

W. J. G.

DISPATCH SECRET

TO: Certain Chiefs of Stations and Bases

INFO:

FROM: Chief, WE

SUBJECT: PBRUMEN/Operations
Cuban Refugee Reception and Debriefing Facilities in Spain

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information

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DATE OF REVIEW

1. The recent lifting of the naval quarantine on Cuba, followed by a resumption of passenger traffic to and from the island, has with it a resumption to some degree of the refugee flow that existed prior to the recent crisis. Although this flow was mainly to South America, the United States and Spain during its height, occasional defectors from Cuba, and other Cubans seeking political refuge have turned up in various parts of Europe and North Africa. Some confusion has existed in certain intelligence installations regarding the handling of these individuals, particularly in regard to choosing European countries that might accept them as refugees.

2. This dispatch is to inform you that facilities for the reception and debriefing of Cuban refugees exist in Madrid. The Spanish Government admits Cuban refugees into Spain simply on the basis of their refugee status and regardless of their documentation. The refugees normally proceed to Madrid where the following facilities are found:

- a. *A* Comite Revolucionario Cubano (CRC) Reception Center. This is a Cuban refugee organization which provides temporary accommodations, which can provide temporary food and housing for destitute refugees, and assist them in finding jobs in Spain.
- b. COMEB Debriefing Center. Through liaison with the CIA, COMEB screens the refugees as they arrive in Spain, determines whether they are determined to be knowledgeable, and thereby has produced valuable current intelligence on Cuba. COMEB is operated and managed by Cubans with the knowledge of Spanish, but without their participation.

c. The BRITISH Consulate in Madrid has considerable experience in processing visas for Cubans that need any kind of European Consulate, and therefore is in a position to advise on and expedite visas for the Cuban refugees.

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3. When cases of dissident Cubans come to your attention, it is requested that you consult with local [redacted] and/or consular officials (as appropriate) on each individual case. If it is determined that they are deserving of refugee status, please recommend to your ONACTD or [redacted] counterparts that the refugees be encouraged to proceed to Spain, where they will find the best facilities for their reception. Should one of the refugees appear to have potential for recruitment by ODP/DA, it is requested that you alert Madrid Station to the refugee's identity, make arrangements for transportation to Spain, and the place and date of expected arrival, so that a debriefing can be arranged as quickly as possible. Only in exceptional cases will Headquarters approve transportation of refugees to Spain at KUBARK expense, as dissident Cubans of priority interest generally will be debriefed in the country where they first come in contact with ODP/DA.

Lloyd E. DeBenedictis

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