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~~SECRET~~

13 February 1970

Subject: MHCFACS/Venezuelan Brigade/Papers Found in Apartment of SIS 19

1. Today, during discussion of an entirely separate matter, [redacted] of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee stated a few days ago (by accident, he maintained) he came into possession of letters found in Chicago (date of finding unknown) in the rear apartment of [redacted] member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The letters were dated January 1969 (one was SG Jan 69). He said that these letters gave instructions concerning the recruitment of Americans for the Venezuelan Brigade.

2. [redacted] and I later examined these letters (circumstances were such that we could not view them for very long, however.) All were from Havana. One was signed by [redacted] and (I think name was) [redacted] and another by [redacted]. In general, the letters pointed out that since there are not many really well-trained revolutionary types available in the United States, the Brigade would first have to secure a few dependable people and make them the judges of who else should be recruited. It was also pointed out that it should be made clear to all that the Brigade was to be a movement of serious and definite purpose, not a it-would-be-a-grove-to-go-to-Cuba sort of deal. Another passage, evidently referring to the general plan for the Brigade, included a timetable; this timetable included the entries "May -- Get general Cuban agreement" (or similar wording) and "June -- Get SIS approval." In still another passage the writer, in this case [redacted] I think, was discussing the composition of the Brigade and said something very close to "get a group of browns. Now, the Puerto Ricans are browns, but Cuba doesn't want any BR's" -- at any rate, a cynical-sounding remark.

3. [redacted] later added that the following:

- a) He had heard that 65 "Cuban cadre" had been put in with the first Brigade group, to keep an eye on them;
- b) He had a report from Canada listing the names of Americans returning from the first wave of the Brigade -- "on a cattle boat," he said -- and [redacted] was not among them.

4. I am inclined to think that [redacted] will give us copies of these letters. (We were able to express interest only in the external Cuban angle of this, of course.) However, it's very likely that he first wants to publish them, or something on them. I suggest we work on this through [redacted] who was present and is aware of the letters but who did not read them. I don't know whether or not Charles is briefed on MHCFACS; he appeared not to be. In any case our irregular interest should be sufficient explanation to him for our desire to have them.

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Faint, mostly illegible text at the top of the page, possibly containing a header or introductory paragraph.

In [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

Red. I [redacted] will be down here at least until the middle of April;
if any help or information is needed, just get the letter to
disposal of the Mission to [redacted] [redacted]

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Legislative Counsel Attn: Mr. 		
2			<i>[Handwritten mark]</i>
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	
Remarks:			
<p>Per our telecon, we would very much appreciate having copies of these letters today.</p>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>			
FOLD HERE TO			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
C/CI/SO x 5847			18 Feb 70
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	