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178-10004-10424

1 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Alleged Illegal Domestic Activities  
(CIARDS Extract -- )

1. Reference is made to an undated, blind memorandum from the Inspector General containing certain information extracted from the CIARDS applications of Office of Security personnel. The following is an extract from the CIARDS application of O/S employee:

"This activity involved establishing and maintaining liaison with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police; FBI;

Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department; Plaquimines Parish Sheriff's office and deputies, whose cooperation and assistance proved invaluable in handling black movements of trainees, movement of ammunition and high explosives, to and from the base. The Sheriff of Plaquimines Parish, at my request, made available a holding facility which consisted of an entire jail and jailer at Port Sulphur, La., for the incarceration and retention of hard-core or troublesome trainees who threatened to leave the Base. The jail was also utilized to hold a Spanish Captain of one of the cargo ships which had been loaded at the Braithwaite Dock on the Mississippi River with fuel, ammunition, high explosives and other equipment for the invasion. The Captain jumped ship

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for the purpose of returning to Havana to join his wife, who was pregnant. Through the cooperation of the I&NS, the Border Patrol, with whom liaison had previously been established, the Captain was apprehended, and with the assistance of the Plaquimines Parish deputies, the Captain was confined in the jail at Port Sulphur until after the invasion. He was then removed from jail and flown to New York City, where he was granted a thirty-day extension by I&NS to await the arrival of his wife and newborn son, before proceeding to his home in Spain. Additional liaison was established with the Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Armed Forces Police Detachment in New Orleans, all of whom provided invaluable support during the operation."

2. Subject is the subject of Office of Security file number 70 837. The file reflects that he was retired from the Agency on 8 June 1973 but contains no information relative to the foregoing. However, from March 1961 through May 1961, he was assigned to DDP/WH Division, Branch 4, Project JMATE, New Orleans, Louisiana.

3. Volume 16, Office of Security file number 219 000 (319-357) concerns Project SEAL, containing information concerning Office of Security operational support of the DDP relative to the Bay of Pigs invasion. (For facility of further access, copies of all pertinent documents from this file relative to the matter at hand have been placed in Office of Security file number 536 198, "Belle Chasse Louisiana Ammunition Depot," subcaptioned Project JMMOVE.) The file contains a copy of a memorandum prepared by subject dated 12 May 1961, captioned "JMMOVE" directed to the Chief, WH/4/Security, reporting on activities at JMMOVE from 14 February 1961 to 21 April 1961. The following are verbatim extracts from this memorandum:

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periodic patrols to the front and rear gates of JMMOVE to keep fishermen and poachers out of the base and reporting local gossip regarding speculation as to the type of activity conducted within the base.

"On 28 February 1961, the Chief Patrol Inspector; the Assistant Chief Patrol Inspector; and the Senior Patrol Inspector, U.S. Border Patrol, New Orleans, Louisiana, were briefed regarding the JMMOVE activity but not CIA sponsorship."

"Subsequently, the Border Patrol was very helpful in forcing fourteen crew members who had threatened to "jump ship," to stay aboard the "Caribe" after it had loaded at the Braithwaite Docks. Also, they assisted by taking into custody and holding Captain [redacted] of the S.S. Houston, until JMMOVE security representatives could assume custody."

"On 16 March 1961, [redacted] District Director, (Immigration & Naturalization Service), with offices in the Masonic Building, New Orleans, La., was briefed regarding the JMMOVE activity and Agency sponsorship as per Headquarters instructions. He and the Deputy District Director, subsequently provided valuable assistance to JMMOVE in apprehending and detaining the Captain of the S.S. Houston, who was subsequently placed in jail at Port Sulphur, La., until after the ill-fated invasion on the target area. In addition, the Deputy District Director provided the reporting agent with the name of the District Director of Immigration & Naturalization Service, New York City, as the person to contact prior to the release of the Captain. This matter will be discussed in more detail later in this report."

#### DETENTION CASES:

"At 1500 hours on 28 March 1961, Mr. Frank Lowe, Logistics representative, in charge of

loading ammunition on vessels at the Braithwaite Docks, telephonically advised the reporting agent that a crew member from the Lake Charles and the Capt. from the S.S. Houston had jumped ship after the vessels had loaded and anchored downstream in the Mississippi River. The individuals were identified as approximately 44 years old, a former American who had renounced his U.S. citizenship and who is now a naturalized citizen of Cuba, and one Captain of the S.S. Houston, approximately 39 years old and of Spanish origin.

