

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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DD/P 9353

2003 EYES ONLY

12 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

SUBJECT: PBSUCCESS; selection of clandestine radio site.

REFERENCE: Memo from C/WH to DD/P dtd 8 March, same subject.

1. Both Mr. Helms and I have studied the reference memorandum and looked over the attachments thereto. You, yourself, have pointed out the dilemma, which is at the moment not capable of definitive resolution. Everyone agrees to the operational need for the radio station and also the urgency of getting construction under way. The possibility of exposure and compromise appears to be so great as to render the proposal unacceptable at the present time and in its present form.

2. Whereas I would be glad to discuss this matter further at any time, I feel sure that the answer will come out to the same thing unless and until a more satisfactory solution of the concealment and cover problem is developed and until there has been an opportunity for the high-level review of the project in its entirety, which is scheduled for sometime about a week following the conclusion of the Caracas Conference. During the intervening period of time, several things can and should be done, viz.:

a. The communications people can be directed and authorized to proceed to put together the essential components of the transmitting unit and to package this in such a way as to permit its delivery to and use at any one of the two or three most likely locations. I appreciate that this may mean a provision for more "power" than may be actually required, but these are technical details which should be referred to and considered by Commo.

b. More work should be done in regard to the development of concealment and cover plans. It is just not good enough to propose that the station be plunked down on the particular island which is most recommended at the moment. The successful DF-ing of the location

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by the opposition would, as you have stated, lead to direct charges of US governmental responsibility for which there appears to be no "plausible denial" basis in contemplation. I realize that this is a poser as regards the island, but it is my best guess that in the absence of some sort of cover story which could be relied upon at least to confuse the issue, the peril of compromise and involvement will be considered too great.

X { c. One further effort should be made to prevail upon [] to grant approval for the location of the radio in some obscure and remote part of his country. It might be possible to get him to agree to the establishment of the installation as a military communications or weather station, thereby affording the pretext for prohibiting entry to unauthorized persons. I realize that [] has heretofore disapproved the location of a radio transmitting station anywhere on his preserve, but he may come around on this as the result of the high-level "bucking up" approach which we are mounting at the moment, plus the encouragement which he may derive from the possible adoption of the US resolution at Caracas and the attendant mustering of Latin American official and public opinion.

[]
FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: DCI - with orig. of ref. memo.
C/OP - no atts.
C/PP - no atts.