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TRAVEL TO CUBA - IMPEDIMENTS

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JFK Review

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May 7, 1963

MEMORANDUM NO. 37 FOR GENERAL EARLE G. WHEELER (JCS)
CAPTAIN E. R. ZUMWALT, JR., USN (OSD)
MAJOR GENERAL C. W. ABRAMS, JR., USA
REAR ADMIRAL W. WENDT, USN
MAJOR GENERAL J. W. CARPENTER, III, USAF
BRIGADIER GENERAL H. M. BLWOOD, USMC

SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee of Cuban Affairs:
Second Progress Report of the Subcommittee on Cuban
Subversion


Attached is a copy of the second progress report of the Subcommittee on Cuban Subversion of subject Committee.

It is requested that comments be forwarded to me by 1700 hours on May 8. If there are no substantive comments, a telephonic response is requested.

Signed
Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Special Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
Mr. Yarmolinsky
Mr. Califano
LtCol Patchell 
ASG

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SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUBAN SUBVERSION

4 MAY 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subject: Second Progress Report of the Sub-Committee

1. Attached for comment is a draft of the Second Progress Report, Sub-Committee on Cuban Subversion, which provides an account of the actions taken during the month of April by the several departments and agencies in executing the actions approved by the President on 8 March 1963. The enclosure to the report is an essentially verbatim recording of individual agencies.

2. It is requested that your comments on the draft report be provided by 1700 hours, 7 May 1963. If there are none of substance, we will go to press on the smooth version, and send it to the Cottrell Committee without further meeting of our group. If substantive suggestions are made, we will have to have a meeting.



V. H. KRULAK
Major General, USMC
Chairman

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SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUBAN SUBVERSION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON CUBAN AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Second Progress Report, Sub-Committee on Cuban
Subversion

ENCLOSURE: Progress Achieved during April in Impeding Travel
to Cuba

1. The enclosure hereto summarizes progress made by the several departments and agencies, during the month of April, in executing the actions approved by the President on 8 March 1963, to control the movement of subversives and subversive trainees to and from Cuba.

2. In addition to the program on control of subversive travel, action programs were completed in all of the companion areas, and were forwarded for approval on the dates indicated below:

- a. Controls on movement of propaganda material - 14 March '63.
- b. Controls on Movement of Arms - 14 March '63.
- c. The Organization of a Caribbean Surveillance System -
15 March '63.
- d. The Exchange of Intelligence - 25 March '63.
- e. Controls on the Movement of Funds - 10 April '63.
- f. Training of Latin Americans in the United States -
26 April '63.

3. A significant development during the month of April bearing on the action programs proposed by the Sub-Committee was the Ministerial Meeting held in Managua, Nicaragua on 3-4 April. The Managua meeting produced a set of eight resolutions which, when implemented, will proceed along the same major avenues as the action programs proposed by the Sub-Committee. An interdepartmental team is currently visiting the Isthmian capitals, consulting with Ministers of government and authorities designated by them in the

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fields of immigration control, customs control, coastal surveillance and the organization of a local counter-subversive agency.

For the Sub-Committee:

V. H. KRULAK
Major General, USMC
Chairman

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ENCLOSURE

PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING APRIL IN IMPEDING TRAVEL TO CUBA1. The Department of State has:

a. Participated in the drafting of a resolution passed at the 3-4 April Managua Meeting respecting discouragement of travel of Latin Americans to Cuba for training in subversion. The text of the resolution is appended hereto.

b. Headed an interdepartmental team currently visiting the Isthmian capitals with the objective of securing the fullest and quickest implementation of all the recommendations agreed on at Managua. Prior to the departure of the team, Department of State posts were instructed to inform the host governments of the trip and to encourage them to identify the kinds and extent of technical assistance it would be most useful for the United States to furnish.

c. Caused to be noted in U.S. passports since 1 April that they are not valid for travel to Cuba.

d. Following an indication that the Bolivian Government might be willing to increase efforts to impede travel of its nationals to Cuba, instructed the U.S. Embassy to recommend that the GOB:

1) Ban travel to Cuba by Bolivian nationals except for official or special purposes approved by the GOB, and establish legal penalties for violations;

2) Require Bolivian citizens to have a passport or other GOB document to travel abroad;

3) Make such document invalid for travel to Cuba unless specially endorsed;

4) Seek arrangements with third countries which are important transit points under which third countries will assist the GOB in preventing unauthorized travel by Bolivians

and will help identify violators.

