



POLICY

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Radio Marti -- TDY to Key West, 3 February 1982

Mr. Kenneth Giddens and I visited Key West on 3 February to gather technical data for the Radio Marti transmitter facility and to confer with RADM Robert P. McKenzie, Commander, U.S. Forces, Caribbean.

RADM McKenzie summed up his attitude toward the project as follows: "If there is anything I can do that will help Radio Marti get on the air one day sooner, please call on me." All of the officers we dealt with at Key West were similarly motivated.

RADM McKenzie stated that the proposed transmitting facility would have enormous value for psyop in the event of operations against Cuba, and that he will vouch for that fact at every opportunity. He directed his senior psyop officer on the spot to ensure that this capability is fully embodied in psyop contingency planning. We agreed that it will be highly beneficial to provide in some way for mutual advice and cooperation between his psyop staff and the Radio Marti programming effort.

We also agreed on the importance of counteracting publicly-expressed fears that Cuba will retaliate by launching a "radio war" -- by pointing out, whenever the issue arises, that

- (a) U.S. use of 1040 kHz for broadcasting to Cuba is sanctioned and protected under international law;
- (b) Cuba has placed itself in a position of international outlawry with respect to broadcasting;
- (c) Willful Cuban interference with legitimate U.S. use of the radio spectrum can justifiably be regarded as aggression and dealt with accordingly;
- (d) It is the Cubans who ought to be deterred by fear of what the United States might do, not the other way around.

One important conclusion from the technical discussions on Saddlebunch Key is that considerable time and money can be saved if we can get tower foundations and guy line anchors installed before late March, when seasonally high tides and rainy weather begin to impede access to the site.

cc: Dr. Ikle
General Stilwell
Mr. Sanchez

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Jim Duncan
James R. Duncan

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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