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evolution in the United States. "restored to official duty" an official named William A. Wieland offers a disturbing insight into the security standards of the Johnson Administration.

Wieland had been charged by a number of people, including three former ambassadors, with suppressing information about the Communist ties of Fidel Castro during the time Castro was battling for power in Cuba and Wieland occupied a pivotal position in the Caribbean

present in Bogotá, Colombia, during the 1948 riots, and knew Castro had been involved in this Communist-inspired disturbance. He also knew Raúl Castro, Fidel's brother, had attended a Red Congress in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and that Che Guevara, Castro's other top lieutenant, was a Communist.

In addition, Wieland told close friends, including Samuel Shaffer of *Newsweek* and Mrs. Frank Becerra—according to their uncontradicted testimony—that Castro was a Communist. Becerra testified Wieland told him in 1957: "Fidel Castro is a Communist. Fidel Castro will be the ruination of Cuba if he gets into power. Fidel Castro was one of the leaders of the famous Bogotá uprising in Bogotá in 1948. . ."

Despite this demonstrated knowledge of Castro's Bolshevik affinities, Wieland did nothing to alert the U.S. Government to the dangers he privately confided to friends, and worked actively to bring about Castro's rise to power. Ambassador Smith writes in his book, *The Fourth Floor*, that in January 1958 "Wieland visited the American embassy in Havana and showed us a paper he had written, which depicted the economy of Cuba as crumbling and recommended that the United States apply pressure on the government of Cuba to hasten its downfall."

When questioned about these matters, Wieland suffered memory failure, alleging he could not recall confrontations to which two and three witnesses had given mutually sustaining testimony. In some instances, according to security expert Otepka, Wieland gave the senators false information.

Examining the total record, the Subcommittee came to these conclusions about Wieland:

"He was appointed without any security check. . . .

"He falsified his job application by omission.

"When he later filled out an expanded personal history form, he falsified that by direct misstatement.

"Mr. Wieland had a hand in shaping our policy with respect to Cuba both before and after Castro's takeover. . . . One of the things the Department paid him for was his expertise—his own judgment based on his own experience.

"Yet he never told his superiors officially or wrote in any Department paper, down to the very day when Fidel Castro stood before the world as a self-proclaimed Marxist, what he told his friends privately . . . that Castro 'is a Communist,' and . . . 'subject to Communist influences.'"

Wieland, with that record, is "completely cleared," it becomes apparent that there is very little, in the State Department view, for which an employee can be "uncleared"—with one exception: Otto Otepka, the security officer who gave Wieland an adverse security rating, was of course fired.

M. STANTON EVANS

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section of the State Department. As a result of these charges, and of questions raised by the Department's top security specialist, Otto Otepka, Wieland's credentials were put under review. The Department has now exonerated him.

According to the advisory board which examined his case, Wieland's conduct was not reproachably partial to Castro. Instead, said the three board members, "Wieland has honestly exercised his judgment over the years including the period of the difficult and highly complex Cuban situation." So opining, the State Department says Wieland is considered "completely cleared and his case closed."

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, however, came to some different conclusions about Wieland, after extensive hearings on the State Department's role in the fall of Cuba to Communism. In contrast to the Foggy Bottom verdict of Wieland's innocence, the senators charged (a) that Wieland had considerable information showing Castro was a Communist well before the Cuban dictator came to power, (b) that Wieland at no point passed this information along to his superiors in the State Department, and (c) that he actively campaigned to sway American policy in favor of a man who by Wieland's own declaration was tied in with the Communists.

Among disclosures about Wieland during the Subcommittee's hearings were the facts that Wieland was instrumental in having U.S. aid to anti-Communist Cuban boss Fulgencio Batista cut off at the height of the battle with Castro; that he interfered with intelligence officials trying to inform Dr. Milton Eisenhower of Castro's Communist connections; that he instructed newly appointed Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith to be "briefed" on Cuba by Castro's most blatant press apologist, Herbert Matthews; and that he kept the lid on intelligence reports showing that Castro was either a Communist or a tool of the Communists.

The Subcommittee seemed less ready than the State Department to believe these actions the result of honest error. It pointed out that Wieland had repeatedly proved his knowledge of the fact that Castro was interlaced with