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SUBJECTS :

RICARDO MORALES NAVARETTE
SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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ACTION

Memorandum

7-30-90
Classified by SP8 RJG/ab
Declassify on: OADR
7-29-369

SECRET

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-112098)

DATE: 9/23/68

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-6243) (P)

15668 sub/gcl
7/25/85 - JFK

SUBJECT: USS SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY
REVIEWED BY: WJFK TACK FORCE (SNFE) (OPERATION ALPHA 66)

7-30-90
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IS - CUBA
NM

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(OO: Miami) CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1/6 (JFK)

Re Bureau airtel, 7/5/68, and Bureau letters, 9/3 and 9/13/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are twelve copies of a letterhead memorandum including information received concerning the activities of the SNFE during the past three months, as well as information furnished to the Bureau by MI-5 and the Bahamas Special Branch.

On 9/10/68, Mr. STEVE CZUKAS, U. S. Customs, Miami, Florida, advised that Customs has been conducting a continuing investigation of the SNFE and its military leader, ARMANDO FLEITES. Mr. CZUKAS said that he had furnished information concerning the presence in the Bahamas of SNFE members to the U. S. Coast Guard, Miami, Florida, in order that it could be transmitted to the appropriate authorities in the Bahamas. As a result, the Bahamas Police authorities were able to arrest the five individuals mentioned in referenced Bureau airtel. Mr. CZUKAS said that he believes that with the surrender of the four SNFE members to Bahamas authorities recently, ARMANDO FLEITES is now left with only one or two men to assist him. Mr. CZUKAS said that the indication is that FLEITES is in very poor physical condition. He based this on an interview which he had with a member of the SNFE, who said that FLEITES is existing on morphine, is not rational, his boat has broken down, and he will have difficulty in maintaining himself much longer. Mr. CZUKAS said that FLEITES is located on Leak Key, off of Andros Island, and is known to have fired on a helicopter of the Bahamian Government which was covering his activities. Mr. CZUKAS said that the

- 2 - Bureau (Enc - 12) (RM)
- 1 - Miami

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LATIN-AMERICAN

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Letter to AAG Yeagley (Encl)
VHN's ed. 10/10/68 1-M/M

State/CIA/Sec
Army/Navy/Air Force/DIA/Customs/Coast Guard
Coordinator, of Cuban Affairs, State
By R/S For Info
Date 10-8-68 By [Signature]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECRET

MM 105-6243

The confidential sources abroad, mentioned in the letterhead memorandum, are MI-5 and the Bahamas Special Branch. (S)

Miami will maintain contact with U. S. Customs and U. S. Coast Guard, as well as appropriate informants concerning the activities of the SNFE both here and in the Bahamas.

(A separate LHM containing background information [of individuals mentioned by MI-5] is in preparation for dissemination [to MI-5] (S) (S)

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Re: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

On June 29, 1968, MM T-5, a Cuban exile who is acquainted with the leaders of the SNFE, advised that ARMANDO FLEITES was reportedly at a base outside of the United States in possession of a twenty-four foot boat and preparing for an attack on Cuba.

On July 18, 1968, MM T-5 advised that ANDRES NAZARIO and DIEGO MEDINA were discussing a plan on the part of the SNFE to picket the office of the British Consul in Miami on the following day to protest the jailing of five men, members of the SNFE, in Nassau.

On July 22, 1968, MM T-1 advised that DIEGO MEDINA of the SNFE had stated on a previous day that the five members of the SNFE, who had been captured in the Bahama Islands, were then still in jail having been fined \$400. MEDINA said that the SNFE still needed to raise \$180 more before they would be able to obtain the release of their men.

MM T-1 also reported that the offices of the SNFE had been moved from 109 Southwest 12th Avenue, Miami, to a new location at 836 Southwest 1st Street, Miami.

MM T-1 also advised that in addition to the group of five men who had been arrested in the Bahamas, other members of the SNFE reportedly in the Bahamas include REINALDO RODRIGUEZ, FRANCISCO MARTINEZ, and JESUS PINEDA.

