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A. H. Belmont

October 26, 1959

S. B. Donahoe

1 - Mr. Donahoe
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. Nease
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. D.E.Moore

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley of Internal Security Division advised on 10-24-59 he had learned from State Department that Secretary of State Christian Herter would contact Attorney General on Monday (10-26-59) to discuss inter-American revolutionary activities, with emphasis on Cuban situation, and to express his hope that interested Government agencies can mobilize respective resources concerning Cuban situation. Attached memo has been prepared to present concise picture of situation and show Bureau position.

Memo is broken down as follows for ready reference:

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SUC/SCR
ON 3-19-96 (JFK)


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ACTION:

For information.

109-584
1 -- ~~105-72630~~ (Pedro Diaz Lanz)
1 -- 109-12-210 (Foreign Political Matters - Cuba)

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Enclosures

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2. Bureau Action Regarding Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz

a. Initial Involvement of Diaz Lanz

Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz is former Chief of Cuban Air Force under Castro who defected 6/29/59, escaped to Florida by boat on 7/1/59 and was paroled into U. S. by Immigration and Naturalization Service. He has publicly and before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee denounced Castro regime as communist. He was highly cooperative with Bureau after arrival.

Based on press report 10/22/59 that leaflets dropped by plane on Havana on 10/21/59 were signed by Diaz Lanz, the Miami Office instituted immediate inquiry to get facts as to whether violation under FBI jurisdiction had occurred. Miami learned from Charles William Hormel, potential criminal informant, that he had received information a B-25 plane, serial number 9876C, piloted by Diaz Lanz, departed Remmert Warner Airport, Pompano, Florida, at 5 p.m., 10/21/59, and returned at 9 p.m. same date.

Diaz Lanz was interviewed by Miami agents on 10/22/59. After being advised of his rights, Diaz Lanz said he piloted this plane, departed Pompano at 4 p.m., arrived Havana 5:20 p.m. and departed Havana 5:30 p.m., returning to Pompano. He said he dropped 250,000 leaflets over Havana and emphatically stated he carried no bombs nor any other type of weapons. He was unaware of being fired on from air or ground and said his was only plane on mission. He admitted being accompanied by one or more persons, would not name them and stated he preferred to accept full responsibility, if any. He furnished several copies of leaflet printed in Spanish, entitled "Open Letter to the People of Cuba from Commandant Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, Ex-Chief of Cuban Air Force," and dated October, 1959. Leaflet took Castro to task for his procommunist policies and accused him of being traitor to legitimate revolution. He said he made flight on behalf of July 26 Anti-Communist Movement of which he is founder and leader. He said this flight was not coordinated with any acts of terrorism inside Cuba. He said his movement not cooperating with any persons prominent in former Batista government. He advised Major Hubert Matos, who was arrested by Castro in Cuba, was member of his movement, was scheduled to have set up resistance group in Cuba next month and his arrest was unfortunate. He timed his flight with convention of travel

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agents for psychological reasons. He had agreement with members of his group in Cuba to provide propaganda against Castro, exposing his procommunist and anti-U. S. policies. He said his movement is growing organization composed largely of men inside Cuban armed forces, with no records kept of membership.

b. Possibility of Planes from Dominican Republic

Miami Office also advised of interview on 10/22/59 with Aloido de los Reyes, physician, naturalized citizen of Cuban birth, who resides in Miami, Florida. His identity must be concealed. Reyes is widely acquainted with anti-Castro element, has furnished reliable data in past and said he learned reliably that Diaz Lanz piloted plane dropping leaflets on Havana 10/21/59. He had no other details.

Reyes said, however, a plan of sabotage and terroristic activities had been approved by General Jose Pedraza, leader of anti-Castro group in Dominican Republic, endorsed by Dominican Dictator Trujillo. Reyes said plan called for daily bombing attacks on specific Cuban targets 10/20/59 through 10/30/59. Reyes said he learned from Dominican representative in Miami that successful bombing 10/20/59 of sugar plant in Camaguey Province and target for 10/21/59 was Cuban Presidential Palace. Reportedly, plane that dropped bomb missed target and bomb fell in streets injuring several. Reyes said plane flight of Diaz Lanz 10/21/59 was coincidental and unrelated. He said that while it would be denied, planes participating in bombing missions are coming from base in or near Dominican Republic and not from U. S. bases.

c. Dissemination and Presentation of Case

Above data received by teletype on night of 10/22/59 was disseminated by letter 10/23/59 to State Department with copies to Central Intelligence Agency, Customs, Federal Aviation Agency and intelligence agencies of armed services. This written dissemination followed oral advice to W. E. Jessop of State Department by Liaison Agent O. H. Bartlett on morning of 10/23/59 as to nature of admissions by Diaz Lanz in view of widespread reports bombs involved.