" reportedly left the Lake Charles on 27 March 1961 with the river pilot, after the vessel was moved from the loading site to the anchorage point downstream. A subsequent check with the District Director, I&NS, revealed that had been granted political asylum by I&NS at New Orleans on 28 March 1961, and, according to I&NS records, he had departed New Orleans, presumably by bus, at 1000 hours on 28 March 1961, enroute to Miami, Florida. I&NS records listed forwarding address as Miami, Florida. The information regarding was furnished telephonically to Headquarters, on the night of 28 March 1961, in the event Headquarters decided an attempt should be made to apprehend on his arrival in Miami.

"According to Mr. LOWE, Capt. left the S.S. Houston on 28 March 1961, after which he reported to his employer, Hansen & Tidemann, Inc., with offices in New Orleans. He refused to return to the vessel. The captain insisted that his reason for leaving was the fact that his wife was pregnant and expecting to give birth to a child in approximately 10 days. He was afraid the birth would be by caesaeran section and he was concerned for her safety. He wanted to return to Cuba at the earliest possible date.

"The District Director was contacted telephonically by the reporting agent. He was advised that in

view of the Captain's knowledge of the cargo on board the S.S. Houston and his probable knowledge of the use for which the cargo was intended, it would create a serious security hazard if he was released, and especially, if he should return to Cuba. It was decided that there were 3 possible ways of handling the matter. First, to release him and permit him to remain in the area running the risk that he might contact his wife and/or return to Cuba. This was ruled out on security grounds. Secondly, to force him aboard the vessel and place him under the custody of the Captain replacing him. This was believed too risky since it was feared the crew would be more loyal to him than to his replacement. Furthermore, if he should regain command of the vessel, he might divert the craft to Cuba. Thirdly, to detain him until after the invasion.

"The above situation was discussed telephonically with Headquarters personnel, on the night of 28 March 1961. Subsequently, authorization was received from Hqs. to incarcerate the Subject.

"At approximately 2330 hours on 28 March 1961, a Special Agent and the reporting agent were accompanied by Deputies of the Plaquemine Parish Sheriff's Office, to the Headquarters of the U.S. Border Patrol, where the Capt. was being held in custody. He was placed in the rear seat of the deputies' automobile between the Special Agent and the reporting agent, and transported to a spot near the Naval Air Station at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, where he was handcuffed and transferred to the rear of the panel truck.

An MP assigned to the Security Office, drove the truck and Deputy Sheriff rode in the front seat while the Special Agent and the reporting agent rode with the Capt. in the rear. Deputy Sheriff Cockrell preceded the truck in his patrol car to the jail at Port Sulphur, Louisiana, a distance of approximately 40 miles. He was placed in the jail on the morning of 29 March 1961. The jailer, a Deputy Sheriff Rene, was instructed to do everything possible to make him

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comfortable and to purchase the necessary clothing he might need as well as magazines and newspapers to help him pass the time. The jailer was requested not to provide him with a local newspaper since it would reveal his location. An inquiry was made as to whether or not a radio station was located in the town of Port Sulphur. When it was learned that no such station existed, the Captain was informed that a radio would be provided for him at a later date. He was visited approximately two times each week at which time he was provided with English and Spanish newspapers and magazines.

A staff employee, acted as interpreter on three of the visits. Subject was permitted to write letters to his wife, one of which was mailed after being censored.

An inquiry was made, at the Subject's request, through his office in New York City, regarding his wife's health. When it was learned that she had given normal birth to a son, Subject was so informed.

"Subject was very cooperative during the period of detention, from 28 March 1961 to 20 April 1961, and approximately one week before he was released, he was provided with a two band, eight transistor radio. This radio was subsequently given to the jailer in appreciation for his cooperation and the services he had provided, not only for Subject, but in handling three other trainees who were subsequently placed in jail. A receipt obtained from the jailer for the radio is attached hereto as Exhibit No. 1. Food for Subject and the three trainees was purchased, as ordered, by the jailer from a local restaurant.

"Subject's personnel effects were subsequently turned over to the Hansen & Tidemann firm. Approximately a week later, the reporting agent assumed custody of the effects, consisting of a large suitcase, a leather briefcase, a small cloth handbag and a red, metal tool box. The above items were placed in the vault at the base for safekeeping.

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"Subsequently, a cursory check for weapons was being made of the above effects before taking certain items of clothing to Subject at the jail. It was discovered that the personal effects contained items of considerable value including U.S. and Cuban currency; gold coins; a valuable engagement ring containing a diamond estimated at five karats; plus other items. Also, there were several letters with currency enclosed or attached and the envelopes contained stateside and foreign addresses.

