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Wash. Post
15 Mar. 1963
Cuba Travel

Spotlighted By Mexico

By Gerry Robichaud
Chicago Daily News Service

MEXICO CITY, March 26
"You can't do this to me!"
screamed the high-ranking,
left-wing Chilean politician,
but the Mexican police agents
went ahead and did it any-
way.

What they did was to mug
him—full face and profile
shots—before he was per-
mitted to board one of the
two weekly flights that oper-
ate between Mexico City and
Havana.

They recorded his name,
passport number and checked
to make sure that his Cuban
visa was entered properly on
one of the pages of the pas-
sport.

When they decided that ev-
erything was in order, he was
given clearance to board the
Cubana Airline plane.

This recent scene involved
Socialist Sen. Salvador Corva-
lan Gonzalez, one of the cam-
paign managers of the Com-
munist-backed Chilean presi-
dential candidate, Sen. Salva-
dor Allende. Allende is a
warm admirer of Cuban
Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Protests Do No Good

Before he finally calmed
down, Corvalan protested
loudly that the police were
overlooking his temporary
diplomatic status as a travel-
ing Chilean government official.
It did him no good.

The mugging and the pas-
port and visa checks are stand-
ard operating procedure for
everybody going through the
Mexican gateway to Cuba by
the only commercial planes
carrying passengers to
Havana.

No one is immune. Protests
are frequent but unavailing.

Any country wishing the pic-
tures and names of its nation-
als going from Mexico to Cuba
may obtain them from the
Mexican government. Such in-
formation is said to be sup-
plied automatically to some
countries asking for this type
of service.

The present system of keep-
ing careful records of all trav-
elers to Cuba was started
about a year and a half ago,
without explanation, by the
Mexican government. The pro-
gram is under the direction of
the federal judicial police, a
branch of the Attorney Gen-
eral's office.

Statements Puzzling

Mexican and foreign observ-
ers were somewhat puzzled by
recent statements in Washing-
ton, attributed to Central In-
telligence Agency Director
John A. McCone, that Latin
American disciples of Castro
were able to slip through Mex-
ico to Cuba without their gov-
ernments being the wiser.

One report had McCone tell-
ing a House subcommittee that
the Castroites, upon leaving
their countries, give their des-
tination as Mexico. Once here,
the report added, they go to
the Cuban Embassy and are
given slips of paper that serve
as visas. These are not at-
tached to the passport, and
can be thrown away after
having been used.

Thus, said the report, there
would be nothing in the travel-
er's passport to show he had
been in Cuba.

Mexico is the only country
in Latin America out of which
passenger planes regularly fly
to Cuba, and so Latin Ameri-
cans must come here to make
the connection.

But none is slipping through
undetected. The identities of
all are known to the Mexican
government and, if their pas-
ports are examined upon their
return home, to their own
governments.

Forged passports would be
the only way of beating the
system.

Moreover, all persons com-
ing to Mexico from Havana
are subjected to a thorough
baggage and, sometimes, per-
sonal search. Customs authori-
ties confiscate anything they
consider Cuban or Communist
propaganda, including Cuban
newspapers, magazines and
phonograph records.

Only travelers in transit are
spared such searches.

Commenting on the remarks
attributed to McCone, one
Mexican official said:

"If that information did
indeed come from the CIA,
it's a shakeup in the high com-
mand."

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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SECRET