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Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) although it was not known whether they could take any action. Belmont called SA Frank Smith of Miami Office and instructed data be given Customs and FAA. At same time Belmont instructed Miami Office to interview Lanz again to determine his plans, particularly as to future flights. Miami Office was also instructed, in view of interest of State and Justice Department, to conduct further inquiry to pin down and verify story given by Diaz Lanz and particularly any guns or bombs involved to resolve as far as possible all the facts.

At 4:30 p.m., 10/24/59, Assistant Secretary of State Roy R. Rubottom, Jr., called Liaison Agent O. H. Bartlett. Rubottom said State Department quite concerned over activities of Cuban exiles in U. S., told of report that Diaz Lanz might make repeat flight on 10/26/59 and said State had received telegram from U. S. Embassy in Havana asking that Diaz Lanz be placed under constant surveillance or arrest and then announce it to press. Rubottom said State was not requesting FBI to place Diaz Lanz under surveillance or arrest, but would like to have FBI consider going to Diaz Lanz and asking him either to come to FBI or Chief of Police in Miami and put himself into their custody for twenty-four hours so it could be announced and Cubans would know if plane flew over it would not be Diaz Lanz. Bartlett told Rubottom entire matter presented to Department as to any violation and in absence of response, FBI could not place Diaz Lanz under arrest or surveillance. Rubottom said he knew it was touchy problem but wanted matter considered. After talking with Belmont, Bartlett called Rubottom and reaffirmed FBI could take no action pursuant to State's suggestion in absence of ruling by Justice Department that violation had taken place. Rubottom was also advised he might desire to consult Customs and Federal Aviation Agency concerning controls and restrictions on part of this Cuban exile.

At 6:40 p.m., 10/24/59, Departmental Attorney Kenney called SA J. J. O'Connor, who was on duty, and inquired about availability and willingness to testify of informant (Charles William Hormel) who gave data in our 10/23/59 letter about departure and return of plane of Diaz Lanz. At 8:45 p.m. Kenney inquired as to availability of informant (Alcido de los Reyes) who gave data on Dominican planes. This information was





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requested of Miami by teletype 10/24/59. Miami teletype 10/25/59 advised Hormel was available and would testify but only had hearsay he had gotten from night watchmen at airport. Hormel has arrest record and under indictment himself for illegally transporting arms. Reyes unavailable and unwilling to testify as fears reprisals against sister, who is in prison in Cuba, and mother, who is in hiding in Havana. SA V. H. Nasca advised Assistant Attorney General Yeagley on 10/25/59 of availability of Hormel, referred him to background of Hormel which is available to Department and told him on unavailability of other informant (Reyes).

On afternoon of 10/24/59 Department requested copy of leaflet which Diaz Lanz dropped on Cuba for its consideration in connection with violation aspects of actions of Diaz Lanz. Leaflet was in Spanish and translation secured by teletype from Miami 10/24/59 (original sent to Director) two autostats of which furnished Departmental Attorney at 10:50 p.m., 10/24/59.

On evening of 10/24/59 Departmental Attorney Kenney asked if any previous references in Bureau files to July 26 Anti-Communist Movement mentioned by Diaz Lanz in his 10/22/59 interview with Bureau Agents. Kenney was advised, after check of files, we had no prior data.

e. Subsequent Disclosures of Diaz Lanz

Miami Office teletype 10/25/59 advised of interviews on evening of 10/24/59 with Pedro Diaz Lanz; his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, former Inspector General in Cuban Air Force; Ricardo Lorie Valls, former July 26 Movement underground leader in Miami; Frank Anthony Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, former underground member of July 26 Movement in Miami; and Carlos Echogoyen, former member of Cuban Air Force. July 26 Movement mentioned here is old Castro group prior to revolution and all of these men used to be Castro adherents. All of these men were informed of their rights at outset of interviews.

Pedro Diaz Lanz confirmed data previously furnished 10/22/59. He said leaflet-dropping episode of 10/21/59 was joint enterprise of above persons under his leadership on behalf of July 26 Anti-Communist Movement but without its knowledge. He planned incident.



