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1 - Donahoe
1 - Nasca

9
30

The Attorney General

October 26, 1959

Director, FBI

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-8-94 BY SP8 MAC/EA
(JFK)

Reference is made to my communication captioned "Anti-Fidel Castro Activities" dated October 23, 1959, with enclosure, addressed to Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley. This communication reported the results of our interview with Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, former Chief of the Cuban Air Force, on October 22, 1959, at which time Diaz Lanz admitted piloting the plane which dropped leaflets over Havana, Cuba, on October 21, 1959. Copies of this communication together with its enclosure are enclosed for your information and for the information of Deputy Attorney General Lawrence E. Walsh.

I thought you would be interested in subsequent developments. There are enclosed an original and one copy of a memorandum summarizing these developments. Single copies of this memorandum are enclosed for Deputy Attorney General Walsh and for Assistant Attorney General Yeagley.

Enclosures (4)

109-584

1 - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh - Enclosures
Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosure
J. Walter Yeagley

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Donahoe
DATE 11/17/70 LMB

COPIES

2-1566

~~1-105-72630~~ (Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz)

NOTE: Classified "Confidential" because enclosures so classified. Enclosures classified "Confidential" because it contain information from an informant who is furnishing valuable information on a continuing basis, concerning matters affecting internal security.

VHN:RDC:sen:hrt:ces

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ON 11-8-77 EFC/mb

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NOV 4 1959

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-72630-1011

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Donahoe
- 1 - Mr. Nasca

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP-5 TEK/RH/CAJ 5/17/99
 REASON FOR EXTENSION 2
 FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION 10/26/99 October 26, 1959

109-584

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

On October 23, 1959, we furnished a summary of the data contained in the referenced communication to our representative in Havana, Cuba. Our representative furnished our Ambassador with this information on the same day. The Ambassador was very grateful for the information furnished.

On October 23, 1959, our representative in Havana advised the United States Air Attache reported that the aircraft dropping leaflets on October 21, 1959, were identified by a sergeant of his office as a B-25 and C-47. No B-25 is known to be in Cuba and only one is known to be in Florida. This is the property of Frank Anthony Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini. His plane was last based at North Perry Airport, Miami. The C-47 reportedly had yellow stripes painted on its tail. No aircraft so marked was known to be based in Cuba. The planes flew over the Hilton Hotel, headquarters of the American Society of Travel Agents Convention, dropping leaflets. Their purpose allegedly was to show that the present Cuban Government is incompetent to maintain law and order. No bombs were dropped. There was no strafing from the air, but some Cuban planes were damaged by misdirected Cuban Army and police ground fire.

An informant with whom insufficient contact has been had to determine his reliability, on October 23, 1959, learned that the Cuban Air Force had instructions to have two fighters ready to intercept any returning invaders.

With reference to the B-25 mentioned above, our Miami Office advised on October 23, 1959, that the B-25 flown by Diaz Lanz, according to Diaz Lanz, was owned by

V.H. Nasca:bwd (9)
 1 - 105-72630 (Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 MAM/STP
 ON 10-18-97

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 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

NOTE: Classified "Confidential" since it contains information from an informant who is furnishing information of value on a continuing basis, concerning National Defence. CC to AG, Deputy AG, IS-Div.

CLASSIFIED BY 2040
 EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
 11-8-77
 EFL/lmb

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DECLASSIFICATION DATE 10/26/99

105-72630-2-1566

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

On October 24, 1959, the informant mentioned on page two of the enclosure to the referenced communication and who has furnished reliable information in the past reported that a leaflet in the Spanish language was being distributed in the Cuban colony in Miami. The recipients of the leaflet were invited to attend a meeting at 8 p.m., October 25, 1959, at the Circulo Cubano (Cuban Circle), Miami, Florida, a social club, to protest and condemn the activities which occurred over Havana on October 21, 1959. It was indicated in the leaflets that the meeting was being sponsored by the July 26 Movement (Castro's movement), Miami. The informant learned that individuals representing various anti-Castro groups in Miami were planning to attend the meeting, some of whom indicated they would carry guns, thus giving rise to the bloodshed between the pro- and anti-Castro factions. The Miami Police Department and the Dade County Department of Public Safety have been notified and these agencies plan to take whatever steps are necessary to insure that no violence will be carried out.

