

May 11, 1995

TO: Jeremy Gunn

FROM: Christopher Barger

RE: Areas for future searches

FILE NO. 4.0.2

After having done the background research for the Brad Ayers interview, the following subjects have struck me as worthwhile areas for future records searches:

1. The University of Miami (administrative and financial records from 1960-1964)

One cannot help but think that school administration knew, or at least had an idea of, who their tenants were. It is possible that somewhere in school records, more information about JMWAVE, how it was set up, and by whose authority it was established rests in school records.

2. CIA files on the *Commandos Mambises*

This group was apparently set up to appear to both the exile community and to Castro as independent of the CIA. It made a few raids, including one on the Matahambre copper mines in October 1963, then was flushed out by Castro and ceased activity. More of the JMWAVE story might be found here.

3. CIA, Defense and State Dept. files on the J. Louis incident

On the night of October 21, 1963, a raid was conducted on Cuba by CIA trained exiles. Castro was waiting for them, however, and the raid had to be scuttled. As the exiles attempted escape, a freighter offshore caught the Cuban Air Force's attention. They began strafing the freighter, thinking it was the mother ship for the operation. It was an American-owned ship flying the Liberian flag, the *J. Louis*, and it had nothing to do with the raid. Upon hearing that a civilian ship was under attack by five of Castro's MiGs, the Navy allegedly scrambled a number of F-4 Phantoms from Key West, and the CIA had to hurriedly call off the Navy in order to avoid a dogfight and an international incident. The *J. Louis* was strafed for a while longer before the Cuban pilots realized their error. The US responded by publicizing and criticizing Castro's "aggressiveness", and shortly thereafter, the State Department used the incident to justify continuing the economic embargo of Cuba. Any files

regarding this incident from any of the three entities involved would prove useful, I believe.

4. Any CIA files on the "Quail Roost"

This was the name of one of the camp facilities in southern Florida the CIA used to train the exile commandos. The existence of files on this facility should be checked.

5. Any CIA files regarding the ships "Rex" or "Leda"

These were the command ships used by the CIA Navy during sea-based raids on Cuba. It was the Rex that the Cuban MiGs thought they were attacking during the J. Louis incident. Files on these ships might give us an idea as to ship's personnel, the source of its funding, the authorization for their conversion and use, or details about the missions they undertook.

After completing the Ayers interview, I will add any appropriate subject areas that develop.