

REF ID: A35483

SECRET

To: Certain Chiefs of Stations and Bases
INFO.
From: Chief, WE
Subject: PRUMEN/Operations
Cuban Refugee Reception and Debriefing Facilities in Spain
ACTION PLANNED & REFERRED

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information

1. The recent lifting of the naval quarantine on Cuba probably will be followed by a resumption of passenger traffic to and from the island, as well as a resumption to some degree of the refugee flow that existed prior to the recent crisis. Although this flow was mainly to South America, the United States and Spain during its height, occasional defectors from Cuban exile and other Cubans seeking political refuge have turned up in various cities of Europe and North Africa. Some confusion has existed in Spanish military installations regarding the handling of these individuals, until recently in regard to choosing European countries that might accept them as refugees.

2. This dispatch is to inform you that facilities for the reception and debriefing of Cuban refugees exist in Madrid. The Spanish Government admits Cuban refugees into Spain simply on the basis of their refugee status and regardless of their documentation. The refugees normally proceed to Madrid where the following facilities are found:

a. ~~Consejo Revolucionario Cubano (CRC) Reception Center.~~ This is a Cuban refugee organization based largely in Madrid. It can accommodate Cuban refugees, which can provide temporary food and housing for Cuban refugees, and assist them in finding jobs in Spain.

b. ~~QMEB Debriefing Center.~~ Through liaison with the CRC, QMEB screens the refugees as they arrive in Spain, identifies those who are determined to be knowledgeable, and thereby has produced valuable current intelligence on Cuba. QMEB is operated and funded by CIA, with the knowledge of Spanish [redacted] but without their participation.

c. The HRFINCH Consulate in Madrid has considerable experience in processing visas for Cubans that have any affiliation with European Consulates, and therefore is in a position to advise on and expedite visas for the Cuban refugees.

REF ID: A35483-1

REF ID: A35483-2

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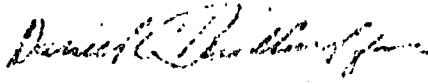
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3. When cases of dissident Cubans come to your attention, it is requested that you consult with local [] and/or appropriate officials (as appropriate) on each individual case. If it is determined that they are deserving of refugee status, please recommend to your DIAFD or [] counterparts that the refugees be encouraged to proceed to Spain, where they will find the best facilities for their reception. Should one of the refugees appear to have potential for debriefing by USDAO, it is requested that you alert Madrid Station to the refugee's identity, mode of transportation to Spain, and the place and date of expected arrival, so that a debriefing can be arranged as quickly as possible. Only in exceptional cases will Headquarters approve transportation of refugees to Spain at KUBARK expense; no dissident Cuban of priority interest generally will be debriefed in the country where they first make contact with USDAO.


LLOYD E. BECKFORD

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