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4/10/63

PLAIN TEXT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REGISTERED - AIR MAIL

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-102448)

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (2-323) (P)

RE: EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA
(FRENTE ESCAMBRAY)
(CUBAN ANTI-COMMUNIST ARMY)
(ESCAMBRAY FRONT);
IS - CUBA;
RA - CUBA;
NM.

4-13-95
Classified by 568 SLD/EH
Declassify on ~~CONF~~ (JFK)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

~~Classified~~

Re MM teletypes to the Bureau 4/5/63.

Enclosed are nine copies of a LHM, dated and captioned as above.

INS, Customs and CIA have been furnished copies of the LHM.

MM T-1 is MM 639-S, who received information directly from FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, aka. Frank Fiorini. (u)

MM E-2 is Mr. GREG BENTLEY, British Intelligence, Nassau, Bahamas who telephonically contacted the Miami Office on 3/30/63. (u)

- 3 - Bureau (Encls.-9) (RM) (AM)
- 2 - Miami

Classified by 2040
Exempt from GDS, Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

RJD:GK
(5)

~~CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP3 TEK/24/00 2/3/97 - 1499 -~~
REASON FOR EXTENSION 1+2
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 4/10/83
NOT RECORDED
APR 24 1963

ENCLOSURE

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55 APR 30 1963

105-102448-52 ORIGINAL FILED IN

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MM 2-323

MM T-3 is MM 639-S, who received the information directly from FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS. (U)

MM T-4 is Lieutenant AARON ROGERS, Intelligence Officer, U. S. Coast Guard, Miami.

It is noted that MM 639-S is doubly concealed in the enclosed LHM. This is because he was in direct contact with FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, who is suspected by MM 639-S and U. S. Customs of being a CIA informant. (U)

For the information of the Bureau, and not to be disseminated outside the Bureau, U. S. Customs, Miami, confidentially advised that it appears to them that CIA had all the details concerning the "Violya III"; prior to its departure did not notify U. S. Customs; and, then arranged for the British authorities to seize the boat. Thus, CIA withheld information from Customs concerning a matter within the latter's jurisdiction, causing embarrassment to U. S. Customs. (U)

declassified per Customs let 2/1/80

The enclosed LHM is classified Confidential to protect an informant of continuing value.

Miami will follow this matter with INS and U. S. Customs and keep the Bureau advised.

USCS
REVIEWED BY ~~W~~JFK TASK FORCE

ON 11-23-97 *dat*

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- RELEASE IN PART
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RE: EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA

boarded the "Violyn III." The two larger boats then departed for an unknown destination. Fiorini and Johnson returned to Florida in the small boat. (u)

MM T-2, [a] confidential source abroad, on March 30, 1963, advised that Frank Fiorini, Bill Johnson, and Jose Maria Gonzalez Hernandez, a Cuban radio operator and technician, arrived in Nassau on March 29, 1963, and stayed at the Pilot House Hotel. The following day, March 30, 1963, these three persons rented a plane and flew to Norman Key. That same day, British authorities arrested them, and on the evening of that day put them on a commercial airline for Miami, Florida (S)

On April 3, 1963, MM T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, obtained some information from an untested source with contacts in the Bahamas, who obtained information from an unidentified person. He advised that it was reported that several hours after Fiorini was arrested on Norman Key, British authorities in the Bahamas stopped and boarded the "Violyn III" and arrested some thirteen Cubans and Jerry Buchanan who were aboard. (u) X

On April 4, 1963, MM T-3 advised that the British authorities released the "Violyn III" and the crew, and instructed them to proceed to Miami. The other boat which originally accompanied the "Violyn III," name of this boat unknown, escaped and was being sought by the British and the United States Coast Guard. (u) X

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RE: EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA

On April 4, 1963, Fiorini reportedly claimed that he had been in radio contact with the above-mentioned unidentified boat, and it was tied up at an island in the Bahamas, exact location of which was not disclosed. The boat was reportedly camouflaged and heard the U. S. Coast Guard planes flying above in an effort to locate it. Fiorini claimed he could supply this unidentified boat with fuel and food, if requested by this boat, and that he had available an Aero-Commander airplane in Miami and two fast powerboats located somewhere north of Miami. It was not known what manner of radio communication was used by Fiorini to contact the unidentified boat. (u)

On April 4, 1963, local newspaper, radio stations and television stations in Miami, Florida, reported that the "Violyn III" had departed from Nassau and was enroute to Miami with a U. S. Coast Guard escort. Miami Attorney Charles R. Ashmann made press announcements that the crew of the "Violyn III" would not return to the United States.

