

Add to visit by Hemming and Hargraves

11/15/90

While it was not generally known contemporaneously and I've never seen referred to in the major media except for infrequent isolated instances, the influx of Cubans after Castro took power was accompanied by the extensive participation of some of them in criminal activities. For a while beginning then Cubans seemed to be a major part of distributing drugs, on the east coast in particular. I presume that those engaging in such criminal activities are a minority. Some of these men, who were trained for the Bay of Pigs invasion and were also equipped by the CIA, were trained to use explosives, and they did, in the United States. There will be instances scattered in my files. I did not dream that this would become as widespread as it did become. The victims were those regarded as of the left and it included lawyers and publishers. Of those cases that got attention, the best known is the assassination of the former Chilean foreign minister in the heart of Washington, Letelier. While the honcho was a renegade American, the Cubans provided what he needed and helped him with the execution. Such Cubans also practised this kind of violence within the exile community and the statistics I've seen relating to what they've done in Florida and in the Miami area in particular are, as I recall, staggering. Best known of these is probably Orlando Boasch, an extremist of the right and a doctor.

After I made copies of the comments I recorded after Hemming and Hargraves left and put some in envelopes for mailing, I noticed first that what had been an extensive file on Loran Hall is entirely missing. It had contained notes on my interviews of him and of his telephone calls to me and of clippings plus quite a few photographs some of which he'd borrowed and then refused to return. I checked the overflow and dead files removed from my office to the basement and it is not there either. Then when I located the Hargraves file where it should have been there was but a single item in it - a clipping reporting that he had pled guilty to a charge of bombing a southern California office of Students from a Democratic Society in 1963. The clipping also reports that although his confessed crime was serious, a felony, he was permitted to enter a plea to only a misdemeanor and got a slight sentence. He does not look like a man who would do ~~such~~ such a thing, do what could kill young people and endanger others. As I noted, he quoted Robert Frost, accurately. As I did not note, he was impressed by the sunset as we drove to Western Union and commented on it. But aside from the violence intended against Cubans inside Cuba, he practised it in his own land and against his own people.

With regard to the missing Hall file, there can be another explanation. (I hope it did not also hold the tapes of my interviews which might be of interest to others in the future!) After my first thrombosis I had a few Hood students work part-time on such things as filing. As my office files grew the drawers got crowded. I had done the initial transfers to basement files. These required some shifting of files in my office. One of these students was the daughter of a preacher. After she left I found that there was extensive disorganization and misfiling. I found still another one ten or more years later when I was doing the filing I refer to above and corrected it. (I also note that with regard to this student, who is the only such illustration among the students who worked for me part-time, she could not be innocent in this. She just didn't give a damn, and when she transferred files she just stuck them anyplace at all. I'm sure she didn't worry about this because the only reason I had such help was my inability to stand still and the limit on my safe use of the cellar stairs. Yet when she completed law school and required recommendations she had the gall to cite me, without having consulted me, as one who could give her a character reference. It was rather neutral when I provided it.) So, it is possible that in shifting files around to make space in my office she may have misfiled the Hall file, either in my office or in the basement overflow. Since discovering the mess she made I've done what file shifting was required. I have no reason to believe that anyone who had access to my files stole the Hall file and it was intact as of the day of his testimony before the House assassinations committee, when I loaned him the photos from it.

When Hemming was rambling about his past he mentioned the time he'd served in jail. Hargraves made no comment on his own jail time or the reason(s) for it.