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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (2- (P))

HSCA 3-14-78

**ATTACK ON SPANISH VESSEL "SIERRA ARANZAZU",
SEPTEMBER 13, 1964
NEUTRALITY MATTERS
(OO: MIAMI)**

Page average 2, + 7 classified
accounting to CIA referred list
on 1/15/86, Page 2, Paragraph
Classified per same list
SP7 mac/ram
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Classified by SP4/ML/MS
Declassify on: OADR 5/2/84
(OSRMA/EC) -6/9/84-JFK

Reynairtels and LHM 9/17, 20, 21/64 and mytels
9/21, 22/64 captioned "Secret Organization of Continental
Action (OSAC)".

Enclosed are 13 copies of LHM dated and captioned
as above, extra copy being for Bufile 97-4133 re HRR, [Copies
disseminated locally to INS, ONE, OSI, CIA, State, Border
Patrol, Coast Guard, Customs, G-2 and FAA.] (u)

- MM T-1 is PSI (under development) ANGEL YERGO. (X)(u)
- MM T-2 is MM-776-S. (X)(u)
- MM T-3 is [MM-815] (X)(u)
- MM T-4 is PSI [VIRGINIA DUBREIL de GINEBRA, Dominican
Vice Consul at Miami] (X)(u)

3-6-98
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SIA/KSL
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The LHM is classified Confidential because it con-
tains info implicating the HRR in this attack and as CIA
has operational interest in the HRR, unauthorized disclosure
of this info could have an adverse effect on the defense and
diplomatic interests of this country. (X)(u)

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 13) (AMSD) (RM)
- 1 - San Juan (Enc. 1) (info) (AM) (RM)
- 3 - Miami
- 1 - 97-327 (HRR)
- 1 - 105-9002 (OSAC)

197-4133-
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OCT 15 1964 mhh



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
September 22, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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Re: ATTACK ON SPANISH VESSEL
"SIERRA ARANZAZU"
SEPTEMBER 13, 1964
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

7/16/81
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP00K/STP
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 9/22/87

BACKGROUND

Reference is made to previous memoranda entitled "Secret Organization of Continental Action (OSAC)" relating to reports that the Spanish merchant vessel "Sierra Aranzazu" was attacked off Great Inagua, Bahamas, on September 13, 1964.

It is noted, as previously reported, that the September 16, 1964 issue of the "Miami News" a daily newspaper published at Miami, contained an article stating that one Telmo Alvarez had called a news agency (United Press International) and claimed his group, the Secret Organization of Continental Action (OSAC), was responsible for this attack.

In contradiction to this claim, it is noted that Juan Mesa Rodriguez, a member of OSAC, when interviewed on September 21, 1964, said he had not been consulted prior to the press notification claiming OSAC responsibility and that OSAC had not been connected in any way with the attack upon the "Sierra Aranzazu". (u/m)

It is also noted that on September 18, 1964, MM T-1, a Cuban exile with contacts in the Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MRR), an anti-Castro organization based in the Caribbean, furnished information which he had received from associates in the MRR to the effect that two launches and a large boat operated by MRR personnel participated in the attack on the Spanish merchant vessel, in the mistaken belief they were attacking a Cuban vessel. (u/m)

CURRENT INVESTIGATION

The following additional investigation was conducted in order to resolve this matter:

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Re: Attack on Spanish Vessel "Sierra Aranzazu", September 13, 1964

said Los Juramentados was definitely not involved in the attack. They suggested the possibility that Castro had ordered the attack to embarrass the United States, but said they had no information to support this theory. (S)(M)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Antonio Perez Quesada, 365 Northwest North River Drive, Miami, a Cuban exile who is currently occupied as a fisherman in the Bahamas, and who in the past participated in some attacks on the north coast of Cuba, advised on September 22, 1964, that he had no knowledge concerning the identity of the people who attacked the Spanish vessel. He expressed the opinion that the boats involved would have had to be either very large boats or to have been based at a location near the eastern end of Cuba, since the attack occurred too far from the United States to have been launched from this country. (S)(M)

On September 22, 1964, MM T-2, a Cuban refugee with some knowledge of pro- and anti-Castro activities in the Miami area, reported that on the evening of September 19, 1964, he had overheard a conversation going on among a small group of exiled Cuban newspaper men regarding the sinking of the Spanish vessel on September 13, 1964. MM T-2 said the newspaper men agreed that the ship had been attacked by a launch of the Cuban Navy and, according to this source, agreed on this theory because it was unacceptable to them that the attack could have been made by an anti-Castro group due to the long-standing friendship between Cuba and Spain, as well as the fact that Spain has been giving considerable assistance to Cuban exiles. (S)(M)

MM T-3, a Cuban with [thirty years] experience as a [S] police and private investigator and who maintains contact with some sources in Cuba, advised on September 22, 1964. (S)(M)

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Re: Attack on Spanish Vessel "Sierra Aranzazu", September 13, 1964

that the majority of Cuban exiles in Miami believed that this attack was made by forces directed by Fidel Castro in order to embarrass the United States and perhaps to make the operation of Cuban exiles against Cuba more difficult in the future (X)

MM T-3 also reported that the Cuban Government gunboat "24 de Febrero" had been in the immediate area of this attack and that very shortly thereafter Cuban radio stations were claiming that United States planes had interfered with the intended rescue operations of the Cuban gunboat. MM T-3 added that the principal Cuban exile organizations in the Miami area have denied any knowledge as to who had directed the attack (X)

MM T-4 (X) a [Dominican] (S) with excellent contacts in official [Dominican] circles, advised on September 22, 1964, that (CS) he had been talking to a Cuban exile who travels between Miami and the Dominican Republic. This Cuban advised MM T-4 that the general opinion in the Dominican Republic was that this attack had been made by Cuban exiles based in the Dominican Republic. (X) (S)

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