

**Paper's Report:**

# Gulf 'Rescue' Unmasks CIA Secret Mission

Houston, Texas.

The Houston Press yesterday said the "rescue" of two mystery men in the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida coast two days ago was not a rescue, but a foul-up that wrecked a top-secret project of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The two men were identified by the Coast Guard after their return to Galveston only as "John Stevens, a citizen of the United States," and "Reynaldo Silva Antigua, a citizen of Cuba."

They were picked up near Dry Tortugas off Key West, Fla., half way between Cuba and the Yucatan peninsula.

Their 18-foot outboard boat was crudely painted black, as were its two 100-horsepower motors. The boat had a partially-hidden ship-to-shore radio, skin-diving

equipment, underwater flashlights, sheath knives and a compass.

The boat is still on the rescuing freighter, now docked in Galveston.

The two men have vanished.

The secrecy imposed on the incident by the Immigration Service at Galveston and the Coast Guard was a belated effort to keep the spotlight off something that was never supposed to become known, the Press said it had learned.

The newspaper's Washington correspondent, Richard Boyce, said the source of information "cannot be disclosed, but it is positive this was a CIA operation and it was not supposed to happen."

"The two men were not lost," the Press reported. "They were not in trouble. They were not supposed to be picked up."

"When the freighter Cottonwood Creek stopped to

pick them up, the men protested vigorously to the captain that they just wanted to be left alone, but the skipper was not convinced and 'rescued' them over their protest."

The newspaper said it learned from "an entirely authoritative source" that the Coast Guard fouled up the situation further by notifying the captain of the Cottonwood Creek to take the "rescued" men to the nearest port for questioning.

The port was Galveston, but by the time the freighter reached the area orders were out to get the rescued pair out of the limelight and hush up the whole affair, the press said.

Immigration officers took the men into custody after the Coast Guard removed them from the ship as it anchored in Galveston Bay. Then they disappeared.

The FBI, Immigration Service and customs officers all denied knowledge of any

details—even the ages and addresses of the men.

In Washington, Irvin Shrode, assistant commis-

stoner of Immigration, said he had no details on the case. He said he "wouldn't dare" give out any information if he had it.