

Ex-Agent Details Cuban Spy Setup

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By MERWIN K. SIGALE
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Headquarters at U.N.

Paris "virtually the entire staff—except the ambassador and the counselor—were intelligence personnel."

MIAMI — A Cuban intelligence agent who defected in 1969 says the Fidel Castro regime has utilized an expanding spy network to further its revolutionary cause in Latin America, Africa and the United States.

He says the Cuban spy service has virtually become an arm of Soviet intelligence, that Cuban agents have infiltrated Miami's exile community, and that the Cuban Embassy in Paris, where he served for two years, has been a way station for Cuban and other Latin American revolutionaries.

The Cuban mission to the United Nations is headquarters for Castro's espionage efforts in this country, he says.

These and other inner workings of Cuban intelligence are detailed by Orlando Castro Hidalgo in a book, "Spy for Fidel," to be released next month by E.A. Seemann Publishing Inc. of Miami.

Another Defection

After an advance copy became available, word of another defection, reportedly by a senior Cuban intelligence agency, came to light yesterday. The latest defection took place in London and the U.S. State Department confirmed it without giving details.

Castro Hidalgo was a top agent in Paris for Cuba's Direccion General de Inteligencia, or DGI.

Disillusioned with the Cuban regime, he and his family fled from Paris to Luxembourg in April 1969—taking secret files with them — and obtained U.S. asylum.

His defection became publicly known months later, and so did some of what he told U.S. officials, but he now gives a fuller picture of Cuban intelligence and its role in furthering Castro's revolutionary designs.

Among the items Castro Hidalgo list on his personal "scoreboard" he claims to have named more than 150 agents and contacts of Cuban intelligence and revealed "the extent to which intelligence has taken over diplomatic service, as well as other governmental organizations."

Because Cuba has no diplomatic mission accredited to the United States, the defector says, its intelligence center at the U.N. "serves as headquarters for Cuban-directed subversion and espionage activities in the States."

Most officials of Cuba's U.N. mission work for DGI, he says.

"The U.N. center maintains contact with subversive organizations in the United States, serves as a funnel for Cuban propaganda to enter this country, and through its agents, particularly in the Miami area, keeps track of the activities of Cuban exile organizations.

"It is Castro's espionage outpost within the United States."

Castro Hidalgo says a key agent, believed responsible for the capture of a number of exiles invading Cuba, still lives in Miami.

"Because his activities have not directly involved espionage against the United States, charges have not been brought against him," the former agent says.

He says Cuba has never had trouble infiltrating agents into the United States. He mentions available channels such as the refugee airlift, small-boat escapes, fence-jumping into the Guantanamo naval base, and emigrants who travel first to Spain or Mexico.

Havana Training

He writes that "a fundamental task" of the intelligence center in Paris, where he had the cover job of embassy third secretary and protocol officer, was to facilitate the travel of Latin revolutionaries to Havana for training.

They went by way of France and Eastern Europe. Arrangements also were made, he says, for Cuban Negro soldiers to travel clandestinely through Paris to Africa, where Cuba still maintains a military unit in Brazzaville, the Congo Republic.

Castro Hidalgo says that DGI has all but taken over the Cuban news agency, Prensa Latina, and the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the People. "The Cuban diplomatic service, too, is preponderantly DGI, he says, and in

Castro Hidalgo, who fought in Fidel Castro's rebel army and later against the Bay of Pigs invaders, says he is pursuing a new life in the United States under another identity. He says it is in "suburbia," and indicates he is not in the Washington area.

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