

~~SECRET~~

28 June 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Wigner

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

REFERENCES : SHER 427  
LINC 4406

2003

1. I was called by the Cable Secretariat on a number of cables the night of June 26. On arrival at the Cable Secretariat, I began to deal with SHER 427 and LINC 4406. My immediate reaction to SHER 427 was that the proposal should not be approved. Sometime after 0300, I telephoned Mr. Wigner on this and several other cables, and gained his agreement that LINC should be advised that permission should not be granted. I thereupon telephoned [ ] and advised him to the effect that we did not approve this request. The conversation on this subject lasted sometime and was marked by impatience on [ ]'s part. Having in mind his past accusations directed against people here, in the vein that we were withholding from LINC materiel or actions necessary for victory, I endeavored to extract from him his reasoning for endorsing a strike request when I did not know for sure anything about the vessel nor even its name. He was quite impatient about this and would not answer me except to say, "Well, you have our recommendation."

2. As I attempted to comprehend why Linc was approving what seemed to me to be such a unreasonable and reckless request, [ ] turned the conversation by stating that it would not matter, because they could not do this anyway because of a bad situation which had developed, and which would prevent use of aircraft on this target. The conversation lasted in this vein for several minutes. Since I did not propose to come into the office in the morning, I left with the Cable Secretariat a hand-written note for Mr. Wigner describing my action on this matter. I do not have this note at the time of preparing this memorandum.

3. I was satisfied at the time, and I am still satisfied that my disapproval of Linc's request could not have been misunderstood. For several hours thereafter, I was working on other cables and did not send a confirmatory telegram because it was so clear to me that our conversation had resulted in:

- a. disapproval of the request, and
- b. [ ] statement that they would not be able to do this anyway.

4. [ ] has never failed, to my knowledge, to record a single conversation with me on the telephone. I assume this conversation was recorded and request that the tapes be obtained in order to verify my statements above.

5. In a hasty study of the files this morning, I did not find that LINC replied to SHER 427 authorizing them permission to execute the mission, nor do I find any cable having as its reference SHER 427 which reflected my conversation or which answered SHER 427. The only outgoing LINC cable in this regard is one which refers to SHER 434 and concludes in its last paragraph, "No shipping attacks authorized."

7. I have prepared this memo because I understand that [ ] has stated in effect that he was not told that the bombing of an unidentified ship in San Jose was not approved.

[ ]  
SPECIAL AGENT, D/P