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DATE: 11-14-2017

SAC, Miami (2-192)

Confidential

12/11/68

1 - Mr. Nasca

Director, FBI (105-172694) - 53

INTERNATIONAL ANTICOMMUNIST BRIGADE (IACB)
NM - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

By communication dated 11/26/68 classified
"Confidential" MI-5 (describe as a confidential source
abroad) furnished a copy of a report made by the British
Honduras police on the arrest and deportation of Frank
Fiorini and others from British Honduras. (C)

Attached for Miami and Mexico City is one copy
each of the aforementioned report which is undated but
which is captioned "Report on the Circumstances Surrounding
the Arrest and Deportation from British Honduras of Thirteen
United States Nationals." (C)

Miami should incorporate pertinent material con-
tained in the attached report in its next report in this
matter.

Enclosure

2-15-95
Classified by SP8 May/ude
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

- 1 - Mexico City (Enclosure)
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit - detached (20)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP
CLASSIFIED
12/11/98

VHN:sed (6) sed

NOTE:

Captioned anti-Castro group is headed by Frank
Fiorini, well-known adventurer and soldier of fortune.
Recently Fiorini and 12 of his associates were arrested
in British Honduras while en route to Cuba. They were
subsequently deported and interviewed upon their return to
the U.S.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED 23
DEC 10 1968
COMM-FBI

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EXTENDED BY SP3 TEK/PH(CA) 2/12/99
REASON FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION 12/11/98

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

CONFIDENTIAL

REC-20

Our Ref: PF. 711

26th November, 1968

"X" (Mr. Nasca)

W. J. Nasca

Frank FIORINI and Others

I enclose a copy of a report by the British Honduras Police on the arrest and deportation of Frank FIORINI and others from British Honduras, in case it will add to your information on the matter.

J

MI-5
NOV 27 1968

enc; 1 (in duplicate)

RECORDED COPY FILED IN [100-169] (5)

*Letter to NAM (enc)
YHR:sd 1-MEX
12-11-68*

J
3 ENCLOSURE

REC-20

105-172694-53

25 DEC 11 1968

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2-15-95
FBI INFO
Classified by *SP8 mac/rude*
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

DATE: 11-14-2017

18/58 (13)

REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE

ARREST AND DEPORTATION FROM BRITISH HONDURAS OF ONE, FOR NINE, AND THIRTEEN UNITED STATES NATIONALS

Confidential

About 1330 hours on Wednesday, 23rd October 1968 a 34 foot cabin cruiser, the 'AMIGO' registered at Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico arrived in Belize City harbour with a crew of two Mexican nationals, Alonso CAMPOS Escalante and Roman MacGAMA Estrella, and carrying five United States nationals as passengers. The object of the visit was stated to be refuel and re-provision. As a result of information given by CAMPOS to the Customs authorities, the matter was referred to Police, and Special Branch officers interrogated the two Mexicans. From the information received, the five United States nationals were arrested and charged under the British Honduras Immigration Ordinance. The boat was searched and, besides a number of suitcases containing personal clothing, medical supplies, anti-Castro literature, maps, documents and United States Armed Forces training manuals, a pistol loaded with 6 rounds was found hidden in the cabin.

2. The five U.S. nationals gave names and addresses to Police, but several of the names given were later found to be false. The Mexican and United States Consulate authorities were notified of the circumstances known at that time.

3. The two Mexican nationals were questioned separately, and both told the same story.

4. The 'AMIGO', owned by Alfonso Martin VASQUEZ of Progreso, Yucatan, was hired by the five United States citizens, with CAMPOS and MACGAMA as crew, for a five-day fishing and sightseeing trip from Progreso to Isla Mujeres, Yucatan, at a cost of 3,000 pesos. Having obtained port clearance, the party left Progreso on the 'AMIGO' at about 2200 hrs. on Friday, 18th October. About 2330 hrs. three of the Americans threatened the Mexican crew with pistols, and forced them to take the boat inshore opposite the abandoned hotel 'Tropical Riviera'. Eight further men, with a considerable quantity of equipment were then ferried on board by the boat's dinghy. This operation was completed about 0300 hrs. on Saturday, 19th October. The 'AMIGO' was then sailed eastwards along the northern coast of Yucatan, both the Mexican crewmen having been tied up, but released one at a time to steer the boat. They passed Isla Mujeres about 0400 hrs. on 20th October and turned south. About this time, according to CAMPOS, he learned that their destination was Belize.

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REASON FOR FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 17/21/98

5. When the boat arrived off Xcalak, Quintana Roo, CAMPOS was told to head for Turneffe. The lighthouse at the northern end of Turneffe was sighted at about 1830 hrs. on Monday, 21st October. CAMPOS was told to steer to the east of Turneffe, where they would meet another boat which the Americans would board, leaving the 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crew to return to Progreso.