April 1, 1963

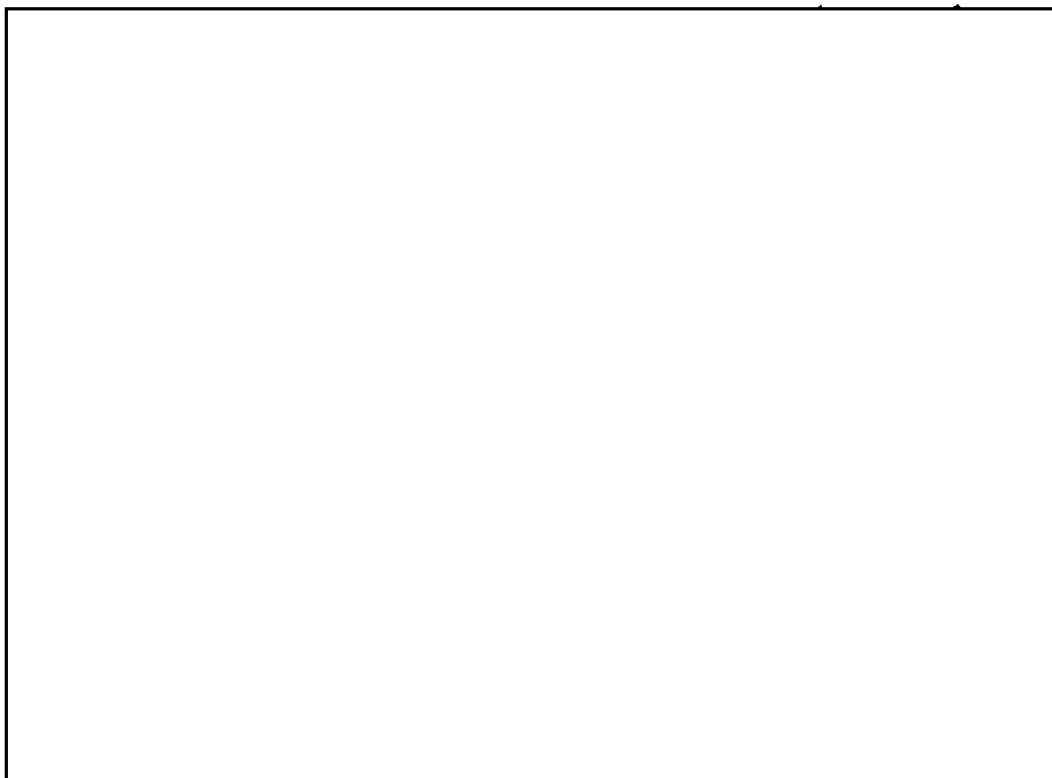
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Attorney General

SUBJECT : Actions and Recommendations to Prevent
Pin-Prick Raids against Cuba

At the Miami meeting (March 29-30), the group learned that ten exile raiding operations were planned for the immediate future and recommended the following actions:

1. Authorize Coast Guard to dispatch aircraft to watch over Norman Key in the Bahamas, from which action appeared imminent.

Current Status: Approved by White House.
Aircraft dispatched.



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3. Authorize INS to impose departure controls over suspected Cubans and Americans.

Current status:

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Current Status: Approved by White House.

List of 29 highly suspect Cubans agreed upon by Miami intelligence agencies. INS served 25 with warnings not to depart U.S. and, in case of parolees, not to depart Dade County, Florida. State and Justice legal staffs agreed upon procedure for controlling departure of suspect Americans; policy officers will consider implications.

4. Authorize Coast Guard and Customs to impound suspect boats.

Current Status: Approved by White House.

Coast Guard and Customs informed.

5. If personnel involved in contemplated raids are parolees, authorize appropriate agencies to warn and/or detain suspected parolees. (INS can detain suspected parolees for brief or extended periods for having violated the condition of their parole).

Current Status: White House approved warnings but not detention. INS should be permitted to detain suspects who ignore warnings.
Decision requested.

6. Warn all exile suspects that U.S. desires raids to stop and is prepared to take necessary action.

Current Status: Approved by White House.

Suspects are being informed.

7. Issue policy statement as soon as possible.

Current Status: Approved by White House.

Joint State-Justice policy statement issued
March 30.

Let's get this

8. Initiate intensified surveillance of prime suspects

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Current Status: Approved by White House.
Intensified surveillance being conducted.

9. Study question of prosecution of suspects who are generally undesirable.

Current Status: Approved by White House.

* * * * *

The Miami group also recommended the following sustained actions to diminish the number of raids over the long run, for which approval is required.

- *1. Authorize Coast Guard to conduct daily air surveillance of the Bahamas.
- *2. Authorize Coast Guard to maintain continuous boat surveillance of the Bahamas.
3. Issue periodical statements to educate the public on United States policy, as elaborations upon the March 30 basic statement.
4. Publicize raiding plans of exiles as they become known.
5. Authorize INS to detain suspect raiders.
6. Prosecute selected cases.
7. Continue intensified intelligence collection.

8.

* Coast Guard now has 4 Albatross aircraft and would need 4 to 6 more (possibly from Navy). Coast Guard has 3 helicopters and would need 4 more. Coast Guard now has two 95-foot patrol boats and would need 6 more. With additional equipment Coast Guard believes it would have a 50% chance of detecting raids.

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- **8. Request Customs, Coast Guard and INS to intensify present programs.
9. Warn persons who may assist raiders, such as boat charterers and fund contributors.
10. Develop guidance for more fruitful exile activities
11. Include Puerto Rico in all foregoing programs. (As the Miami area tightens, many suspects will shift to Puerto Rico; additional funds, personnel and equipment would be needed to control activities there).

