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10 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Manuel RAY in San Jose,
Costa Rica

1. I met with Manuel RAY in San Jose, Costa Rica on 7 and 8 August 1964. The meeting was routine; the business transacted is briefly summarized below.

A. No Operations from U.S. Territory

I reiterated to RAY that it was our understanding that he would not launch any operations from U.S. territory. RAY understood and agreed to this. He did say, however, that rumors of such activity could possibly reach us for the next few weeks inasmuch as it would take him some little while to reorient the activities and thinking of some of his followers.

B. RAY Again Plans to Infiltrate Cuba

RAY hopes to infiltrate into Cuba within the next 10 to 20 days. This new effort will be made from Jamaica. The exact point from which it will be made was not told me, but it is supposedly from land owned by an American living in Jamaica and at a point approximately 60 miles from Cuba. The island of Jamaica itself lies more closely to more than 100 miles off Cuba. RAY is again a little confused on operational details for his speaking of some bit of land closer to Cuba that may actually fall within Jamaican authority.

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C. RAY Asks for Additional Funds

RAY made a plea for additional funds up to \$25,000 in order to assist him in moving men, ships and equipment from the U.S. These materials and men will be moved to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Involved in these moves are the weapons manufactured on the West Coast. I advised RAY that I would raise this issue with the proper authorities. In our discussion of this need RAY considered that with \$15,000 he could completely resolve the matter of the arms manufacture and shipment to Costa Rica from the West Coast of the U.S.A. The total that he asked for is \$25,000. Please let me know your views on this.

D. The Situation in The JURE

RAY indicated that the leadership of the JURE is united, working effectively together and that despite the set-back they have suffered by RAY's failure to infiltrate, the organization is as strong at this moment as it has been. RAY advised me that the total JURE membership, that is, people who have signed application forms and are actually affiliated in a formal manner, in contrast to the loosely-knit manner of Cuban groups, is between 4 to 5,000. RAY recognizes and admits that time is against him and the JURE and that only action inside Cuba can reverse this trend.

E. RAY Meets with President Orlich, Ex-President Figueres and Foreign Ministry Member

RAY met with these three men immediately on arriving in Costa Rica. He advised me that the cooperation of this group is excellent and that he could not ask for better support.

RAY told me that this matter of U.S. feelings toward his organization arose during President Orlich's visit with President Johnson and that it was Orlich's impression that Mr. Johnson did not know a great deal about RAY,

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but that Mr. Mann had joined the conversation to say that both KAY's group and that of ARTISS were good ones. (Whereas this was KAY's version, [redacted] Chief of Station, San Jose, advised me that Mr. Johnson reportedly stated that ARTISS was the more responsible of the two to which President Orlich reportedly countered with, "I think just the opposite is true;" that is, that KAY is the more responsible of the two.)

⁰³ 2. I met with the Chief of Station in Costa Rica, [redacted] I advised him of the reason for my being there and we discussed this operation in detail. He asked if it would not be wise to inform the Ambassador of my presence and activity. I told him that in view of the fact that State was well aware of our association with KAY and the possibility that the Ambassador might hear through other channels of my presence, I agreed with [redacted] that he should advise the Ambassador of my visit. I cautioned [redacted] that this was a fairly delicate matter and that the Ambassador should understand that this was for his information only.

⁰³ You may wish to consider sending a cable to [redacted] informing him of our desire to keep the fact of our support to KAY limited to the Ambassador. (This will be done by the Costa Rican desk of AR.)

ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ
RM/SA/SO/AR