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S E C R E T

LA/COG/258-77
3 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of the Legislative Counsel

VIA : SA/ADDO

FROM : Raymond A. Warren
Chief, Latin America Division

SUBJECT : Allegation by a Senior Cuban Diplomat
Concerning the Role of Cuban Exiles in
the Assassination of President Kennedy

1. According to a fairly reliable source, a senior Cuban diplomat stationed abroad made certain charges in late September 1977 concerning the alleged role of Cuban exiles in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This diplomat made these allegations to his colleagues in the course of an official meeting in his embassy. The diplomat said, among other things, that Cuban exiles such as former Cuban Air Force officer D i a z Lan (fnu) and others had been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. The diplomat referred to the assassination in the context of a security lecture in which he claimed that counter-revolutionary activities by Cuban exiles have increased in recent months. He said that recent information had arrived implicating D i a z in the Kennedy assassination. The diplomat did not mention any other Cuban exiles by name or provide any further details. He did not identify the source of his information, although our source had the impression that the diplomat's allegations were based on a recent cable from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. This division has no other factual information concerning the diplomat's allegations. We believe that the basis for the diplomat's statement was, probably, an article which appeared in the New York "Daily News" on 20 September 1977. This article quoted Maritza L o r e n z as saying that she, Orlando B a s c h, Frank S t u r g i s, Pedro D i a z Lanz, two unnamed Cuban exile brothers and Lee Harvey O s w a l d formed an

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assassination squad which went to Dallas to assassinate President Kennedy. We know of no information in our files to substantiate that allegation.

3. D i a z is a former chief of the Cuban Rebel Air Force. He is not nor is there any record that he has ever been an Agency asset, although he could have been debriefed by us after he left Cuba.

4. There have been various press articles in the past alleging that L o r e n z was a CIA agent. She is not an agent or employee of this Agency nor is there any information indicating that she ever was an agent or employee of this Agency.

5. The above information may be passed in part or in its entirety to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The FBI has already been informed of the significant details in this matter.

/s/ George V. Lauder

for Raymond A. Warren

DDO/LA/COG/CIOS/[] i:rcw (1 November 1977, X9194)

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