
Agency Information

AGENCY : NARA
RECORD NUMBER : 176-10011-10131
RECORD SERIES : NSF
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 10

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : DOS
FROM : HILSMAN, ROGER
TO : MR. JOHNSON
TITLE : MEMORANDUM
DATE : 09/25/1962
PAGES : 1
SUBJECTS :
ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1C
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 05/08/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : UPON AGENCY REVIEW
COMMENTS : NSF:M&M:SPECIAL GROUP(AUGMENTED):9/62:BOX 319:PENDING NLK-90-49

SECRET

September 25, 1962

To : G - Mr. Johnson
 Through : S/S
 From : INR - Roger Hilsman
 Subject : Mongoose

<p>DO NOT FILE</p> <p>PLEASE RETURN BY HAND</p> <p>TO ROOM 6635 NS/E</p> <p>OR CALL EXT. 4134</p>
--

The episode of the British ship and sugar shipment in Puerto Rico illustrates again the unwisdom of ad hoc procedures for dealing with covert political action matters. The purpose of this memorandum is not so much to protest that INR, which has responsibility in these matters, was neither consulted nor informed, but to recommend that Mongoose, like all other covert political action matters, be handled through the mechanism which was set up for such purposes in INR/DDC and which has operated successfully without either leaks or mistakes due to inadequate staffing for several years.

The facts in this particular matter have come to me from half a dozen sources today. I think there are serious questions about the merits of the case. But my major point is that neither the President nor the Secretary have been appropriately served in this instance because of inadequate staffing, and that this would not have happened had Mongoose been handled in the regular highly secure procedures followed by INR/DDC rather than the ad hoc ones of Mongoose.

Our specialty is to provide first some technical expertise on such matters; second, to protect security; and, third, to see that all those who have a legitimate responsibility in such a matter also have an opportunity to exercise their responsibility. The views of EUR, especially SOV, should have been sought and would have been sought had the matter been handled by the regular covert political action procedures.

Things like this will continue to happen so long as such delicate and at the same time involved matters are handled on an ad hoc basis, and I strongly urge that immediate steps be taken to put them back into the special group procedures where they belong.

SECRET