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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

File - AM/AS/1

| ROUTING | |
|---------|---|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : MEXICO CITY

ACTION: C/AM 5

INFO : DDP, ADOP, C/SOD 4, C/CA 2, C/CA/O 2, C/CI, C/FI 2, C/VE 3, C/SR 5, C/SAS 5, VR

Q.I. [unclear] AM/AS/1 file

SECRET 101934Z

SO/NS

DIR CITE MEXI 8149

10 FEB 64 IN 16561

DESENSITIZED
AVIAT PBRUMEN DEGRIP

1. DEGRIP-1 HAS RETURNED MEXI. WAS NOT ABLE DELIVER S/W MATERIALS TO ERNESTINA AS SHE OUT OF TOWN DURING ENTIRE STAY D-1 IN CUBA. MATERIALS STORED IN SAFE PLACE, D-1 WILL ATTEMPT DELIVERY NEXT TRIP. C/O WILL EXPLAIN DETAILS DURING COMING TDY CONSULTATION AT HQS.

2. D-1 HAS MADE SEVERAL EXCELLENT CUBAN ARMY CONTACTS, WENT HUNTING IN PINAR DEL RIO WITH COUNTER-GUERRILLA DETACHMENT HEADED BY DSE OFFICER WHO INTERESTED DEVELOPING D-1 AS COLLABORATOR. *who?? what kind of*

3. DETAILED DEBRIEFING WILL AVAIT RETURN C/O TO MEXI BUT GENERAL TENOR OF PRELIMINARY DEBRIEFING 9 FEB AS FOLLOWS: CUBAN ECONOMY ON RISE AT EVERY LEVEL. "ENORMOUS" OPTIMISM AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO NOW FEEL SECURE. DOLLAR RESERVES MORE IN EVIDENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, D-1 MADE CAUTIOUS INQUIRIES REGARDING POSSIBILITY OBTAIN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS THIS YEAR OF APPROX HALF MILLION OWED HIS COMPANY BY GOC. WAS TOLD GOC COULD PROBABLY PAY ENTIRE HALF MILLION SINCE DOLLARS NO LONGER A PROBLEM. SINCE USSR SU3AP DEAL GOC FEELS CAN NOW MAKE LONG RANGE ECONOMIC PLANS. RECENT COMMERCIAL ACCORDS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE BROKEN PACK OF US ECONOMIC BLOCKADE *collaboration?*

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AND THESE COUNTRIES NOW INTERESTED MAINTAIN STATUS QUO IN ORDER GET PAID FOR THEIR GOODS. PRONSKIY TOLD D-1 US CUT ITS OWN THROAT BY WHEAT DEAL WITH USSR WHICH PROMPTED OTHER COUNTRIES TRADE WITH CUBA.

4. FOOD PLENTIFUL IN RESTAURANTS ALTHOUGH PRICES STILL VERY HIGH. GOOD STEAKS, WINE, ETC., AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WILLING PAY THE PRICE. LARGE CASKS SPANISH WINE IN EVIDENCE EVERYWHERE INCLUDING SMALL RURAL STORES. GOC PLANS GRADUALLY ELIMINATE FOOD RATIONING, BEGINNING WITH TUBERS.

5. PEOPLE OF CUBA HAVE LOST FAITH IN US, DEPLORE US POLICY OF WEAKNESS, DO NOT BELIEVE US WILL SUCCEED IN TOPPLING CASTRO. AS RESULT ARE ADAPTING TO SITUATION. FRENCH AND ITALIAN FILMS REPLACING DULL SOVBLOC MOVIES. UNUSUALLY GAY PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY FOR CARNAVAL CELEBRATION.

6. ANTI-REGIME SABOTAGE PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT. SMALL GUERRILLA BANDS PINAR DEL RIO EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED, LIVING LIKE ANIMALS. YOUNG ANTI-GUERRILLA TROOPS ARE TOUGH, GOOD FIGHTERS, HAVE HIGH MORALE, SPOUT COMMUNIST JARGON LIKE PARROTS. GOC RELAXING RESTRAINTS ON POPULACE A BIT OWING TO GENERAL FEELING OF SECURITY, MORE TOLERANT WITH ANTI-REGIME EXPRESSIONS. CASTRO EXCLUDES ALL POSSIBILITY US INVASION BUT GUEVARA NOT SO SURE.

7. ABOVE INFO FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND USUAL SOURCES ZORRILLA AND OLTUSKI. ZORRILLA SAID CASTRO VISIT USSR WAS GREAT VICTORY FOR CASTRO, EXPLAINED SOVS WENT ALL OUT HELP CASTRO AS RESULT GUILTY FEELINGS HAVING LET CUBA DOWN OCTOBER 1962.

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3. D-1 EXPLAINED HE REGRETTED HAVING MADE SUCH PESSIMISTIC REPORT
BUT FACTS SPEAK FOR SELVES AND DUTY OBJECTIVE REPORTER IS SPELL OUT
FACTS. D-1 REMARKED "IF I WERE PRESIDENT OF THE US I WOULD DESTROY
CASTRO REGIME WITHOUT WAITING ONE MORE DAY. TOMORROW MAY BE TOO
LATE." NO INDEX.

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