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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY CUBA

TCSDS-315/00652-65

DATE OF INFO 20 FEBRUARY 1965

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)

REF.

IN 86271

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO. UFG 6747

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, INSURRECCIONAL 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 TCSDS-315/00552-65, DATED 16

FEBRUARY 1965, FOR INFORMATION ON BOSCH'S INSISTENCE THAT THE CITY

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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."

4. JOHNSON CLAIMED THAT JACK GRIFFIN, THE AMERICAN PILOT WHO CRASH-LANDED A B-25 EARLIER THAT MORNING, HAD TAKEN PART IN A PREVIOUS RAID ON CUBA. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE DOWNED B-25 HAD EVER BEEN USED IN ANY RAIDS. JOHNSON SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW DAN SHAW, GRIFFIN'S CO-PILOT ABOARD THE DOWNED B-25.

5. JOHNSON INSISTED THAT THE RAID WHICH THE MIRR ANNOUNCED AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE ON BAHIA MONDA 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, I&NS, BORDER PATROL, AND USCG.

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(END OF MESSAGE)