

OLC-78-1140

Sub. Misc.

27 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with John Marks

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1. At 1500 today I met with John Marks and a young lady, Diane St. Clair, who he introduced as "my associate." Also present at the meeting was [redacted] from the Public Affairs Office. The meeting was set up at Mark's request to discuss a book he is writing and a research trip to Cuba in connection with the book.

2. Marks began by giving a quick sketch of the book he is preparing. He said it will be published by the NEW YORK TIMES (Quadrangle Press). The book will be about the Government's (particularly CIA) experimentation and efforts in the area of controlling human behavior-- particularly experiments in the 50's and 60's. Marks said he had made arrangements with other writers and had copies of what he had done "stashed around town" in the event something happened to him. When I questioned him on this point ("Who do you think would do you in?")-- he replied that in working on a book like this he was certain to make enemies of people involved in the ongoing research ("A strange business" he says). He said, for instance, that he plans to leave for Cuba in about 3 weeks for a one week visit to do research on his book there. He said the trip made him nervous because "Planes have a habit of falling out of the sky on their way to Cuba." Twice during the conversation he said perhaps the Agency might suggest some questions that he could pose to the Cubans (apparently government officials since trip was arranged through Cuban liaison office in New York). I said I was sure he did not mean to imply that we would "task" an American journalist going to a foreign country. He laughed and replied only, "Whatever."

3. I told Marks I was curious about why he had come to the Public Affairs Office instead of going through his usual modus operandi, i.e., FOIA. He said he didn't want to go through the legal hassle of having to write briefs, etc. and further that the FOIA process was rather general and what he wanted today were three rather specific things.

4. Marks requested the following:

a. Answers to written questions which he would also submit to the Cubans (copy with clips also provided by Marks attached.)

b. A briefing by CIA experts on the control of human behavior. Subject; Soviet activities in this field to establish reasons why we (CIA) undertook experimentation

to counter the Soviet threat. He does not expect a current assessment but rather a description of the Soviet state of the art circa 1962. Marks said this would give us an opportunity to establish in stronger terms the reason why our own testing in the area was begun.

c. An interview with [redacted] whom he identifies as presently in DDS&I and former Deputy Director of ORD. Marks said he has contacted [redacted] at home and [redacted] says he is willing to give the interview if the Agency agrees.

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5. Marks ended the discussion with the following observations/information/proposals:

a. That while he in no way wished to "work with" us, he did feel that what we do (intelligence) was very necessary.

b. That while we probably had a long way to go, Turner was apparently trying to get things straightened out.

c. This would be his last book about the CIA.

d. That he knew the CIA experimentation had gone into "terminal experiments", i.e., ones in which real subjects (POW's) were encouraged through mind control to attempt real actions (using real bullets instead of blanks in a hypnosis experiment to determine if someone could be influenced to commit murder.)

e. Marks said he knew that [redacted] the Scientific Engineering Institute, was working on very sophisticated electronics work having to do with satellites. But he also knew that work in the human behavior area was part of what they do. He said he knew if he kept digging he would get all the details on the behavior experiments--and at the same time would discover the details on the satellite work as well. He said we might wish to provide him with the information on the behavior work and in exchange he would stop digging, i.e., and not uncover the satellite information.

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6. The meeting ended at about 1530.

[redacted]

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Herbert E. Hetu

Attachments: Questions and clips

Distribution:

- DCI NFAC
- DDCI OGC
- DDA OLC
- DDO IG
- DDS&T Security

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY JOHN MARKS

In general, I would like information on any experimental or operational use by any government or private group of chemical, biological, or behavioral techniques. By behavioral techniques, I am referring to any use of drugs, hypnosis, sensory deprivation, electro-shock, psycho-surgery, radiation, para-psychology, or related methods aimed at manipulating or controlling human behavior.

My specific questions are:

1. Can you provide specific information on the various plots to discredit Fidel Castro, as listed in the report of the Church Committee? This includes the aborted plot to spray Fidel's broadcasting studio with an LSD-like substance; the possible impregnation of a box of Fidel's cigars with a chemical which caused temporary disorientation; the possible plot to destroy Fidel's image by dusting his shoes with thallium salts, a strong depilatory, which would supposedly have made his beard fall out; the aborted plot under which James Donovan was to have given Fidel a skin-diving suit contaminated with a deadly disease; or any example of an attempt by a foreign power to secretly influence a person's behavior.

2. Can you provide specific information on any attacks directed at Cuba's crops? Bill Moyers, in his CBS television documentary, mentioned that there was an attempt to destroy Cuba's sugar crop through chemical/biological methods. Also, there was an article in the Washington Post on January 9, 1977 (taken from the newspaper Newsday) by Drew Fetherston and John Cummings linking the CIA to a 1971 outbreak of swine fever virus in Cuba and there was a March 21, 1977 article by the same authors in the Washington Post linking American intelligence to a possible attack to infect Cuba's turkeys. I would appreciate any information available on these or any similar incidents.

