

Court Declares U.S. Can Deport Cuban Spy

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Body

An immigration **court** has ruled that a **Cuban** who admitted **spying** for his homeland may be **deported** from the **United States**, the **U.S.** Immigration and Naturalization Service said today.

The **U.S.** Board of Immigration Appeals ruled that Jorge Luis-Rodriguez, a **Cuban** citizen arrested in April 1996 by FBI and INS agents in Miami, could be **deported** under laws barring "any activity to violate any law of the **United States** related to espionage."

The INS said Luis was an agent of the **Cuban** Intelligence Service. When he was arrested, authorities said he was holding instructions from his superiors and the names of several Cubans living in the **United States** identified as members of a well-known exile group opposed to the government of Fidel Castro.

They said the documents were written on water-soluble paper and concealed in a wallet with a secret compartment.

In a news release, the immigration service said Luis admitted in subsequent interviews that he was an intelligence agent.

An immigration judge dismissed the **deportation** case in 1996, saying that Luis was not secretly gathering sensitive or defense-related information. But the INS appealed, saying he violated the **U.S.** Foreign Registration Act, which focuses on espionage, making him subject to **deportation**.

The Board of Immigration Appeals sustained the INS's appeal.

The INS said the ruling is binding on immigration **courts** throughout the **United States** and called it a significant victory that expands the government's ability to **deport** aliens involved in espionage-related activities.

Classification

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Person: FIDEL CASTRO (58%)

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