealthy young man and writer, was in contact with a representative of the Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE), an anti-Castro organization. The Cubans were negotiating with Moore in an effort to utilize his property in Jamaica for operations to be directed against the Castro Government. Bureau source [redacted]

b6  
 b7C  
 b7D

[redacted] This investigation further indicated that Moore's attorney was a New York socialite named [redacted]. A source reported on 12/12/63, that Moore had just been to Washington, D. C., and had been in contact with one Colonel [redacted] whom the source identified as a military aide to President Johnson. According to the source, he was informed by Moore that he had attended the Special Forces school at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and that President Johnson wanted him to travel to Vietnam in order to write a book on the Special Forces operations in that country. At that time Moore indicated to the source that he already had written a book on Cuba entitled "The Devil To Pay."

b6  
 b7C

(S)

[redacted]

b1

In January - February, 1964, we made some inquiry concerning Moore's background in view of the reported connection with JURE. The Chief of Police in his home town, Concord, Mass., described Moore as a Director of the Sheraton Hotel Systems, a member of a fine American family and an individual of excellent reputation. He stated that

~~SECRET~~

- 4 -

The Junta Revolucionaria Cubana, or JURE, were, according to various sources, a CIA-backed, anti-Castro organization. Most of the substantive references seem to be in Spanish, but if you're interested in them, Google is your friend.

Note that - in my mind, at least - there's some potential confusion over *which* Robert Moore is being described in this and the next page; the 1965 memo, above, described the "Green Berets" Robin Moore as merely doing advertising work for

Sheraton, while the 1963 investigation referenced here seems to describe him as a "director" of the company – a term I can't help but think was more accurate of the *father*, Robert Moore, Sr.

~~SECRET~~

Memo Mr. Brennan to Mr. Sullivan  
Re: "THE GREEN BERETS" BY ROBERT LOWELL  
MOORE, JR., AKA ROBIN MOORE

Moore was a graduate of Harvard University and reportedly interested in writing. Investigation in Concord did not develop any derogatory information.

In December, 1963, a source advised that Moore was preparing to leave for Saigon, Vietnam, to gather material for a book on the subject of U. S. Special Forces activities. This investigation disclosed that Moore

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

[Redacted]

(S)

b1

*Q*

*[Handwritten mark]*

~~SECRET~~

Quite aside from his involvement with anti-Castro revolutionaries, it seems that Moore came to the authorities for an

entirely different reason: apparently, the rumors about "The Green Berets" are true: it *does* disclose "classified information". At least, according to the FBI, presumably at the insistence of the DIA:

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan  
FROM : D. J. Brennan, Jr.  
SUBJECT: "THE GREEN BERETS" BY  
ROBERT LOWELL MOORE, JR., aka  
ROBIN MOORE

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5/5/65

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - W. A. Branigan
- 1 - W. R. Wannall
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - [redacted]

- Liaison \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*3/28*  
*1/28*

*MAILED*  
*5000/170*

b6  
b7c

(S) Memoranda Brennan to Sullivan, 4/23/65 and 5/4/65.  
advised that [redacted]

b1

[redacted]

Foregoing memoranda indicate that classified information is disclosed in Moore's book [redacted]

Referral/Direct

[redacted]

Referral/Direct

ACTION:

For information.

PDP: jad  
(10)

b6  
b7c

[redacted]

EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DECLASSIFICATION  
AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
EXEMPTION CODE 25X(1)  
DATE 08-05-2008

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

109  
REC-18

44-61072-

11 MAY 12 1965

[redacted]

b6  
b7c

MAY 17 1965

~~SECRET~~

The last reference to Moore in the files released by the Bureau concern a 1974 novel co-written by Moore called "The

Family Man", which was of interest to the Bureau more because of its co-authors, and its depiction of the Bureau, than because of Robin Moore. Still, at the end of the several-page review of the book, the FBI thoughtfully provided a brief biography of Moore, which hints at an even deeper anti-Castro involvement:

Mr. Heim to Mr. McDermott Memorandum  
 RE: "THE FAMILY MAN" BY ROBIN MOORE, WITH MILT MACHLIN, BOOK  
 REVIEW

"Well, we can bring charges against Conte on fraud. We can check out his income. We could put the IRS on it. It'll knock him out of the Governor's race for sure."

The chief turned in his swivel chair away from Doyle, toward the wall, toward the flags hanging behind him. He seemed to be speaking into the wall.

"I don't think I'm getting through to you, Doyle. This is not just my opinion. It's what I've been told by the Attorney General's office.

The Director sighed, unhappily.

"And between you and me, the Attorney General got the word from higher up too. Would you believe that we've got to drop this case for reasons of national security?"

"Jesus!" Regan said, softly. "Where does it all end?"

"Stick with it, Doyle," the chief said, "but don't push it. It'll all add up some day. Jobs change, offices change. Look at me. Did anybody ever think I'd be in this seat?" He extended his hand to Doyle. "You've done a terrific job. At least you and I know that, and I won't forget it."

#### AUTHORS:

Robin Moore, born Robert Lowell Moore, Jr., October 31, 1925, is the author of such books as "The Green Berets," "The French Connection," and "The Happy Hooker." Bufiles reflect that he has had connections with members of anti-Castro Cuban organizations, and that his name and address were found in the address book of a woman who has been connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in Jamaica.

Milt Machlin, born Milton Robert Machlin, June 26, 1924, is an editor of "Argosy" magazine and is the author of "Ninth Life," which is a story about Caryl Chessman which appears to cast doubt on the guilt of Chessman.

The [Fair Play for Cuba Committee](#) had quite an interesting history; apparently membership included Norman Mailer, Alan Ginsberg... and Lee Harvey Oswald.

So, there you go. Assuming the internet – and this website – are still around in five or six years, and that the Defense Intelligence Agency actually releases any of the information referred to them by the Bureau, I'll post whatever new details

come to light. For the time being, well, enjoy what's been released so far...

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