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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File

DATE: 20 January 1960

FROM : Chief, Alien Affairs Staff

SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Relations with (Miami, Florida)

1. On 15 January 1960, at 0900 hours, Mr. [redacted] ⁰³ WH/III (Caribbean), advised that Bernie Reichardt had telephonically informed him that the owner of the impounded vessel had suggested the possibility of I&NS providing a letter to the owner of the vessel stating that the Service had inspected the vessel on its arrival and found no passengers.

2. Mr. Reichardt also reported that he had informally queried the District Director, I&NS, Miami, on the possibility of securing such a letter, however, he had no idea that the matter ⁰³ would be referred to the I&NS Central Office in Washington, D. C. [redacted] readily agreed that the Service could be requested to provide such a letter as, in fact, we had made arrangements with the Service for the entry of these individuals in the United States.

3. In response to further inquiries, Mr. [redacted] ⁰³ stated that on the arrival of these two individuals, the entry of the aliens into the United States had not been cleared with the Office of Security as called for by Regulation 50-110. The parties concerned (who arrived in December 1959) were Manuel ARTIME and Roberto VARONA. The OS Indices contained no record of VARONA. A file on ARTIME (#210830) reflects that the WH Division requested his polygraph in Florida and SSD provided an escort to accompany him to New Orleans in order to enable him to obtain a visa to Mexico. He did secure the visa and is allegedly now in Mexico. The SSD had informed the AAS of the fact that they had been requested to provide such an escort and in fact, with regard to the endeavor of the WH Division to obtain a visa from Mexico for the subject, on or about 15 December 1959, this Staff had received information from Mr. Richard Haberstroh that Mr. Reichardt had contacted the District Director in Miami, Florida, and requested that the Service provide a letter which would indicate that ARTIME would be readmissible into the United States. The purpose of that letter was to satisfy a requirement levied by the Mexican Consul in Miami before they would grant a visa to ARTIME. Mr. [redacted] ⁰³ was informed that the Service could

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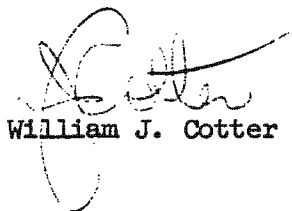
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not provide such a letter. The fact that Reichardt had unilaterally requested such a letter from the District Office of Immigration was called to the attention of Colonel Edwards and he telephonically informed the Chief, WH Division, that the Immigration Service would strongly prefer if such request were levied directly to the Central Office and not by CIA representatives in the field.

4. At 10:45 a.m. on 15 January, the Acting Director of Security was briefed. He suggested that the full story be requested in writing from the WH Division with regard to this recent arrival, and also that the WH Division put in writing any requests for support by the Immigration Service in the form of letters to assist the owner of the vessel which has been impounded.

5. At 2:20 p.m. ⁰³ [redacted] was so informed. At that time he inquired as to whether I&NS would provide a letter supporting the position taken by the Captain of the vessel. The Captain's position is that he discovered two stowaways aboard on the day in question, and upon arrival in the United States, turned the stowaways over to the I&NS. [redacted] was informed that it is doubtful if the CIA would issue such a request to Immigration, however, he was requested to submit his request in writing to the Director of Security.

6. On 18 January, Mr. Rod Landreth, of Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] Office, advised that he had prepared a letter as requested and will forward it to this Office through channels.


William J. Cotter

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