

7 January 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Cuban Prisoner Release Negotiations**

1. This memorandum is to establish for the record the role of the Agency in connection with negotiations which led to the release at Christmas time of the Cuban prisoners.
2. As directed by you, I assumed responsibility for coordinating all Agency action in connection with the negotiations conducted by Mr. Donovan on behalf of the Cuban Families for Liberation of Prisoners of War, Inc. with Premier Castro in December which resulted in the release of the Cuban prisoners. My office maintained a close liaison with the appropriate offices of the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Treasury to afford such intelligence support as was appropriate. In return, we were kept currently informed in complete detail on all developments in connection with negotiations and all steps leading up to the release.
3. Apart from the intelligence support, including making available certain staff specialists for coordination and advice on technical matters, the Agency was not a party to the negotiations or other arrangements which led to the release of the Cuban prisoners. Specifically, no Agency funds were committed directly or indirectly or in any way expended in connection with the furnishing of the drugs, food, and other supplies which have been and will be delivered to Castro in accordance with Donovan's negotiations or in connection with the transportation of such supplies or the transportation of the prisoners from Cuba to the United States. No Agency funds were committed directly or indirectly or in any way expended in connection with the cash payment of \$2,925,000 which was demanded by Castro as part of the price of the release. Thus, the Agency's role throughout this transaction was one of rendering normal intelligence support to the other interested departments and agencies of the Government.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON

General Counsel

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM No. 80

DATE 11 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR:

- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (INTELLIGENCE)
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RESEARCH)
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SUPPORT)
- COMPTROLLER
- INSPECTOR GENERAL
- GENERAL COUNSEL
- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR NATIONAL ESTIMATES

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