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10-10-2017

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 30, 1962

FROM : *W/S* SAC, MIAMI (105-6010)

SUBJECT: LARRY J. LA BORDE;
GERALD PATRICK HEMMING;
EDWARD COLLINS;
ANTONIO CUESTA;
IS - CUBA

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

9-1-83
Classified by 9542 GJM-JAM
Declassify on: OADR
Appeal 9-11-88

ReMiami tels 4/25 and 4/26/62.

On April 24, 1962, *(u)* ~~EXM~~ 639-S, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities during the past four years, and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised as follows: *(u)*

LARRY J. LA BORDE, an American in Miami who is a sailor by occupation, claimed he contacted MAX (LNU), a CIA agent in Key West, Florida, on April 22, 1962, and advised him that the ship "SS WILLIAMS," operating out of Miami, Florida, was running machinery to Cuba. LA BORDE requested permission to blow up this ship on its return to Miami. According to LA BORDE, MAX gave him permission, and indicated LA BORDE would receive five thousand dollars for the job, when completed. *(u)*

LA BORDE is associated with ANTONIO CUESTA, GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, and EDWARD COLLINS in this plan to blow up the ship. *(u)*

- 2 - Bureau (AMEL:RM)
2 - Miami E.B.I.
RJD:ems
(4)

NOT RECORDED

MAY 17 1962

MAY 3 1962

placed in 97-3728 (Cuesta)
105-463369 (Hemming)
97-3602 (Fernandez)

901 X

XEROX

MAY 17 1962

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
12-11-85

~~SECRET~~

52 MAY 18 1962

~~SECRET~~

CUESTA is a Cuban national who has previously participated in CIA operations against the present government of Cuba. HEMMING and COLLINS are American citizens, mercenaries and revolutionists, who are not members of any Cuban revolutionary organization, but are in constant contact with most Cuban anti-CASTRO organizations in Miami. ~~(u)~~

MM 639-S states that LA BORDE claims to know the location of a CIA warehouse in Key West, Florida, where arms are stored, and LA BORDE plans to burglarize this warehouse later. Informant advised that on April 21, 1962, LA BORDE, HEMMING and COLLINS went to Key West, and on their return, claimed to have seen the CIA warehouse and said it was full of all types of arms and ammunition, has only one night watchman, and they think they could burglarize it without difficulty. However, they plan to wait until after they blow up the ship. ~~(u)~~

The informant advised that on April 24, 1962, CUESTA visited the Pier 3 area of the Miami Municipal Docks to familiarize himself with the area and devise a plan. CUESTA has decided to use an aqualung to attach explosives to the ship. He claims to be an experienced diver. ~~(u)~~

Informant said that LA BORDE previously worked on a subchaser owned by ALBERTO FERNANDEZ, which was of operational interest to CIA, but has had no action in the recent past. LA BORDE claimed that MAX might overlook LA BORDE's burglarization of the CIA warehouse containing arms, if the destruction of the ship were successful. ~~(u)~~

On April 24, 1962, informant advised that LA BORDE and COLLINS on that date visited the Pier 3 area of the Miami Municipal Docks to familiarize themselves with the general area. LA BORDE planned to leave that evening for New Orleans to bring back to Miami a yacht 75 feet long which he hoped would be donated to ~~(u)~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

MARUCA agreed, and advised that CIA would notify local law enforcement officials. *X(m)*

Prior investigation concerning another matter reflected that the "SS WILLIAMS" is owned by TEOFILO *Cuba* BABOUN, a Cuban millionaire residing in Miami, who is anti-Communist and anti-FIDEL CASTRO. The ship is presently on a time charter to Inter Island Shipping Company, of which VICENTE RODRIGUEZ is President and Manager. The ship left Miami on April 19, 1962 bound for Phillisborough, St. Martin, Netherlands West Indies, and is expected back in Miami on approximately May 2, 1962. *X(m)*

The ship was described as being 750 tons, 167 feet long, and Panamanian registry. *X(m)*

On April 25, 1962, MARUCA said that LA BORDE was then in Key West, Florida, owed the Blue Lagoon nine hundred dollars on his bill, and the owner was going to sign a complaint and obtain a warrant for LA BORDE's arrest. MARUCA also advised that CIA were advising the local police authorities and the Coast Guard of LA BORDE's plans. *X(m)*