5) Drawing on the recommendation in the paper on "The Movement of Subversives and Subversive Trainees" and other sources, instructed the non-isthmian posts to encourage host governments to take additional counter-subversion steps. Each instruction was tailored to the local situation in the recipient country and included appropriate suggestions as to strategy which might be used in securing implementation of the desired actions.

6) Requested posts in Latin America to encourage host governments to take appropriate measures to discourage participation of their nationals in Cuba's May Day celebration and to prevent charter flights from their country to Cuba for the celebration.

7) Through efforts with various Latin American and other governments, discouraged participation in the Cuban solidarity Congress. U.S. efforts contributed to limiting the success of the Congress from the Castro-Communist point of view.

2. The Department of Defense has:

a. Continued the US sea and air surveillance of the area surrounding Cuba until 25 April 1963, at the same rate and with the same emphasis as existed prior to that date. Since 25 April 1963 additional sea surveillance has been realized between Cuba and Haiti, due to the stationing of the Caribbean Ready Amphibious Squadron at the entrance of the Gulf of Gonaives occasioned by the deterioration of internal conditions within Haiti. Reports of subversive movement, or suspected subversive movement, obtained by US surveillance are available for immediate transmittal through the US military alerting system.

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b. Continued action, at high priority, on the installation of military communications facilities in Latin America. As of 1 April, a commercial submarine cable from Florida to Panama became operational. This cable gives reliable voice and teletype communications to CINCARIB including both classified teletype and voice. Negotiations are continuing in Honduras, Colombia and Ecuador for the installation of military radio facilities. Installation of a multi-channel radio station has been completed in Costa Rica. A similar facility in Nicaragua is scheduled for completion by 1 July 1963.

c. Established an Intelligence Center at CARIBCOM Headquarters, in connection with the program of surface surveillance of the Caribbean, for rapid processing and dissemination to countries concerned, via the American Ambassadors, of intelligence on the movement of subversives. Study of the establishment of intelligence centers in the Caribbean revealed that the Intelligence Center should be established at Caribbean Command Headquarters and that a center need not be established at Headquarters, Caribbean Sea Frontier.

d. Established on 11 April a U.S. military alerting system operated by CINCARIB and CINCLANT. Pursuant to the request of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on Cuban Affairs the Department of Defense has suspended the use of the Military Groups in the alerting system and is working with CIA to reduce duplication of effort to a minimum.

e. Alerted U.S. forces, for the most part within the Atlantic Command, to be prepared to provide U.S. assistance in the final interception of shipping in territorial waters.

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upon request by the country concerned. Currently, forces are assigned by the unified commander involved, to meet the singular problem encountered. Preparations have been made to respond to a possible requirement in the case of the Venezuelan ship FERRYMAR III.

f. Ordered to the Canal Zone a Coast Guard Mobile Training Team for a period of six months, beginning 15 May 1963, to provide training, in Spanish, in boat handling and maintenance together with surveillance techniques to those Central American countries having 40 foot Coast Guard Utility Boats. In addition, the Mobile Training Team will assist as required in establishing a permanent Small Craft Training and Inspection Facility in the Canal Zone. One 40 foot utility boat has been permanently assigned to the U.S. Naval Station, Rodman, Canal Zone for use by the MTT and will be delivered there about 20 June.

3. The Central Intelligence Agency has:

a. Completed its efforts to improve U.S. government communications in Latin America by the installation of the remaining two commercial leased circuits into Guatemala City and Managua, and the stationing on a permanent basis of 35 CIA radio operators in Latin America in replacement of temporary duty personnel. In November 1962, CIA's active radio facilities in 20 Latin American capitals were augmented with on-line cryptographic facilities and temporary personnel to handle the bulk of all U.S. government communications in the area. These facilities, known as Joint Communications Centers, are now being operated by CIA on a 24-hour basis, as a service to all U.S. government agencies. Latin American traffic handled by the CIA base radio station near

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Washington has increased from 3,000,000 groups handled in October 1962 to 15,000,000 groups handled in March 1963.

b. Increased its efforts designed to control the movement of persons, arms and propaganda materials to and from Cuba. A summary of actions by country is provided below:

1) Argentina - Station, in conjunction with the Embassy, has continued to press the Argentine government to enact effective travel control legislation and to adopt measures recommended by the Special Security Committee of the OAS. Information on Argentines travelling to Cuba is being furnished to the Argentine government by the station. Several potential travellers to Cuba have been spotted and are being assessed by the station. Information from three recent returnees from Cuba is being obtained through debriefings. Station reports that because of increased Mexican controls, all truly clandestine travel to Cuba from Argentina is now via Prague. Che Guevara's mother was arrested on 23 April upon her return to Argentina for importing Castro propaganda.

