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SECRET*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File

DATE: 14 January 1960

FROM : Chief, Alien Affairs Staff

SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Relations with
(Miami, Florida)

1. At 2:00 p.m. this date, Mr. Richard Haberstroh, Intelligence Officer, I&NS, telephonically contacted the writer. He stated that he in turn had received a telephone call from Ed Ahrens, the Immigration District Director in Miami, which referred to arrangements which had been laid on during 1959, whereby Cubans of interest to this Agency would be smuggled out of Cuba aboard a boat destined for Tampa, Florida. Mr. Ahrens indicated to Mr. Haberstroh that apparently the Cubans have become suspicious of the vessel, and the boat owner is in "hot water" in this regard. According to Mr. Haberstroh, the CIA representative in Miami was contacted by the boat owner's attorney with the suggestion that a letter be obtained from the I&NS indicating that they inspected the vessel on its several arrivals at Tampa and that it carried no passengers.

2. Mr. Haberstroh stated that his quick reaction is that the Service cannot comply with such a request. I informed Mr. Haberstroh that Mr. Ahrens should be informed that he should take no action in regard to this matter and inform the CIA representative in Miami that his superiors in Washington would be in contact with him in regard to this matter.

3. At 2:15 p.m. this date, Mr. Robert Reynolds, Cuban Desk, WH Division, was telephonically contacted. He stated that he was not aware of this most recent development, however, he did mention that the boat in question has, in fact, been impounded in Cuba since December 1959. He went on to point out that we want to do everything we can to help out the owner of the vessel since the cause of her trouble was in acceding to our requests to exfiltrate individuals.

4. Mr. Reynolds readily admitted that the Immigration Service should not have been requested to provide such a letter, and he doubted that Bernie Reichardt would have made such a request. Mr. Reynolds stated that he will telephonically contact Reichardt and get the complete story. He will keep the writer advised.

5. Details pertaining to the initial arrangements with the Immigration Service for the paroling into the United States of Cubans at Tampa, Florida, are contained in File #202923.

SECRET

William J. Cotter

CS/AAS/WJC:es 15 Jan 60