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16 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John H. Crimmins
Coordinator of Cuban Affairs

SUBJECT: Arms Shipment for Ray

The following message has been received [24] through our channels] from Santo Domingo:

"I conveyed points enumerated in Section B of Reftel to Reid and Caceres Jan 14. Reid indicated some of what I told him confirmed information already communicated to him by Ray. Reid fully understood that if he went ahead with transaction, it would be at his own risk and U.S. position, if origin became public, would have be that this normal export to GODR.

"Reid did not repeat not ask us to deny export license, evidently preferring to investigate matter further before making his decision. His primary concern is whether onward shipment to Venezuela has approval Venezuelan Govt. He said in absence diplomatic relations this difficult ascertain. He lacked sufficient confidence in Venezuelan Consul General here or in his own in Venezuela to use them as channels. After I discouraged him from expecting us to ascertain attitude Venezuelan Government for him, he indicated he would probably ask his Ambassador in Washington to sound out his Venezuelan colleague there.

"Reid's concern about assuring onward shipment stems largely from his great respect for lethal qualities of weapons involved and fear they might find way into wrong hands here. He said he would not allow them to be uncrated here or broken down into packs of sixty each which he indicated was form in which they would be shipped eventually to Cuba.

WBR

"For foregoing reasons, Reid indicated he is adamantly opposed to having weapons sent to Cuba directly from D.R. He also repeated an earlier statement that he was not permitting exiles to move directly from D.R. against Cuba. Yet because of sympathy for anti-Castro cause, and on humanitarian grounds as well, he would like to be helpful in facilitating arms transshipment via Venezuela."

John L. Hart