

S E C R E T

19 December 1978

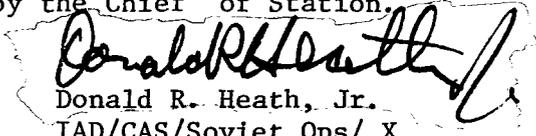
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Special Action by the CIA's Miami Station to Investigate Events Surrounding President Kennedy's Assassination

1. During the spring -summer of 1962 the Chief of our Miami Station, Theodore Shackley, established procedures for mobilizing station personnel, area agents and casual sources to cope with sudden emergencies where fast and continuing collection and reporting were needed. For example, during the early summer of 1962 rumors began to circulate in the Cuban community in Miami and reports were received from refugees arriving in Miami from Cuba indicating the Cuban government expected an invasion of Cuba by the USA. Individual staff officers in the station were charged with organizing their Miami area agents to comb through the Cuban community in Florida for sources who had received such rumors through contacts in Cuba. Our local exile Cuban intelligence service was organized to develop a network of Cuban exile families who could phone in to Cuba long distance in relays and try to elicit information on the invasion rumor from Cuban on-island relatives and friends. When the presence of intermediate range ballistic missiles began to be suspected in Cuba, this same station emergency collection network was set into motion to acquire information augmenting reports by our on-island agents and from technical collection. Later, the emergency mobilization system was used to help other Federal agencies search for armed exile groups violating the Neutrality Act.

2. When President Kennedy was assassinated the Station was well organized to mobilize a fairly massive search for information relating to the magnicide. I recall being told to get into immediate contact with all my local agents and to direct them in the search for informational leads which might turn up an exile Cuban conspiratorial group possibly involved in the assassination and to seek any other information which might turn up evidence about the murder. All other staff officers in the station were mobilized for this effort. That is to say, all staff officers who had agents and informants. In addition to our local search for information those of us with agents in Cuba sent SW, OWVL and WT messages asking questions about possible Cuban government ties to the assassination. I also recall making a trip to Mexico in late November or early December 1963 specifically to meet with my on-island agent AMWEE-1 for the purpose of debriefing him on information he had heard in Cuban government, diplomatic and public circles in Cuba about the assassination.

3. My general recollection is that the Miami Station's search for leads to the President's assassination continued well into 1964 and was considered a high priority undertaking ordered by the Chief of Station.

  
Donald R. Heath, Jr.  
IAD/CAS/Soviet Ops/ X

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