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FROM : JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.  
TO : ICCCA REPRESENTATIVES  
TITLE : ICCCA: REPORTS FROM BRITISH AND CANADIAN EMBASSIES IN HAVANA

DATE : 11/26/1963  
PAGES : 4

SUBJECTS :  
INFORMATION FURNISHED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC  
CHANNELS  
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN CUBA

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OPENING CRITERIA : REVIEW BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

COMMENTS : Califano Papers, Box 5, Folder 2. Memo No. 83 from Joseph Califano with enclosures from the British Embassy, Havana related to the Cuban economy and the effects of hurricane FLORA.

*JFK Review*

Department of the Army EO 13526

Declassify  Exclude  Exempt

Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date 19 AUG 15 By [Signature]

NO STATE OBJECTION  
TO DECLASSIFICATION/  
BY [Signature] DATE 01/15/16

26 NOV 1963

MEMORANDUM NO. 83 FOR GENERAL EARLE G. WHEELER (JCS)  
 MR. FRANK E. SLOAN, Dep Asst Sec/Def ISA  
 (Regional Affairs)  
*sent* } MAJOR GENERAL J. D. ALGER, USA  
 REAR ADMIRAL W. F. A. WENDT, USN  
 MAJOR GENERAL J. W. CARPENTER, III, USAF  
 BRIGADIER GENERAL C. J. GUILTER, USMC

SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee of Cuban Affairs:  
 Reports from British and Canadian Embassies in Havana

Attached Embassy reports are circulated to points of contact for  
 information.

Signed:  
 A. M. Haig  
 Lt Colonel, USA

*for* Joseph A. Califano, Jr.  
 General Counsel

Attachments  
 As Stated

*sent* cc: Mr. Yarmolinsky (OSD)

*sent* } Mr. Califano  
 Lt Col Haig  
 ASG

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
 OFFICE

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BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA.

October 25, 1963.

(1701/63)

You will have seen a copy of Iain Sutherland's letter 10321/63 of October 10 to me, about the effects of hurricane FLORA (not to J.I.B.). This letter is by way of an interim reply to it, drawing together the various sources of information on Flora which are now available.

2. The Cuban press has been full of minor detail for the past week or so and will warrant study by the intelligence communities on both sides of the Atlantic. The main points have been sent to the Department in Stephen Eccles' letters 1701/63 of October 11, 17 and 24; the last of these enclosing a summary of Castro's report on television.
3. You will be receiving by this bag also, a copy of an on-the-spot appreciation by Michael Collins' from Santiago.
4. A well-made and informative news film has been shown here which is revealing both as to the damage caused by Flora and as to the quantity of amphibious vehicles with which the Cuban Army are equipped. I believe it is this film which an I.T.N. news reporter (Miss Caroline McCullough) was given before she left: if it is it is well worth close study.
5. There may be another film taken by Reuters' local reporter which we think may have been smuggled out of the country, but we are not sure. If it was got out successfully it will probably have ended up at Reuters, and you may care to ask for it to be made available.
6. As Sutherland said in his letter under reference, it will take some time before enough evidence is collected to make a really useful assessment on the economic effects. But we have made a first attempt, which appears as an Annex to this letter.
7. I am copying this letter to Sutherland in Washington and to J.I.B.

(P.H. Scott)

A.D. Parsons, Esq., M.C.,  
American Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

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USA. ASG. CONTROL NO. 27329

(1701/63)

ANNEXFIRST ASSESSMENTECONOMIC EFFECTS OF FLORA(a) Sugar.

This year's production of 3.8 million tons would probably have been bettered next year because of increased new sowings, additional machinery of a kind that might actually be useful (for lifting cane rather than for cutting it), and renewed emphasis on the importance of sugar. But maximum possible was probably only 4.3 million tons, of which 2.3 million would come from the affected areas. On the basis of a third being lost in the affected zone (more through drop in yield than because of cane destroyed), total for next year will probably be in the region of 3.5 million tons. Hence, with the sugar rationing which is to come into force in Cuba, probably only slightly less will be available for export than last year.

(b) Tobacco.

This should be unaffected. Together with sugar this accounts for nearly 90% of Cuba's export earnings.

CONCLUSION ONE

Export earnings will only be slightly less than last year, but considerably less than what was hoped for (perhaps £40 million less).

(c) Coffee.

(Assuming loss of 400,000 quintals out of an expected crop of 850,000 quintals). Crop available for domestic use - 450,000 quintals, i.e. 45 million pounds. Now 6 million people drawing their full ration of 3 ozs. per week for one year need 58 million pounds (not all take it, of course, but much is also used in hotels, cafés, etc.) So none will be available for export. Indeed 5,000 tons of Brazilian coffee has already been ordered (i.e. 11.2 million pounds), but no more should be required if the Government is prepared to keep the ration below 3 ozs. The cost of the Brazilian coffee must be in the region of £1 million; but some of this may be given to Cuba either by the Russians or by the Brazilians.

(d) Other losses.

These will have no effect on foreign earnings. Main effects will be extension of period of austerity, and standstill in public works (other than industrial) in other provinces for some time. Food will be in even shorter supply. Effects on most agricultural products will be short lived however as soil is so fertile. Cattle losses are hard to estimate. There are no official figures for overall losses or indeed for the total cattle population. But if we reckon on 4 million head of cattle, of which half in the two stricken provinces; and as some hearsay reports suggest estimate losses as 10% of the herd (i.e. 200,000 head), milk products and especially meat will take a few years

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to recover. It might prove necessary to spend additional money abroad on such items as breeding cattle stock, household effects and constructional items (e.g. steel piping and electric cable). These may cost £10 million.

CONCLUSION TWO

On the home front both the period and degree of austerity, both as regards food and consumer goods, will be increased. General construction work will be held back.

GENERAL CONCLUSION.

1. Compared to 1963 drop in export earnings plus additional imports caused by Flora, will amount to around £10 - £15 million. But 1963 totals were low and another £40 million should probably be added to this total to compare it with what was probably hoped for.

2. There will be nothing to spare abroad to alleviate the further lowering of the standard of living at home.

(S.D. Eccles)  
BRITISH EMBASSY,  
HAVANA  
October 25, 1963.

Agency Information

AGENCY : ARMY  
RECORD NUMBER : 198-10008-10097  
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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : MULTIPLE  
FROM : JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.  
TO : GENERAL CARROLL, DIA  
TITLE : TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION

DATE : 09/04/1963  
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SUBJECTS :  
INFORMATION FURNISHED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC  
CHANNELS  
REPORT ON CUBAN PRISON CONDITIONS  
THE 26TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
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COMMENTS : Califano Papers, Box 5, Folder 2. Memo from Joseph Califano with enclosures from the British Embassy, Havana related to Cuba.

*JFK Review*

Department of the Army EO 13526

Declassify  Exclude  Exempt

Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date 19A0615 By Walt J. Carlberg

NO STATE OBJECTION  
TO DECLASSIFICATION  
BY MM DATE 04/15/16

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September 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CARROLL, DIA

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Information

The attached Canadian Embassy (Havana) cable and British Embassy Report were furnished this office through Department of State channels and are forwarded for your information.

Signed:  
A. M. Haig  
Lt Colonel, USA

*for* Joseph A. Califano, Jr.  
General Counsel

Attachments (2)

- 1. Cable fr CanEmb Havana, dated 22 Aug 63
- 2. Ltr fr British Emb, dated 21 Aug 63, w/2 Incls

Mr. Califano  
 Lt Col Haig → *mem only*  
 ASG → *w/incl 2 only*

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
 OFFICE  
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011 CUBA  
 19-4-63

FILE

OSA, ASG Control No. 2037C

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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COPY

FM HAVANA AUG22/63 CONF

TO EXTERNAL 181 OPIIMD

INFO TT WASHDC LHM MATOPARIS PERMISY PRIORITY FM OTT

RAG MOSCOW FM LHM

INTERNAL SITUATION

SEVERAL INCIDENTS IN PAST TEN DAYS HAVE SERVED TO DISTURB SOMEWHAT THE FEELING OF CONSOLIDATION AND RELATIVE TRANQUILLITY WHICH CASTRO REGIME HAD SUCCEEDED IN CREATING IN RECENT MONTHS. ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED BY BOAT AGAINST FACTORY IN PINAR DEL RIO, A PLANE FIRED UPON SUGAR MILL AND ANOTHER ATTACKED SMALL RAILWAY YARD AND PETROLEUM DUMP AT BORT OF CASILDA NEAR THE ESCAMBRAY. GOVT CLAIMS THAT DAMAGE WAS SLIGHT, BUT ADMISSION OF ANY EXTENSIVE DAMAGE IS UNUSUAL. CERTAINLY RUMOURS ABOUND THAT THESE SAIDS WERE MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. THERE ARE ALSO PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT MATAHAMBRE COPPER MINE WAS SABOTAGED.

2. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GOVT IS ADOPTING HARDER LINE TOWARDS ITS INTERNAL ENEMIES. SOME OF LARGER REMAINING PRIVATE FARMS ARE NOW BEING CONFISCATED BY GOVT WHICH REGARDS QUOTE RURAL BOURGEOISIE UNQUOTE AS CLASS ENEMY. EXECUTION OF SEVEN SUPPOSED CIA AGENTS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THIS MONTH. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SOME TWENTY PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED IN LAS VILLAS PROVINCE, SOME OF WHOM HAD BEEN HELD FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS WITHOUT TRIAL AS IS THE CUBAN PRACTICE. A LADY HEAR HEARD FROM HER BROTHER IN CABANAS PRISON THAT  
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THREE



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THREE ARMY OFFICERS HAD BEEN SHOT THERE. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A CLOSELY GUARDED MIG OF ARMY POLITICAL INSTRUCTORS WAS HELD IN ~~XXXXXXXX~~ HAVANA. SPORADIC FIGHTING STILL APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE IN THE ESCAMBAY.

3. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE ACTION OF CUBAN ~~XXXXXXXX~~ AUTHORITIES IN SNATCHING 19 CUBAN ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CITIZENS FROM UNINHABITED BRIT ISLAND IN BANAMAS AND SUBSEQUENT BRIT DECISION TO LODGE PROTEST. I LEARNED FROM BRIT CHARGE THAT ONLY AT LAST MINUTE WAS IT DECIDED TO DEMAND RETURN OF THE PERSONS INSTEAD OF MERELY SEEKING FORMAL APOLOGY AS FO ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

4. CUBANS HAVE CHARGED USA IS ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN OF SUBVERSION AND SABOTAGE FROM BASES IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THEY SEEM UNCERTAIN OF USA PLANS AND GENUINELY APPREHENSIVE OVER THIS POSSIBILITY. CUBA WOULD BE VULNERABLE GEOGRAPHICALLY TO SUCH A CAMPAIGN AND IT WOULD COM E AT DIFFICULT TIME AS ENTHUSIASM FOR GOVT IS CURRENTLY AT A FAIRLY LOW EBB. NOR IS IT EASY FOR CUBANS TO FIND ANY VERY EFFECTIVE REPLY. TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE PROVOKED INTO TAKING RE-TALIATORY ACTION COULD PROVE DISASTROUS.

5. USUAL SHEILL PROPAGANDA BARRAGE IS ONCE MORE BEING DIRECTED AT USA AND CHE GUEVARA REITERATED TO VISITING LATIN AMERICANS NEED FOR ARMED STRUGGLE MAO-STYLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL GOALS AND POINTED WITH SATISFACTION TO VENEZUELA AS EXAMPLE OF COUNTRY WHERE THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN ADOPTED.

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6. ALL THIS RUNS RATHER COUNTER TO SPIRITS OF MOSCOW AND PROSPECTS OF CALMER USSR-USA RELATIONS. AS LONG AS CUBA HAS NOT RPT NOT SETTLED ITS PROBLEMS WITH USA IDEA OF ANY EAST-WEST DETENTE IS DISTASTEFUL TO HAVANA. THE GOVT OFFICIALLY ACCUSED USA OF TRYING TO TARD ADVANTAGE OF PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION TO DESTROY CUBAN REVOLUTION BUT INDICATED THAT USA HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE ~~EXXEX~~ CAPACITY OF CUBAN PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND SOLIDARITY OF USSR WITH CUBA.

YET CASTRO REGIME CANNOT RPT NOT BE SURE WHETHER IN LONG RUN USSR WILL BE PREPARED TO MOULD ITS ~~EXXEX~~ FOREIGN POLICY TO SUIT CUBAS CARIBBEAN INTERESTS.

7. ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE RAISED HOPES OF THOSE OPPOSED TO REGIME. A FEW ARE AGAIN SPEAKING IN TERMS OF GOVTS EARLY DEMISE. AS USUAL, HOWEVER, REASONS THEY GIVE DO NOT RPT NOT WITHSTAND RATIONAL ANALYSIS. THE FABRIC OF GOVT IS STRONG AND CANNOT RPT NOT EASILY BE DESTROYED. THERE ARE CERTAINLY NO RPT NO SIGNS THAT IT IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER. ~~NR~~ NEVERTHELESS DISPIRITED OPPOSITION HAS RECEIVED A FILLIP TO ITS MORALE. TO APPLY RENEWED ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF DEFENCE, HOWEVER, DISTRACTS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES FROM URGENT TASK OF ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION.

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confidential

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(10621/63)



COORD	
DEP COORD	✓
OIC-CUBA	✓
ASST OIC	✓
ECON	✓
SPEC ASST	✓
CCA MIAMI	
SECY	
DEPT	

BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1963.

*Dear Bob,*

...

I enclose two letters which we have received from Havana about visitors who went to Cuba as delegates to the 26th of July celebrations.

- a) Mr. Scott's letter 1652 of August 16 about a visit by two British Members of Parliament who were taken to see two prisons in Cuba.
- b) Mr. Byatt's 1011/63 of August 15 enclosing a list of delegates to the celebrations.

I shall be grateful if you would take particular care that the existence of these two letters and their contents are kept Confidential.

*Yours truly,*

*I. J. M.*

(I. J. M. Sutherland)

Mr. Robert T. Follstad,  
Office of the Co-ordinator of Cuban Affairs,  
Room 6245,  
State Department,  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OSA, ASG Control No. 2037c

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BRITISH EMB.

1652/63

HAVANA

August 16, 1963

In his letter 1011 of August 15 to Brown, Robin Byatt mentioned visits which two of our Parliamentary visitors, Mr. Emrys Hughes and Mrs. Malcolm Macmillan, had been able to make to Cuban prisons. I enclose a copy of the minute of the conversation which I had with the two MPs about their experiences.

2. You will see from this that both Mr. Hughes and Mr. Macmillan gave a fairly favourable account of conditions in Cuban prisons, although, as far as I can judge, they were objective in their approach and had in fact been doing their best to check stories which they had heard of the maltreatment of political prisoners. They were also suspicious of the Cuban motives in denying them access to the Isle of Pines and had tried to find out about conditions there by speaking to some prisoners who had served the earlier part of their sentence in the Island. They also agreed with me that whatever might be true of conditions in the prisons, the juridical processes under which prisoners were sentenced, were far below minimum standards of justice.

3. I have discussed the comments of the MPs with our Consul, Jo Pethybridge, who has paid several visits to Cuban prisons including two to the Isle of Pines. He agrees with them about overcrowding and with their description of an atmosphere of bonhomie between warders and prisoners. Unlike the MPs, however, Pethybridge had many complaints about inadequate food and the lack of medical attention, especially in the Isle of Pines. It may be that conditions there are worse than in prisons on the mainland; but as Pethybridge says, it is also true that his visits were at times of particular tension, especially his second visit to the Isle of Pines which was just after the October crisis.

4. Such evidence as we have been able to collect therefore about conditions in Cuban prisons does not bear out the lurid accounts which have been published outside Cuba as for instance in the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the O.A.S. which Iain Sutherland mentioned in his letter 10221/63 of July 23 to Michael Brown. No doubt conditions were much worse in the earlier days of the revolution but it seems that prisoners are now generally treated humanely and are not physically ill-treated. The fact of course remains that many of them have been given long sentences after trials which are a mockery of justice.

5. I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Iain Sutherland in Washington, Leslie Boas in Caracas, Henry Bartlett in Mexico City, Stephen Clissold in F.O.R.D. and to Information Research Department.

(P. H. Scott)

A. D. Parsons, Esq.,  
American Department,  
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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