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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY CUBA

TDCSDB-315/00512-65

DATE OF INFO. 10 FEBRUARY 1965

DISTR. 13 FEBRUARY 1965

SUBJECT

INFO RE
POSSIBLE IMPENDING AIR STRIKE AGAINST CUBA BY THE MIRR

PLACE & DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES, MIAMI (12 FEBRUARY 1965)

REF IN 8/216

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL: A MIAMI BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS A RESIDENT OF HABANA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE SOURCE CONTACTS WHO RECOGNIZE HIM AS CHANNEL TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE. FIELD REPORT NO. UFG-6696

1. ON 11 FEBRUARY 1965 BILL JOHNSON, AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO ARRANGES THE SUPPORT ASPECTS OF AIR STRIKES AGAINST CUBA BY ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA MOVIMIENTO INSURRECCIONAL DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIA (MIRR, INSURRECCIONAL MOVEMENT FOR REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY), SAID THAT HE WAS TRYING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON TWO CUBAN PT BOATS WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE WESTERN END OF BAHIA HONDA ON THE NORTH COAST OF PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE. JOHNSON SAID THAT THESE BOATS WERE OBSERVED BY THE PILOT WHO MADE THE 17 JANUARY RAID ON THE NIAGARA SUGAR MILL IN PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE. THE BOATS

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WERE HIT UP AT THEIR MOORAGE WHEN THE PILOT SAW THEM. JOHNSON IS INTERESTED IN DETERMING IF THESE BOATS ARE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO THIS AREA.

2. JOHNSON SAID THAT HE AND THE PILOT OF THE NIAGARA RAID WOULD LIKE TO TARGET THE NEXT MIRR RAID AGAINST THE PT BOATS, BUT BOSCH INSISTS THAT THE NEXT TARGET BE ANOTHER SUGAR MILL. BOSCH TOLD JOHNSON HIS OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVCKE FIDEL CASTRO RUZ INTO SHOOTING DOWN ONE OF THEIR AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO CAUSE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. JOHNSON SAID THE RAID IS TO TAKE PLACE "IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE."

3. JOHNSON SAID THAT HE HAD ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED THE 17 JANUARY STRIKE OVER CUSA AND HAD ALSO PROCURED THE PILOT FOR THE MISSION. HE SAID THEY HAD RUN INTO A SERIES OF DIFFICULTIES AS A RESULT OF JACK WRIGHT'S PLANE CRASH AT FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND, ON 2 FEBRUARY, WHICH WAS A SECCND ATTEMPT TO RAID CUBA FROM THAT AREA. HE SAID THEY WOULD THEREFORE FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN THEY FOLLOWED ON THE NIAGARA RAID BY TAKING OFF FROM AN AIRFIELD IN THE UNITED STATES AT A POINT WHERE THERE IS A "BLIND SPOT IN THE RADAR NET." THEY WOULD REENTER UNITED STATES TERRITORY AT THE SAME POINT. (SOURCE COMMENT: IT IS HIGHLY DOUSTFUL THAT THIS IS THE METHOD THE MIRR USED IN THE PAST TO LEAVE AND REENTER THE UNITED STATES).

4. FIELD COMMENT: FOR INFORMATION ON THE CRASH OF JACK WRIGHT'S AIRCRAFT, SEE TDCSDS-315/00379-65 DATED 3 FEBRUARY 1965).

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5. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMNASTFOR, MIAMI REPS
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