In the early morning hours of April 5, 1963, MM T-3 advised that Ashmann claimed the "Violyn III" would rendezvous with the other unidentified boat and would complete its infiltration mission to Cuba. (u)

On April 5, 1963, MM T-4, a representative of another Government agency, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1963, the "Violyn III" left Nassau, Bahamas, on a general course for the United States, and at that date was at the north tip of

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RE: EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA

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Andros Island in the Bahamas. Because the "Violyn III" was in shallow water, the U. S. Coast Guard discontinued its surveillance of the "Violyn III" by boat, and the surveillance was taken over by U. S. Coast Guard aircraft. At about 8:20 P.M., the "Violyn III" turned off its running lights and had not been seen by the Coast Guard since that time.

MM T-4 reported that there is a Sigma-type Cuban fishing boat which was stopped near Williams Key off the coast of Andrews Island on April 5, 1963. MM T-4 said this Sigma boat was possibly the boat that was supposed to rendezvous with the "Violynn III" for an infiltration mission into Cuba. There is an airplane landing strip at Williams Key which could not be used because someone had placed a great quantity of rocks and driftwood on the runway.

On April 5, 1963, Mr. Chester A. Woish, Chief, Investigations Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, advised that the "Violyn III" had just arrived at the seawall, Key Biscayne, Miami. The Cubans aboard were to be taken by INS authorities to INS detention facility at Opa Locka, Florida, where interviews were to be conducted, and any United States citizens on board were to be taken by INS authorities to INS Headquarters in Miami, where these individuals would be interviewed for any possible violations of Federal law concerning U. S. passport regulations.

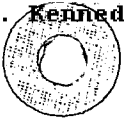
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ON 7/14/98 dal
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 TOTAL DENIAL

DATE 11-14-2017



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 5 1963

~~TELETYPE~~

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Casper _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Conrad _____
- Mr. DeLoach _____
- Mr. Evans _____
- Mr. Gale _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sullivan _____
- Mr. Tavel _____
- Mr. Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Miss Holmes _____
- Miss Gandy _____

~~CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SPJ TEK/RH/CA) 7/31/99~~
 REASON FOR EXTENSION
 FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 4/5/83

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/EA
 ON 3-17-95 (JFK)

URGENT 4-5-63 12-27 PM EST HSB
 TO DIRECTOR FBI /105-102448/
 FROM SAC, MIAMI /2-323/

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) DATE 4/5/83

EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA PAREN FRENTE ESCAMBRAY PAREN
 PAREN CUBAN ANTI COMMUNIST ARMY PAREN PAREN ESCAMBRAY FRONT PAREN
 IS DASH CUBA, RA DASH CUBA, NM. FRANK FIORINI

REMYTEL APRIL THREE LAST.

ON APRIL FOUR, SIXTYTHREE, MM SIX THREE NINE DASH S WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MATTERS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, AND WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED AS FOLLOWS. (u)X

ON APRIL THREE, SIXTYTHREE, IN THE LATE EVENING HOURS FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, AKA FRANK FIORINI, AMERICAN INVOLVED IN CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY, STATED THAT UNTIL RECENTLY THE VIOLIN THIRD HAD BEEN LOCATED AT NAPLES, FLORIDA, UNDER FIORINI-S CONTROL. AN INFILTRATION MISSION WAS PLANNED BY FIORINI AND EVELIO DUQUE WHEREIN DUQUE AND HIS MEN WOULD INFILTRATE INTO CUBA AND FIORINI WOULD LATER SUPPLY THEM BY PLANE FROM THE U. S. (u)X

END PAGE ONE

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Included
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 4/18/63

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PAGE FOUR

SOMEWHERE NORTH OF MIAMI. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT METHOD OF RADIO COMMUNICATION IS USED BY FIORINI TO CONTACT THE MISSING BOAT. (u)

ON THE EVENING OF APRIL FOUR, SIXTYTHREE, LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO STATIONS STATED THAT THE VIOLIN THIRD HAD DEPARTED NASSAU AND WAS EN ROUTE TO MIAMI WITH A U. S. COAST GUARD ESCORT.

