CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: RAC NL-3 001-032-4-17

TDCSDB-315/00652-65

By: NARA, Date 7/11/01

DISTR. 24 FEBRUARY 1965

SUBJECT

1. MIRR INTENTION TO BOMB HABANA
2. USE OF AMERICAN PILOTS IN MIRR AIR STRIKES

PLACE & DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES, MIAMI (22 FEBRUARY 1965)

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:
A MIAMI BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS A RESIDENT OF HABANA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE SOURCE HAS CONTACTS WHO RECOGNIZE HIM AS A CHANNEL TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM BILL JOHNSON.

1. ON 20 FEBRUARY 1965, BILL JOHNSON, AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO ARRANGES THE SUPPORT ASPECTS OF AIR STRIKES AGAINST CUBA BY ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA'S MOVIMIENTO INSURRECCIONAL DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIA (MIRR, INSURRECTIONAL MOVEMENT FOR REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY), SAID THAT THE MIRR WAS MAKING 180-POUND "ASH CAN" BOMBS FOR SUBSEQUENT RAIDS, "MORE THAN AMPLE TO BLOW UP THE OIL TANKS IN HABANA." JOHNSON SAID THAT BOSCH STILL INTENDS TO BOMB HABANA, BUT "IT WILL BE AGAINST MY ADVICE." JOHNSON LATER ADMITTED THAT HIS OWN MOTIVATION IS PURELY MERCENARY. (FIELD COMMENT: SEE TDCSDB-315/00550-65, DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1965, FOR INFORMATION ON BOSCH'S INSISTENCE THAT THE CITY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.
OF HABANA BE THE MIRR'S NEXT TARGET. THIS MISSION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 16 FEBRUARY.)

2. JOHNSON ALLEGED THAT THE PLANES OPERATING FOR THE MIRR ARE LEAVING FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN TAMPA WAS MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE DEPARTURE POINT, JOHNSON SAID: "YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE."

3. JOHNSON SAID HIS SMALL GROUP PRACTICES GOOD SECURITY. "WHEN WE GET A PLANE AND A PILOT, WE CONTRACT THEM FOR THREE OPERATIONS." THE PLANES ARE FLOWN BY AMERICAN PILOTS SINCE "THE CUBAN PILOTS DON'T HAVE THE GUTS."


5. JOHNSON INSISTED THAT THE RAID WHICH THE MIRR ANNOUNCED AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE ON BAHIA HONDA ON 13 FEBRUARY HAD TAKEN PLACE IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT CUBA HAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED IT.

6. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMKWESTFOR, MIAMI REPS OF STATE, FBI, CUSTOMS, IA&NS, BORDER PATROL, AND USCG.

(END OF MESSAGE)