

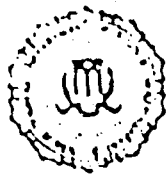
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Miami, Florida
June 21, 1963

DBA 43861

RE: CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (CRC)
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

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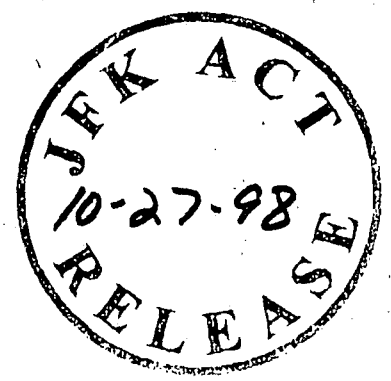
REPORTED LANDING OF COMMANDOS IN CUBA

On the morning of June 20, 1963,

[Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC), an anti-CASTRO unity organization in Miami, furnished a copy of a news release which was in the process of being issued by the CRC that morning. This release reads as follows:

"Commandos of the Cuban Revolutionary Council have landed in different parts of Cuba, continuing the actions which will definitely lead to the liberation of our country. The first reports sent by our forces reveal that the landings were effected without any difficulty and had the utmost cooperation of the peasants in the surrounding zones. These commandos, perfectly armed, have entered Cuban territory. Tomorrow, at 1:00 P.M., the general headquarters of these forces will offer a radio transmission, from Cuba, to the exiles, in the forty meter band, 7018 kilocycles."

[] explained that the CRC had prepared this news release following newspaper inquiry concerning a New York press cablegram the same date concerning the landing of commandos in Cuba. [] said that the commandos involved belonged to a member organization of the CRC but



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he was at that time unable to identify the specific organization; also, he did not know the details of the alleged landing but stated that he did not believe this operation was based from any place in the United States and did not know its point of origin.

On the morning of June 20, 1963, MM T-1, a Cuban exile well acquainted with Cuban revolutionary activities and who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that a United Press cablegram dated June 20, 1963, Miami, entitled, "War Communique No. 1 of the Revolutionary Council," had been released that morning. This cable reads:

"The Commandos of the Revolutionary Council have landed at various points in Cuba to wage an effective war against the Communist regime of FIDEL CASTRO, according to an announcement made today here in Miami by the Revolutionary Council. The announcement does not state the number of men who landed or whether they came by ship or by planes. Neither does it clarify the date of the landing. However, the Council said that the first dispatches received by radio from our forces state that the landing took place without difficulty and had the complete cooperation of all the people and of the region. These commandos are properly armed and have penetrated the territory of Cuba. Tomorrow at one P.M., over 1800 Megacycles, the military command of these forces will broadcast over the band of 40 meters, 7018 Kilocycles, to report to the Cuban exiles. The Council announces that the war for liberation has begun and that its forces are prepared to wage war against the enemy. This announcement has been classified 'War Communique No. 1' and bears the signature of JOSE FERNANDEZ BADUE LUCAS, member of the Council and commissioner of the Department of Information."

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MM T-1 said that the above communique was reportedly given to the United Press by JORGE LLANES PUJOL, former writer with the Cuban newspaper "Prensa Libre," now assistant in public relations for the CRC.

MM T-1 said that about 10:00 A.M. on June 20, 1963, MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA and three other representatives of the CRC appeared on a Miami television program and publicly confirmed that commandos of the CRC had landed in Cuba.

On the morning of June 20, 1963, MM T-2, who is associated with the CRC and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that this commando action was led by JOSE ARRIOLA of the Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MRR) and that four groups were reportedly involved, all connected with the CRC. MM T-1 identified ARRIOLA as being the brother-in-law of SERGIO CARBO, a member of the CRC. It is to be noted that the MRR is a member organization of the CRC and that JOSE FERNANDEZ BADUE LUCAS, mentioned in the above cablegram, is a representative of the Movimiento Democrata Cristiana (MDC) to the CRC.

