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2. USE	OF AMERI	CAN PI	OTS IN	MIRR AIR	STRIKES			
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COUNTRY CUBA

TDCS DB-315/00652-65

20 FEBRUARY 1965 DATE OF

12.5

DISTR. 24 FEBRUARY 1965

INFO.

1. MIRR INTENTION TO BOMB HABANA

2. USE OF AMERICAN PILOTS IN MIRR AIR STRIKES

DIACE A

DATE ACQ. UNITED STATES, MIAMI (22 FEBRUARY 1965)

N 86271

SOURCE

AND

FIELD REPORT NO. UFG 6747

APPRAISAL A MIAMI BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS A RESIDENT OF HABANA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE SOURCE HAS CONTACTS WHO RECOGNIZE HIM AS A CHANNEL TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM BILL JOHNSON.

1. ON 20 FEBRUARY 1965, BILL JOHNSON, AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO ARRANGES THE SUPPORT ASPECTS OF AIR STRIKES AGAINST CUBA BY ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA'S MOVIMIENTO INSURRECCIONAL DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCION-ARIA (MIRR, INSURRECTIONAL MOVEMENT FOR REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY), SAID THAT THE MIRR WAS MAKING 180-POUND "ASH CAM" BOMBS FOR SUBSEQUENT RAIDS, "MORE THAN AMPLE TO BLOW UP THE OIL TANKS IN HABANA." SAID THAT BOSCH STILL INTENDS TO BOMB HABANA, BUT "IT WILL BE AGAINST MY ADVICE". JOHNSON LATER AUMITTED THAT HIS OWN MOTIVATION IS PURELY MERCENARY. (FIELD COMMENT: SEE TIXISUE-315/00550-65, DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1965, FOR INFORMATION ON BOSCH'S INSISTENCE THAT THE CITY This material contains information affecting the National Defents of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which is any manner to an anauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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OF HABANA BE THE MIRR'S NEXT TARGET. THIS MISSION WAS ORIGINALLY, SCHEDULED FOR 16 FEBRUARY.)

- 2. JOHNSON ALLEGED THAT THE PLANES OPERATING FOR THE MIRR ARE
 LEAVING FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN TAMPA WAS MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE
 DEPARTURE POINT, JOHNSON SAID: "YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE."
- 3. JOHNSON SAID HIS SMALL GROUP PRACTICES GOOD SECURITY."

 "WHEN WE GET A PLANE AND A PILOT, WE CONTRACT THEM FOR THREE OPERATIONS."

 THE PLANES ARE FLOWN BY AMERICAN PILOTS SINCE "THE CUBAN PILOTS DON'T HAVE THE GUTS."
- 4. JOHNSON CLAIMED THAT JACK GRIFFIN, THE AMERICAN PILOT WHO CRASH-LANDED A B-25 EARLIER THAT MORNING, HAD TAKEN PART IN A PREVIOUS RAID ON CUBA. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE DOWNED B-25 HAD EVER BEEN USED IN ANY RAIDS. JOHNSON SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW DAN SHAW, GRIFFIN'S CO-PILOT ABOARD THE DOWNED B-25.
- 5. JOHNSON INSISTED THAT THE RAID WHICH THE MIRR ANNOUNCED AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE ON BAHIA HONDA ON 13 FEBRUARY HAD TAKEN PLACE IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT CUBA HAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED IT.
- 6. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMKWESTFOR, MIAMI REPS OF STATE, FBI, CUSTOMS, I&NS, BORDER PATROL, AND USCG.

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(END OF MESSAGE)

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