

## CIA Are The Weathermen

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Did the CIA order weather modification to ruin the Cuban sugar crop in 1969 and 1970, or didn't it?

Lowell Ponte, former researcher for International Research and Technology Corporation, a Pentagon "think tank," says the CIA and Pentagon ordered cloud-seeding off the shores of Cuba, to "milk" rain clouds, at a time when Castro's fortunes seemingly depended on a successful harvest of sugar cane.

The CIA has categorically denied it practiced cloud seeding anywhere except in Vietnam during that time period.

Ponte says the Cuban experiment was part of "Project Nile Blue," carried on officially starting in 1970 by the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). Later exposure of the project by scientists opposed to the war revealed that weather experimentation there had begun as early as 1966. A computer model for "Nile Blue" was developed by the main computer installation, known as ILLIAC 4, located at Moffett Field in Mountain View.

Ponte says the Cuban cloud-seeding effort did produce erratic weather which cut down the sugar harvest those years, but that on the whole weather science is too "primitive" and unpredictable to produce certain re-

sults. He adds that "Nile Blue" was really aimed at "destabilizing" weather in the Soviet Union, China and Cuba, to ruin harvests and create political unrest.

-- Betty Segal