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SECRETINFO.
Certain Chiefs of Stations and BasesFROM
Chief, WESUBJ: PBRUMEN/Operations
Cuban Refugee Reception and Debriefing Facilities in Spain
ACTION PLANNED IN SPAIN

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information

Refugee

1. The recent lifting of the naval quarantine on Cuban territory will be followed by a resumption of passenger traffic to and from the island, and with it a resumption to some degree of the refugee flow that existed prior to the recent crisis. Although this flow was mainly to South America, the United States and Spain during its height, additional defectors from Cuba, Africa and other Cubans seeking political refuge have turned up in various cities of Europe and North Africa. Some confusion has existed in Madrid over policy installations regarding the handling of these individuals, until recently in regard to choosing European countries that might accept them as refugees.

2. This dispatch is to inform you that facilities for the reception and debriefing of Cuban refugees exist in Madrid. The Spanish Government admits Cuban refugees into Spain simply on the basis of their refugee status and regardless of their documentation. The refugees normally process in Madrid where the following facilities are found:

a. ~~Consejo Revolucionario Cubano (CRC) Reception Center.~~ This is a Cuban refugee organization based entirely in Madrid. It has no facilities, which can provide temporary food and housing for debriefed refugees, and assist them in finding jobs in Spain.

b. QMEB Debriefing Center. Through liaison with the CRC, QMEB screens the refugees as they arrive in Spain, and determines who is determined to be knowledgeable, and thereby has produced valuable current intelligence on Cuba. QMEB is operated and funded by CIA with the knowledge of Spanish liaison, but without their participation.

c. The HRFINCH Consulate in Madrid has considerable experience in processing visas for Cuban refugees who may apply at European Consulates, and therefore is in a position to advise on and expedite visas for the Cuban refugees.

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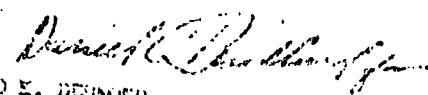
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3. When cases of disident Cubans come to your attention, it is requested that you consult with local liaison and/or embassy officials (as appropriate) on each individual case. If it is determined that they are deserving of refugee status, please recommend to your DIAFD or liaison counterparts that the refugees be encouraged to proceed to Spain, where they will find the best facilities for their reception. Should one of the refugees appear to have potential for debriefing by USIAF, it is requested that you alert Madrid Station to the refugee's identity, make up transportation to Spain, and the place and date of expected arrival, so that a debriefing can be arranged as quickly as possible. Only in exceptional cases will Headquarters approve transportation of refugees to Spain at KUMAR expense, as disident Cubans of foreign descent generally will be debriefed in the country where they first came in contact with USIAF.



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