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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System Identification Form

Date:

5/26/201

Agency Information

AGENCY:

RECORD NUMBER: 124-10221-10052

FBI

RECORD SERIES: HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER: CR 105-92196-59

Document Information

ORIGINATOR: **FBI**

> FROM: SAC, MM

> > TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE:

DATE: 03/28/1963

PAGES:

SUBJECTS:

REH, ASSOC, ACA, INTERPEN MEMBERS

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Confidential

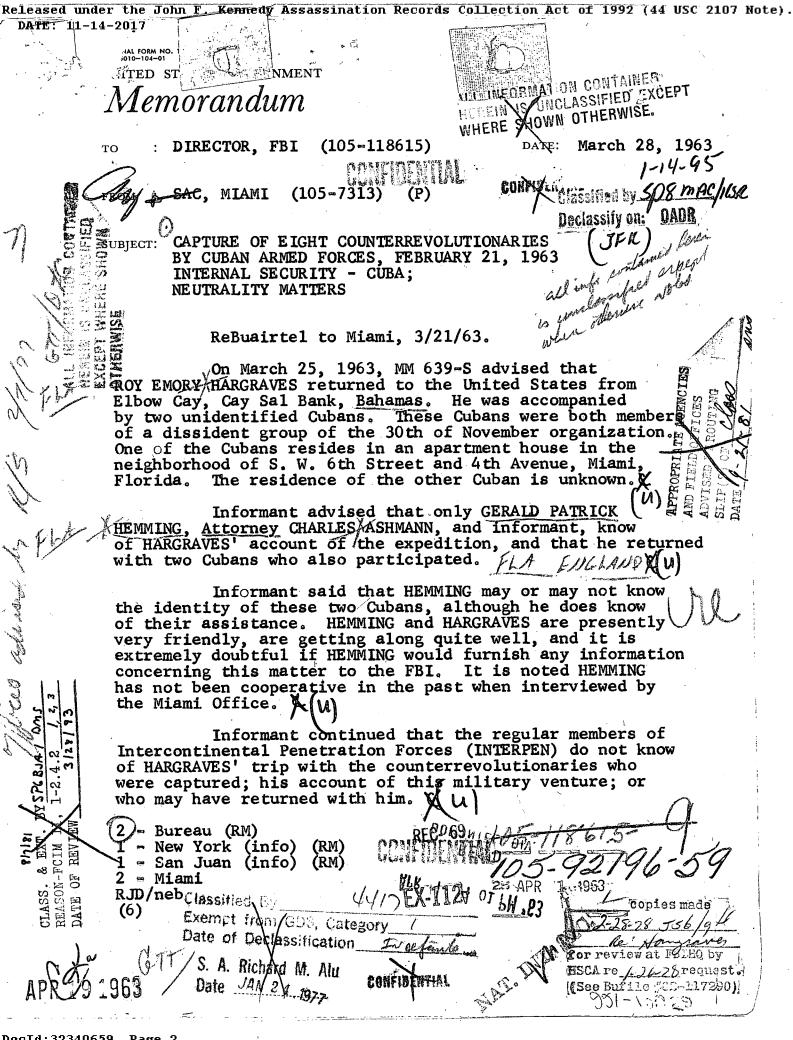
Consulted; 4 **RESTRICTIONS:**

CURRENT STATUS: Redact

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 01/26/1998

> **OPENING CRITERIA:** INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF USCG

REFERRED TO USCG COMMENTS:



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Cubans consider their first allegiance to Cuba and not to the United States, and always say that no one yet has ever been prosecuted under the United States Neutrality Act. Informant stated that families and friends of the Cuban refugees would never testify against them, and to testify for the Government would cause people to think that person is pro-CASTRO, or a member of the Cuban G-2.

A review of files of anti-CASTRO organizations reflects that the majority of these groups' activity is conspiring to violate the Neutrality Act. The majority of these organizations have elaborate plans to attack Cuba. These groups are in frequent contact with Government representatives asking for arms, equipment, and transportation to facilitate military expeditions. These organizations openly solicit funds for these purposes, buy large quantities of equipment from Army-Navy stores, openly buy arms and ammunition, and freely own and use boats in a manner which frequently violates the laws relating to the operation of boats.

United States Customs advised that there are nearly 150,000 Cubans in South Florida. There are hundreds of miles of coastline from which these Cubans can leave for the Bahamas, which are only fifty miles away.

Mr. GREG BENTLEY, British Intelligence, Bahamas, advised that the Bahama Islands cover thousands of square miles of ocean, that the British have only three patrol boats, and seldom ever patrol the Cay Sal Bank Islands, which are the closest to Cuba.

United States Coast Guard advised they have planes, ships, and helicopters, which are in constant patrol in the Bahamas, photograph the boats used by Cuban exiles in the policy South Atlantic and Bahamas, but are more interested in coast Guard intelligence than enforcement of the law relating to the patron equipment used on these boats.

ANTONIO PEREZ, Cuban fisherman in Miami, advised that a great number of Cuban fishermen arrive and depart daily from Miami to and from the Cay Sal Bank, and a number of these fishermen, such as PEREZ, carry arms and equipment

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3. ON 7-23-97 dab/BC

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to anti-CASTRO groups operating out of Cay Sal. PEREZ explained that he has no difficulty entering and departing from Miami with arms, and the fishermen think they have United States Covernment sanction because they are never stopped or prosecuted.

Inasmuch as the Cuban exiles present a unique problem and cannot be counted on to testify as witnesses in a conspiracy case, Miami Office feels that military expeditions could best be averted by enforcement of existing Customs laws pertaining to entry and departure of Boats, the exportation of guns and articles of war, and the use of Coast Guard boats and airplanes which are available for this purpose.

However, the Miami Office will have MM 639-S attempt to identify the two Cuban companions of HARGRAVES who returned to the United States with him, and will continue investigation in an attempt to develop a prosecutable case against captioned individuals for conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Act.

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