

Received from
[unclear]
9 June 54

Copy of Secret and Personal unnumbered telegram from
[redacted] to [redacted] dated June 4.

"HMS Decoy", United States Bahamas guardship, on afternoon of June 1 in consequence of suspicious behaviour by small vessel leaving Anguilla Cay, landed party and then with assistance of United States Coastguard aircraft apprehended vessel. Landing parties found three Cubans on Anguilla Cay, one of whom had automatic rifle and revolver and ammunition and another of whom had F.N. rifle. A quantity of grenades and five rifled-barrel weapons and ammunition were found on or near beach. Explosives and detonators were recovered from weighted bag obviously dropped from vessel. "HMS Decoy" brought vessel and seven men and one woman to Nassau on June 3.

2. Attorney-General is satisfied that there is prima facie case against four men and one woman found in small boat and against three Cubans subsequently brought from Anguilla Cay. Police investigation is proceeding but all eight will be brought before magistrate in Nassau on June 4.

3. I understand from Commissioner of Police that intense international interest has been manifested about identity of one of the Cubans. Press and television representatives who have arrived here are asking whether police have Manueto Ray in custody. Police have reason to suppose that one Cuban who gave his name as Martinez is in truth Manueto Ray. Ray's wife has telephoned Nassau today asking to speak to him.

4. Whether or not Martinez is in fact Ray, my official advisers and I are satisfied that law must be allowed to take its course. Even if the most favourable possible construction were to be put on facts known to Royal Navy and United States Coastguard, and the Cuban's vessel was at Anguilla Cay solely because of engine trouble, there is no acceptable explanation of an unauthorised presence ashore of Cubans possessing arms and ammunition.

5. Commissioner of police thinks that if overseas Press representatives claim to recognise one of the Cubans as Ray when they are brought before the court, there may be anti-British demonstration in Miami. It would be well to warn British Consul in Miami urgently but I have no secure means of doing so speedily.

6. Police inform me that among persons apprehended by "HMS Decoy" in small boat were a reporter and a photographer from "Life" magazine.