2) Bolivia - Station and Embassy have been urging Bolivian government to adopt stricter travel controls, without apparent results so far. Names of travellers known to have returned from Cuba are being furnished to the Bolivian government. Thus far, no action is known to have been taken by the Bolivian government on the strength of such information. Station comments that problem with Bolivia is not in lack of information available to government on Cuban subversion, but in getting Bolivia to do something about it.

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3) Brazil - Information on Brazilians who have received subversive training in Cuba has been made available to the Brazilian Foreign Office, through the American Ambassador, and to the National Security Council through CIA liaison with the NSC's Security Service.

An asset of the CIA station in Rio is in a position to harass and delay Cuba-bound travellers in those instances where the Station is able to tip him off regarding their destination. He can also harass returnees when informed in advance. The Station is taking steps to get appropriate information to him promptly.

4) Chile - Chilean internal security authorities, at urging of station, are trying to impede and harass travellers to and from Cuba. Government is now requiring passport applicants to state destination, and passports must be turned in after travel. The Foreign Minister has stated much progress is being made, with cooperation of the Mexican government, and that travel of Chileans to Cuba has been dramatically reduced in recent weeks. Station and Embassy are continuing pressure on Cuban government in this regard. Names of travellers to Cuba are being passed to the Ambassador, who furnishes them to President Alessandri (who has asked that this collaboration be kept secret). Information from CIA unilateral operations against Cuban Embassy is being used by a newly created Chilean surveillance team in checking out purpose of travel projected and in following up on returnees from Cuba. The station has an agent in daily contact with leaders of the extreme militant left and is exploring

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the possibilities of sending three station assets to Cuba for training and intelligence missions. A Cuban First Secretary was declared personal non grata during April for using false identity documents, and the Cuban charge d'affaires was subsequently recalled by his own government.

5) Colombia - Chief of Customs has indicated to station his willingness to institute an improved travel control system. One station asset expects to travel to Cuba in the near future. Station believes it has identified a courier operating between Colombia and Cuba and has mounted an operation to uncover his Colombian contacts.

6) Costa Rica - Station reports little pro-Castro activity during April. No recorded travel to or from Cuba has taken place. Local authorities appear inclined to cooperate in control program.

7) Dominican Republic - Efforts to get Juan Bosch to take active steps against Communists and travellers to and from Cuba have been fruitless to date, as have been efforts to establish a new and effective internal security organization in the Dominican Republic. Bosch appears to have lost his previously stated enthusiasm for such a service, but efforts to persuade him to approve a proposed budget for the service are continuing.

8) Ecuador - Station reports that, largely as a result of both overt and covert propaganda activities of U.S. agencies in Ecuador, the public awareness of Cuban subversion has changed from apathy to genuine concern. The government, however, is no more inclined to take action than before. The National Director of Immigration has stated that he personally would like to do whatever he

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can to stop travel to Cuba, which he realizes is for subversive purposes, but present laws do not permit him to impede travel via third countries. He is exploring possibilities of reprisals against citizens who return from Cuba. He has checked a list of names and passport numbers obtained by CIA from airline manifests in Mexico, and reports that not one name or passport number corresponds with official Ecuadoran records, indicating the possibility of fabrication of passports by Cuba.

A recent Ecuadoran returnee from Cuba, recruited by the station, lost his hand in testing a homemade bomb made in accordance with instructions received in Cuba. He made a public statement and wide publicity was arranged by the station and USIS. Plans are to keep this incident alive as proof of revolutionary training given in Cuba for terrorist activity in Ecuador.

The station chief has accompanied the American Ambassador on visits to the Ecuadoran Ministers of Defense and Government to stress the threat of Cuban backed subversion.

Approximately 7,000 pounds of Communist propaganda are being destroyed monthly as a result of a unilateral operation of the CIA Base in Guayaquil.

9) Haiti - Station reports that several assets have travelled to points outside Port-au-Prince in an effort to learn of possible travel to and from Cuba. Reports from areas of Cap-Haitien, Port de Paix, and La Gonave and La Tortue Islands, were negative.

10) Honduras - The government has shown little inclination to tighten up on travel control. A travel control system presented to the Minister of Government has been fully

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