6. About 2100 hrs. on 21st October the 'AMIGO' went aground on a reef, remaining fast until 0600 hrs. on 22nd October, when the crew and the Americans got it free. They remained at anchor for about 24 hours in the same area, but saw nothing of another boat. On the morning of 23rd October CAMPOS pointed out that he only had fuel for about 5 hours sailing, and was then told to make for Belize. The eight men, who were not included on the Progreso Port clearance certificate, were landed at Shag Caye Rogue, about 12 miles south east of Belize City, with the major part of the equipment, by means of the dinghy, which they kept with them. The 'AMIGO' then came into Belize City harbour.

7. The following morning a Police/Military party, guided by CAMPOS, went to Shag Caye Rogue and collected the eight men and their equipment without resistance. All were brought into Belize City, and all were charged under the Immigration Ordinance, the Mexican and United States Consulate authorities again being advised of the situation. On the 24th October the five U.S. nationals taken from the 'AMIGO' appeared before the Belize City Magistrate on a charge of being prohibited immigrants. They were remanded in custody until 31st October 1968. On 25th October the eight men, all of whom claimed U.S. nationality, were similarly charged and remanded until 31st October.

8. When the thirteen men appeared on 31st October, a deportation order to the United States was made in respect of each. Arrangements were made by the

United States Consul for them to leave on scheduled airline flights in four

Confidential

(2)

groups on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd November, for Miami. Each group was escorted from Belize Central Prison, and their departure was witnessed by Police. All the property recovered was confiscated by Court Order.

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9. The correct names of the thirteen men were ascertained by Police, and subsequently admitted by the accused in court, to be as follows:-

1st Group

- Frank ~~FIORINI~~
- Jerry ~~BUCHANAN~~
- Maximilian ~~GONZALES~~
- Laurence ~~STOY~~
- Robert ~~CURTIS~~

2nd Group

- Charles Orr ~~CONNELL~~
- Ray ~~MANNING~~
- Richard Gale ~~BROWN~~
- Frank ~~STUBBERT~~
- James ~~WELLS~~
- Mickey Rowland ~~BAPP~~
- Charles William ~~JONES~~
- James Edward ~~MULTSHOUSE~~

7/a
Mexico
British Honduras

All claim to be members of an anti-Castro organisation, based in Florida, U.S.A., known as 'The Secret Army Organisation' (Ejercito Secreto de la Brigada Internacional Anti-Comunista Estados Unidos). The leader was FIORINI, who is well known to the U.S. authorities for his anti-Castro activities during the past few years.

10. The 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crewmen were not arrested or detained, and left for Progresso on 2nd November.

11. The arms recovered consisted of 10 rifles (4 x .22 calibre, 5 x .30 calibre (1 with telescopic sight) and 1 x .303 calibre), 3 machine carbines (all .30 calibre), 3 automatic pistols (2 x .45 calibre).

12. The ammunition, the majority of which was not designed for the weapons recovered, consisted of 1435 rounds x 7.62 m/m, 148 rounds x .303, 196 rounds x .38 special, 13 rounds x .38 auto, 129 rounds x .45, 269 rounds x .22 and 8 rounds x .30/30.

13. In addition, there was also recovered an assortment of knives, 2 bayonets, two 'walkie talkie', radic sets, a pair of handcuffs, a small quantity of spare parts and tools for firearms and weapon cleaning equipment.

14. Although the thirteen arrested men would give very little information other than personal details (many of which were subsequently changed when found to be false), there appears no doubt that the object of this group was to land on the south coast of Cuba, possibly in conjunction with others with whom a rendezvous had been planned east of Turneffe. An air search of the sea area surrounding Turneffe was carried out on 24th October, but no suspicious vessel was sighted. Due to the failure of the rendezvous, the boat was forced to come into Belize City for fuel, the Americans relying on the port clearance from Progresso to get them past the Customs and Police/Immigration authorities. There is no evidence whatsoever that the objective of this group was anywhere on the Central American mainland.

15. At the request of the Mexican Federal Security authorities, a list of the serial numbers and types of firearms, together with copies of the photographs and fingerprints of the 13 arrested men, have been supplied to Sr. Felix BUSANO, of the Mexican Security Service. A similar request by Lic. Jorge E. ORTEGA Rosado of the Merida District Court, has not been acceded to, since this request was not sponsored by the Consul for the Republic of Mexico in Belize City.

(R.W. Watson)
Commissioner of Police.

