

30 March 1953

Memo for DCI from WH

1. Ship is ready for caching run and can sail on four hour notice.
2. Training pattern has been well established and all preparations made and precautions taken to insure safe, secure caching.
3. Full and accurate reconnaissance of excellent caching and alternate sites, complete with photos, has been made by well-qualified Seekford team.
4. Outbound run will require between twenty and thirty-six hours and caching between twelve and thirty-six hours.

The above accomplishments have only been possible because of the almost super-human efforts of [] (engineer on TDY from Commo), [] (TDY from Panama) and [] and his staff at ROBALO. These people have worked up to twenty hours each day, seven days each week, since 27 February. They have been faced by every possible adversity, but through outstanding effort and ingenuity have accomplished the mission, without unduly interfering with the orderly operation of the already complicated ROBALO, or arousing suspicion of unusual activity at the installation.

Upon completion of caching the ship may be returned to ROBALO for complete rehabilitation. Work remaining in order to bring the ship to perfect condition includes dry docking to clean hull and pull propellor shafts; complete overhaul of five engines and entire electrical system; further work on refrigeration system; and further scraping and painting. All this work can be done in time with local [] facilities and personnel.

When ship is registered under U.S. flag as [] it will be necessary to provide a licensed Captain and Chief Engineer. A skeleton crew which can be filled out by station personnel should also be provided for if the ship is to remain at ROBALO.

It may be desirable for someone from the Air Maritime Division to visit ROBALO in order to make recommendations as to final treatment and disposition.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

Delivered 1 Apr

26 Feb. '53

All requests for support from DTROBALO have been met, including:

1. Fully cleared marine diesel operator will arrive by 1 Mar for 6 weeks TDY.
2. Sterile scotch tape and banding clips were airmailed 20 Feb.
3. Charts were pouched 24 Feb.

[] reported 17 Feb that the deal would be closed by 25 or 26 Feb and the craft in place between 28 Feb and 2 Mar; and that [] would handle details.

[] left 21 Feb to make final inspection of craft and to arrange final details of purchase and transport.

[] was alerted on 19 Feb to be prepared for caching run by 8 Mar and to make training run to vicinity with dummy boxes prior to that date.

DTROBALO was instructed on 20 Feb to repack boxes and break down 300# boxes to 1/2 or 1/3 size.

[] left for [] 19 Feb to arrange for \$ and planes and expected to be at DTROBALO 25 or 26 Feb after conferring with Rufus.

[] to go to DTROBALO 26 Feb for up to 30 days TDY to assist with repacking, selection and training of crew, and all final details preparatory to caching run; and to stand by for instructions from Hq on actual run.

[] to direct all policy cables EYES ONLY ASCHAM; all cables requesting normal support PBFORTUNE.

JCK to see [] DTROBALO 8 or 9 Mar unless emergency requires his presence earlier. JCK now scheduled []

[] - 28 Feb - 2 Mar
[] - 2 Mar - 6 Mar
[] - 6 Mar - 8 or 9 Mar

This paper discussed with ASCHAM at 1800 on 25 Feb and concurred in by him. ASCHAM has the original.