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SECRET

2 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Major Pedro L. Diaz Lanz

1. At approximately 2:10 this date Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] ext. 2287, WH, Cuban Desk, telephonically advised that the Agency is assuming interest in the Subject for the entire intelligence community. Diaz Lanz, as indicated in the attached newspaper clipping, recently resigned as Chief of the Cuban Air Force and, according to Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] is now in Miami, Florida. Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] requested that this office communicate with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to ascertain the status of the Subject immigration wise.

2. Mr. Herbert E. NICE of the Central Office, I&NS, was telephonically contacted. He was well aware of the Subject's case and advised that he arrived in Miami in possession of an I 151 card indicating that he had been previously lawfully admitted for permanent residence. He also had in his possession a diplomatic passport with a valid diplomatic visa for himself and his wife. In addition to these documents the Subject indicated that he was seeking political asylum in the United States. Mr. NICE went on to point out that the FBI had interrogated the Subject yesterday, and the Service is aware of the fact that the Army is sending a couple of representatives to Miami to speak to the Subject tomorrow. Mr. NICE indicated that he would inform the Army of the CIA interest in the Subject.

3. The above situation was related to Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] and he declared ⁰³ that he would coordinate our interest with that of the Army. Mr. ⁰³ [redacted] further advised that Bernard REICHHARDT, the WH representative in Miami, will get in touch with the Subject today. He requested that the Service be informed of the fact that Mr. REICHHARDT would have an official interest in the Subject.

4. Mr. NICE was informed of the fact that Mr. REICHHARDT would contact the Subject and, in view of the fact that Mr. REICHHARDT is known to the District Director of the I&NS in Miami (Ed AHRENS), he did not feel it was necessary to communicate with the Miami office as to the interest of Mr. REICHHARDT. Mr. NICE was advised that in view of the fact that the Subject is a political refugee there is no question but that he will be permitted to remain in the States, and it will not be necessary for this Agency to intercede in his behalf in this regard.


William J. Cotter

COTTER:pjw
2 July 1959

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5/10/59