

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBA 34829

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida

APR 10 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

**RE: EJERCITO CUBANO ANTICOMUNISTA
(FRENTE ESCAMBRAY)
(CUBAN ANTI-COMMUNIST ARMY)
(ESCAMBRAY FRONT);
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA;
REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA;
NEUTRALITY MATTER.**

On April 4, 1963, MM T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, obtained information from a source who is involved with American criminal elements in New York and Miami, who obtained information from an unknown source, whose reliability is unknown, but who is in a position to furnish some information concerning this matter.

201-242256
It was reported that in the late evening hours of April 3, 1963, Frank Anthony Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, an American soldier of fortune involved in Cuban revolutionary activities, reportedly stated that until recently, the "Violyn III" had been located in Naples, Florida, under Fiorini's control. Fiorini continued that an infiltration mission was planned by Fiorini and Evelio Duque (matronymic name unknown), wherein Duque and his men would infiltrate into Cuba to engage in guerrilla activities against the Cuban

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Government, and Fiorini would later supply them by airplane from the United States. Duque was described as a Cuban exile residing in Miami, Florida, who is active in anti-Castro activities.

Fiorini claimed to have arranged for the use of the boat "Violyn III," and made the arrangements with the owner, Alexander I. Rorke, Jr., free lance newspaper man, who has been periodically involved in Cuban revolutionary activities. Rorke agreed to allow Fiorini use of the boat if, in return, Rorke's organization, U. S. Freedom Fighters, would receive credit for any success accomplished by Fiorini.

Later, this boat was moved to Marco, Florida, on the Gulf of Mexico side of Florida. Thereafter, Rorke changed his mind and wanted the boat back, but Fiorini claimed he did not know where the boat was, or where it had gone. Some time later, the "Violyn III" and another large boat left the Florida area.

After the "Violyn III" left from somewhere on the West Coast of Florida, Frank Fiorini, along with airplane pilot Bill Johnson and Jerry Buchanan, an American adventurer, rented a small boat and met the "Violyn III" and the other large boat at sea. The small boat loaded on to the two larger boats gasoline and food. Jerry Buchanan, at that time,

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boarded the "Violyn III." The two larger boats then departed for an unknown destination. Fiorini and Johnson returned to Florida in the small boat.

MM T-2, a confidential source abroad, on March 30, 1963, advised that Frank Fiorini, Bill Johnson, and Jose Maria Gonzalez Hernandez, a Cuban radio operator and technician, arrived in Nassau on March 29, 1963, and stayed at the Pilot House Hotel. The following day, March 30, 1963, these three persons rented a plane and flew to Norman Key. That same day, British authorities arrested them, and on the evening of that day put them on a commercial airline for Miami, Florida.

On April 3, 1963, MM T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, obtained some information from an untested source with contacts in the Bahamas, who obtained information from an unidentified person. He advised that it was reported that several hours after Fiorini was arrested on Norman Key, British authorities in the Bahamas stopped and boarded the "Violyn III" and arrested some thirteen Cubans and Jerry Buchanan who were aboard.

On April 4, 1963, MM T-3 advised that the British authorities released the "Violyn III" and the crew, and instructed them to proceed to Miami. The other boat which originally accompanied the "Violyn III," name of this boat unknown, escaped and was being sought by the British and the United States Coast Guard.

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On April 4, 1963, Fiorini reportedly claimed that he had been in radio contact with the above-mentioned unidentified boat, and it was tied up at an island in the Bahamas, exact location of which was not disclosed. The boat was reportedly camouflaged and heard the U. S. Coast Guard planes flying above in an effort to locate it. Fiorini claimed he could supply this unidentified boat with fuel and food, if requested by this boat, and that he had available an Aero-Commander airplane in Miami and two fast powerboats located somewhere north of Miami. It was not known what manner of radio communication was used by Fiorini to contact the unidentified boat.

On April 4, 1963, local newspaper, radio stations and television stations in Miami, Florida, reported that the "Violya III" had departed from Nassau and was enroute to Miami with a U. S. Coast Guard escort. Miami Attorney Charles R. Ashmann made press announcements that the crew of the "Violya III" would not return to the United States.

