

Agency Information

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URGENT
TO DIRECTOR
FROM LEGAT BERN

8-29-63

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NO. 211

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9-15-98

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, MIAMI DIVISION.

REBUCAB AUGUST 26.

JOHN P. DIMMER, CHIEF OF STATION, CIA, BERN, STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSACTIONS WITH SWISS BANKS AS MENTIONED IN REBUCAB AND ADDED HE THOUGHT ALLEGATION SOUNDED EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL. CHARLES W. BASS, ECONOMICS SECTION, EMBASSY, STATED HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF SUCH LOANS MADE BY SWISS BANKS AND CLAIMED THEY SOUNDED HIGHLY UNLIKELY. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF AN AFRICAN LOAN WERE UNDERWRITTEN AGAINST DEFAULT BY U.S., THEN THE AFRICAN COUNTRY COULD EASILY BORROW MONEY IN SWITZERLAND AT 5 OR 6 PER CENT INTEREST INSTEAD OF 15. BASS STATED U.S. GOVERNMENT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE UNDERWRITES INVESTMENT AND EXPORT RISKS FOR AMERICANS DEALING WITH UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES BUT HE REGARDED U.S. UNDERWRITING OF AFRICAN BONDS NOT LIKELY AND AN INVITATION TO FRAUD. HE SUGGESTED THAT INFO ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID). RUC.

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HENRY D. GRUSH

RECEIVED: (JFK) 8-30-63

6:21 AM

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