

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Sept. 7, 1960

SUBJECT: Meeting to Establish Working Arrangements ~~Between~~
the Federal Government and the Commonwealth of Puerto
Rico. SCA Conference Room, 10:00 September 7, 1960.

PARTICIPANTS: Chairman: Mr. Edmund J. Dorsz, State Department
Treasury Dep't - Admiral Richmond (Coast Guard) and
Mr. Brown (Customs)
Dep't of Justice - Messrs. Barnes, Davitt and Clark
Dep't of Defense - Captain Hinckley
Post Office Department - Messrs. Stephens and Knoll
Dep't of State - Messrs Wade, Kluckhohn, McDonnell, Reed,
Shaw, Courtenay and Holman

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COPIES TO: USIA - Mr. Webb and Miss Kearney

PUERTO RICAN PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Fernos-Isern, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico,
Mr. Ramon Torres Braschi, Superintendent of Police, and
Capt. Juan Gonzalez Delgado, Chief of Intelligence.

Mr. Dorsz opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Fernos-Isern, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and the two Puerto Rican visitors from San Juan: Mr. Ramon Torres Braschi, Superintendent of Police, and Captain Juan Gonzales Delgado, Chief of Intelligence.

On behalf of the Federal Government and his colleagues at the meeting, Mr. Dorsz expressed concern and sympathy over the recent disaster in Puerto Rico resulting from Hurricane Donna.

After summarizing recent Federal-Puerto Rican discussions, Mr. Dorsz asked the Committee guests to outline their problems.

Mr. Torres Braschi expressed gratitude for the extension of sympathy and stated that the disaster required his return to Puerto Rico that evening. He then outlined the types of information which reach the Police, the kinds of sources from which it comes, and the difficulties involved in assessing its reliability. The Police assemble a great deal of information locally on independence and statehood movements, and also a limited amount of information on the training in Cuba and elsewhere of Puerto Ricans to engage in anti-government activities. The Cuban Consulate in

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San Juan through a consular employee, Mrs. Angelique Cruz de Henriquez, was involved. For this reason, the Puerto Rican government desired the removal of Mrs. Cruz from Puerto Rico. (The Puerto Ricans were told that on September 3, the State Department had requested the Cuban Embassy here to take appropriate action to withdraw Mrs. Cruz from Puerto Rico within a week.)

Mr. Torres Braschi listed the following weaknesses in the government's effort to deal with the problems it faces:

- (1) Puerto Rico has insufficient forces to give the large coastal areas more than superficial coverage;
- (2) Cubans and Dominicans who may be bent on anti-government activities move freely in and out of the country;
- (3) Puerto Ricans travel without hindrance between their homeland and such trouble spots as Cuba and the Dominican Republic;
- (4) Airplanes can land and depart with ease and fly anywhere within the islands, virtually uncontrolled;
- (5) Mala fide individuals coming into Puerto Rico seem to know who to contact; and
- (6) Insufficient information about the movement of persons into and out of the country reaches the police.

Mr. Dorsz asked what ideas the Puerto Rican officials wished to offer in the effort to minimize the difficulties.

Mr. Torres Braschi suggested for our consideration:

- (1) Establishment of better liaison between the Puerto Rican police and the Federal agencies at San Juan (he described his department's relationship with the FBI, Coast Guard, INS, Customs, and the Post Office Department. With some it was poor or practically non-existent; with the FBI, it was "excellent").
- (2) Provision of more information on what is happening among Puerto Rican groups in such large Puerto Rican

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centers as New York, Chicago and Miami;

(3) Seeking for submission to the Puerto Rican authorities information on activities in the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Venezuela which might affect Puerto Rico; and

(4) Assistance in obtaining a research analyst (a) to evaluate the bits and pieces of information coming to the attention of the Police and (b) to train Puerto Ricans in the analytical art.

The Federal agencies represented at the meeting agreed to consider:

(1) Exploring the possibility of obtaining additional pertinent information of the kind sought by the Puerto Rican authorities;

(2) Developing an agreed method of channeling such information to the interested authorities;

(3) Participating in the formation of a joint coordinating information committee to be established in San Juan at Puerto Rican initiative;

(4) Alerting their representatives in San Juan of (3) and encouraging their participation in discussions with respect to the establishment of such a committee; and

(5) Recommending a list of candidates for the research analyst position.

Copies to participants.