4

Confidential

105-172684-53

DATE: 11-14-2017

REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
ARREST AND DEPORTATION FROM BRITISH HONDURAS OF
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES NATIONALS

Confidential

About 1330 hours on Wednesday, 23rd October 1968 a 34 feet cabin cruiser, the 'AMIGO' registered at Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico arrived in Belize City harbour with a crew of two Mexican nationals, Alonso CAMPOS Escalante and Roman MAGANA Estrella, and carrying five United States nationals as passengers. The object of the visit was stated to be refuel and re-provision. As a result of information given by CAMPOS to the Customs authorities, the matter was referred to Police, and Special Branch officers interrogated the two Mexicans. From the information received, the five United States nationals were arrested and charged under the British Honduras Immigration Ordinance. The boat was searched and, besides a number of suitcases containing personal clothing, medical supplies, anti-Castro literature, maps, documents and United States Armed Forces training manuals, a pistol loaded with 6 rounds was found hidden in the cabin.

2. The five U.S. nationals gave names and addresses to Police, but several of the names given were later found to be false. The Mexican and United States Consulate authorities were notified of the circumstances known at that time.

3. The two Mexican nationals were questioned separately, and both told the same story.

4. The 'AMIGO', owned by ~~Alfonso Martin~~ ^{MEXICO} VASQUEZ of Progreso, Yucatan, was hired by the five United States citizens, with CAMPOS and MAGANA as crew, for a five-day fishing and sightseeing trip from Progreso to Isles Mujeres, Yucatan, at a cost of 3,000 pesos. Having obtained port clearance, the party left Progreso on the 'AMIGO' at about 2200 hrs. on Friday, 18th October. About 2330 hrs. three of the Americans threatened the Mexican crew with pistols, and forced them to take the boat inshore opposite the abandoned hotel 'Tropical Riviera'. Eight further men, with a considerable quantity of equipment were then ferried on board by the boat's dinghy. This operation was completed about 0300 hrs. on Saturday, 19th October. The 'AMIGO' was then sailed eastwards along the northern coast of Yucatan, both the Mexican crewmen having been tied up, but released one at a time to steer the boat. They passed Isles Mujeres about 0400 hrs. on 20th October and turned south. About this time, according to CAMPOS, he learned that their destination was Belize.

5. When the boat arrived off Xcalak, Quintana Roo, CAMPOS was told to head for Turneffe. The lighthouse at the northern end of Turneffe was sighted at about 1830 hrs. on Monday, 21st October. CAMPOS was told to steer to the east of Turneffe, where they would meet another boat which the Americans would board, leaving the 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crew to return to Progreso.

v
ENCLOSURE

Confidential

105-172694-53

DATE: 11-14-2017

6. About 2100 hrs. on 21st October the 'AMIGO' went aground on a reef, remaining fast until 0600 hrs. on 22nd October, when the crew and the Americans got it free. They remained at anchor for about 24 hours in the same area, but saw nothing of another boat. On the morning of 23rd October CAMPOS pointed out that he only had fuel for about 5 hours sailing, and was then told to make for Belize. The eight men, who were not included on the Progresso Port clearance certificate, were landed at Shag Caye Bogue, about 12 miles south east of Belize City, with the major part of the equipment, by means of the dinghy, which they kept with them. The 'AMIGO' then came into Belize City harbour. Confidential

7. The following morning a Police/Military party, guided by CAMPOS, went to Shag Caye Bogue and collected the eight men and their equipment without resistance. All were brought into Belize City, and all were charged under the Immigration Ordinance, the Mexican and United States Consulate authorities again being advised of the situation. On the 24th October the five U.S. nationals taken from the 'AMIGO' appeared before the Belize City Magistrate on a charge of being prohibited immigrants. They were reminded in custody until 31st October 1968. On 25th October the eight men, all of whom claimed U.S. nationality, were similarly charged and remained until 31st October.

8. When the thirteen men appeared on 31st October, a deportation order to the United States was made in respect of each. Arrangements were made by the United States Consul for them to leave on scheduled airline flights in four

Confidential

3

105-172694-53

DATE: 11-14-2017

18/58 (13)

REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE

ARREST AND DEPORTATION FROM BRITISH HONDURAS OF TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS AND FIVE UNITED STATES NATIONALS

Confidential

About 1330 hours on Wednesday, 23rd October 1968 a 34 foot cabin cruiser, the 'AMIGO' registered at Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico arrived in Belize City harbour with a crew of two Mexican nationals, Alonso CAMPOS Escalante and Roman MACALLA Estrella, and carrying five United States nationals as passengers. The object of the visit was stated to be refuel and re-provision. As a result of information given by CAMPOS to the Customs authorities, the matter was referred to Police, and Special Branch officers interrogated the two Mexicans. From the information received, the five United States nationals were arrested and charged under the British Honduras Immigration Ordinance. The boat was searched and, besides a number of suitcases containing personal clothing, medical supplies, anti-Castro literature, maps, documents and United States Armed Forces training manuals, a pistol loaded with 6 rounds was found hidden in the cabin.

