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AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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FROM : MEXICO CITY
TO : DIRECTOR
TITLE : PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING MEXICAN TRANSIT VISAS FOR
CUBANS
DATE : 10/25/1963
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS : CUBANS
MEXICAN VISAS
TRANSIT VISAS

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10092-10135

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET/KAPOK~~

PROCESSING ACTION

TO	Chief, WH Division	MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM	Chief of Station, Mexico City	ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT	LITMPO/Procedure for Obtaining Mexican Transit Visas for Cubans	

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

1. In September 1960, Mexican visa regulations in regard to entry into Mexico of Cuban nationals were changed to conform generally to the U.S. State Department treatment of Cuban nationals. Under the new regulations, all Cuban requests for entry were referred to Gobernación in Mexico City. This had the effect of prohibiting the legal entry of Cubans into México except after long delays and/or extra-legal payments to secure preferred attention. Under the new regulations, a large backlog of requests built up, which has continued to increase to the present time. This has developed into a paradise for the "coyotes" who, for a price, use their "contacts" to secure preferred attention for their "clients".

2. Because of KUBARK interest in obtaining the legal entry into México of certain Cuban nationals, a special channel was set up in November, 1960, through LITMPO-1 and LITMPO-2, which enabled us to secure entry permits. The channel has been utilized to secure extensions of permits of Cubans whose legal time of residence expired, to arrange for change in residence status, and to secure exit permits for legal departure of Cubans who had entered México illegally.

3. The majority of Cubans of interest to KUBARK whose requests were processed through the project channel, came through Mexico in transit to the U.S. With the granting of "visa waivers" by U.S. authorities, such Cubans could be handled rapidly through the project channel. The channel functioned without difficulty until May 1963, when the US Government invalidated all visa waivers. This came at a time when a number of authorizations had been secured through the project channel, which had not been acted upon by the Cuban recipients. Honoring the request of the U.S. State Department to refuse recognition or validity to previously granted visa waivers, the Minister of Government ordered that no entry permits would be granted to Cubans who wished to transit Mexico enroute to the U.S. unless such Cubans could furnish proof that they would be legally admitted to the U.S. This automatically prevented Cubans resident in Cuba from receiving Mexican entry permits, since it was impossible for them to secure U.S. visas there.

(Continued)

Distribution:
3 - C/WH

14915

CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

HMA-22365

25 October 1963

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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CLASSIFICATION

HQ5 FILE NUMBER

~~SECRET/KAPOK~~

50-6-91/4

4. The above-described situation required some alteration in the operation of the project channel. Whereas LITENPO-1 previously secured the "vistos buenos" from either the Sub-Secretary or the Oficial Mayor directly, it now became necessary to secure the signature of approval from the Minister in every case.

5. The Minister established certain criteria which must be met before he will sign the solicited. These are as follows:

- a. The request must originate through the project channel.
- b. The solicited must be signed by LITENPO-5 (in person).
- c. The signed solicited must be brought to him personally by LITENPO-1 or LITENPO-4.

6. The Minister's reasons for the above conditions are the following:

- a. The danger that the project channel will be used by "coyotes" to extort money from the petitioners, which would give the impression that the Minister is either in the business, or allowing himself to be "used" by people who are.
- b. The very natural desire to prevent foul-ups in the administration of the various departments of Gobernación, which are in a bad state normally, but which could be hopelessly bogged down with multiple requests by the same person which would be handled at the same time through the normal procedure and through the project channel.
- c. Considering the current political picture, the Minister does not wish to give ammunition to political hucksters, who would be delighted to circulate the accusation that he is "working for the Yanks".

7. The following charts show the manner in which visas are obtained:

I: Chart setting out the normal procedure for handling requests for Mexican entry permits.

II: Chart showing project channel operation.