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3. *Efforts of Castro to Create Incidents Discrediting U.S.*

*By teletype 10/25/59, Miami Office has furnished information from MM 639-S (Howard Kenneth Davis, a well-placed source who has been in close touch with both pro-Castro and anti-Castro forces) which clearly reveals the hypocrisy of Castro's accusations as well as the Castro regime's readiness to stoop to any means to discredit the U.S. and make it appear that this country is to blame for all of Castro's troubles. This information has not been disseminated as yet in order to afford Director an opportunity to review it prior to dissemination. It is, however, being furnished to the Attorney General by letter today (10/26/59) and will be made available to State and other interested agencies immediately thereafter.*

*Informant advised that from 9/18-20/59, he met in Havana with Sergeant Fernando Fuentes Coba and Chief of Police Efigenio Almeijeiras of Cuban National Police. Almeijeiras propositioned informant to take part in deal to set trap for anti-Castro forces in U.S. He suggested informant organize a 100-man expedition in U.S. which he would lead in invasion of Cuba at a prearranged spot and which would be ambushed by waiting Castro forces. Almeijeiras and informant subsequently discussed this idea with Raul Castro who approved plan and furnished our source with Havana address to be used as mail drop.*

*On 10/10/59 informant met with Almeijeiras in Havana and latter reiterated his desire to have MM 639-S organize invasion of Cuba from U.S. The source indicated he would consider the matter further but gave no definite reply.*

*Informant conferred with Almeijeiras and Coba again on 10/23/59 and was offered another assignment. Almeijeiras proposed that source approach Rolando Masferrer, prominent anti-Castro leader in Miami, or some other leading anti-Castro leader in U.S. and volunteer to undertake bombing attack against Havana from the U.S.*


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According to plan outlined by Almeijeiras, informant would procure bombs with U.S. Government markings and would deliver them to Almeijeiras after landing at prearranged landing strip outside Havana. It was indicated that Cuban authorities would then issue press release claiming that Miami-based plane had dropped bombs on Cuba, offering as proof one or more of the bombs with U.S. markings which supposedly had failed to explode as well as fragments from other bombs which Cubans would explode. Almeijeiras told informant this hoax would enable the Castro regime to propagandize against the U.S. State Department in order to force U.S. action against anti-Castro elements in this country. Almeijeiras said he wanted this ruse to take place on 10/26/59 and described the operation as "highly important" to the Cuban Government. Informant will endeavor to develop additional information concerning this proposed plot.

Public disclosure of the above information could very well place the informant's life in jeopardy and, accordingly, this information is being classified Confidential.

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4. Bureau Coverage of Cuban Revolutionary Activities

a. Intelligence Coverage

Bureau has investigative responsibility in two specific types of cases which frequently involve Latin-American nationals in U.S. - Registration Act and Neutrality matters. As will be detailed in paragraphs b. and c., where these statutes are discussed in some detail, both have definite limitations and we have not confined our interest or investigations regarding Latin-American revolutionary activities to narrow jurisdictional lines. This has been particularly true in connection with recent developments in Cuba. Since January, 1959, Bureau has put greatly increased emphasis on Cuban matters and has acted aggressively in effort to collect all available data in the U.S. bearing on the political, economic and military situation in that country as well as neighboring Caribbean countries. Among other things, we have (1) interviewed incoming refugees and defectors, such as Diaz Lanz, for any information of interest they might have; (2) initiated investigations of all leading Cuban exiles and factions in U.S. even though in many instances no charges of unlawful activities or other jurisdiction existed; (3) pressed field, and especially key offices of Miami, New York and Havana, to improve their informant coverage in this field; (4) placed technical coverage, with Attorney General's approval, on Cuban Embassy, Washington, D. C., and Cuban Consulates at Miami and New York City. (S)

In addition, we have made increased efforts, wherever possible, to correlate or "package" the results of numerous individual investigations and disseminate summary-type reports to other agencies affording them a better insight into significant trends and a comprehensive picture of developments. This effort, as well as our increased stress on Latin-American investigations, is shown in fact that since April, 1959, no less than nine issues of our weekly Current Intelligence Analysis (CINAL) letter have been devoted in whole or part to Latin-American matters, chiefly Cuban developments. We have also put stress on keeping high-level and policy-making officials of the Government advised of significant developments concerning Cuba. In addition to our regular dissemination to the working levels at State, Central Intelligence Agency and the military agencies, on a number of occasions in the past year we have furnished the White House, Vice President Nixon, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General special reports summarizing significant trends and developments relating to Cuba and the Caribbean area.

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