MEMBER-SUBJECT ORGANIZATIONMEMBER-SUBJECT ORGANIZATIONBAHAMA ISLANDS

BAHAMA ISLANDS On July 27, 1968, MM T-3 advised that on that date he had been in contact with LUIS TORNES a member of an anti-CASTRO group known as the Secret Anti-Communist Army. TORNES said that he had just given \$200 of his organization's funds to ARMANDO FLEITES, which FLEITES was to use to complete the payment of the fine and obtain the release of the five SNFE men being held in the Bahamas.

FLA.

On August 5, 1968, MM T-1 advised that the SNFE

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had been planning to stage a demonstration in the area of the Republican Convention being held on Miami Beach, and had prepared thirty placards protesting United States policy toward Cuban exiles, which were to be used in the demonstration. As a result of only six members turning up to demonstrate, no demonstration was held.

MEMBER - SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

On August 11, 1968, Lieutenant JOHN W. WINSLOW, U. S. Coast Guard, Miami, Florida, advised that he had received information that four members of the SNFE - ALPHA 66, which were in a group of seven located on a key off Andros Island, had escaped to Mangrove Key following an argument with ARMANDO FLEITES. It was reported that the four men said that FLEITES had ordered them to shoot at American or English planes, and that they had refused to do so. As a result of this refusal, FLEITES, JESUS PINEDA, and HERPIVEO X RABELO, took guns away from the four men and threatened to kill them. The four men then fled the island in a small boat arriving at Mangrove Key where they were taken into custody by government authorities. The four were identified as CONRADO RODRIGUEZ, RAUL MARTINEZ, DELMIS ECHEVARRIA, and ORESTES PEREZ. The three remaining members of the SNFE were reportedly in possession of a thirty-foot cabin cruiser, twenty-millimeter cannon, two hundred pounds of C-4 explosives, in addition to small arms.

On August 7, 1968, a confidential source abroad made available information furnished by a second confidential source abroad as follows:

In the latter part of June, 1968, authorities in the Bahama Islands conducted a search of Williams Island, which is located off the northwest coast of Andros Island, in the Bahamas. Various supplies were found located at supply dumps on the island. In addition, five Cubans with

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weapons were apprehended on Williams Island, as well as on Little Williams Island. These Cubans were identified as:

CALIXTO X HERRERA

CALIXTO X HERRA -
Born October 14, 1940, at
Calazabar Las Villas, Cuba.
 He furnished his address as
109 Southwest 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida.

CUBABAHAMA ISLANDS

RAFAEL X MAYOLA -
Born November 22, 1945, at
Havana, Cuba.
 He furnished his home address as
Burniqueb Towers Apartments,
1015 San Juan, Puerto Rico.

CUBABAHAMA ISLANDSFLA.

ANGEL X DIAZ -
Born October 2, 1938, at
Honorado de Castille, Cuba.
 He furnished his address as
109 Southwest 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida.

CUBABAHAMA ISLANDS

(3)

FELIX X MIR

FELIX OSVALDO X MIR -
Born August 5, 1929, at
Holquin Oriente, Cuba.
 He furnished his address as
526 Southwest 2nd Street
Miami, Florida.

CUBABAHAMA ISLANDSPA.

SERGIO X LEON -
Born July 3, 1938, at
Esmeralda, Cuba.
 He furnished his address as
109 Southwest 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida.

CUBABAHAMA ISLANDS

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The list of armaments and supplies recovered from the group included a Springfield automatic rifle, two light machine guns, two M-1 carbines, together with a variety of ammunition, a radio receiver, binoculars, lantern, a bag containing two live hand grenades and eight dummy grenades, a flare pistol, and miscellaneous other food and supplies. (S)

It was reported that the arrested Cubans said that they were members of the SNFE, and had been brought to Williams Island by boat by their leader, Major ARMANDO FLEITES DIAZ, and another unidentified Cuban. They said that they had landed on the island on June 1, 1968, along with supplies, and were instructed to await the return of the boat, after which the island would be used as a base to mount military raids on Cuba. They refused to disclose on what date or from which port they had sailed from Florida, nor would they name the vessel that brought them to Florida. They claimed that their organization was prepared to continue harassing the regime in Cuba with the hope that over a period of years they would build up a force in Cuba powerful enough to overthrow the regime. (S)

