

SECRET

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1 Q Which of these activities, if any of them were
2 actually being conducted within the Cuban community in Miami?

3 A Well, the collection of foreign positive and probably
4 counterintelligence.

5 Q So the Agency was conducting counterintelligence
6 activities in the Miami area?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Can you give me an example of the kinds of counter-
9 intelligence activities that the Agency would be conducting
10 in that area or was conducting in the area at that time?

11 A Well, we had a number of joint operations, as I
12 recall, with the Bureau. We had identified a Castro agent that
13 came in by small boat and when she was -- she came in with a
14 number of other people. When she hit the -- they had a recep-
15 tion center up in Opa Loca that was really a HEW operation.
16 The Domestic Contact Division office had people out there and
17 we did, too. Our people from the DDO were under Immigration
18 and Naturalization Service. When the HEW people did the
19 preliminary interrogation of these people they had to fill
20 out forms, where were you born, this type of thing, biographic-
21 type thing. These forms would be passed to our people who would
22 look at the forms and based on previous experience or what
23 they might have been doing, and they felt that perhaps they
24 might have some information of intelligence value, they would
25 reinterrogate them.

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Q And these people were Cuban exiles?

A Cuban exiles.

Q How large an outfit were the ~~exiles~~?

A Well, at one time -- I can give you the exact figures but I know it well exceeded over 100, probably closer to --

Q Go ahead.

A Probably closer to 150, something like that.

Q Now, would that 150 persons be included within the three to 500 who made up the Miami Station?

A No.

Q That was over and above the personnel of the Miami Station?

A Right.

Q These people were fulltime CIA employees, weren't they?

A Right. Well, let me -- these people really were -- they were being subsidized by the Agency. ~~They were employed~~

~~by two cover companies, the largest of which was called Latin~~

~~American Social and Economic Research.~~ Then we had another

smaller group that did the interrogating and they were under

~~another cover, commercial cover.~~ -- I just don't recall what it was. ~~But these people ostensibly were employees of these whiffs~~

~~called newspapers of the Agency. They were duly constituted~~

~~incorporated, paid taxes, all this type of thing.~~

Q The salaries of these people, although paid indirectly, were paid by the CIA?

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Then as soon as they could, of course, they would move them to the areas where they wanted to resettle them, where the relatives were, this type of thing, and we had nothing to do with that whatsoever.

Q Turning back to the [REDACTED] and to the larger of the two groups, what was the name of that group again?

A [REDACTED] SIERRA: Latin American Social and Economic Research

Q We can call them LASER for short?

A Really, they are both -- the only reason we separated the two groups was for security because we had one group housed over here and the smaller group was over here. Obviously we couldn't bring these refugees into the larger establishment, so that is why we took the smaller establishment to preserve some

cover

Q Okay. What activities was the larger group engaged in?

A Well, the larger group was engaged in the collection of intelligence. They compiled dossiers on the principals inside Cuba. They carded -- they kept card files on every refugee that came through the reception center. They provided -- they did do economic and social reporting. They put out a monthly newsletter based on the information they collected.

The information these people collected as opposed to the information we collected, that's was all unclassified. That came from -- all the information they had came from human source

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1 would call a great number of suspect infiltrates, but they did
 2 come up with a few promising ones and ones it turned over to the
 3 Bureau, of course, we have no idea what the hell ever happens
 4 to it because, you know, you just -- unless you personally know
 5 the guy in the Bureau that is handling the case, you might as
 6 well forget it. You have got too many other things to do.

7 Q What other positive intelligence gathering activities
 8 were they engaging in?

9 A Well, as I told you, one part of them were engaged in
 10 ~~electronic intercept.~~

11 Q Where was that done?

12 A Down in Florida, ~~down in Homestead.~~

13 Q This is Southeast of ~~Homestead?~~

14 A Yes.

15 Q What are they ~~intercepting?~~

16 A Well, originally they were set up to assist with the
 17 commo. for the infiltration.

18 As we phased down the maritime activities, they were made
 19 available to ~~Intercept Cuban Communications. NSA talks them with~~
 20 ~~the frequencies they wanted covered and the Cuban Communications~~
 21 ~~nets they wanted covered;~~ such as the border guards. Another
 22 important one was the sugar network. We had the border guards,
 23 sugar, transportation, maritime. I think there was an interior
 24 network they covered too. ~~But all electronic intercept coverage.~~