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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 10 July 1959

SUBJECT : Telephone Conversation with Herbert Nice, Director of Intelligence, Bureau of Immigration.

PARTICIPANTS: Herbert Nice and OB

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1. At 1600 on 9 July I returned Mr. Nice's call. He said that they had been told by the State Department that Pedro Luis DIAZ Lanz, former chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force, was no longer available to the people who wanted to see him. He said that official stand of INS on the matter is that DIAZ Lanz has been admitted as a resident alien and that INS cannot be expected to keep track of him since this is a free country. He also said that unofficially he wanted to inform me that DIAZ Lanz is under subpoena to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and that we could get in touch with him by contacting the Committee's offices. I thanked him for the information and said that I would refer the matter to my supervisors immediately.

2. I noticed that the conversational tone used by Nice in telling me the above was somewhat formal, and believe that this call was obviously for the record. Re-enforcing my belief is the fact that Nice said he had called me outside of customary liaison channels because he wanted to make sure that the man who would have to do the work involved would be aware of the situation.

3. I asked him then if his meaning was that we could invite DIAZ Lanz to be our voluntary guest for the period of time necessary for the intelligence community to debrief him, and he agreed that this was the case. I told him that we had only learned that DIAZ was being brought to Washington yesterday afternoon and that there were many intelligence requirements involved in the matter which we had not had sufficient time to pouch to our man in Miami.

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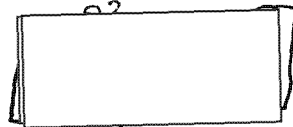
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2.

4. To take the chill off the conversation, I thanked Nice for the cooperation we had received from him and his Bureau on the matter of the exfiltration of the five former ERAC officials from Cuba. I also asked him if a letter of appreciation on this matter might be welcome. He replied that it might be better if I consulted the Alien Branch of the Office of Security on this since too many letters of this sort might cause eyebrows to be raised at INS - and that there were rumors that he might be shifted to another position. I said that I was sorry to hear this, but hoped that if true it might be to a less difficult and more rewarding job.



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