

DATE: December 8, 1958

TO: Thomas J. Kelly, Metropolitan Sheriff

FROM: W. D. McKee, Criminal Intelligence

SUBJECT: B.W.I.A. SECURITY OF PLANES

On December 8, 1958, Agent A. L. Tarabochia contacted Mr. Lewis L. Sheets, manager of the British West Indian Airways (B.O.A.C. affiliate) in Miami, with reference to security measures to be adopted in order to prevent hostile actions to the company's aircraft by Cuban revolutionaries.

Mr. Sheets stated that he was apprehensive that such actions may result from two reasons, the first one being the recent resentment created among the Cuban revolutionaries by a recent sale of military aircraft made by the British to the Batista government.

The second reason being the close business association between B.W.I.A. and Cubana Airlines, and the fact that B.W.I.A. fly over Cuban territory on the flights from Nassau to Jamaica.

Mr. Sheets, at the Agent's inquiry, stated that the company does not carry many passengers of Cuban nationality and that he would notify this office when flight reservations showed an unusual number of Cuban passengers.

This Agent suggested that as a precaution the company make it a rule to lock the door connecting the passenger cabin with the cockpit and that a code be used between the stewardess and the pilots in case of an emergency. This would enable the pilots to broadcast a distress signal.

Mr. Sheets also declared that his company was agreeable to checking the cargo for explosives and arms contraband, but was reluctant to extend the search to the passengers baggage, this for obvious reasons.

Attached is a flight schedule of the B.W.I.A. flights from Miami.

Respectfully submitted,



W. D. McKee, Supervisor
Criminal Intelligence


A. L. Tarabochia
Intelligence Agent

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FRANKLIN 1-5593

LEWIS L. SHEETS
MANAGER, MIAMI

BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS
COLUMBUS HOTEL
MIAMI 32, FLORIDA