

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Classification NOV 1958

Rec'd:

November 7, 1958  
2:19 p.m. CMA/C

ARA

Info

FROM: Habana

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

L

NO: 483, November 7, 11 a.m.

INF

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MC

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PRIORITY

Herewith is additional information received from Martinez. He saw following articles which had been loaded on plane: Bags of ammunition, revolvers, machineguns, 45 automatic revolvers, thick soled mountain climbing boots, uniforms for five men, water canteens.

CIA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

It is evident that all of this material must have been loaded on plane sometime before departure. Martinez states it was removed from some floor compartment. Due to late arrival of Mrs. Martinez and three children from Chattanooga, plane left approximately thirty minutes late--departure time approximately 4:45. Gunmen changed into uniform in the plane. Gunmen held up plane approximately twenty minutes after take-off. Martinez further states gunmen took over plane sometime between fifteen and thirty minutes after take-off. Martinez guess is plane was still within continental limits of US.

Guell will attempt to obtain information from remaining two survivors as to general locality of plane when gunmen took over.

Martinez told me this morning that plane made approximately ten attempts to land at an airfield, which he thinks was Mayari Arriba. Plane then made several attempts to land at Preston. Just before last attempt it was announced in plane that this would be their last try. Plane crashed in bay while making its approach to airstrip at Preston. He assumes this was due to lack of gas.

I have recommended to Martinez that, upon leaving hospital, he go to US for several weeks. Martinez agrees and would like to visit his father-in-law in Chattanooga.

PERMANENT

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-2- 483, November 7, 11 a.m., from Habana

Above information indicates possibility of conspiracy if such material were loaded on board.

Therefore it is important that this information not be released as it would endanger life of Martinez.

Yesterday afternoon Martinez identified as gunmen the photos of Raul Rolando Rodriguez y Villegas, Edmundo Ponce de Leon and Manuel Fernandez Falcon. Villegas was a Cuban national but legal resident in United States. Ponce de Leon a naturalized American citizen. Fernandez Falcon a Cuban national. Last two bodies have not been recovered.

SMITH

AAL:INK/1

Note: Read by Mr. Leonhardy (CMA) 5:30 p.m. 11.7.58 FMH

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