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'CIA Didn't Help Raids On Cuba'

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Reporter of The Miami News

A Marathon realtor, whose Sombrero Beach property was the headquarters of a group of anti-Castro American soldiers-of-fortune, today denied any knowledge of CIA sponsorship of raids against Cuba at the time of the October 1962 missile crisis.

Edward Germaine, a government witness in the federal suit to condemn weapons, explosives and ammunition seized by customs agents at the site on Dec. 4, 1962, testified in Miami Federal Court that:

- Weapon-laden boats manned by Americans and Latins departed from, and returned to, his dock on several occasions prior to the missile crisis.

- The adventurers, led by Gerald P. Hemming, had used his property for storage of weapons and refueling of boats.

- There was a Voice of America transmitter on the site, and his house and dock were floodlighted to aid incoming boats.

- He had not been hired by the CIA, and to his knowledge neither had the small band of soldiers-of-fortune.

Hemming's group had claimed ownership of the military equipment seized at the site. The government seeks condemnation, on grounds that the Neutrality Act was violated.

The weapons were found aboard the twin-engined cabin cruiser Sally, which Germaine testified was regularly moored and refueled at his dock.

In the second trial day before Federal Judge David W. Dyer and a 12-member jury, the claimants' attorney, Richard Booth, said evidence would be introduced to show that the CIA actually had sponsored boat raids by Hemming's group.

At the time of their arrest, Hemming, 26, of 2450 NW N. River Dr., claimed that his group was independent, and unconnected with either the American government or any Cuban exile organization.