On April 30, 1962, MM 639-S advised that CUESTA has three aqualungs, and planned to teach HEMMING and COLLINS how to use this underwater diving equipment. HEMMING, on April 27, 1962, talked to ALBERTO FERNANDEZ, who said that LA BORDE was in Key West, and HEMMING should discontinue his association with LA BORDE, because of his being irresponsible. *X* HEMMING said that he, COLLINS and CUESTA were practicing with the aqualungs in the ocean at Key Biscayne, Miami, Florida, on April 27, 1962, when CUESTA said that they were being watched by a CIA agent whom CUESTA had previously known. *X(m)*

- 4 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Informant advised that HEMMING has a friend who is a ship surveyor, who was able to ascertain that the "SS WILLIAMS" would be back to Miami, Florida on about May 11, 1962. *(u)*

The informant stated that CUESTA claims that during the time he was working for CIA, ALBERTO FERNANDEZ received a certain quantity of money from CIA, to be used to buy food for the group operating a boat belonging to FERNANDEZ. However, FERNANDEZ kept the money. *(u)*

Inasmuch as this matter concerning the blowing up of the "SS WILLIAMS" is not within the jurisdiction of the Bureau, and LA BORDE and CUESTA have previously been of operational interest to CIA, and there is apparently ill feeling between LA BORDE, CUESTA and CIA, the Miami Office anticipates no active investigation in this matter. *(u)*

The Miami Office will follow this matter through [contact with MM 639-S] and liaison with CIA, and keep the Bureau advised. *(u)*

~~SECRET~~

4-41 (Rev. 3-5-62)

DECODED COPY

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

~~SECRET~~

☐ Radio

9-1-83
Classified by 9542 GLH-JAR
Declassify on: OADR ☒ Teletype
Appeal 9-11-58

URGENT 4-25-62 6:38 PM EST RGT

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC MIAMI 252107

LARRY J. LA BORDE; GERALD PATRICK HEMMING; EDWARD COLLINS;
ANTONIO CUESTA; ~~IS CUBA~~ INTERNAL SECURITY-CUBA

ON APRIL 24 LAST, ~~EMM~~ 639-S, ~~WHO~~ (U) WHO HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE
INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED AS FOLLOWS. u

LA BORDE, AN AMERICAN IN MIAMI, CLAIMS HE CONTACTED
MAX * (LNU), CIA AGENT IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA, ON APRIL 22, LAST
AND ADVISED HIM THAT THE SHIP SS WILLIAMS WAS RUNNING
MACHINERY TO CUBA. LA BORDE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO BLOW
UP SHIP ON ITS RETURN TO MIAMI. ACCORDING TO LA BORDE, MAX
GAVE HIM PERMISSION AND INDICATED LA BORDE WOULD GET \$5000
FOR JOB WHEN COMPLETED. LA BORDE IS WORKING WITH ANTONIO
CUESTA, GERALD PATRICK HEMMING AND EDWARD COLLINS ON THIS
MATTER. ~~(u)~~ (u)

CUESTA IS CUBAN NATIONAL. HEMMING AND COLLINS ARE
AMERICAN MERCENARIES. LA BORDE CLAIMS TO KNOW IDENTITY AND
LOCATION OF CIA WAREHOUSE IN KEY WEST WHERE ARMS ARE STORED
AND PLANS TO BURGLARIZE IT LATER. ~~(u)~~ (u)

CIA, MIAMI, HAS ADVISED THAT LA BORDE WAS OF OPERATIONAL
INTEREST TO CIA BUT THAT HE WAS DROPPED A COUPLE OF MONTHS
AGO. ACCORDING TO CIA, MIAMI, MAX IS IN FACT A CIA AGENT IN
KEY WEST AND WAS CONTACTED BY LA BORDE, HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO

* LAST NAME UNKNOWN

105-86406-

CLASSIFIED DECISION: UNCLASSIFIED NOT RECORDED

102 MAY 3

12-11-85

Appeal 9-11-58

SULLIVAN

MAY 2 1962

~~SECRET~~

SEE REVERSE
SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION
ACTION

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably
paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-140898