3. Can you provide specific information on any Cuban attempt to use chemical or biological techniques against the United States or any other country. An article by Jack Anderson in the January 17, 1977 Washington Post states that in 1962 the Cuban government set up a laboratory to study, among other things, the death of Cuban turkeys, and that the laboratory was run by a Dr. Martinez Viera. The article alleges that at that time Cuba may have been considering the use of biological warfare. Could I talk to Dr. Viera and to Antonio Nunez Jimenez, the politburo member allegedly knowledgeable about these matters.

4. Can you provide information on the use of any chemical or biological attacks in assassination attempts against Fidel or any other Cuban leader? The Church committee report indicates that there was a plot which included poisoning his cigars with deadly botulinum toxin and there are other reports of other attacks with poisons. In the report given by the Cuban government to Senator George McGovern on assassination attempts, there was mention of counter-revolutionaries arrested with "warlike material." Was any of that "warlike materia" chemical, biological, or behavioral

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I would appreciate access to people with direct knowledge of the information of I am requesting. In other words, I would like to interview primary sources, as well as knowledgeable government officials.

I would be willing to omit the name of any person interviewed, although I will need to describe generically from whom the information came (a government official or a waiter in a restarant or a farmer whose pig died, etc.)

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Monday, March 21, 1977 THE WASHINGTON POST

Canadian Says U.S. Paid Him \$5,000 to Infect Cuban Poultry

2/21/77 Cuba

By Drew Fetherston
and John Cummings

Newsday

NEW YORK, March 20—A Canadian agricultural technician working in Cuba says he was paid \$5,000 by an American intelligence agent in 1962 to infect Cuban turkeys with a fatal disease.

The Canadian, said in an interview that more than 3,000 turkeys on a Cuban state farm subsequently died, but not because he infected them with the Newcastle disease virus he claims he received in Canada from a military intelligence operative.

He said that he destroyed the virus before leaving Canada for Cuba in late spring, 1962, and later had "a hell of a good time" with the money.

The major details of the Canadian's story have been confirmed by sources within and outside the American intelligence community.

During the summer of 1962, the technician said, about 3,000 turkeys at the Cuban farm died of neglect or other causes unrelated to the virus scheme. "Either the Cubans wouldn't work, or they were off reading some tract by Mao Tse-tung," he said. The farm, known as PR-1, was in the Pinar del Rio Province of western Cuba. According to U.S. intelligence reports, the Cubans—and some Americans—believe the turkeys died as the result of espionage.

The Canadian was working as an adviser to the Cuban government and visited farms, including PR-1, in the course of his duties. He said he told the American agent who approached him that, based on his observations, the turkeys were going to die anyway. But the agent continued to press him, he said, and he finally said he would carry out the operation. "If they were stupid enough to pay me \$5,000 to kill birds that were as good as dead already, I figured they'd just give the money to someone else," he said.

The Cubans were pushing turkey production in 1962 because of an urgent need to quickly increase their meat supply, which had been cut sharply by the American trade embargo and a deteriorating production system brought about by collectivization of agriculture.

Newcastle disease is a viral illness that affects the respiratory organs of poultry, particularly young chickens, ducks and turkeys. There are vaccines, but once the poultry is infected there is no effective treatment and all

infected birds and those they come in contact with must be destroyed.

The technician, who asked that his name be withheld, said he was approached in Miami by a man he knew as "Ron" and who identified himself with credentials as being from "American intelligence."

A source within the Defense Intelligence Agency confirmed that "Ron" worked for the DIA at that time, and then said: "If you're going to tell me what I think you're going to tell me, I don't want to hear it." He refused to comment further.

At the Miami meeting, the Canadian said, he was told that if he was interested he would be contacted again in Toronto, where he lived.

The Canadian told "Ron" that in his opinion infecting the turkeys would be a waste of time because the birds were going to die anyway. But "Ron" told him that the United States couldn't wait because it had received information that the Cubans were planning to introduce hoof-and-mouth disease into the United States he said. The DIA source confirmed that officials were concerned over reports that Cuba was contemplating the possibility of germ warfare.

Two months ago, after Newsday reported that the Central Intelligence Agency gave tacit approval to the introduction of African swine fever in Cuba in 1971, columnist Jack Anderson reported that the United States had intelligence reports at the time of the poultry plot indicating that a Cuban official—Agricultural Minister Antonio Nunez Jimenez—proposed infecting U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. Cattle, once infected, have to be destroyed to prevent spread of the disease. According to intelligence reports, Nunez Jimenez later cited what he believed to be U.S. turkeys in Pinar del Rio as a reason for the death of Cuban to retaliate with the hoof-and-mouth disease plot.

