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REF ID: A654734

SECRET

To: Certain Chiefs of Stations and Bases
INFO.
FROM: Chief, WE
SUBJECT: PERUMEN/Operations
Cuban Refugee Reception and Debriefing Facilities in Spain
ACTION REQUIRED: For your information

1. The recent lifting of the naval quarantine on Cuban territory will be followed by a resumption of passenger traffic to and from the island, and with it a resumption to some degree of the refugee flow that existed prior to the recent crisis. Although this flow was mainly to South America, the United States and Spain during its height, occasional defectors from Cuban exile and other Cuban seeking political refuge have turned up in various cities of Europe and North Africa. Some confusion has existed in Madrid on exactly what installations regarding the handling of these individuals, particularly in regard to choosing European countries that might accept them as refugees.

2. This dispatch is to inform you that facilities for the reception and debriefing of Cuban refugees exist in Madrid. The Spanish Government admits Cuban refugees into Spain simply on the basis of their refugee status and regardless of their documentation. The refugees normally process in Madrid where the following facilities are found:

A } a. Consejo Revolucionario Cubano (CRC) Reception Center. This is a Cuban refugee organization that currently is affiliated to some nations, which can provide temporary food and housing for displaced refugees, and assist them in finding jobs in Spain.

b. QUMEIS Debriefing Center. Through liaison with the CRC, QUMEIS screens the refugees as they arrive in Spain, determines who is determined to be knowledgeable, and thereby has produced valuable current intelligence on Cuba. QUMEIS is operated and funded by the CIA, but without their participation.

c. The HRFINCH Consulate in Madrid has considerable experience in processing visas for Cuban refugees through the European Consulates, and therefore is in a position to advise on and expedite visas for the Cuban refugees.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT

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3. When cases of dissident Cubans come to your attention, it is requested that you consult with local [redacted] and/or officials (as appropriate) on each individual case. If it is determined that they are deserving of refugee status, please recommend to your UNACID or [redacted] counterparts that the refugees be encouraged to proceed to Spain, where they will find the best facilities for their reception. Should one of the refugees appear to have potential for debriefing by USIA, it is requested that you direct Madrid Station to the refugee's identity, mode of transportation to Spain, and the place and date of expected arrival, so that a debriefing can be arranged as quickly as possible. Only in exceptional cases will Headquarters approve transportation of refugees to Spain at KUBARK expense, as dissident Cubans of territory. Information generally will be debriefed in the country where they first make contact with USIA.

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