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Weird Story Of 'Double Agent'

Tells Of CIA Cuban Probes

BY CARLOS MARTINEZ
 Chicago Daily News Service

MIAMI — A bizarre tale revealing secret battles of the Cold War between the United States and Cuba unfolded last week in the trial of six men accused of plotting to kill Fidel Castro.

The key testimony came from Juan Felaifel Cana-car, 24, who claimed he infiltrated the operation of the Central Intelligence Agency in Florida as a Castro spy.

Felaifel testified he was a member of the Cuban Communist party, and worked for three years with the CIA in Miami as a double agent.

He said he made more than 17 missions into Cuba for the CIA and that the last was on February 21, 1966.

Felaifel's testimony put Miami in the front lines of the Cold War, and charged widespread CIA operations inside Cuba that allegedly had no links with Cuban exile political groups.

THE WITNESS claim ed.

Background The News

he made contact with the CIA in Miami through an agent named Tito Herrera and that he was trained for nine months at a naval base near Miami in arms handling, explosives and intelligence. He said he was a radar expert with one of the infiltration teams he declared the CIA sends into Cuba.

Felaifel testified he had taken eight lie detector tests as part of CIA internal security checks and passed them all.

He said he worked with other CIA agents in Miami named Joaquin Power, Alberto Fernandez Casas and Antonio Salado, but that his chief was an American lieutenant colonel who called himself "Smith."

Felaifel added that his work for the Castro regime was made easier be-

cause his brother, Anis, was chief of intelligence for the Revolutionary Recovery Movement (MMR), a Cuban exile group headed by Manuel Artime.

ANIS FELAIFEL in 1959 unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate Ernesto (Che) Guevara and escaped to Miami after machinegunning the wrong automobile.

Cuban exiles in Miami acknowledge that Anis worked for the MRR and that Juan also lived here and was involved in intelligence work.

The exiles, however, doubt that Juan was a double agent.

They say it would have been impossible for him to pass eight properly-administered lie detector tests.

They believe Juan Felaifel "confessed" under torture. They do not believe Fidel Castro would expose a double agent so well placed in a trial where his evidence was not needed. The plotters, the major of whom was Rolando Cubela, had confessed.

Juan Felaifel testified that his last CIA mission in February began in Key Largo, where he left aboard a "mother ship." He said he was transferred to a small boat two miles off the Cuban coast and was captured when the infiltration party was surprised by a Cuban patrol.

WHATEVER the truth of his testimony, it confirms again the secret war between the United States and Cuba in which:

- The CIA regularly infiltrates Cuba to gather intelligence and carry out specific missions.

- There exist in Cuba small, independent underground groups, members of which fight and die without ever issuing the exaggerated propaganda blurbs common among the politically-oriented exile groups.

Premier Castro combats this by sending over double agents who try to infiltrate U. S. intelligence.

It is a silent war, except when Dr. Castro uses the alleged confessions of "agents" to embarrass the United States before the world.

Exiles say this trial may shake the confidence of Cuban security. In court testimony by the six captives the names of highly-placed Cuban officials were mentioned.

These included Faure Chomon, minister of transportation; Jose Llanusa, minister of education, and Arnold Rodriguez, vice minister of foreign affairs.

The trial cracked open the secret war a little more and threw a new range of Cuban officialdom under suspicion. The effect can only be weakening.