According to the Canadian's account, he was contacted in Toronto in May, 1962, and asked to go to Ottawa. In Ottawa, he met with "Ron" and agreed to undertake the mission. The next day he was paid \$5,000 in \$50 and \$100 bills and was given a container of virus that he incinerated before leaving for Havana. He arrived there aboard a Canadian flight in June, 1962.

The Canadian said he spent the money in Miami and New Orleans. He was later contacted by "Ron" and told that he had done a good job and was wanted for another mission. He refused.

Part II--Main Edition--17 January 1977

WASHINGTON POST 17 JANUARY 1977 Pg. C-23

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Cuba

U.S., Cuba Had Germ Warfare Plans

The United States and Cuba apparently planned to wage germ warfare against one another's livestock a few years back.

The Senate intelligence committee is investigating the startling charge that the CIA spread African swine fever in Cuba. The disease devastated the island's pig population.

"Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infect U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. The idea eventually was abandoned, but in April 1952, Cuban politico member Antonio Nunez Jimenez discussed the hoof-and-mouth plot with four top Cuban scientists.

The amazing story has been buried in intelligence documents, which we have now seen.

Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to an intelligence memo, "that Cuba was now ready to give the United States a dose of its own medicine."

"Nunez Jimenez further explained," continued the memo, "that Cuba had the ability, through specially trained agents, to destroy the cattle industry of the United States by spreading an epidemic fever known commonly as hoof-and-mouth disease."

A hoof-and-mouth epidemic would have forced the destruction of the infected cattle. An outbreak in the United States in 1929 and in Mexico in 1946 wiped out millions worth of livestock.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez' threat, made further inquiries and found that "the Cuban government had opened a bacteriological laboratory in Soroca, Pinar del Rio Province."

This secret lab, "located in the for-

mer orchid gardens of Soroca," was run by a Spanish exile named Dr. Martinez Viera. He was assisted by a Cuban and a former American resident. The latter was a woman who washed the test tubes and vials used by Viera, reported the memo.

At the time of the memo, written in 1953, it appeared that "Nunez Jimenez had made arrangements for three Soviet bacteriologists to take over the laboratory."

One purpose of the lab, interestingly, was to "determine the cause of an epidemic which completely destroyed the flocks of a turkey farm." However, *there is no evidence* that the turkeys, like a reported 500,000 Cuban pigs, may have been the victims of CIA germ warfare.

Another Coverup: There is no longer any question about it; both the FBI and CIA withheld essential facts from the Warren Commission about the assassination of President Kennedy.

The FBI never allowed the commission access to its files, and the members were so intimidated by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that they never protested. Instead, they relied upon FBI summaries and Hoover's letters.

We have now learned, for example, that the FBI had in its files at least 69 reports on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Only 26 of these were summarized for the Warren Commission; the remaining 23 were held back. Thus, the commission accused Oswald of the murder without considering all the available facts.

The CIA also provided the commission with selective information and covered up crucial facts. Indeed, con-

gressional investigators say the CIA deliberately lied about some of the details that were furnished to the commission.

During the closing weeks of the last Congress, the House established a select assassinations committee, which has barely started its investigation of the Kennedy killing. Yet its investigators have already interviewed about two dozen key witnesses who had never been questioned.

They include people who had witnessed the shooting in 1963 and the rooms afterward inside the Dallas hospital. Sources with important information in Mexico City and Miami were also interviewed for the first time.

Now there are disturbing reports that the FBI and CIA are directing an undercover campaign against the committee. Congressional sources say the two embattled agencies are spreading derogatory stories about the committee.

The CIA, these sources say, also offered to take over the committee's security. This incredible proposal would have placed the CIA, a target of the investigation, in charge of the committee files.

After the offer was rejected and investigators started asking embarrassing questions, the CIA allegedly urged the Senate intelligence committee to take the lead in investigating the Kennedy assassination. Apparently, the CIA felt that the Senate committee would be more friendly.

Footnote: At this writing, the CIA has not responded to our request for a comment. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI is cooperating fully with the committee, not obstructing it.

By Drew Fetherston
and John Cummings
Newsday

NEW YORK—With at least the tacit backing of Central Intelligence Agency officials, operatives linked to anti-Castro terrorists introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971. Six weeks later an outbreak of the disease forced the slaughter of 500,000 pigs to prevent a nationwide animal epidemic.

A U.S. intelligence source told Newsday he was given the virus in a sealed, unmarked container at a U.S. Army base and CIA training ground in the Panama Canal Zone, with instructions to turn it over to the anti-Castro group.

The 1971 outbreak, the only time the disease has hit the Western Hemisphere, was labeled the "most alarming event" of 1971 by the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. African swine fever is a highly contagious and usually lethal viral disease that infects only pigs and, unlike swine flu, cannot be transmitted to humans. There were no human deaths involved in the outbreak, but all production of pork, a Cuban staple, came to a halt, apparently for several months.