In the early morning hours of April 5, 1963, MM T-3 advised that Ashmann claimed the "Violya III" would rendezvous with the other unidentified boat and would complete its infiltration mission to Cuba.

On April 5, 1963, MM T-4, a representative of another Government agency, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1963, the "Violya III" left Nassau, Bahamas, on a general course for the United States, and at that date was at the north tip of

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Andros Island in the Bahamas. Because the "Violyn III" was in shallow water, the U. S. Coast Guard discontinued its surveillance of the "Violyn III" by boat, and the surveillance was taken over by U. S. Coast Guard aircraft. At about 8:20 P.M., the "Violyn III" turned off its running lights and had not been seen by the Coast Guard since that time.

MM T-4 reported that there is a Sigma-type Cuban fishing boat which was stopped near Williams Key off the coast of Andrews Island on April 5, 1963. MM T-4 said this Sigma boat was possibly the boat that was supposed to rendezvous with the "Violynn III" for an infiltration mission into Cuba. There is an airplane landing strip at Williams Key which could not be used because someone had placed a great quantity of rocks and driftwood on the runway.

On April 5, 1963, Mr. Chester A. Woish, Chief, Investigations Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, advised that the "Violyn III" had just arrived at the seawall, Key Biscayne, Miami. The Cubans aboard were to be taken by INS authorities to INS detention facility at Opa Locka, Florida, where interviews were to be conducted, and any United States citizens on board were to be taken by INS authorities to INS Headquarters in Miami, where these individuals would be interviewed for any possible violations of Federal law concerning U. S. passport regulations.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2P

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
April 8, 1963

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ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES

MICROFILMED
APR 17 1963
DOC. MICRO. SER.

The "Violyn III," a boat utilized by the Cuban Anticommunist Army, Escambray Front, in its anti-Castro activities, was recently captured by British authorities together with a number of anti-Castro raiders. The boat and the anti-Castro raiders have subsequently returned to Miami, Florida.

In this connection an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past on April 4, 1963, advised that during the previous evening Frank Anthony Sturgis, who is more commonly known as Frank Fiorini, a former Castro supporter and an American soldier of fortune who has been engaged in anti-Castro endeavors since his break with the Castro regime, stated that until recently the "Violyn III" had been located at Naples, Florida, under Fiorini's control. An infiltration mission had been planned by Fiorini and Evelio Duque, leader of the Cuban Anticommunist Army, Escambray Front, whereby Duque and his men would infiltrate into Cuba and would later be supplied by Fiorini by plane from the United States.

Fiorini stated he had arranged with Alexander I. Rorke, Jr., a free-lance newspaperman who has been involved in anti-Castro activities, for the use of the "Violyn III." Rorke permitted the use of this boat but stated that he wanted his organization, the U. S. Freedom Fighters, to receive some of the credit for any successes achieved. Rorke subsequently changed his mind and wanted the boat back but Fiorini claimed that it had departed and that he did not know where it was.

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ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES

Mr 201
Mr 202

Sometime later the "Violyn III" and another boat left the Florida area. On the day of the departure of these vessels, Fiorini, Bill Johnson, a pilot, and Jerry Buchanan, an adventurer, rented a small boat and made a rendezvous with the other two boats at sea. Buchanan transferred to one of these two vessels and gasoline and food supplies which had been on the small boat were loaded aboard these two vessels. Fiorini and Johnson then returned to Florida in the rented boat and the other two continued on their way.