"On 13 April 1961, Sgt. \_\_\_\_\_, Special Agent Shanks and the reporting agent inventoried the articles of monetary value and/or of intelligence significance. A copy of the inventory is attached hereto as Exhibit No. 2. It should be noted that this copy of the inventory contains the signature of Subject \_\_\_\_\_, obtained in New York City at the time of his release, acknowledging the receipt of the items inventoried.

"At 2130 hours on 9 April 1961, the following AMNORM trainees were committed to the jail at Port Sulphur, Louisiana, for refusing to train with the Battalion and/or threatening to escape from the base:

- a. R-3208.
- b. R-3236
- c. R-3232

"It should be noted that R-3232 was a former agitator and deserter from Guatemala, and he had refused to train with the Battalion at JMMOVE. R-3236 was unable to train and accompany the Battalion in view of a recent emergency appendectomy. Insufficient time had elapsed to permit the incision to heal adequately for him to participate in training activities. Furthermore, he was a close personal friend of R-3232 and information was received from other trainees that they were planning to escape. R-3208 had been very lackadaisical and refused to participate in training activities. Eventually, he was transferred to the dispensary with the complaint

that he was suffering from rheumatism. Information was subsequently received from the S-2 of the Battalion that Mario had planned to escape and make his way back to Miami.

"Incarceration of the above trainees was based on the short time element existing prior to "D" Day; their threats to escape from the base, and finally, at the personal request of Battalion Commander, and his staff, who feared the Subjects could cost them their lives and/or jeopardize the entire mission if they should escape.

"The above individuals were transported to the jail in the rear of the panel truck by and the reporting agent. The truck was escorted by Deputies.

They were placed on the opposite side of the jail from Subject and they were unable to see outside the jail or to communicate with Subject. These men remained in the jail until 20 April 1961.

"Approximately 2 days after being committed to jail, R-3208 developed a rather serious case of asthma, which required that he be checked by a Doctor three days in succession. Immediately after the Battalion had been dispatched from JMMOVE on their assignment, R-3208 was removed from the jail and returned to the dispensary at JMMOVE. This left Subject and 2 trainees in jail.

"On 18 January (sic) 1961 the reporting agent returned to Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

"On 20 April 1961 the reporting agent returned to New Orleans at the instructions of Headquarters, to effect the release of the two trainees and Subject who were still in jail. In addition, three trainees, who were in a motel on the outskirts of New Orleans, were to be released.

"Immediately upon arrival, arrangements were made to release the three trainees at the motel. AMHAZE trainee, #2736, was given one hundred dollars and provided with a ticket to his home in New York City. He was not escorted. Trainees R-3208 and another AMNORM trainee, who was unable to accompany the Battalion and whose name is unknown, were escorted to Miami, Florida, by Corporal Joseph DETATA, an MP assigned to the Security Office.

"During the afternoon of 20 April 1961, R-3236 and R-3232 were removed from the jail at Port Sulphur by the reporting agent. Blacked out glasses were placed on each man prior to leaving the jail and they wore the glasses until the vehicle arrived at the outskirts of New Orleans. Neither man could observe his surroundings until the glasses were removed. They were taken in a rental sedan to Moisant Airport, where they were given one hundred dollars each and provided with airline tickets to Miami, Florida. They were escorted by MP's assigned to the Security Office.

"At approximately 2200 hours on 20 April 1961, Subject was removed from the jail by the reporting agent, in the same manner as described above, and taken to New York City on the morning of 21 April 1961. The group stayed at the Commodore Hotel until an appointment could be arranged with District Director of I&NS, New York City. Subject was taken to the I&NS office at 1500 hours, 21 April 1961, at which time, the case was discussed with I&NS. is- sued a voluntary departure form on behalf of Subject, which would permit him to remain in New York City until 1 June 1961. This was to provide sufficient time for him to arrange for the departure of his wife and infant son from Havana, Cuba. Subject was instructed to report on Monday of each week to I&NS personally, and to advise him of any change in his address. He was also told that should he desire an extension beyond 1 June 1961, he was to contact I&NS, personally, and no one else.

"At approximately 1700 hours on 21 April 1961, Subject was taken to 17 Battery Place, New York City, where he was met by his employer, Mr. Alfredo GARCIA of the firm, Naviera Del Golfo Company. Here, UCHUPI's personal effects were given to him and he was given one hundred dollars.

" The reporting agent returned to Washington, D.C., on 22 April 1961."

