

CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CIA/WHSS 96-318

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

3.5(c) TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO, STATE RCI//
 [REDACTED] TREASURY DEPT//

ATTN MR KAHLER, DIRNSA//NSOC ATTN MR MCMANIS.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: AUG 11, 1976

SUBJECT: TWO CUBAN EMBASSY MEMBERS DISAPPEAR IN BUENOS AIRES

REF : REUTER, HAVANA, AUG 11, 1976

TWO MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY STAFF DISAPPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES ON MONDAY, ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT FROM HAVANA. THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA WAS REPORTEDLY CALLED TO A 90-MINUTE MEETING WITH A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT, PRESUMABLY TO BE TOLD OF THE CASTRO REGIME'S DISMAY OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE.

HAVANA IS CLEARLY BECOMING MORE CONCERNED OVER THE SAFETY OF ITS PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD. A CUBAN CONSULAR OFFICER WAS KILLED IN MERIDA, MEXICO, LAST MONTH BY EXILE TERRORISTS ATTEMPTING TO KIDNAP THE CONSUL; AT LEAST TWO CUBAN DIPLOMATS WERE KILLED AND FOUR INJURED ON APRIL 22 WHEN A BOMB WENT OFF AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY

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██████████ IN LISBON; A CUBAN FISHERMAN WAS KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS WERE WOUNDED ON APRIL 6 DURING AN ATTACK BY ARMED EXILES WHO SANK TWO FISHING BOATS BY GUNFIRE NEAR CAY SAL IN THE FLORIDA STRAIT; AND A BOMB WENT OFF AT THE CUBAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK TWO MONTHS AGO WITHOUT CAUSING INJURIES.

MIN A PROTEST TO THE US FOLLOWING THE FISHING BOAT INCIDENT, HAVANA DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT AS A VIOLATION OF THE CUBA-US MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON HIJACKING AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS OF FEBRUARY 15, 1973. DURING A SPEECH ON JUNE 6, FIDEL CASTRO HINTED AT THE ABRIGATION OF THE ANTI-HIJACKING AGREEMENT SHOULD THE ATTACKS CONTINUE. IN THE SAME SPEECH HE WARNED THAT CUBA WOULD RESPOND IN KIND TO FUTURE TERRORISM.

CASTRO'S PATIENCE IS CLEARLY WEARING THIN. JUDGING FROM THE LENGTH OF THE INTERVIEW WITH THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, CASTRO HIMSELF MAY HAVE PRESENTED HAVANA'S POSITION. THE CUBANS PRESUMABLY ARE AWARE OF THE INCREASING HOSTILITY TOWARD THEIR EMBASSY IN OFFICIAL ARGENTINE CIRCLES AND MAY HAVE DECIDED TO BRING THE ISSUE TO A HEAD RATHER THAN WAIT ^{OR} ~~FOR~~ SOME OVERT OFFICIAL ACTION AGAINST THE EMBASSY.

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IF THE GOVERNMENT IN BUENOS AIRES MAKES LIGHT OF THE CUBAN CONCERN,

3.5(c)

HAVANA MIGHT WITHDRAW PART OR ALL OF ITS MISSION IN ARGENTINA

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DATE: 11 AUG 76 {1230}

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