

## Agency Information

AGENCY : ROCKCOM  
RECORD NUMBER : 178-10002-10279  
RECORD SERIES : ASSASSINATION FILES  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : A-I(J) CORRESPONDENCE--ASSASSINATIONS

## Document Information

ORIGINATOR : ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE : DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM STURBITTS  
DATE : 04/16/1975  
PAGES : 4  
SUBJECTS :  
ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES  
CIA  
STURBITTS, WILLIAM  
FITZGERALD, DESMOND  
KENNEDY, ROBERT  
CUBAN EXILES  
DOCUMENT TYPE : DEPOSITION  
CLASSIFICATION : Secret  
RESTRICTIONS : 1A; 1B; 1C  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 02/13/2001  
OPENING CRITERIA :  
COMMENTS : Selected pages from deposition. Full document is number 1781000210091.

**SECRET**

55

Phone (Area 202) 344-6000

WARD &amp; PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

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** cover. 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.

**SECRET**Photocopy from  
Gerald Ford Library

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD &amp; PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

1 Q And these people were Cuban exiles?

2 A Cuban exiles.

3 Q How large an outfit were the AMOTS?

4 A Well, at one time -- I can give you the exact figures

5 but I know it well exceeded over 100, probably closer to --

6 Q Go ahead.

7 A Probably closer to 150, something like that.

8 Q Now, would that 150 persons be included within the

9 three to 500 who made up the Miami Station?

10 A No.

11 Q That was over and above the personnel of the Miami

12 Station?

13 A Right.

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

15 A Right. Well, let me -- these people really were --

16 they were being subsidized by the Agency. They were employed

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

18 **American Social and Economic Research.** Then we had another

19 smaller group that did the interrogating and they were under

20 another cover, commercial cover, -- I just don't recall what it

21 was. But these people ostensibly were employees of these wholly

22 owned proprietaries of the Agency. They were duly constituted,

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

24 Q The salaries of these people, although paid indirectly,

25 were paid by the CIA?

SECRET

Photocopy from  
Gerald Ford Library

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD &amp; PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

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

5 Q Turning back to the AMOTS, and to the larger of the  
6 two groups, what was the name of that group again?

7 A **SASER, Latin American Social and Economic Research.**

8 Q We can call them **LASER** for short?

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

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

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

23 The information these people collected as opposed to the  
24 information we collected, ther's was all unclassified. That  
25 came from -- all the information they had came from human sources

SECRET

Photocopy from  
Gerald Ford Library

**SECRET**

Phone (Area 202) 544-6000

WARD &amp; PAUL

410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

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 ere 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 tasks 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  
25 is dictated by NSA.

**SECRET**Photocopy from  
Gerald Ford Library