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2 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Manolo RAY

1. On 31 December 1964 I tried to phone RAY at 767-6138 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was not at home and I left a message for him to call Carlos Andrews (Charles Anderson) at 628-1899 in Washington between 1200 and 1400 on 1 January 1965.

2. He phoned promptly at noon on 1 January (collect). I advised him that Andrews was not here, but that I was acting in his stead. I did not give RAY a name during this conversation.

3. I said that I had replies to the three questions he had put to Andrews as follows:

A. If the U.S. Government is asked by a friendly government for an opinion as to whether it should import arms from the U.S. for RAY's benefit, we would reply that our position is one of neutrality. If requested to give an opinion of RAY, we would reply that we consider him to be a serious individual of sound ideology. RAY said that this was not all he wanted, but felt it would be adequate. I said that the fact that he has a commitment from us to permit the legal fiction of the arms export on his behalf is probably the best argument he can offer any friendly government. I pointed out we could go no further than being neutral concerning the act of exportation because we would not want to apply any implicit or explicit pressure on a friendly government in this matter, since we feel that it must judge the matter in terms of its own policies and national interests.

B. I told him that the export license applications are very detailed and that we would get him samples of the forms. I said these would have to be filled out correctly, without evasion or subterfuge. I advised him that the data involved in an export license of this sort is confidential and is available only to the U.S. Government officials involved in the matter and to the persons directly related to the particular transaction.

C. I told him that it is not possible to give him a definitive reply concerning the required data which would appear on the commercial shipping documents, since this varies from destination to destination. I said I had seen many shipping documents covering arms which merely listed the fact that the shipment consisted of a given number of firearms and listing the weight. I suggested that when he has a consignee in mind he arrange to check the shipping documents of arms purchases legitimately ordered for that consignee to see what they contained, since in most cases, the shipping documents are prepared to satisfy the legal requirements of the country of destination. He said he would do this, but commented that he wants to avoid providing lists of serial numbers which could embarrass a friendly government if the arms are picked up by the Cuban Government and eventually are traced to this particular shipment. I told him that we cannot give him a hard answer on this question at this time, since a great deal depends on the ostensible destination of the arms; that we would have to insist that the shipment follow normal legal patterns; but that since we would have a list of all the arms in the export permit application by serial number, the problem of an additional listing on the shipping documents would probably have to be resolved in terms of the consignee country's requirements.

4. He appeared to be reasonably well satisfied with the replies given him and we signed off with mutual good wishes for the New Year.

5. The information given to RAY (paragraph 3, above), with the exception of my own experience (so labelled in paragraph 3), was checked out with Mr. John Crimmins, State Department Cuban Coordinator in a telephone conversation on 31 December 1964 between Mr. Edward Marelius, which I monitored on another instrument.

TJ Flores
THOMAS J. FLORES
A/COPS/WH(SA) *OS*

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