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14 AUG 1978

78-5207

OLC #78-25481

Ref

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Legislative Counsel

FROM :
 Chief, Latin America Division

SUBJECT : Request by Congressman Ronald V. Dellums
 for Information on any CIA Activities
 Designed to Preclude Puerto Rican Independence.

REFERENCE : Letter from Congressman Ronald V. Dellums to
 28 July 1978

1.



2. The responses below are keyed to the questions raised by Congressman Dellums:

1) Has the CIA ever gathered or analyzed any information regarding the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, the Popular Independence Party, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party or any leaders or members thereof?

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WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
METHODS INVOLVED

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There have been several instances in the past of CIA gathering information on the entities mentioned. In 1960 [] forwarded to Headquarters a list of names of individuals described as officers and activists in the Pro Independence Movement (MPI). Another list was forwarded in 1961 of MPI members who had won elections. The "elections" however, were not otherwise identified. Also in 1960, the [] [] forwarded a report apparently culled from open sources describing the media activities of the Pro-Independence Movement (MPI) which described the Movement as anti-United States and pro-Communist. An asset in another area reported in 1968 that a national meeting of various pro-independence groups in Puerto Rico had accepted violence as a main point in the struggle for Puerto Rico independence. This information was passed to another agency of the US Government concerned with domestic subversive activities.

In 1972 attempts were made to discover the Cuban links to the Puerto Rican Independence Movement through the MHCHAOS collection program. The MHCHAOS program has been investigated by the Senate and its findings are described in the study, "Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans," Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, 1976: US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

In 1976 information on the Pro-Independence Organization of Puerto Rico's alleged request for assistance from a foreign government was incidentally acquired []

[] This information was passed to another agency of the U.S. Government concerned with domestic subversive activities per the authority of Executive Order 11905.

There have been two instances of Agency analysis of developments in Puerto Rico. [] [] in July 1954 expressed an opinion that

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there was a trend towards pro-independence sympathies in Puerto Rico under the then [redacted]. The writer merely commented that he felt that independence would be welcomed by the majority of Puerto Ricans, that independence would gain friends for the United States and that it would also improve the prestige of Puerto Rico. An Agency memorandum was published in 1976 which dealt with the Cuban effort to promote the cause of Puerto Rican independence.

2) What was the basis for the Agency's action:

In the MHCHAOS program the rationale, as shown in published documents, was the search for foreign intervention in United States internal matters. The 1954 analysis on the trends in Puerto Rico towards independence sympathies was self-generated and unso-licited as were the 1960 and 1961 "election" results, the list of MPI officials and the 1968 report on possible violence.

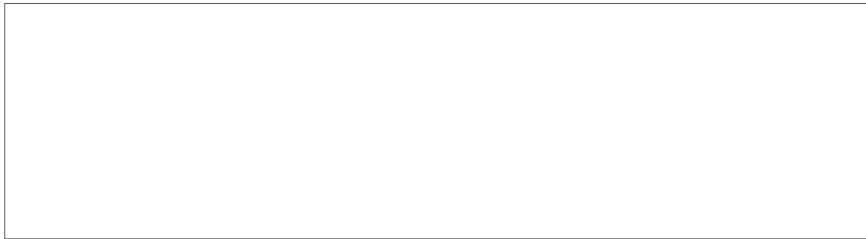
3) Has the CIA ever conducted any operation, propaganda effort or mail cover against any aspect of the Independence Movement or parties or individuals which advocate independence?

According to the report issued in 1976 by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, mail to and from Puerto Rico showing anti-US and subversive sympathies was included in a mail program. It has not been definitely established if the Independence Movement, parties or individuals advocating Puerto Rican independence were targeted specifically. In the MHCHAOS collection various assets overseas were tasked to furnish any information on foreign links to the Puerto Rican Independence Movement. (Please see op.cit. Book III, p. 679 ff.) Otherwise, Headquarters guidance [redacted]

[redacted] was consistent in pointing out that the Agency was not to conduct intelligence operations against Puerto Rican persons or organizations.

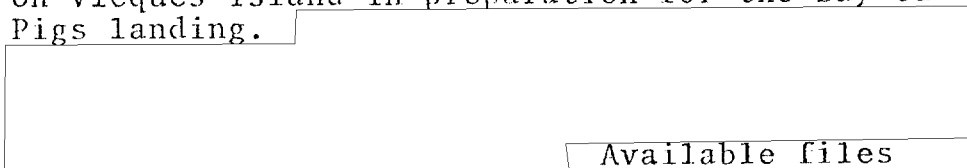
4) Does the CIA or has it in the past, carried out actions or operations from Puerto Rico involving persons residing in Puerto Rico?

At the present time there are no intelligence collection operations in or out of Puerto Rico involving persons residing in Puerto Rico. [redacted]



5) Has the CIA conducted training of foreign nationals or participated in the training of foreign nationals in Puerto Rico?

In November 1960 Cuban exiles were trained on Vieques Island in preparation for the Bay of Pigs landing.



Available files show no such Agency sponsored training taking place at the present time.



28-9787

ANY REPLY TO THIS LETTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO OFFICE CHECKED.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

RONALD V. DELLUMS
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL
AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 28, 1978

Admiral Stansfield Turner-Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

During the last week I participated in a series of meetings with persons advocating the independence of Puerto Rico. There were recurring charges that the "Intelligence Community" was active in Puerto Rico, particularly in operations designed to preclude Independence.

I believe that any such activities directed against non-illegal political advocacy would be itself illegal and against the best interest of the United States.

In order to best direct any legislative or legal activities, I would appreciate your prompt response to the following questions.

Has the CIA ever gathered or analyzed any information regarding the Puerto Rican independence movement, the Popular Independence Party, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, or any leaders or members thereof? -If so- what was the basis for the Agency's action?

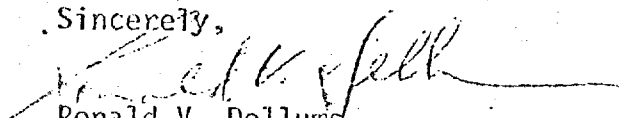
Has the CIA ever conducted any operation, propaganda effort or mail cover against any aspect of the Independence Movement or parties or individuals which advocate Independence?

Does the CIA, or has it in the past, carry out actions or operations from Puerto Rico involving persons residing in Puerto Rico.

Has the CIA conducted training of foreign Nationals or participated in training of foreign Nationals in Puerto Rico.

Your assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ronald V. Dellums
Member of Congress

RVD/kfn

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