MIAMI ATTORNEY CHARLES R. ASHMANN, WHO IS INVOLVED IN CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY, MADE A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CREW OF VIOLIN THIRD WOULD NOT RETURN TO THE U. S. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL FIVE, SIXTYTHREE, MM SIX THREE NINE DASH S WAS TOLD BY ASHMANN THAT THE VIOLIN THIRD WOULD RENDEZVOUS WITH THE OTHER BOAT AND WOULD CONTINUE ITS INFILTRATION MISSION INTO CUBA. (u)

ON APRIL FIVE, SIXTYTHREE, U. S. COAST GUARD ADVISED THAT ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL FOUR, SIXTYTHREE, VIOLIN THIRD LEFT NASSAU ON A GENERAL COURSE FOR THE U. S. AND THAT DAY WAS NEAR THE NORTH TIP OF ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS, IN SHALLOW WATER AND COULD NO LONGER BE
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FOLLOWED BY THE COAST GUARD BOAT. THE COAST GUARD THEREAFTER TOOK UP SURVEILLANCE BY AIR. AFTER DARKNESS SET IN THE SURVEILLANCE WAS CONTINUING. AT ABOUT EIGHT TWENTY P.M. THE VIOLIN THIRD TURNED OFF ITS RUNNING LIGHTS AND HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY THE COAST GUARD SINCE. ITS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. THE COAST GUARD IS NOW INSTITUTING A COMPLETE AIR SEARCH FOR THE VIOLIN THIRD.

THE COAST GUARD SAID THERE IS A SIGMA TYPE CUBAN FISHING BOAT WHICH WAS SPOTTED NEAR WILLIAMS ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF ANDROS ISLAND ON APRIL FIVE, SIXTYTHREE, WHICH BOAT MAY BE THE MISSING BOAT AND THE ^{ONE} ^{SUPPOSED} ₁ TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE VIOLIN THIRD. THERE IS A LANDING SLIP ^R AT WILLIAMS ISLAND WHICH HOWEVER CANNOT BE USED BECAUSE SOMEONE PLACED A GREAT QUANTITY OF ROCKS AND DRIFTWOOD ON THE RUNWAY. THE COAST GUARD HAS BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THIS SIGMA TYPE BOAT IN THE VICINITY OF WILLIAMS ISLAND.

AT THE PRESENT TIME THE U.S. COAST GUARD DOES NOT KNOW THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF VIOLIN THIRD AND A LARGE AIR AND SEA SEARCH

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IS BEING MADE TO LOCATE IT.

ALL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY MM SIX THREE NINE DASH S HAS BEEN DISSEMINATED TO COAST GUARD, CUSTOMS, INS AND CIA. -CLOSE LIAISON IS BEING MAINTAINED. CONTACT WILL BE CONTINUED WITH MM SIX THREE NINE DASH S AND THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. ALL AGENCIES TO WHOM THIS INFORMATION DISSEMINATED HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT FBI SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION HAS CLOSE CONTACT WITH ASHMANN AND FIORINI AND INDISCREET INQUIRY WILL COMPROMISE OUR SOURCE. LETTERHEAD MEMO FOLLOWS. (u)

~~CORR PAGE FIVE, LINE TEN FIRST WORD SHD BE SUPPOSED TO BE ADDED~~

~~CORR PAGE FIVE, LINE ELEVEN WO LINE TEN WORD TWELVE SHD BE " STRIP "~~

END AND ACK PLS

~~CORRECTION LAST WORD LINE NINE PAGE FIVE PLS~~

" ONE "

12-47 PM K OK FBI WA MET

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ORIG: MR. BELMONT FOR DIRECTOR

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