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TO :
TITLE : CONTACT REPORT
DATE : 04/09/63
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SUBJECTS : VECIANA BLANCH, ANTONIO C

II FRONT

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CONTACT

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

AGENT HANDLER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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SUBJECT: II Front (U)

Cite: CR-8-63
Reference: See below
Project: AUTOBOAT (C)

CONTACT REPORT

Date: 9 April 1963

1. (C) References:

- a. Msg, ANTGB 122 (S), d/30 Mar 63.
- b. Msg, ANTGB 125 (S), d/30 Mar 63.
- c. Msg, DA 926469 (S), d/31 Mar 63.
- d. Msg, ANTGB 126 (S), d/31 Mar 63.
- e. Msg, ANTGB 127 (S), d/31 Mar 63.
- f. Msg, ANTGB 128 (S), d/31 Mar 63.
- g. Msg, DA 926470 (S), d/1 Apr 63.
- h. Ltr, AUTOBOAT (C), Subj: Concept of Operation (U), d/13 Mar 63.

2. (U) Circumstances of Contact:

a. 312200 Mar 63: Patrick Harris (Capt Hubbard) telephoned Andres NAZARIO-Sargent, at telephone number FR 1-5004, in Miami, Florida. NAZARIO answered the telephone, but immediately placed Angel BANOS-Pantojas (see ref. h.) on the telephone. Harris made an appointment to meet NAZARIO and BANOS near the entrance to the "Columbus Hotel", located at 1st street and Biscayne Boulevard, at 2300hrs.

b. 312320 Mar 63: Harris observed NAZARIO, BANOS, and Antonio VEGIANA-Blanche (DUP 748) approach the hotel, enter the hotel, and then exit the hotel after several minutes. After assuring himself that the three (3) II Front men were not under surveillance, Harris discreetly approached them and told them to meet him in the parking lot of "Uncle John's Pancake House", which is located at 9099 Biscayne Boulevard.

c. 312340 Mar 63: Harris, after employing counter-surveillance measures, arrived at the "Pancake House" and parked in a nearby supermarket parking lot. Harris observed the three (3) II Front men park their car in the parking lot of the "Pancake House". After a five (5) minute waiting period, Harris drove into the parking lot of the "Pancake House" and told the II Front men to leave their car and get into his. Harris then drove to the "Apache Motel", located at 10651 Biscayne Boulevard. Harris, and

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the II Front men, entered the bar. Harris determined that the bar was not secluded enough for a meeting site. Harris sent BANOS to rent a motel room.

d. The meeting, in the motel room, lasted from 010030 to 010330 April 1963. Harris spoke to BANOS and VECLIANA in English. BANOS acted as interpreter when Harris wished to speak to NAZARIO. BANOS, VECLIANA and NAZARIO spoke among themselves in Spanish.

3. (S) Operational Matters:

a. The II Front had established a 24 hour radio alert pending Harris' arrival in Miami. Harris instructed NAZARIO to contact the II Front radio operator, in Miami, and relay a message to Eloy GUTIERREZ-Menoyo (DUF 749) and/or Rafael HUGUET del Valle. GUTIERREZ was told "not to come to Miami at this time. Stay in place. Await further word from Harris".

b. VECLIANA was told that "at this time" AUTOBOAT (C) was not in a position to assist HIM in gaining permission to enter Puerto Rico.

c. NAZARIO wanted to know if HE could send a boat load of rations out to the II Front base camp. Harris told NAZARIO not to try it until the current situation had settled down. NAZARIO told Harris that there was less than twenty (20) days rations on hand at the base camp. Harris told NAZARIO to instruct GUTIERREZ to place the men on reduced rations so as to increase the time frame before a shipment of rations would be absolutely necessary.

d. The II Front was being pressured by the press, wire service, radio, and television, to make a statement as to the plans of the II Front in view of the U.S. Policy to stop the raids being conducted by the anti-CASTRO resistance groups. The II Front requested that they be furnished assistance in preparing a statement suitable for release. Basically the II Front wanted a statement that would say in effect: "that in accordance with the desires of President KENNEDY, and the Departments of State and Justice, they will temporarily stop the raids against CASTRO. This statement is not to be construed as a total surrender, but as a statement that will coincide with the current U.S. Policy. This statement is brought about by the necessities of the moment and should not cause the Cuban refugees to give up hope of seeing Cuba free, nor to cause the Cubans to lose faith in the II Front".

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e. Throughout this meeting, the II Front was of the opinion that AUTOBOAT (C) had not betrayed the II Front's trust by reporting the locations of their bases. In fact, the II Front repeatedly expressed their feelings of good fortune to have finally found a U.S. agency that the II Front could trust.

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4. (U) Close of Meeting:

010330 Apr 63: The meeting in the motel room was concluded. Harris drove the II Front members back to the "Pancake House" parking lot. Harris bought a "4th meal" for the three (3) men. Harris made an appointment to meet with them later in the day.

5. (S) Subsequent Meeting:

011300 Apr 63: Harris met BANOS and VECIANA at a travel agency in the "McAllister Hotel" building located at Flagler Street and Biscayne Boulevard. This meeting lasted approximately three (3) minutes. Harris told BANOS and VECIANA that he could not assist them in the preparation of their statement. VECIANA told Harris that it was necessary for the II Front to make a statement, that the statement would be made without further delay, and that the statement would be made without Harris' assistance.

6. (U) Finances and Logistics:

During this contact, the following funds were expended on parking, refreshments, motel room, "4th" meal, and telephone calls: \$22.45

7. (S) Agent Handler's Comments and Recommendations:

a. A copy of the statement released by the II Front, on 1 April 1963, is attached, together with an English translation, as Inclosures # 1 and 2.

b. The possibility exists that since Harris sent word to GUTIERREZ and HUGUET to remain at the Williams Island base camp, and in view of the subsequent British raid on Williams Island (and other islands previously identified by Harris as being occupied by the II Front), the II Front could form the opinion that Harris was aware of the pending British raids and had placed GUTIERREZ and HUGUET in a position to facilitate their capture.

2 Incls:
a/s

MILFORD P. HUBBARD
Capt, AIS

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