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~~SECRET~~

Memorandum Wannall to Sullivan
 Re: CAPTURE OF EIGHT COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES
 BY CUBAN ARMED FORCES, FEBRUARY 21, 1963
 105-118615

Informant learned foregoing information was furnished Charles R. Ashmann, Miami attorney who represented Hargraves and others when they were arrested by Customs in Florida in 12/62 for attempting to illegally export arms. Arrested with Hargraves at that time was Gerald Patrick Hemming, American soldier of fortune who is close to Ashmann. (S) (S)

On 2/28/63 Ashmann called press conference and charged that Cubans violated British sovereignty by going ashore at Elbow Key and capturing the counterrevolutionaries there. Ashmann falsely indicated that the counterrevolutionaries were innocent fish men who were in no way responsible for the capture of the two Cuban fishing vessels. (S) (S)

On 3/1/63 Ashmann and Hemming left Miami for Washington, D. C., to confer with the British Ambassador. (It is noted that United Press on 3/1/63 reported that Ashmann had conferred with British Embassy official seeking intervention on behalf of two Americans and ten Cubans he said were kidnapped from Bahamas by Castro Commandos. Ashmann indicated that four of the men including one American reportedly have already been executed.)

Our information has been furnished State, CIA, military intelligence agencies, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs and Coast Guard.

[We have considered furnishing our information to British; however, since Cubans have lodged diplomatic protest with British putting this on level of diplomatic relations involving Britain, Cuba and possibly U. S., we feel we should not disseminate our information to British.] (S) We have given our material to State Department and State is in a position to consider furnishing the data [to British.] (S) if State asks our permission to make this dissemination, we will give appropriate consideration to its request at that time. (S)

ACTION:

If you approve, attached letter will be sent to the Internal Security Division of the Department inquiring as to whether investigation of neutrality aspects is desired. This is in line with our established procedure in handling incidents of this type.

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