A CIA spokesman, Dennis Berend, in response to a request for comment, said: "We don't comment on information from unnamed and, at best, obscure sources."

Why the virus turned up in Cuba has been a mystery to investigators. It had been assumed that the virus entered Cuba in garbage from a commercial airliner or in sausages brought in by merchant seamen.

However, on the basis of interviews with U.S. intelligence sources, Cuban exiles and scientists concerning the outbreak—which occurred two years after President Nixon banned the use of offensive chemical and biological warfare—Newsday was able to piece together the following account of events leading up to the outbreak.

The U.S. intelligence source said that early in 1971 he was given the virus in a sealed, unmarked container at Ft. Gulick, an Army base in the Panama Canal Zone. The CIA operates a paramilitary training center for career personnel and mercenaries at Ft. Gulick.

The source said he was given instructions to turn the container with

the virus over to an anti-Castro group.

The container then was given to some boat and turned it over to a fishing trawler off the Panamanian coast. The source said the substance was not identified to him until months after the outbreak in Cuba. He would not elaborate.

Another man involved in the operation, a Cuban exile who asked not to be identified, said he was on the trawler when the virus was put aboard at a prearranged rendezvous point off Bocas del Toro, Panama. He said the trawler carried the virus to Navassa Island, a deserted, tiny, U.S.-owned island between Jamaica and Haiti.

From there, after the trawler made a brief stopover, the container was taken to Cuba and given to other operatives on the southern coast near the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay in late March, 1971, according to the source.

The source said he had no direct knowledge of whether the virus that came from Ft. Gulick was responsible for the outbreak in Havana, 500 miles northwest of Guantanamo.

A paper prepared by the Cubans for a scientific conference in Mexico City said the first sick pigs were found about May 6, but no precise location was given. A non-Soviet bloc agricultural technician then in Cuba said the disease easily could have gone undetected for months. The virus can be transmitted rapidly through the food or water supply.

The source on the trawler, who had been trained by the CIA and had carried out previous missions for the agency, said he saw no CIA officials aboard the boat that delivered the virus to the trawler, but added: "We were well paid for this and Cuban exile groups don't have that kind of money..."

He said he suspected, but never knew for sure, what was in the container. "When I asked about this stuff all they told me was, 'It's from Gulick,'" he said.

He said he was revealing the information because he is a member of an exile group being investigated by the

His account was confirmed by another intelligence source in Miami,

This source said he had no proof that the operation was approved by CIA officials in Washington, but added: "In a case like this, though, they would always give them [CIA officials in Washington] plausible deniability."

The investigation referred to by the operative on the trawler involves a federal inquiry into terrorist acts allegedly carried out by Cuban exiles. These include bombings and assassination attempts in the United States and Venezuela. It had originally by the CIA for operations against Cuba, but since have become more restrictive as they view what they believe to be an increasing move toward rapprochement between Premier Fidel Castro and the United States.

Congressional sources with access to some CIA records said the swine fever operation was not mentioned in the list of approved covert operations. But Congress' efforts to probe CIA activities in chemical and biological warfare have been frustrated. The Senate intelligence committee said in its final report last year that the Army and the CIA had entered into a special agreement to build biochemical agents and delivery systems, but that written records of these activities were destroyed.

According to the Cuban scientific paper, presented in August, 1971, the country's entire production of pork came to a halt until the disease was confined to Havana province and eradicated by slaughtering the infected pigs and incinerating their remains. Cuba reported that about 500,000 pigs were slaughtered.

The non-Soviet bloc agricultural technician then in Cuba said that at the time of the outbreak there was a chronic shortage of meat and any Havana resident who could was keeping a pig in his backyard. Because of this situation, highly unusual for an urban area, the "disease could have existed months before it was found," the technician said, adding that it was impossible to pinpoint the source of the epidemic.

In a speech on July 26, 1971, Castro said: "The origin of the epidemic has not yet been ascertained. It could be accidental or it could have been the result of enemy activity. On various occasions the counterrevolutionary wormpit anti-Castro groups based in Miami has talked of plagues and epidemics; however, we cannot yet say categorically that it was either."

Ft. Gulick, where the U.S. intelligence source said he was given the container with the virus, was built during World War II to protect the Panama Canal. It is headquarters for the Army's School of the Americas, which trains army officers from 17 Latin American countries. Unofficially, according to intelligence sources, it is a staging area for covert operations in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Former CIA official Victor Marchetti, author of the book "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," told Newsday that the CIA had its own base near Ft. Gulick where it trained its own operatives. He said Ft. Gulick also was used to train mercenaries and career CIA personnel in paramilitary operations.