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b(iii)

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

COMINT REPORT

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ALERT IN ORIENTE PROVINCE BELIEVED TO BE TERMINATED

The alert in Oriente Province (see 2/0/[]/R196-63) is believed to be terminated. The alert, apparently prompted by President KENNEDY's death on 22 November, was possibly pre-scheduled to terminate on 25 November. There have been two orders which suggest that the alert was destined to be concluded on 25 November; they are:

1) Access to the Coastal Observation Post at Punta Maisi (20-15N 74-09W) was restricted until 25 November because of the alert (see 2/QS/[]/R667-63); and

2) Subordinates of Banes, Headquarters Eastern Naval District, were to receive further orders on the 25th, presumably concerning their alert status (2/0/[]/R196-63); no such orders have been noted in communications.

There have been no further references in intercepted communications to the alert since 0222Z on 23 November (2/QS/[]/R667-63).

It is possible that the restricted access to the Observation Post at Punta Maisi extends to other Observation Posts in Oriente Province such as reported on 23 November when First Army Coastal Observation Posts were placed in an alert status (2/LR1/[]/R188-63), and that the restriction was to be lifted on 25 November by all those posts.

Further indication that the alert has terminated is the fact that the Cuban Navy was engaged in an island-wide communications exercise on 25 November. It is considered unlikely that such an exercise would be conducted under alert conditions.

There have been no further references to the alert status of the (D percent Santiago de Cuba) units which was first observed on 23 November (2/SL/[]/R05-63). All CRAF and Soviet Forces Cuba communications appear to be normal during this period, 22-26 November 1963.

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