[Redacted]

Deputy Coordinator of
Cuban Affairs.

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** If Customs is to pick up and hold on to suspect boats, it would need 65 more men in order to cover the 500 mile coast line. Coast Guard gave Customs one 30-foot boat on March 30 and Customs urgently needs one more 35-foot boat for the Key West area.

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U.S. CURBS CUBANS
IN MIAMI REGION

4/3/63

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1963.

U. S. Curbs Miami Exiles To Prevent Raids on Cuba

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 31—The Government moved today to enforce its policy of preventing Cuban refugees from using United States territory to organize or launch

raids against Cuba. The Justice Department placed restrictions on 18 Cubans in the Miami area.

In some cases they were ordered not to leave Dade County, in which Miami is situated, and in others not to leave the United States.

The Department did not disclose the names of those restricted. Dispatches from Miami confirmed that some members of two exile groups already involved in raids had been given the restriction orders. These were the Alpha 66 and the Second Front of Escambray groups.

Violators Face Arrest

Violation of the orders, issued through the Immigration and Naturalization Service, could be enforced by arrest or deportation.

In its announcement yesterday that it planned to take "every step necessary" to prevent raids, the Government expressed sympathy for the anti-Castro cause. But it said it could tolerate no activities that might provoke reprisals against American forces.

Yesterday's announcement was made by the State and Justice Departments. It did not specify what the measures would be to guard against new hit-and-run attacks on Cuba. Today's action by the Justice Department revealed one step.

Raids Traced to Bahamas

In addition, officials said, they expect the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Coast Guard to increase their surveillance of Cuban refugee circles, of the Florida coastline and the waters between the United States and Cuba.

It was understood that some of the small boats used by raiding groups had been tracked and might be seized in the next few days. The Coast Guard can challenge the seaworthiness of any vessel and presumably will check on suspicious craft by invoking this right.

Information available now about the two attacks on Soviet ships in Cuban ports in the last two weeks suggests that the raids were not launched from American soil, the Government said yesterday.

But its statement promised further investigation. The statement avoided the question of whether the expeditions were supplied with men or materials from the United States.

Some of the recent raids, it

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has been established, were launched from some of the smaller islands of the British Bahamas group. However, the participants did not live there and their expeditions almost certainly originated elsewhere.

American surveillance efforts will be coordinated with the British Government.

The Administration's dilemma was reflected in the careful wording of yesterday's statement. Washington fears that, should the exile attacks continue, the Soviet Union and Cuba would be provoked to retaliate, either against American shipping in the Caribbean or against the American reconnaissance planes that now fly over Cuba daily with impunity.

But because it has encouraged Cubans to work for the overthrow of Premier Fidel Castro, the Administration has hesitated to harass or take sanctions against the anti-Castro fighters.

However, the refugee raiders have been exceptionally resourceful in carrying through attacks that have damaged Soviet merchant ships in Cuban ports.

Because of this President Kennedy and his advisers have therefore decided to do everything possible to discourage and prevent continuation of the refugees' raids.

The United States will not, however, take responsibility for events in Cuba or her territorial waters.

The Policy Announcement

Following is the text of yesterday's statements by the State and Justice Departments:

"The position of the United States Government regarding hit-and-run attacks by Cuban refugee groups against Soviet ships and other targets in Cuba have been made perfectly clear by the President and Secretary of State. These attacks are neither supported nor condoned by this Government. The President has pointed out that they may have effects opposite to those presumably intended by those who carry them out; that is, they may strengthen the Soviet position in Cuba rather than weaken it, tighten Communist controls rather than loosen them.

"For preliminary evidence suggests that these raids have not in fact been launched from the territory of the United States. However, the F.B.I. and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, with the cooperation of the Coast Guard and Customs Service, are intensifying their investigations.

"We intend to take every step necessary to insure that such raids are not launched, manned or equipped on United States territory.

"The sympathy of this Government and the American people is with those Cubans who hope to see their country freed from Communist control. We understand that these raids reflect the deep frustration of men who want to get back to their homeland, to a Cuba that is independent.

"This understanding does not mean that we are prepared to see our own laws violated with impunity or to tolerate activities which might provoke armed reprisals, the brunt of which would be borne by the armed forces of the United States."

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

MEMORANDUM

FROM: WE <i>[Signature]</i>	EXTENSION	NO.
DATE 27 MARCH 1963		

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. AC/WH		3/27	PWB	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>
2.				
3. DDP			<i>[Signature]</i>	
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