4. The file contains a memorandum to the Chief, WH/4/ Security, captioned "JMMOVE" dated 8 June 1961 prepared by a retired Office of Security employee, reporting on his 30-day TDY to New Orleans, Louisiana, to relieve an O/S Officer commencing on 12 April 1961. was scheduled to depart on 18 April 1961. In this memorandum commented as follows:

"In addition to the three Cubans in the motel at New Orleans, four others were being held in custody by Deputy Sheriff at Port Sulphur, Louisiana. These four were in custody for reasons of security and were being held until it was determined that potential security repercussions connected with their release no longer existed. Arrangements for their maintenance had previously been made by O/S officer and Deputy Sheriff. The public had no knowledge of their presence at Port Sulphur. Arrangements for their release from the area were made on 20 April 1961, the same date on which the three from the motel in New Orleans departed the area. Details concerning the movement of these seven Cubans are included in a report prepared by the O/S officer."

5. A memorandum to the file dated 21 April 1961 prepared by Harry J. Murphy, Chief, Alien Affairs Staff (Office of Security), subject: Captain states as follows:

"O/S officer called on 21 April and said that subject was a ship captain who was detained in New Orleans at the request of the District Field Office, and at the present time, subject and O/S officer are in Room 2254

of the Commodore Hotel in New York City. O/S official is using a pseudonym. O/S officer said that subject would be turned over to I&NS and whatever disposition they might want.

Headquarters representative was called for further details. He said that subject had been a bona fide captain of a ship owned by the GARCIA brothers. The ship arrived in New Orleans and was going out with a sensitive cargo. Subject refused to go, and at that time O/S Officer made the necessary arrangements. According to the Headquarters representative Subject is not an "SP" and he "has been placated." The Headquarters representative said subject is contacting his ship's company in New York City, and that subject should be made available to I&NS at the earliest opportunity. This information was called to I&NS, who advised that someone should get a message to the O/S officer to sit tight in the hotel room. Subsequently, I&NS advised that he had been in contact with District Director and he requested that O/S official bring the subject to the I&N Office, 20 West Broadway, New York City, and he would handle it from there. I&NS said that I&NS would encourage him to seek a berth on a ship.

"Headquarters rep. was advised and told to get a message to O/S official to bring subject to 20 West Broadway immediately."

6. A memorandum for the file dated 24 April 1961 prepared by Harry J. Murphy, Chief, Alien Affairs Staff, subject: Captain, states as follows:

"On 21 April 1961, in the following conversation with Headquarters representative, I&NS reported that subject and O/S official had arrived at the New York District Office of I&NS and the following agreement was made:

"That subject be given one month's time to arrange his own and his relatives' departure to his native land

(Spain), and that he be permitted to be at large until 1 June 1961. This matter was being handled by the Deputy District Director in New York."

" I&NS queried as to whether this would be agreeable with our Agency.

"Headquarters was called and he said the above arrangement was agreeable to the Agency.

" I&NS was so informed."

7. A memorandum from Harry J. Murphy, Chief, Alien Affairs Staff dated 12 May 1961 to the Chief of Security, WH/4 Division through the Director of Security, subject: Captain , state as follows:

"On 12 May 1961 Immigration and Naturalization Service, advised this Office that the Subject is departing from the United States at New York City for Spain on 15 May 1961, aboard TWA Flight 900.

"FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY:"

8. Office of Security file number 536 198 captioned "Belle Chasse Louisiana Ammunition Depot," subcaptioned "Project JMMOVE," was established in late 1967/early 1968 in response to requirements from DDP/CI/R&A for information concerning Agency activities in and about New Orleans, Louisiana, relative to Cuban training for the Bay of Pigs. The DDP/CI/R&A inquiry was prompted by inquiries into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy conducted by the New Orleans District Attorney "Jim" Garrison. Material drawn together at the time of the Garrison inquiry included a 7 June 1961 memorandum for the Chief, WH/4, sent \_\_\_\_\_ captioned "Report on JMMOVE" prepared by \_\_\_\_\_, Chief of Base, JMMOVE, covering the activities of JMMOVE in support of JMATE. Included in this report by Chi of Base are the following pertinent comments:

"JMMOVE was the cryptonym designating the Agency training base established at the U.S.

Naval Ammunition Depot at Belle Chase (sic), Louisiana, during the period 12 February 1961 through 12 April 1961. This Base located eight miles from the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, had been inactive for five years...."

"The initial mission assigned to the Base was to hold, condition and conduct limited training for thirty men organized into small infiltration teams, and to prepare these teams for operational employment. On activation of the Base, the mission was immediately expanded to include the reception and training of 149 men for organization into small guerrilla warfare teams; reorganization and training of the 149 men.....training of raider teams.....development of necessary support facilities...."

