

MANUEL ARTIME DIES; LED INVASION OF CUBA

Castro Foe, 45, Had Close Ties to C.I.A. — Recruited Exiles for Bay of Pigs Operation

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MIAMI, Nov. 18—Manuel Artime Buesa, a Cuban physician who became the leader of the ill-fated United States-supported Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 and who was later ransomed from a Cuban jail for \$500,000, died here last night of cancer. He was 45 years old.

Dr. Artime entered the American hospital several weeks ago, complaining of stomach pains. Tests showed that he had an inoperable cancer of the liver and pancreas.

Dr. Artime, who was once an official in the Castro Government, later became known as "the golden boy of the C.I.A." because of his close association with the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the tumultuous 1959-1965 period in Cuban-American relations, the C.I.A. tried first to overthrow the Castro Government with a military invasion by exiles, and later to destabilize it by hit-and-run attacks carried out by exiles from bases in the United States and Central America. Dr. Artime had a leading role in both efforts.

Dr. Artime, whose parents were Spanish, was born in Camaguey Province and

studied medicine at the University of Havana.

Fought Against Batista

Although his father had been a member of the Cuban Communist Party, he was a conservative and a Roman Catholic. He headed one of many clandestine groups that fought the military regime of Gen. Fulgencio Batista.

In 1958, after being arrested twice by the Batista police, Dr. Artime fled to the Sierra Maestra range in eastern Cuba and joined Fidel Castro's guerrillas, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

After the Castro victory in 1959, he was promoted to captain and placed in charge of the Agrarian Reform Administration in Oriente Province.

Late in 1959, with help from the C.I.A., Dr. Artime fled to Mexico and denounced Mr. Castro as a Communist. Dr. Artime's first C.I.A. "contact" was Bernard L. Barker, who was later convicted in the break-in at the Democratic Party's headquarters in the Watergate office and apartment complex in Washington.

In 1960, Dr. Artime, both in Miami and in Cuba, organized one of the first anti-Castro clandestine groups, called the Revolutionary Recovery Movement. Subsequently, he became a leading member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, which was set up in Miami with American support.

In Charge of Training Camps

In late 1960 he participated in the recruitment in Miami of Cuban exiles for a military invasion of Cuba, and later was put in charge of the exile training camps in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

On April 17, 1961, when Exile Brigade 2506 landed at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of Cuba, he was the overall political and military leader of the brigade, the post for which he had been recommended by E. Howard Hunt Jr., then a C.I.A. agent who directed political aspects of the invasion. Mr. Hunt was later convicted of conspiracy in the Watergate break-in.

The invasion collapsed within three days; Dr. Artime was captured two weeks later in the mosquito-infested swampland, about 40 miles from the beach.

Dr. Artime is survived by his wife, Adelaida, six children and his parents, who live in Cuba.