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Memorandum

~~SECRET~~TO : MR. SULLIVAN *Whe*

DATE: 9-15-61

FROM : R. O. L'ALLIER

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SUBJECT: THE CUBAN SITUATION

By memorandum dated 6-23-61, I reported the results of the briefing afforded to Agent Papich by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with regard to the nature and the extent of that Agency's relationship with Cuban exiles in the U.S. At that time, you were informed that there was no evidence of any fixed program or direction from the Administration. Outside of attempting to run small scale intelligence operations within Cuba, CIA was not embarking on any new project, but was actually at a relative standstill waiting for policy decisions. You may be interested in the following information volunteered to Agent Papich by [Robert Whedbee] and Joseph Langen of CIA.

CIA has not initiated any new project or program which has as its objective the overthrow of Castro's regime. CIA is not giving direction or guidance to any exile organization in this country. Its direct and immediate contacts with exile leaders have been almost nonexistent; this position has been taken pursuant to White House orders. For example, CIA has been prohibited from dealing with Jose Miro Cordona, one of the top Cuban exile leaders in the U.S. Recently, the State Department, with the approval of the White House, requested CIA to renew personal liaison with Cordona and keep abreast of his plans and observations. Some exiles have been sent to CIA either at the instigation of the White House or State Department to be interviewed, but usually for the purpose of analyzing a plan or suggested program being projected by the exile or exiles. In each instance, CIA is restricted from promoting any kind of a project. The Agency is permitted to run agents into Cuba to gain intelligence information. EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Although CIA is not involved in the direction of any exile activity, there still are CIA funds in the possession of the Frente Revolucionario Democrático (FRD) and in the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC). CIA has wanted to be in a position to monitor the use of this money, but so far, it has been looking at this situation from the "outside," primarily because of restrictions imposed by the White House and implemented by the State Department. The CIA-supported propaganda radio station in Swan Island is still in operation. Its importance can best be described by Mr. Langen's comment "It's only playing music and it's not even martial." With regard to the strength of the exiles as a politically unified power or as a potential

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10-28-98
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SJP:jad (8)

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1-Masca; 1-Tavel; 1-Liaison; 1-Papich

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LIAISON

Memo L'Allier to Sullivan
Re: THE CURAN SITUATION

SECRET

military force, the CIA representatives were very pessimistic. According to them, there is no real evidence of developing unity and worst of all, the Cubans within Cuba, generally speaking, are very disillusioned with the exile leaders in the U.S.

Mr. [Whedbee] ^(S) commented that reports which periodically circulate indicating that CIA is supporting this or that group are for the most part completely unfounded. He stated that CIA specifically is not organizing any invasion force. A recent report indicated that CIA was backing the organization of a large PT boat force. [Whedbee] ^(S) commented that as far as CIA was concerned, this report was absolutely false. He added that the Agency is controlling or has interest in one PT boat, the "Susan Ann" whose existence is known to the Bureau's Miami Office.

The Agent inquired if CIA was becoming involved with Carlos Prio Socorras, who allegedly is organizing Cuban exiles. [Whedbee] ^(S) stated that CIA definitely was not involved with Prio.

Mr. [Whedbee] ^(S) confided that his Agency continues to operate under severe handicaps because officials in State and the White House such as Goodwin are engaged in so many discussions and dealings with exiles, the details of which are unknown to CIA.

Morales Carillon, State Department official, who a few weeks ago was prominently involved in Cuban matters, is now making every effort to exclude himself from involvement. He allegedly fears that close ties with the Cuban exiles may hurt him from a political standpoint in Puerto Rico, particularly if he becomes entangled in some embarrassing situation. As you know, Morales Carillon, as a Puerto Rican, has a very close association with Munoz Morin, the Governor of Puerto Rico.

ACTION:

For information.

REVIEWED BY ^{das} JFK TASK FORCE

ON 7/1/98 my/ldc

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