Under Objectives, Chief of Base included:  
".....Maintain maximum external security in such a fashion as to deny knowledge of the activities of the Base to the local populace. In addition, holding, training and movements of trainees had to be accomplished in such a fashion as to deny to trainees identification of the Base, i.e., the Belle Chase Naval Ammunition Depot...."

"Develop effective liaison arrangements..... This included liaison with.....U.S. Border Patrol, New Orleans,.....if we so desired, to arrange that the Border Patrol pick up and retain trainees in our behalf;.....Immigration and Naturalization Office, New Orleans.....to establish procedures whereby this office would assist us if we had any disposal or detention cases."

Under base and operational security, Strickler listed: "...the following steps were taken to maintain maximum cover and security:.....the removal of agitators, defectors, or suspected Castro agents to safehouses and/or the sheriff's jail."

Under security incidents, Chief of Base listed:  
".....On 28 March 1961, the Captain of the S.S. Houston left the vessel after it had been loaded and refused to reboard the vessel. The Captain had been briefed quite thoroughly, so it is understood, regarding the mission of the vessel. It was felt that the success of the mission would be seriously jeopardized if he were permitted to go free and return to his wife in Cuba, as he desired. Through the cooperation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Border Patrol, he was taken into custody and detained until Security representatives could place him in a nearby jail for the duration. The jail facility was provided by a local sheriff with whom the Security Officer had established liaison. No records are maintained of the incarceration and the sheriff and his deputies have promised to deny that anyone was incarcerated should there be any future inquiries by reporters. The Captain was removed from the jail on 20 April 1961 taken to New York City, where arrangements were made with the District Director, I&NS, to allow him to remain in the area until 1 June 1961, when he expected to obtain the release of his wife and infant son from Cuba. This entire incident was handled without incident or animosity on the part of the Captain."

Under Security liaison, Chief of Base listed:  
"....., Chief Patrol Inspector;  
....., Assistant Chief Patrol Inspector and  
....., Senior Patrol Inspector,  
U.S. Border Patrol, New Orleans, Louisiana,  
assisted the Project..... In addition, the  
Border Patrol, on instruction from  
....., District Director, Immigration and  
Naturalization Service, took into custody and  
held the Captain of the S.S.  
Houston, until security representatives of the  
Base could take custody and incarcerate him  
for security reasons.



" District  
Assistant District  
Director, and New Orleans, Louisiana, assisted  
Director, I & NS, the Base security representatives in the initial  
custody at New Orleans as well as the transfer  
of Captain to New York City on 20 April 1961.

" District Director, I & NS,  
New York City, issued a Voluntary Departure letter  
to Subject permitting him to remain in New York  
City until 1 June 1961, to assist in effecting  
the departure from Havana, Cuba, his wife and  
infant son. The above is an "off the record"  
transaction and is being handled personally by  
I&NS. Subject is to report Monday of each week  
to Marks and if an extension beyond 1 June 1961  
is desired, he is to consult District Director, I&NS.

"SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PLAQUEMINES PARISH:  
Sheriff  
Supervisor, , Jailer, Port Sulphur,  
Louisiana;

, Deputy Sheriffs', were most cooperative  
and helpful in assisting the Base.....They  
personally assisted in the taking into custody  
of Captain from the U.S. Border  
Patrol and transporting him to jail at Port  
Sulphur, Louisiana. In addition, they accom-  
panied and provided transportation when three  
other trainees were incarcerated at the same  
facility on 9 April 1961.

"It should be noted that the above arrange-  
ments were handled in such a manner that no  
records of the prisoners or their incarceration  
are on file; the prisoners were completely iso-  
lated, they could see outside or communicate  
with anyone inside. The trainees were isolated  
from Uchupi and could not communicate with him.

"Upon removal of the prisoners from the  
jail on 20 April 1961, Deputy was  
requested, and to so inform the other deputies,  
to categorically deny that the above individuals

were incarcerated at Port Sulphur in the event of future inquiries by reporters or otherwise.

Jailer agreed to comply and voluntarily offered his services and those of the Sheriff's office at any future date. The Sheriff had initially concurred in the above arrangement."

9. No additional pertinent information could be located in Office of Security files concerning this matter. No Security file could be located in variations of the names.

One is the subject of Office of Security file number 223 127 and is possibly identical with one of the incarcerated Cubans; however, the file contains no information concerning this matter. may be identical with Office of Security file number 225 868; however, this file contains no information concerning this matter.

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