On the morning of June 20, 1963, MM T-3 and MM T-4, [] in the MDC, a member organization of the CRC and who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised that five or six Cuban Nationals in Miami recently returned to Cuba to rejoin a Cuban underground leader known as CAMPOS. CAMPOS formerly headed an underground group under the command of THORNDYKE, a well-known Cuban underground leader, now deceased. MM T-3 and MM T-4 said that since the CRC is now being criticized, has become somewhat inactive, and is threatened with being overshadowed by other unity groups, the CRC issued this press release for political and propaganda purposes. They pointed out that five or six persons, names unknown to them, did not actually conduct a raid or attack, nor were they sent by the CRC

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to infiltrate, but acted on their own initiative in re-entering Cuba to join CAMPOS.

During the early afternoon of June 20, 1963, Mr. MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA, who is one of the leading members of the CRC, advised that several days previously, fifteen to twenty Cubans left from an unidentified place in the Caribbean on a guerrilla-type infiltration operation into Cuba. They intended to set up a radio station there. They are now located in three or four places in Las Villas and Oriente Provinces of Cuba. This group is in contact in Miami with JOSE ARRIOLA, who is the MRR representative to the CRC. DE VARONA said that members of this group in Cuba will not return to the United States.

DE VARONA commented on a Miami press statement of June 20, 1963, which placed the number in this group at 500. He said that this number was strictly for publicity purposes and that this operation was not sanctioned by the United States Government.

A late edition of the "Miami News" dated June 20, 1963, carried a front page headline article entitled, "500 Refugee Commandos Land In Cuba, Exiles Say." This article stated that the CRC had announced dramatically that the exile commandos have disembarked in Cuba and called the landings "the beginning of the liberation of Cuba." The article continued, "Other exile sources reported that as many as 500 men landed and indicated that several beach-heads were picked out."

This article stated that long-awaited reports of landings sent joy sweeping through Miami's tens of thousands of Cuban exiles but that in Washington, there was no confirmation of the news. This article stated that the commandos were reported to represent three member groups of the Council, Rescate, the MRR and the MDC.

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On the afternoon of June 20, 1963, Mr. JOSE ARRIOLA, who identified himself as the representative to the CRC of the MRR, furnished the following information:

Mr. ARRIOLA stated that ten days ago, the MRR sent three separate groups into Cuba for infiltration purposes and to join up with MRR guerrillas already operating in the central and western provinces of Cuba. The landings were made by boat from a base outside the United States, the location of which Mr. ARRIOLA declined to identify. All three groups, consisting of about ten men each, landed on the same day successfully. Fairly large boats took each group within several miles of shore and the Cubans rowed in to shore by small boats, which they then sank. Each group took in small arms, demolition equipment and other gear suitable for training purposes and to carry on guerrilla-type warfare. All individuals participating have been safely accounted for, according to Mr. ARRIOLA, and on Friday, June 14, 1963, the first radio transmission was received from these men.

Mr. ARRIOLA said that this is a long range program. Individuals involved are members of the MRR. Radio transmitting and receiving equipment was taken into Cuba by these three groups. Transmissions are made by using both code and plain text. The radio transmitter in Cuba is equipped with crystals for three separate frequencies. He confirmed that a transmission would be made at 1:00 P.M., June 21, 1963, on the 40 meter band at 7018 kilocycles and that regular transmissions would be made at pre-arranged intervals thereafter under security precautionary measures.

Mr. ARRIOLA stated that he wanted to emphasize that this operation was not a commando raid, despite newspaper terminology, but it was an infiltration type of action for the purpose of training and building up guerrilla forces inside Cuba, as this procedure is believed by the CRC to be in keeping with the expressed

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United States policy as being the best method of overthrowing the communist regime of FIDEL CASTRO.

Mr. ARRIOLA said that the future problem of the CRC and the MRR is that of supplying these guerrilla forces on a continuing basis and he expressed hope that some help would be forthcoming from the United States Government or other sources.

He said it was their original intention not to publicize this action but that somehow, news leaked out to the press. He ridiculed the newspaper statement mentioned above alleging that 500 men were involved in landings in Cuba, pointing out that this figure is not consistent with the true facts, as only about thirty men actually landed and that it was strictly an infiltration procedure and not a commando type hit and run action.

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