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SECRET

1 - Sullivan
1 - Mr. Nasca

FOR STOTT

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4-1-86

RE: COMANDOS L

Reference is made to my memorandum dated April 2, 1963, captioned "Anti-Fidel Castro Activities," which dealt with the use of British territory by anti-Castro groups. (S)(u)

For your additional information, Santiago Alvarez Rodriguez, a responsible official of the captioned anti-Castro organization, which is identical with the organization known as L 66 mentioned in the referenced communication, advised recently that the captioned organization was planning to leave the United States and that Andros Island in the Bahamas was the most preferable location. Reportedly, the organization has sent representatives to Andros Island and has received promises of cooperation from certain private individuals on the island. According to Alvarez, Andros Island would be an ideal place from which to operate for the purpose of setting up a small attack base on one of the keys off the north shore of Cuba. He indicated that the organization, however, has no guarantee that British authorities would allow them to operate from the Bahamas. (S)(u)

On September 3, 1963, Alvarez advised that repairs on a thirty-eight-foot boat named "Silvia" had been completed and that final preparations were being made by the captioned organization to leave the United States. Alvarez indicated that he and about twenty of his men planned to leave in the immediate future and that they would proceed by small boats to the Bahamas where they would set up a camp. From there they plan to go to an unidentified key off the north coast of Cuba where another base for attack and raid operations against Cuba would be set up. (S)(u)

Alvarez stated that the key off the north coast of Cuba has fresh water and dense foliage. There is a canal running inland from the sea. Reportedly, the canal is between four and five feet deep and is completely covered by trees.

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1 - London SEP 26 1963

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
1 - 109-584 (Anti-Fidel Castro Activities)

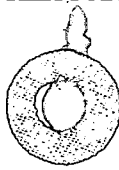
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Alvarez stated that this is an ideal spot for his group to conduct raid and sabotage operations against Cuba. In addition, Alvarez stated that he has some medical supplies in the Miami, Florida, area which would be sent from the United States to the Bahamas and thence to the island base off the Cuban coast. Transportation of these medical supplies will be made by small fishing vessels manned by Cubans operating out of Miami close to and in Bahamian waters. Alvarez indicated there were hundreds of Cuban fishermen in Miami using native fishing boats and other type of work boats engaged in commercial fishing. These boats fish off the Florida keys; off the shore of Florida; off Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas; and off the Great Bahama Bank, Bahamas. The aforementioned boats vary in size from twenty-five to forty feet and are known to arrive and depart Miami at all hours of the night and day. Some of these boats will serve to transport supplies from the United States to the captioned organization's base in the Bahamas.

(S) (u)

Alvarez indicated that about twenty Cubans will accompany him when he leaves and that others will come later.

(S) (u)

The fact that Alvarez made this information available to us is for your confidential information. Should this information result in the apprehension of Alvarez or any of his men by your forces, no inkling should be given them that the information actually originated with Alvarez. We have also made the Alvarez information available to the interested agencies in this country.

(S) (u)

NOTE: We have previously pinpointed the locations in the Bahamas for the British which reportedly were used by anti-Castro forces for attacks on Cuba. It is felt the foregoing information would be of interest to the British. In submitting this information the Miami Office advised that Customs representative in Miami had an off-the-record private discussion with the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, State Department, Miami, Florida. According to this individual although the British Government has publicly announced that it deplored the use of the Bahamas by either pro-Castro forces or anti-Castro forces, there was no objection by the British Government to the establishment of bases there by the anti-Castro forces. This information was furnished with the understanding that it would not be disseminated outside the Bureau.

(S) (C)

Santiago Alvarez Rodriguez is one of the subjects in this case who was involved in an attack on Cuba on March 27, 1963.

(S) (u)

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