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FRO DIAZ
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SWING, GENERAL
DIAZ, PEDRO
CABELL, EARLE

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6 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: LANZ, Pedro Díaz

1. On 3 July 1959 Mr. Tom Flores, WH Division, telephoned my home, stating that he was unable to contact anyone in the Alien Affairs Staff and that General Cabell was interested in having a contact made with Immigration on an expedite basis.

2. Mr. Flores stated that Subject, the former head of the Cuban Air Force, surreptitiously left Cuba and entered Miami on 2 July 1959. He was apprehended there by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and is still in I&NS custody. Mr. Flores stated that the FBI has talked to Subject; and that the WH representative, Bernard Reichardt, has been in contact with the Head of the Immigration Service in Miami. He has asked that Subject be turned over to him for possible movement to Washington. Mr. Reichardt stated that relationships between the Immigration and Naturalization Service and himself were very good, but that the District Director of I&NS in Miami had stated that his Headquarters in Washington had ordered him not to release Subject.

3. Mr. Flores stated that General Cabell has been in contact with the State Department, especially Bill Snow, Deputy Director of Inter-American Affairs, and that Snow has the concurrence of Secretary Rubottom, who agrees with General Cabell that Subject should be turned over to CIA for exploitation. Mr. Flores stated that General Cabell directed that Immigration be contacted to effect the release of Subject to CIA.

4. I contacted Herb Nice at his home and explained the situation to him. He stated that he would attempt to contact the proper officials in I&NS to effect the turnover. Some three hours later Mr. Nice returned my call, stating that due to the holiday weekend, he had had difficulty locating I&NS officials and he has learned that General Swing had issued orders that Subject's parole be revoked and that Subject would be held in the custody of I&NS; that the Regional Director from Richmond, a Mr. Shoneberger, would go to Miami on the case. Mr. Nice stated it was his understanding that, because there was some

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possible friction between the Army people in Miami and CIA, as well as other possible agencies, General Swing had decided to keep Subject in I&NS custody and make him available to any authorized Agency who wished to talk to him.

5. Preparatory to a possible turnover to CIA, I contacted Jim O'Connell, SSD, for possible support in moving Subject to Washington. After learning of General Swing's decision to keep Subject in custody in Miami, I cancelled the support request to Mr. O'Connell.

6. Later in the day Tom Flores, WH Division, telephoned to state he had been in contact with General Cabell and that General Cabell had contacted General Willems, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Army, who authorized General Cabell to state that he concurred in the turn over of Subject to CIA. Mr. Flores stated that Air Force and State also concurred in this turnover. Flores further stated that General Cabell was interested in being certain that Subject was not surfaced.

7. I relayed this information to Mr. Nice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and he stated that he would inform the necessary officials. Mr. Nice also stated there was no intention on the part of I&NS to have any publicity concerning Subject, but that it might involve a situation with a newspaperman which could not be controlled and inadvertently publicity might result, even though it was Immigration's intention to not publicize the fact that Subject is being held.

8. I recontacted Mr. Flores and he stated that General Cabell would probably be in touch with General Swing, Commissioner of Immigration in Miami.

9. On 5 July 1959 Mr. Nice telephoned to state that he had received a call from Mr. Hennessey who is General Swing's Executive Assistant and that it was his understanding that General Swing would be telephoning General Cabell to discuss the situation. Mr. Nice stated that he also understood that General Cabell had indicated to General Swing that the CIA man, Reichardt, had not been permitted to see Subject. I advised Mr. Nice that there must be some misunderstanding on this point, since I had indicated to Nice on Friday, 3 July, that Reichardt had seen Subject and that I had received this information from the persons who were in touch with General Cabell. Mr. Nice stated that this apparently was something that the two generals would have to iron out.

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10. I attempted to locate Mr. Flores and General Cabell to alert them to the possibility of a call from General Swing. I could reach neither one.

11. On 6 July 1959 I advised Mr. Flores, WH Division, of the information relayed to me by Mr. Nice on Sunday, 5 July. He stated that General Cabell had had a call from General Swing and that the people in the State Department were quite concerned about the case, as was General Cabell. Mr. Flores stated that the case would be taken up with the WH Division today, 6 July.

12. I briefed Mr. Pennington, Alien Affairs, and advised him that I was stepping out of the case.



W. M. Knott
Chief, Personnel Security Division

WMK:mab

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