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ORIGINATOR : FBI
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88608 Date: 03-18-2025

TITLE :

DATE : 09/25/1964
PAGES : 3

SUBJECTS :

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

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TOP SECRET

Memorandum ROUTED IN ENVELOPE

W. C. Sullivan copies made

September 25, 1964

for review at FBIHQ by

W. R. Wannall

HSCA 3.14.78

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Nasca

ATTACK ON SPANISH VESSEL "SIERRA
ARANZAZU," 9/13/64
NEUTRALITY MATTERS

BW *Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionaria*

Bureau Source Six (Communications Intelligence, Classified "Top

Secret") has revealed that Spanish Ambassador to U.S. Merry del Val on 9/23/64 reported to his Foreign Ministry that he had visited General Marshall Carter, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the previous day and next intended to visit the Director of the FBI. CIA has provided us a memorandum showing that on 9/22/64 the Ambassador met with General Carter who referred to assurances given by Secretary of State Dean Rusk that the U.S. was not involved in the sinking of captioned vessel. *Per NSA letter 2/27/68. Mck*

[Source Six] revealed that the Ambassador had a conference with State Department officials, including Mr. John Crimmins, who is the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, on 9/20/64. Following the conference the Ambassador advised the Spanish Foreign Ministry that he was told by a State Department official that the investigation of the sinking of captioned Spanish vessel was being carried out principally by the FBI in Miami and Puerto Rico and that in this connection the State Department official had an interview with Director of the FBI. In this connection, it may be noted that Bureau representatives met with Crimmins in his office at State Department regarding this matter on the morning of 9/20/64 (memorandum dated 9/20/64 submitted) and the Ambassador was probably told that State Department official had met with one of the Director's representatives and not the Director himself. We have no information indicating the Director has met with State Department official regarding this matter. *no one ever met with me about this.*

Our memoranda in captioned matter dated 9/20 and 22/64 show that at request of Assistant Attorney General Yeagley we are investigating activities of an anti-Castro organization known as Secret Organization of Continental Action (OSAC). This investigation was started last July. Following the sinking of captioned vessel on 9/13/64, the OSAC claimed it was responsible for the sinking and, thus, we have been investigating this incident since that time. Crimmins on 9/20/64 advised us the Spanish Government was most upset over the attack on its vessel and that the U.S. Government agreed to cooperate in an investigation the Spaniards are conducting. He asked if Bureau would object to his making available our investigative results to Spanish officials and we told him that we interposed no objection to State Department's doing so at its discretion.

NOT RECORDED
71 OCT 14 1964

CONTINUED - OVER

WRW:ams OCT 15 1964

(8)

Handwritten Declass (TP3) is now
Declassified - DOS/ODR/1-1-88
TOP SECRET
17 OCT 14 1964

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CLASSIFIED BY SP-2
REASON FOR EXTENSION
DATE OF REVIEW 11/25/84

2-1877-24

ORIGINAL FILED IN

~~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

~~TOP SECRET~~