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17 DEC 1963

OSA 353 CUBA

12-17-63

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**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN H. CRIMMINS**  
**Coordinator of Cuban Affairs**  
**Department of State**

**SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee of Cuban Affairs: Report on the Status of Implementation of Actions Designed to Counter Subversion**

Enclosed herewith is the Report on the Status of Implementation of Actions Designed to Counter Subversion for the period 1 November - 1 December 1963. The format of this report adheres to the topic outline disseminated at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Subversion, September 13, 1963.

It is requested that this office be provided with 12 copies of the final report. It is assumed that each of the representatives will have an opportunity to consider the final report before it is forwarded.

Signed  
Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

**Joseph A. Califano, Jr.**  
**General Counsel**

**Enclosure**  
**As Stated**

Mr. Califano  
Lt Col Haig  
ASG

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE

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OFFICE  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF CUBAN AFFAIRS  
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DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 25 YEARS  
DOD DEC 5200-10

OSA, ASG Control No. 29/5-E

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**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO  
COUNTER SUBVERSION FOR THE  
PERIOD 1 NOV - 1 DEC 1963**

**3. Control of Clandestine Movement of Guerrillas and Arms.**

a. On 9 November 1963 the Commander-in-Chief, US Southern Command (USCINCSO) advised the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) of reports concerning suspected subversive arms smuggling into Venezuela or Colombia from the Colon Free Zone, Panama. USCINCSO initiated surveillance at first light on 9 November 1963 to detect and track surface vessels which might be engaged in the subversive traffic. The JCS directed the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic (CINCLANT) to commence surveillance with radar equipped aircraft and to keep USCINCSO advised of all information. Suspected craft were not positively identified or intercepted; however, there were indications that an unidentified surface vessel off the Rio Hacha area of Colombia and in Colombian waters was probably in contact with small boats operating from the Colombian coastline at night.

b. As directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, USCINCSO developed a plan under which the United States could provide assistance to Venezuelan forces, on three levels of participation, designed to prevent the surreptitious movement of Castro-Communist arms and personnel into Venezuela. To be fully effective, the plan calls for US elements operating from Venezuelan territory which is not considered a likely subject for approval by the Government of Venezuela at the present time.

c. A joint survey and mobile training team of eleven men was provided by USCINCSO to Venezuela on 22 November 1963, upon approval of the concept by the Government of Venezuela. The purpose of the team is to train Venezuelan military personnel in organizing and operating a joint operations center; in improving capabilities in the plotting and coordination of intelligence data, and aerial photography; and in coordinating all Venezuelan military and paramilitary organizations involved in surveillance and intercept operations.

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**5. Strengthening of Counterinsurgency Capabilities.**

a. Two minesweepers from the US Atlantic Command, USS STURDY and USS SWERVE with Commander Mine Division 44 embarked, commenced a schedule of visits to Caribbean ports in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Visits are intended to assist each country in improving its coastal and off-shore surveillance effort, to improve intercept capabilities with respect to the prevention of infiltration of arms and subversive personnel through the countries' territorial waters, and to establish procedures which would provide for US assistance in final interception when requested. Visits in November, under the supervision of USCINCSO, covered Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; Bluefields and Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua; and Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

b. Seventy-eight Latin American officers, previously enrolled, were in attendance during November at courses stressing counterinsurgency conducted by the US Army Canal Zone school. Two officers graduated from the US Army Counterinsurgency Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 12 November 1963 and two additional officers are now in attendance.

c. Seven US Army Counterinsurgency Mobile Training Teams based in the Canal Zone, consisting of twenty officers and thirty-five enlisted men, provided training in seven Latin American countries during November.

d. Nine enlisted men from Chile were in attendance at Marine Corps schools at Camp Pendleton, California in November.

e. US Coast Guard training in small boat operations was provided in the Canal Zone for fifteen students from five Caribbean countries in the operation and maintenance of forty-foot Coast Guard utility boats. A Coast Guard mobile training team of one officer and two enlisted men, based in the Canal Zone, provided training in Costa Rica for the reconditioning of Coast Guard utility boats. Five members of the Costa Rican Guardia Civil are receiving on-the-job training in connection with reconditioning of the boats.

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f. A US Air Force counterinsurgency team of five officers and eight enlisted men, based in the Canal Zone, provided training for Ecuadorian Air Force personnel in Ecuador.

g. At the request of USCINCSO, and with the enthusiastic support of the Venezuelan Government, a small boat program has been initiated to provide security for the Lake Maracaibo region. Arrangements have been made through the US Navy under Military Credit Sales agreement for the manufacture of six (6) 25-foot and four (4) 31-foot inboard-outboard, fiberglass hull boats by Bertram Boat Company, Miami, for delivery in December 1963 or early January 1964. A SEAL-trained Mobile Training Team (MTT) of one officer and five enlisted men will be provided by the Navy and will report to the equipment supplier in time to become fully acquainted with the boats by 15 December. The MTT will accompany the boats to Venezuela and will remain up to two months in country to provide necessary familiarization training.

6. Exchange of Intelligence on Cuban Surveillance.

a. Upon receipt of intelligence pertaining to suspected arms smuggling from the Canal Free Zone, Panama into Colombia or Venezuela, the USCINCSO relayed this information to Colombia and Venezuela by the Military Alerting System. The US Ambassador to Colombia conveyed the information to the Government of Colombia. Colombian Navy and Air Force elements were assigned increased surveillance missions in the Caribbean coastal area of Colombia by Colombian military authorities and results of their surveillance activities were provided to USCINCSO by the US Military Group Commander in Colombia. The results of US air surveillance of the expected route and landing area, undertaken by US Air Force and Naval air elements were transmitted to the US Military Group Commander in Colombia for passage to the Colombian military authorities.

b. The motor vessel BLUE STAR, of Panamanian registry, was apprehended by Ecuadorian authorities in November 1963 as it was attempting the clandestine introduction of contraband articles

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into Ecuador. Ship movement information had been provided to the US Naval Attache Bogota by the District Intelligence Officer of the Fifteenth Naval District. There was no apparent involvement of Cuban arms or Cuban trained personnel in this instance.

**7. Other Special Actions.**

a. Construction is now in progress on the Latin American Military Communications System (LAMCS) in Quito, Ecuador; the terminal station is expected to be completed in December 1963. The station in Nicaragua is expected to be completed in early December 1963.

b. In response to a request by USCINCSO, action was taken on 15 November 1963 to expedite delivery of communications equipment required to implement a Jamaican integrated coastal surveillance system. The system was originally approved as part of the \$500 thousand one-time grant of Military Assistance material directed by the President in April 1963, but world-wide shortages of specific items threatened to delay shipment in some cases until FY 1965. In view of the urgency of this requirement, priorities were adjusted to provide delivery by 1 January 1964. The items include:

12	AN/CRC radios and installation kits
3	AN/ARC 3 radios
1	AN/PSM 6
1	Wattmeter

c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Office of Public Safety, State-AID, are studying the possibility of increasing the stock level of certain items of Riot Control Equipment in the Canal Zone, in order to meet rapidly and effectively multiple contingencies that may occur in Latin America. In the past, the size of some requests have necessitated shipment of certain items directly from the United States, with resultant increase in cost and time. USCINCSO has been asked for his recommendations on stock levels.

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