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Subsequently Fiorini, Johnson and Jose Maria Gonzalez Hernandez, a Cuban radio operator, proceeded to Nassau, Bahamas, rented a plane and flew to Norman Key in the Bahamas. Immediately thereafter this group was arrested by British authorities who sent them back to Miami, Florida. Several hours after Fiorini was arrested on Norman Key, the British stopped and boarded the "Violyn III" and arrested Buchanan and a number of Cubans who were aboard. On April 4, 1963, the British released the "Violyn III" and its crew with instructions that they should proceed to Miami. The other boat escaped. RE: ACTIVITIES of Group known as Cuban Anticomunista Army. L. SCHUBERT, Miami

On April 4, 1963, Fiorini claimed he had been in radio contact with the boat that had escaped and that it was then docked at an island in the Bahamas. Fiorini did not disclose the exact location of the boat but claimed he could supply it with food and fuel if requested and that he had an airplane and two fast power boats available in the Miami area.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Miami, Florida
March 26, 1963

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RE: ANTI-CASTRO STRIKE AGAINST
CUBA SCHEDULED FOR MARCH OF
MARCH 26, 1963
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
NEUTRALITY MATTER

201-242256

On March 26, 1963, MI T-1, a representative of a Federal agency which conducts intelligence investigations, furnished the following information, described as having been received by a U. S. observer from FRANK FIORINI. (It is to be noted that FRANK FIORINI is an American soldier of fortune who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities in the past in the Miami area):

At 6:00 P.M., on March 25, 1963, a 180 foot long ship was scheduled to leave the Miami area to rendezvous with several small boats somewhere south of Florida. This flotilla planned to strike Oriente Province to Cuba's south coast.

A large strike against targets in Cuba is being planned by a group of anti-CASTRO organizations in exile to take place during the week of March 25. This operation is reportedly under the command of FELIX VEDRA SANTIAGO and is to involve elements of the Unidad Revolucionaria (UR), the Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (an MDC faction headed by RAFAEL BARRERA FERRA) and a group headed by Comandante EMBUDO BURQUER, who had just arrived in Miami from Puerto Rico. Finances were reportedly arranged for by JULIO LOBO and ORLANDO BOSCH AVILA.

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The over-all plan calls for a diversionary attack on a Cuban ship in en route to Cuba. This attack is to cover the actual purpose of the strike which is to put ashore

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RE: ANTI-CASTRO STRIKE AGAINST CUBA
SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 25, 1963

in Cuba two landing forces, one under DUQUE in the Escambray area and another in Oriente. After these two forces are successfully infiltrated, they will be supplied by sea in operations which will involve FRANK FIGUEROA.

On March 20, 1963, FELIPE VIDAL SANTEAGO, 2993 Northwest 7th Street, Miami, who identified himself as Secretary of the United Front of National Liberation, an anti-CASTRO organization with about three hundred members in the Miami area, stated his organization has been in contact with a group of underground anti-CASTRO Cubans and guerrillas operating in Matanzas Province, who are hard-pressed for supplies and equipment. VIDAL said he had been making plans to infiltrate such materials into these forces during the approximate time of the week beginning March 25, but that his plans were cancelled when the CASTRO government raided and wiped out these underground and guerrilla forces in Matanzas Province. VIDAL stated that as a result of these developments, he and his organization no longer has communications with the remnants of these people in Matanzas Province and he does not plan any kind of operation at the present time.

VIDAL said his plans did not involve the UR, the FDC, or any faction headed by LAUREANO BARRERA FALIA or Comandante EVELINO DUQUE, even though he is on friendly terms with the latter.

VIDAL asserted that at no time did his plans entail any attack on any Cuban or Russian boats or any other consular objectives and the plans were limited strictly to the matter of infiltrating and smuggling arms and other weapons to the above-mentioned groups in Matanzas Province.

VIDAL stated that furthermore his organization does not own a boat at the present time. His plans had

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RE: Anti-Castro Struggle Against Cuba
SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 26, 1966

been predicated upon the loan of a boat from an individual whom he declined to identify and who had failed to produce this boat according to schedule. Therefore, VIDAL claimed he never had the actual capacity to carry out his plans which never reached the operational stage.

VIDAL advised that he came to the United States August 9, 1963, and since then has participated in about seven different infiltration operations into Cuba on behalf of his organization in order to support underground and guerrilla groups associated with his and other organizations.

It is to be noted that EVILHO WUQUE is a Cuban citizen who was formerly one of the leaders of a guerrilla organization in the Escambray area of Cuba.

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