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JFK Assassination System
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ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : SAC, MM
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE : M.

DATE : 09/17/1964
PAGES : 8

SUBJECTS :

SIERRA ARANZAZU, SPANISH MERCHANT SHIP,
ATTACKED, GREAT INAGUA BAHAMASDOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
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DATE: 11-14-2017

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for review at FBIHQ by

Date: 9/17/64

HSCA 3-14-78

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Via AIRTEL RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. MK# 2-6-48 (Priority)

7/16/81
CLASS. A EXT. BY SP4 JRM/200
REASON-FCIM 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9/17/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-131113)

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (105-9002)

SECRET ORGANIZATION OF CONTINENTAL
ACTION (OSAC)
IS-CUBA
NEUTRALITY MATTERS
M.R.R.

Classified by 8269/MLK/SP8
Declassify on: OADR 5/31/84
SP8 MAC/504
6/3/84 - JJK
place in new 2-2877 Re
"Attack on Spanish Vessel "Sierra
Aranzaga", September 13, 1964"

Enclosed herewith are 12 copies of letterhead memo
dated and captioned as above.

Copies are being designated locally to the following:

- INS, Miami
- ONI, Miami
- OSI, Robins AFB, DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSK
ON 3-3-98 (JJK)
- CIA, Miami
- State Dept. (Cuban Affairs Office) Miami
- U.S. Border Patrol, Miami
- U.S. Coast Guard, Miami
- U. S. Customs, Region II
- U. S. Customs, Miami
- G-2, Fort McPherson, Georgia
- FAA, Miami

1 cc eagley
2 cc Cummings
CLASS. BY 7218/SP4 JRM/200
REASON-FCIM 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9/17/84

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MM T-1 is WALLACE SHANLEY, Assistant U.S. Customs
Agent, Miami, Fla. MM T-2 is CARLOS ZARRAGA MARTINEZ, PSIUD.
MM T-3 is MM 639-S. MM T-4 is Lieutenant AARON ROGERS,
Intelligence, U.S. Coast Guard. MM T-5 is MM 635-S. MM T-6
is MM 492-S.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
- 2 - San Juan (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - Miami
- RJD:moh
- (6)

97-4133 -
NOT RECORDED
71 OCT 14 1964
20 SEP 19 1964

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge
OCT 15 1964

Sent ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ M Per [Signature]

10-11-97
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/SP8
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR (JFK)
U.S. Customs info is DECLASSIFIED
ON 7-23-97
PER: THRE/IC/HR
1 cc [Miami Liaison]
9/25/84
9-22-64 VAD: ksd

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-131113-21



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida

September 17, 1964

10-11-97
CLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X
JFK

1/30/85
Classified by A146 ci/rsw
Declassify on: OADR
Pg. 4 paras 1, 2, 3 info
in these paras is
unclassified per
Coast Guard let. 10/2/84

Re: SECRET ORGANIZATION OF CONTINENTAL U.S. CUSTOMS INTO
ACTION (OSAC) IS NOW DECLASSIFIED
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA ON 7-23-97 PER
NEUTRALITY MATTERS THEIR LETTER

1/2/84
JFK
6/3/94 JFK

This investigation was predicated on press reports that the Spanish merchant vessel "Sierra Aranzazu" was attacked off of Great Inagua, Bahamas, on September 13, 1964.

The following is a summary of press and wire service releases concerning this matter:

On September 10, 1964, the Spanish merchant vessel "Sierra Aranzazu", 1600 tons, 270 feet long, was attacked by two small boats North of Great Inagua, Bahamas. During the night, a small boat approached the merchant vessel, shining a spotlight on the stern, noted the vessel's name and then left. About fifteen minutes later two attack boats approached the vessel from the stern and strafed it with cannons and machine guns. As a result of this action, the merchant vessel caught fire, blew up and the crew took to lifeboats. Three crewmen of the Spanish vessel were killed and seventeen were injured.

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IN THIS DOCUMENT. MCH 2-6-98

The Dutch ship "SS P.G. Thulin" arrived on the scene, picked up the crew and, under United States Coast Guard orders, departed for Matthew Town, Great Inagua. Thereafter, two Cuban patrol boats arrived and ordered the "Thulin" to take the crewmen to Cuba. The Captain of the "Thulin" answered he was under United States Coast Guard orders to proceed to Great Inagua. At Great Inagua, the crew from the Spanish vessel received medical attention and then were taken to Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba. The three dead crewmen were taken on to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Two Cuban tugboats towed the Spanish vessel to Bones, Cuba, and arrived there on September 16, 1964.

The Spanish government sent a note through its envoy in Washington, D. C. to the United States government

7/10/88
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REASON - EX 1
DATE OF REVIEW 9/1/88

ENCLOSURE
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Re: SECRET ORGANIZATION OF CONTINENTAL ACTION (OSAC)

[X] On September 17, 1964, MM T-4, a representative [X] of another government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised that the DRE in the Dominican Republic is operating a location about 100 miles from where the Spanish ship was attacked. However, at this time, there is insufficient evidence to determine who is responsible for the attack of the Spanish ship. (X)(u)

[X] MM T-4 advised that the MRR has been operating [X] against the South coast of Cuba and that an operation in the Bahamas would be too far for the MRR's PT boats. (X)(u)

[X] MM T-4 continued that there is speculation that [X] the Cuban government may have been responsible for the attack to bring pressure on the Dominican Republic to review its position in allowing Cuban exiles to operate out of that country. MM T-4 continued that it is also interesting to note that the three persons killed on the Spanish vessel were the top echelon of officers - the Captain, Second Mate and Third Engineer - and of the persons wounded were the Chief Engineer, Second Engineer and Radio Operator. [X] MM T-4 stated [X] there is some speculation that because the officers of the ship suffered so many casualties there may have been an internal problem with the ship's crew. (X)(u)

On September 17, 1964, MM T-5, a Cuban National who has been involved in Cuban Revolutionary activities for the past seven years, said that Juan Mesa Rodriguez, head of Secret Organization of Continental Action, on September 16, 1964, claimed his organization was responsible for the attack against this Spanish ship and that the attacking boats left from Florida. (X)(u)

MM T-5 advised there was no evidence to support this claim, however, Mesa has been interested in attempting such an operation as this, and about one month ago was trying to obtain a small attack-type of boat. (X)(u)

[X] MM T-6 [X] a Cuban exile active in anti-Castro organizations, advised that Cuban exile groups seriously doubt that Mesa's organization presently has equipment, money, knowhow and connections to effect such an attack. (X)(u)

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