

THE CURIOUS INTRIGUES OF OF CUBAN MIAMI BY HORACE SUTTON



"Instead of mingling with the American community, we have formed an autonomous economy, created our ghetto."

ent funnel from the CIA to the Miami Cubans.

The Agency, or "The Company," as the CIA was called in the Cuban colony, supplied the funds, the training, and the psychological motivation to bind the Cuban exiles into a strike force. Although there was no open sponsorship following the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, the hard-line anticommunism of the Cubans was considered a useful tactical asset, and there was American support for it, however modified, until 1969. Even now there are some intellectual Cubans who aver that The Agency is keeping the lid on further activism. The result has been frustration in the Cuban community, and it mounted with the appearance of George McGovern and his statement that he might seek a negotiated settlement with Castro. Rinaldo Pico, a Cuban who demonstrated at J. Edgar Hoover's funeral, was to tell *The Miami Herald's* Roberto Fabricio, "Barker was our contact for CIA work for Cuba—and every time I would see him on the street I would ask if some-

thing was working, and for a few years he would just say no. Suddenly, last year, he said that Eduardo was in touch, and that at last we could work for Cuba."

BARKER WAS BORN in Havana in 1917 of an American father and a Cuban mother. His grandfather, a Tennessee potato farmer, had gone to Cuba with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and had stayed there after the war.

A U.S. veteran of World War II, Barker returned to Cuba and worked in Batista's secret police, with, he has said, "the consent and cooperation of the FBI." After Castro, he moved to Miami, worked in a store, managed a fighter, ultimately studied for a real estate license, and opened his own real estate office. Among his associates were Miguel A. Suarez, a prominent lawyer who headed Senator Gurney's election committee three years ago, and Guillermo Alonso Pujol y Bermudez, son of a former vice-president of Cuba in the regime of Carlos Prío. Guillermo's father, Alonso Pujol, a wealthy expatriate,

lives now in Caracas. His other son, Jorge Alonso Pujol y Bermudez, a veteran of the Bay of Pigs who had been ransomed from Castro for \$100,000 by his father, was caught in a narcotics sweep in Miami three years ago. Arrested with Alonso was Juan Restoy, a member of the Cuban legislature under Batista. Restoy escaped from jail with Mario Escandar, who had a long history of drug arrests. Escandar gave himself up, drew twelve years, a sentence that was later thrown out because authentication for the wire intercept that had to be signed personally by Attorney General John Mitchell was actually signed, in Mitchell's absence, by his designee, Juan Restoy, who had a reputation as a smuggler in Cuba, was killed in a shoot-out with federal narcotics agents, two of whom he wounded. Alonso was convicted and sentenced to seven years, but he was later released and placed on probation. He was represented by Miguel Suarez.

While in Miami, for a Bay of Pigs reunion in the spring of 1971, Hunt looked up Barker; and the two of them, with their wives, held their own reunion at a Cuban restaurant. That summer Hunt flew to Miami and looked up Barker again. This time he asked Barker to join him in a "national security organization," which, Hunt said, "was above both the CIA and the FBI." Barker was a day later that he was impressed by Hunt's White House position, which might one day prove important in the ultimate liberation of Cuba. He signed on with Hunt and brought in two Cuban members of his real estate firm, Eugenio Martínez and Felipe DeDiego, both good name Castro fighters. According to Barker, Martínez had participated in 300 "infiltrations" into Cuba, while DeDiego took part in a raid inside Cuba to capture some Castro documents. It was later to be revealed that Martínez had been on the CIA payroll at \$100 a month to screen newly arrived Cuban émigrés for information that might prove useful to Washington. According to Ambassador Richard Helms, former director of The Agency, Barker, Hunt, McCord, and Sturgis all had CIA connections, and it might have been that Mrs. Hunt was so connected, too.

With these credentials in the murky arts, Barker, Martínez, and DeDiego flew from Miami to Los Angeles early in September 1971 and broke into Dr. Fielding's office. Barker says they found nothing on Ellisberg, but DeDiego testi-

* THIS EXPLAINS THE BEHAVIOR OF GURNEY.