I: NORMAL HANDLING - MEXICAN ENTRY PERMITS

1) Lic. CESARO DIAZ CERAS
Secretary of Gobernación

Lic. LUIS ECHEVARRIA, Asst. Sec'y

2) Lic. ROE PALANQUES
Oficial Mayor

(decision made, yes or no)

3) Lic. ORTIZ
Jefe de División

(Files checked, data correlated)

4) ARCHIVO

(File opened, index cards made)

5) OFICIALIZA DE BARRAS

(Petition received, given number)

6) Petitioner

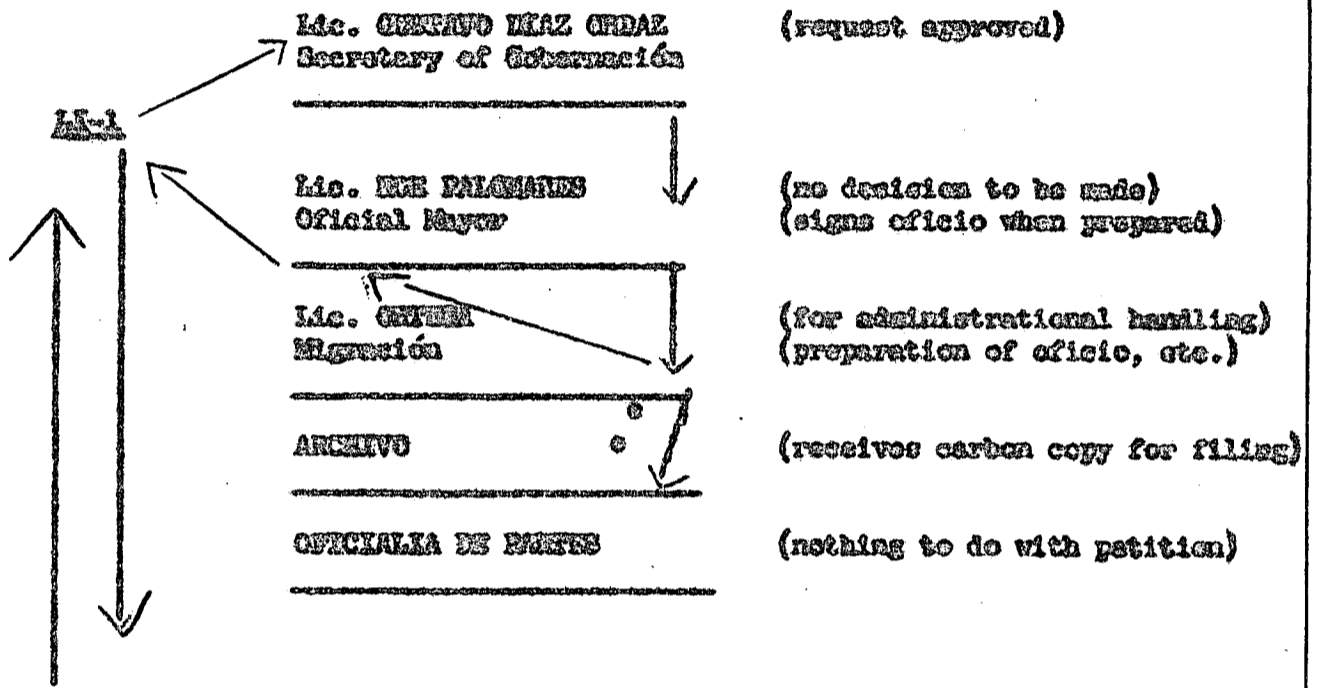
Above is set forth the procedure by which the normal requests for Mexican visas are handled. With reference to requests of Cubans, at the present time there are approximately 4,000 requests for visas being held at (3) above. LITENPO-1 estimates that, of this number, less than 10% will be granted. NO requests to transit Mexico to enter the U.S. are being granted under normal

procedures, which include a direct order vs. the granting of such permits. This order was promulgated at the request of the U.S. State Department, at the time when the latter invalidated all visa waivers.

It will be noted that the Minister does not take a part in the actual mechanism of granting or not granting visas. In rare cases the Oficial Mayor sends a case to Lic. Echevarria, the Assistant Secretary.

The length of time for a normal request to be processed and answered varies, of course, but sources estimate that the average time would be around three months.

II: ~~LEGITIMO CHANNEL - NORMAL PROCEDURE~~



LI-5 prepares solicited when request received by Jeremy E. BENNETT from Station.

When Oficio and cable approved, sends the confirming cable, furnishing Jeremy E. BENNETT with carbon copy.

8. In some cases where a visa has been denied through normal channels, the Station has been able to arrange via the project channel although several weeks are required to get this approval.

Willard C. CURTIS

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