On July 2, 1968, the five Cubans appeared before the Magistrate's Court in Nassau on charges of illegal entry, and pleaded guilty. (S)

On July 9, 1968, they were tried, found guilty of illegal entry and illegal introduction of arms and ammunition into the colony, and were each fined \$50 and sentenced to three months imprisonment, pending earlier deportation. (S)

On September 3, 1968, additional information was received from the previously-mentioned confidential source abroad relating that four members of the SNFE - ALPHA 66. (S)

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had surrendered to government authorities at Mangrove Key on August 10, 1968. They were members of a unit of the ALPHA 66 which had been established on Leaf Key during July, 1968. The other members of that group were reported to be ARMANDO FLEITES, JESUS PINEDA, and HERPIVEO RABELO. The four men claimed that they had left Florida for Williams Island about the beginning of July, 1968, to join five members of the group who were already there. It appeared that following their arrival at Williams Island, FLEITES led the group to Leaf Key, arriving there on about July 10, 1968. One of the group, DELMIS ECHEVARRIA, then went back to Florida in one of the two motor vessels in order to pick up two more men, CONRADO RODRIGUEZ and RAUL MARTINEZ, along with some additional supplies. This group again left Florida for the Bahamas on July 20, 1968. (S)

On August 2, 1968, an amphibian aircraft with police authorities aboard flew over Leaf Key with the intention of landing to investigate the reported presence of Cubans. This plane was fired upon, and, according to CONRADO RODRIGUEZ, this action was taken on orders of ARMANDO FLEITES, who threatened to shoot any member of his group refusing to obey his orders. (S)

The Cubans had trouble with engines on both of their boats, and were unable to depart Leaf Key. Subsequently, RODRIGUEZ, MARTINEZ, ECHEVARRIA, and ORESTES PEREZ, escaped by means of a sailing vessel, and arrived at Mangrove Key where they surrendered to the authorities. (S)

These four were described as follows:

~~CONRADO RODRIGUEZ~~

~~CONRADO ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ - CUBA BAHAMA ISLAND~~
~~Born May 18, 1944, at 444 SOUTHWEST 36TH AVE. MIAMI, FLA~~
~~Vedado Havana, Cuba.~~
~~Wife - ISABEL RODRIGUEZ.~~
~~Address - 444 Southwest 36th Avenue~~
~~Miami, Florida.~~

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Re: SECOND NATIONAL FRONT OF ESCAMBRAY

CUBA BAHAMA ISLANDS
328 SOUTHWEST 8TH, AVE, MIAMI, FLA.
RAUL MARTINEZ -
Born January 6, 1933, at
La Vizera, Havana, Cuba.
Wife - ZOILA MARTINEZ.
Address - 328 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami, Florida.

MEMBER-SUBJECT ORGANIZATION (S)
CUBA BAHAMA ISLANDS
BORN - Puerto Padre, Oriente Province, Cuba.
DELMI ECHEVARRIA -
Born April 6, (?), at 319 NORTHWEST 12TH, AVE, MIAMI, FLA.
Wife - HAYDEE ECHEVARRIA.
Address - 319 Northwest 12th Avenue,
Miami, Florida.

ORESTES PEREZ - ORESTES PEREZ
Born July 19, 1916, at FLA. CUBA BAHAMA ISLANDS
Santi Espiritus, Santa Clara, Cuba.
Wife - AURORA PEREZ.
Address - ALPHA 66 Headquarters.
FLA.

On September 17, 1968, MM T-3 advised that he had heard that JESUS PINEDA, member of the SNFE who had been with ARMANDO FLEITES in the Bahamas at the base of the SNFE, had returned to Miami. MM T-3 learned that FLEITES is believed by SNFE members to have become mentally unbalanced, and completely irresponsible. He is running out of supplies, and his boat is not in operating condition. His only companion now is (First Name Unknown) RABELO, and it is doubtful that they will be able to subsist much longer under their present conditions. PINEDA apparently was rescued by a fishing boat sent by the SNFE to rescue the three men. FLEITES and RABELO apparently refused to leave.

MEMBER - MILITARY SECTION - SUBJECT ORGANIZATION
FLA. BAHAMA ISLANDS
CUBA

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