

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

June 21, 2017

TO: CIA Team

FROM: Manuel E. Legaspi

SUBJECT: **CRC Financial Records in the Sequestered Collection Microfilm**

The purpose of this memorandum is to assess the relevance and the feasibility of reviewing the three reels of microfilm printouts of Cuban Revolutionary Council financial records that are currently part of the JFK Sequestered Collection Microfilm.

A full summary follows.

Summary of Activity

On 11 July 1997 and 05 Sept 1997 I visited CIA-IP to review the CRC financial records in the JFK Sequestered Collection Microfilm. These records, better known as the "Paula and Sosa Reports" and the "Garcia and Paula Reports" after the accountants who wrote them, are financial records for the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC) for the period 1960-1965. The CRC, an umbrella group of anti-Castro groups formed with the support of the U.S. Government, was to be the basis for an official government of Cuba had the Bay of Pigs invasion been successful in ousting Castro from power.

These financial documents make up nearly three entire reels of microfilm printouts (Reels 64, 65, and 66, or 94 folders) and are summaries of CRC income and disbursements. They are occasionally written in Spanish.

BACKGROUND

The three reels or 94 folders of files can generally be characterized as highly detailed monthly financial records, covering everything from rent and office supplies to payments to the surviving family members of Bay of Pigs casualties. While some of the records are highly detailed, general summary statements appear at the front of each monthly report. These general summaries usually take three forms:

"General Statement for Month"

Contains deposit and expense figures, and balance at the end of the month, and contains no generalized information (i.e., amounts expended for certain purposes without breaking down exact figures)

"Analysis of Balance in Our Books"

This is another general statement indicating figures for the final date of month. This differs from the "general statement" in that it contains more information on outstanding figures not rectified by the last date of the month.

"Reconciliation form"

This is a form usually signed by the Chief of Station, JMWAWE, indicating that he approves the figures submitted by the CRC accountants)

Otherwise, most of the documents are simply listings of checks paid and sources of income, e.g. donations, etc.

CURRENT STATUS OF FILES

These records have never been released to the public in any form.

OBSERVATIONS

The fact that the more specific summaries contain a considerable number of names complicates any strategy for reviewing these records. However, an examination of these records indicate that they would be of very marginal utility as "assassination records." In my estimation, the problems that would be encountered in reviewing these materials are not worth the resources that would be used to release these records, at least in the short term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the ARRB staff perform a formal review of these files and indicate that the general reports are assassination records and should therefore be processed as such. The other records should be assigned "NBR" status, with the rest of the collection summarized in a one or two page document. The Board could also vote to release these documents in full at a point in time before 2017, for example, in a five or ten year time frame when we can be fairly certain that the sensitivity of the names and other redacted issues has waned.