

20 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Cuban Prisoners

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Mr. Donovan called and quoted below is what he passed to me:

"The prisoners on the Isle of Pines are being treated very badly and are suffering a great deal. The prisoners in Havana on the other hand are being reasonably treated. Their morale is very high. There is no question in my mind but that Castro is anxious to conclude the transaction. He not only permitted the Iberian airliner specially to come in to bring out the three (Mr. and Mrs. Barreto and Sanchez) but he also permitted them to visit the prisoners and orders were given, according to Sanchez, to all anti-aircraft batteries to permit their plane to fly out. Tell DCI that we held a press conference here this morning (20 November) that was tremendously attended and in which I made clear that Sanchez had returned for coordination but that the Committee was still optimistic on the accomplishment of their objective, but, of course, the final accomplishment of the objective would have to be determined as consistent with national policy of the U. S. in view of international events. I continue to emphasize the private, humanitarian nature of our mission."

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Special Council*)



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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel