



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Havana, Cuba,
November 6, 1959.

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dick:

Here's a copy of an interesting letter from Ernesto De la Fe to Linc White. You may well get the original. ~~Don't know how he~~ got it out of prison. It may well be that he is allowed to write things, but I imagine that in the case of something like this he would not want his jailers to know of it.

This morning you were expressing puzzlement at our reaction to the publicity concerning the additional agents sent to Florida. What we have in mind is a somewhat general and nebulous feeling. As I said on the teletype, Fidel in his recent speeches, both on TV and in front of the Palace, has given us two alternatives--either we haven't been firmly applying our laws and controlling counter-revolutionary activities, or our military expenditures have been inefficient, and we can't control flights into and out of our territory. In our note, we said we had been "vigilant" and would continue so. It is fine that the additional men were sent to Florida, but the heavy publicity has left the impression here that maybe after all we weren't doing what we should have been. You will notice a similar reaction in De la Fe's letter.

Next thing we know, out comes Linc White with a considerable statement on governments-in-exile. We don't know how that came up, nor why he expounded on it.

Net effect of the foregoing is to leave an impression that we are solidly committed to thwarting or preventing any efforts to alter the existing situation here.

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(Signed)
Richard B. Owen
Chief of Embassy

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