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April 19, 1965

Mr. John Hugh Cribbins
Coordinator of Cuban Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cribbins:

We refer to your letter of February 18, 1965, and the informal discussions between members of the Criminal Division and representatives of the Legal Advisor's Office of your Department concerning the matter of the homicide on February 13, 1965, at the United States Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba by an employee of the Base, one Aristonico Pellisier committed upon a Jamaican national, also employed on the Base, one Reynaldo Allison Scott.

In your letter you state that the Department of State wishes to urge strongly that American authorities assert jurisdiction over this matter, the Department of State believing that the most desirable method of disposition is through federal prosecution in a United States District Court.

We have received and studied the full report of the Navy Department's Court of Inquiry conducted at Guantanamo Naval Base and have examined in detail the legal authority and precedent bearing upon this matter. We have concluded that Guantanamo Naval Base is within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States as defined in 18 U.S.C. 7 so as to make applicable to the incident involved the federal statutes covering homicide, 18 U.S.C. 1111-1113, which would provide a basis for bringing Pellisier to the United States for trial in a United States District

cc: Rear Admiral Wilfred Hearn
Department of the Navy

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Court. It appears to us that the Southern District of Florida is the most appropriate district in which to bring this subject and are communicating appropriate instructions to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida looking toward prosecution of Pellisier in his district. You will be advised of developments.

Sincerely,

HERBERT J. MILLER, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:

CARL W. BELCHER
Chief, General Crimes Section