

= Milan C. Miskovsky =

Milan Carl Miskovsky ( May 11 , 1926 ? October 15 , 2009 ) was an American who served as a member of the Central Intelligence Agency ( CIA ) . He helped negotiate the release of Gary Powers in 1962 and over 1 @, @ 000 prisoners captured during the 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion . After retiring from the CIA , Miskovsky worked for multiple federal agencies , including the Federal Maritime Commission and the Treasury Department .

Following the 1967 Detroit riot , Miskovsky was appointed to lead an investigation into the cause of the unrest and interview civil rights leaders for the Kerner Commission . His report ultimately concluded that America was becoming divided into two separate societies based on skin color , and that the societies were inherently unequal .

Miskovsky would later serve as the director of the Lawyers ' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the general counsel of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board . He helped to establish the Archdiocesan Legal Network in 1989 and worked in private practice from 1981 until his retirement in 2003 .

= = Early life = =

Miskovsky was born on May 11 , 1926 in Chicago , Illinois , the son of Jaroslav Miskovsky , an immigrant from Czechoslovakia , and Ruth Miskovsky ( nee Patera ) . He grew up during the Great Depression , but his family did not suffer significant economic harm . Miskovsky 's father was heavily involved in Chicago politics , and Miskovsky would frequently help him deliver food and clothes to people unable to afford them .

He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1949 and worked for the U.S. Forest Service for the next two years . He was reassigned to Washington , D.C. in 1951 , where he was hired by the CIA to investigate forests of the Eastern Bloc . In 1956 , Miskovsky obtained a law degree from the George Washington University Law School . He joined the legal office of the CIA , and was eventually promoted to the rank of assistant general counsel .

= = U @-@ 2 incident = =

In 1960 , the Soviet Union shot down a United States U @-@ 2 spy plane . The Soviets captured its pilot , Gary Powers , and tried him for committing espionage against the Soviet Union . At first , the United States believed that Powers could be freed by crafting an argument regarding international principles . To this end , Miskovsky and two other lawyers ( Alexander W. Parker and Frank Rogers ) wrote a brief stating that Power 's U @-@ 2 plane did not violate Soviet airspace any more than Sputnik violated American airspace . However , the Soviet Union refused to allow foreigners to defend Powers . Powers was ultimately defended by a lawyer who acted as a spokesman for the Soviet government .

The Soviets ultimately sentenced Powers to a decade in prison . Working with lawyer James B. Donovan , Miskovsky negotiated with Soviet representatives . Eventually , they agreed upon a trade : Gary Powers would be released in exchange for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel held by the United States . Both sides agreed and Powers was released in 1962 .

= = Bay of Pigs invasion = =

In April 1961 , a 1 @, @ 400 @-@ man force of Cuban exiles invaded Cuba in an attempt to end the regime of Fidel Castro . The invasion was a failure and two @-@ hundred of the exiles were killed while an additional 1 @, @ 200 were captured . Miskovsky , working with lawyer and lead negotiator James Donovan , and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy , negotiated a release for the prisoners in return for around fifty million dollars in medicine , food and other supplies . The captured Cubans were released days before Christmas .

## = = Later life = =

Miskovsky left the CIA in 1964 , and worked for the Federal Maritime Commission and the Treasury Department for four years . In 1967 , Miskovsky was appointed to lead an investigation concerning the 1967 Detroit riot for the Kerner Commission . During the investigation , Miskovsky interviewed civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King , Jr . Miskovsky 's report concluded that the United States was transitioning into two separate societies , one black and the other white , and that the societies were inherently unequal . In 1968 , Miskovsky was appointed the director of Lawyers ' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law , an organization which gave legal aid to those whose civil liberties were violated . From 1977 to 1981 , during the administration of President Jimmy Carter , Miskovsky served as general counsel for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board .

From 1981 until his retirement in 2003 , Miskovsky worked for Kirkland & Ellis , where he specialized in environmental law . In 1989 , Miskovsky helped establish the Archdiocesan Legal Network , a free legal clinic run by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington . The clinic aided people with non @-@ criminal legal issues such as bankruptcy , evictions , suspended licenses or delayed social security checks . Miskovsky was originally tasked with recruiting other lawyers for the clinic , but was eventually promoted to chairman of the clinic 's board .

Miskovsky died of lung cancer on October 15 , 2009 in Washington , D.C.

## = = Personal life = =

Miskovsky married Anne Miskovsky ( nee Grogan ) , a fellow member of the Central Intelligence Agency , in 1952 . The marriage lasted until 2004 , when Anne Miskovsky died of leukemia .

Miskovsky was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown . In 1987 , he and his wife served as the chairs of the Holy Trinity Parish bicentennial celebration .

## = = Publications = =

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