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3. The two Mexican nationals were questioned separately, and both told the same story.

4. The 'AMIGO', owned by Alfonso Martin VASQUEZ of Progreso, Yucatan, was hired by the five United States citizens, with CAMPOS AND MACALLA as crew, for a five-day fishing and sightseeing trip from Progreso to Iles Mujeres, Yucatan at a cost of 3,000 pesos. Having obtained port clearance, the party left Progreso on the 'AMIGO' at about 2200 hrs. on Friday, 18th October. About 2330 hrs. three of the Americans threatened the Mexican crew with pistols, and forced them to take the boat inshore opposite the abandoned hotel 'Tropical Riviera'. Eight further men, with a considerable quantity of equipment were then ferried on board by the boat's dinghy. This operation was completed about 0300 hrs. on Saturday, 19th October. The 'AMIGO' was then sailed eastwards along the northern coast of Yucatan, both the Mexican crewmen having been tied up, but released one at a time to steer the boat. They passed Iles Mujeres about 0450 hrs. on 20th October and turned south. About this time, according to CAMPOS, he learned that their destination was Belize.

5. When the boat arrived off Zocalo, Quintana Roo, CAMPOS was told to head for Turneffe. The lighthouse at the northern end of Turneffe was sighted at about 1830 hrs. on Monday, 21st October. CAMPOS was told to steer to the east of Turneffe, where they would meet another boat which the Americans would board, leaving the 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crew to return to Progreso.

6. About 2100 hrs. on 21st October the 'AMIGO' went aground on a reef, remaining fast until 0600 hrs. on 22nd October, when the crew and the Americans got it free. They remained at anchor for about 24 hours in the same area, but saw nothing of another boat. On the morning of 23rd October CAMPOS pointed out that he only had fuel for about 5 hours sailing, and was then told to make for Belize. The eight men, who were not included on the Progreso Port clearance certificate, were landed at Shag Caye Lagoon, about 12 miles south east of Belize City, with the major part of the equipment, by means of the dinghy, which they kept with them. The 'AMIGO' then came into Belize City harbour.

7. The following morning a Police/Military party, guided by CAMPOS, went to Shag Caye Lagoon and collected the eight men and their equipment without resistance. All were brought into Belize City, and all were charged under the Immigration Ordinance, the Mexican and United States Consulate authorities again being advised of the situation. On the 24th October the five U.S. nationals taken from the 'AMIGO' appeared before the Belize City Magistrate on a charge of being prohibited immigrants. They were remanded in custody until 31st October 1968. On 25th October the eight men, all of whom claimed U.S. nationality, were similarly charged and remanded until 31st October.

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REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION 4/26/98

DATE: 11-14-2017

(2)

groups on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd November, for Miami. Each group was escorted from Belize Central Prison, and their departure was witnessed by Police. All the property recovered was confiscated by Court Order.

Confidential

9. The correct names of the thirteen men were ascertained by Police, and subsequently admitted by the accused in court, to be as follows:-

1st Group

Frank FIORINI
Jerry BUCHANON
Maximilian GONZALES
Laurence STOKY
Robert CURTIS

2nd Group

Charless Orr GONNELL
Ray MANNING
Richard Gale BROWN
Frank HULBERT
James WELLS
Mickey Rowland SAPP
Charles William JAMES
James Edward HOLTSHOUSER

All claim to be members of an anti-Castro organisation, based in Florida, U.S.A., known as 'The Secret Army Organisation' (Ejercito Secreto de la Brigada Internacional Anti-Comunista Estados Unidos). The leader was FIORINI, who is well known to the U.S. authorities for his anti-Castro activities during the past few years.

10. The 'AMIGO' and the two Mexican crewmen were not arrested or detained, and left for Progreso on 2nd November.

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14. Although the thirteen arrested men would give very little information other than personal details (many of which were subsequently changed when found to be false), there appears no doubt that the object of this group was to land on the south coast of Cuba, possibly in conjunction with others with whom a rendezvous had been planned east of Turneffe. An air search of the sea area surrounding Turneffe was carried out on 24th October, but no suspicious vessel was sighted. Due to the failure of the rendezvous, the boat was forced to come into Belize City for fuel, the Americans relying on the port clearance from Progreso to get them past the Customs and Police/Immigration authorities. There is no evidence whatsoever that the objective of this group was anywhere on the Central American mainland.

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