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RE: MILITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS - CUBA

of the Merchant Marine.

"Bohemia" stated ten 13,000 ton ships are under construction for Cuba and two special refrigerator ships are being built with a capacity of 60,000 cubic feet. Two 725 ton ferries with capacity of 500 passengers each are allegedly under construction to handle the maritime traffic between Cuba and the Isle of Pines.

Difficulties Between Cuba and the Isle of Pines

MM T-2, a source with many years' experience as both a private and police investigator, who maintains contact with some sources still in Cuba, advised on April 26, 1965, that maritime communication between the ports of Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines, and Batabano, southern port in the Province of Havana, is being handled at the present time by five ships but with considerable irregularity. Three of these ships, "Isla del Tesoro", "Pinero", and the "William J. Mills", are ferries and carry passengers and vehicles. Two ships, "Bongos Uno" and "Bongos Dos", transport cargo only. 2,4

All of these vessels are in very poor condition and are continually having to be towed to port from the middle of their crossing because of serious break-downs in their machinery. Repairs needed are urgent but it is impossible to effect them immediately because of the lack of replacement parts. The one most frequently experiencing break-downs is the largest, "Isla del Tesoro", which is used by the government to transport troops between Nueva Gerona and Batabano. This ferry can carry 900 to 1000 passengers and up to 30 vehicles depending on their size. There are also two planes assigned to handle cargo and passengers between the airports of Nueva Gerona and/or Siguatepeque. The airport of Siguatepeque is approximately

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