

## Agency Information

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## Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : WANNALL, W. R.  
TO : SULLIVAN, W. C.

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TITLE :

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## SUBJECTS :

SPANISH VESSEL, SIERRA ARANZAZU, SUSP, SECRET  
ORGANIZATION OF CONTINENTAL ACTION, MRR, LIAISON  
WITH DOS

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COMMENTS :





~~TOP SECRET~~

Memorandum for Mr. Sullivan  
Re: ATTACK ON SPANISH VESSEL "SIERRA  
ARANZAZU," 9/13/64  
2-1877

We were subsequently advised by CIA on a very highly confidential basis (as set out in our 9/22/64 memorandum) that that Agency possessed information which very definitely indicated that an exile group which is receiving U.S. backing, known as Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MRR), was responsible for this attack. An error was made in that the persons carrying out the attack thought they were firing upon a Cuban vessel. Three Spaniards aboard the Spanish ship were killed as result of the attack. CIA deals with MRR based upon policy established by a Special Group, including representatives from CIA, State Department, Defense, and the White House. Former Attorney General Kennedy also served as a member of the group. CIA claimed it did not direct any of the MRR operations and the planned attack which resulted in sinking of the Spanish vessel was solely an operation engineered by MRR. Details regarding CIA's support of this group, of course, are unknown to Spanish authorities, although State Department is fully aware of complete details regarding this incident. (S)(U)

Our investigation in this matter is being pursued on an expedite and special basis and should be completed within about one week's time barring unforeseen developments. Results are being made available as received to Crimmins at State Department as well as to Internal Security Division of Department. In the latter connection, it should be noted if persons involved in the sinking of captioned vessel undertook any acts in U.S. in support thereof, they might be in violation of the neutrality statutes or the conspiracy provisions relating to neutrality violations. We will request an opinion from Internal Security Division in this regard when our investigation is completed.

ACTION:

For the Director's information in the event he receives a request from Spanish Ambassador Merry del Val for an appointment. The Director may wish to consider taking the position that it would not be proper for him to see and talk to the Spanish Ambassador because the subject matter falls in the province of the State Department. (S)(U)

TP 3 is now (S)(U)

DECLASSIFIED

PER DOS ON 1-16-98

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