The informant mentioned in the foregoing paragraph learned that, because of the furor raised in Cuba during the past few days, the air sabotage which had been scheduled to continue through October 30, 1959, had temporarily ceased. This data, together with the data in the preceding paragraph, was orally furnished to Mr. Kenney by Mr. O'Connor on October 24, 1959.

On October 24, 1959, Mr. Kenney asked concerning the availability and willingness of this informant to testify concerning the data set forth on page two of the enclosure. On October 25, 1959, the informant advised he was unwilling to testify because of fear of possible reprisals against members of his family in Cuba. This data was orally furnished Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley by Mr. V. H. Nasca of this Bureau on October 25, 1959.

On October 24, 1959, Mr. Kenney also asked concerning the availability and willingness of the informant mentioned on page one of the enclosure to the referenced communication to testify. On October 25, 1959, our Miami Office advised that upon recontact Charles William Hormel, the informant in this matter, stated he was willing to testify. Our Miami Office

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

noted that Hormel stated he arrived at Remmert Warner Airport, Pompano, Florida, about 11:20 p.m., October 21, 1959, went to the airport where he passed the time of day with the night watchman. While talking they heard a news broadcast of air raid and leaflet dropping over Havana. The night watchman commented that a B-25 might have been involved in this venture, that it had left the airport about 5 p.m., and returned about 9 p.m. that day. Hormel asked who had piloted the plane and the night watchman told him Diaz Lanz did. Hormel then went out to the plane, took down the serial number and furnished the data to our Miami Office. It is noted that Hormel is presently under indictment in an Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division matter, charged with transporting arms by car. Information concerning Hormel has previously been furnished the Internal Security Division. We are endeavoring to identify the night watchman and determine his willingness and availability to testify. This information was orally furnished to Mr. Yeagley on October 25, 1959, by Mr. Nasca. (u)

On October 24, 1959, the Deputy Director of Security, Department of State, advised he had received a telegram from our Embassy in Havana stating that the United States Naval Attache had passed along information to the effect that Diaz Lanz might make other raids in Havana on October 24 and October 26, 1959. The Embassy made a strong request that appropriate authorities be advised so that Diaz Lanz would be prohibited from doing this. This information was orally furnished to Mr. Kenney by Assistant Director A. H. Belmont on October 24, 1959. Mr. Belmont advised Mr. Kenney that this Bureau did not know the accuracy of the information and there was no action this Bureau could take to stop Diaz Lanz from further flights unless such flights are determined to be a violation of the laws under our jurisdiction. Mr. Kenney was also advised that we would alert United States Customs in Miami and the Federal Aviation Agency in Miami. This was done on October 24, 1959. It is noted that the press on October 24, 1959, reported that there had been another leaflet-dropping raid over Havana. Information similar to that provided by the Deputy Director of Security had previously been received by our Miami Office as indicated in the next paragraph. (u)

On October 23, 1959, Deputy Al Tarabochia, Public Safety Department, Dade County, Miami, advised our Miami Office that Jose Ramos, Vice Consul, acting in charge, Cuban Consulate, Miami, claimed to have received information from a source whose (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

According to the informant, he conferred with Almejeiras and Coda on October 23, 1959. Almejeiras proposed that source approach Rolando Masferrer, prominent anti-Castro leader in Miami, or some other leading anti-Castro leader in the United States and volunteer to undertake a bombing attack against Havana from the United States. (X)(u)

According to the plan outlined by Almejeiras, the informant would procure bombs with United States Government markings and would deliver them to Almejeiras after landing at a prearranged landing strip outside Havana. It was indicated that Cuban authorities would then issue a press release claiming that a Miami-based plane had dropped bombs on Cuba, offering as proof one or more of the bombs with United States markings which supposedly had failed to explode as well as fragments from other bombs which the Cubans would explode. Almejeiras told informant this hoax would enable the Castro regime to propagandize against the United States State Department in order to force United States action against anti-Castro elements in this country. Almejeiras said he wanted this ruse to take place on October 26, 1959, and described the operation as "highly important" to the Cuban Government. The informant will endeavor to develop additional information concerning this proposed plot. (X)(u)

The informant also learned that Almejeiras reportedly stated that several hand grenades were dropped from the plane that dropped leaflets over Havana on October 21, 1959. Reportedly Almejeiras stated that another plane flew over Havana on October 21, 1959, but that the Cuban Government did not have any descriptive data concerning this plane. (X)(u)

It is requested that no further dissemination be made of the information furnished by this informant because to do so might place his life in jeopardy. (X)(u)