

iba prisoner: I spied

for CIA from jail

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HAVANA — Frank Emmick, who is serving a 50-year jail sentence in Cuba after being accused of being head of the CIA in Havana, says he was working for the CIA from prison and sending communications to former CIA head Richard Helms "through the underground."

Emmick, 63, admitted that he had sent a letter to Helms from jail in Cuba fingering Dominican Republic revolutionary Francesco Caamano Deno, who was reported missing in October 1967 soon after the information was transmitted. The Cubans claim Caamano was murdered.

Emmick, from Toledo, Ohio, is one of five U. S. citizens serving a total of 170 years for alleged CIA activities.

They were visited yesterday by Rep. Fred Richmond (D-B'klyn), who has made a vigorous appeal to Fidel Castro to have them freed.

FROGS' LEGS

Emmick, who formerly sold equipment to the U. S. government, arrived in Cuba in 1969 as a salesman of frogs' legs.

The Cubans claim he used this as a cover to orchestrate the CIA's entire activities in the country and was "the intellectual author" of the execution of Caamano.

Today Emmick admitted that he had sent a letter to Helms informing him of the activities of Caamano because he felt it was "his duty as a U. S. citizen." But he denied being head of the CIA there.

Despite Emmick's claim of innocence, Cliff McCrary, a 39-year-old native of Kentucky who hijacked a boat from Key West and took it to Cuba at gunpoint, told The Post: "When I arrived here I was in jail for seven months and I met Emmick inside. He tried to have me killed because he thought I was a Communist. The man is crazy."

DESCRIBE ORDEAL

Emmick and four other prisoners, Everett Jackson, 37, of Miami, Lawrence Lunt, 54, of Wyoming; Juan Tur, 60, of Tampa, and Claudio Rodriguez Morales, 47, of Puerto Rico, told Richmond of the harrowing years in Cuban jails marked by long periods of solitary confinement, bad food, no exercise and psychological torture.

The prisoners are in the Combinado del Este prison outside of Havana.

The first one to talk to Richmond was Jackson,



FRANK EMMICK
Serving 50 years.

whose plane was shot down by the Cubans on Dec. 27, 1967.

Jackson refused to say whether he was involved with the CIA, but confessed that he parachuted over Cuban territory and the "cameras and equipment" in the plane were confiscated.

He claimed that he was working indirectly for a reporter on the Santa Ana (Cal.) register when he was arrested.

Lunt, a former rancher from Wyoming, says he was arrested in 1965 when he was cattle-ranching in the west of Cuba. "I was arrested. I have nothing to say."

'NO SECRETS'

"I was interrogated for five months in solitary confinement," he said. "I have no more secrets. It was a confirmed fact that I was a CIA agent. They had the proof through other people who were caught."

Morales, 48, told Richmond that he made his way to Cuba in July 1966 to "get some people out and take them to Miami."

"They caught me and gave me 20 years," he said. "There's nothing more to it than that."

Tur, 60, was arrested in October 1964 after a year as a fugitive in Havana.

"They say I was supposed to be a CIA agent," he said. "They did not say any specific crimes. I have 16 more years to go. I'm older than the rest and my health is not as good."

Tur has a wife and daughter in Havana. When asked point-blank whether he was a member of the CIA, he said, "I would not like to answer the question."

FOUR DAYS IN HAVANA

NEWS takes a trip to Havana and makes a few dis ing a Cuban affair

Post reporter Steve Dunleavy records impressions of a Congressman's travels

"BROOKLYN FREDDIE" had only four days to do it all—talk to CIA agents behind bars, charm a beautiful communist lady, straighten out an American hijacker, exult in possibly the best fan dance in the world, talk politics with Shirley MacLaine, soak up a bit of Hemingway, light a Chanukah candle, eat until he was bursting—and take on one of the toughest dudes this side of Muhammad Ali.

And it all happened in "enemy territory."

The "boy" from Brooklyn, veteran politician Congressman Fred Richmond went to Cuba to do a bit of old fashioned street brawling with the number one face in the Caribbean, Fidel Castro.

Officially Richmond went to Havana to talk about

agriculture. He wanted to offer the Cubans much-needed technology on the farm. But unofficially he was carrying a tough message from President Carter.

He went armed with messages to "get the hell out of Angola," and stop meddling in Puerto Rico.

First on his shopping list was to see five U.S. citizens who appeared to be CIA agents. Between them they have 160 years in sentences.

They are Frank Emmick, 63, of Toledo, accused of being the CIA director of Cuba at the time of the 1969 revolution, Everett Jackson, 37, of Miami, Lawrence Lunt, 54, of Wyoming, Juan Tur, 60, of Tampa, and Claudio Rodriguez Morales, 47, of Puerto Rico.

Most sinister of the charges is laid against Emmick. The Cubans say that even after he was given a 30-year jail sentence, he still operated an underground network for the CIA. And in 1973, the Cubans charged him with being the "intellectual author" of an assassination.

Emmick admits that he sent a secret letter to former CIA head Richard Helms from his Cuban prison to tell of the activities of a Dominican revolutionary. The Dominican was soon after found murdered.

"I am not a CIA agent," he told Richmond. "I am a patriotic American. I don't know about these charges."

Richmond is now negotiating with Castro to free the prisoners.

But Havana is more than jails. To establish that Fidel would give him the time he thought necessary to talk, Richmond had to assure one of Castro's closest confidantes that he was for real. This was a beautiful 25-year-old interpreter, Juanita Vera, a girl who speaks better English than most professors.

"She is an absolutely stunning lady, both in looks and intelligence," says Richmond. "Her translation is uncanny. It is quite clear she is a very important cog in the wheel despite her age. She is a committed communist—but very feminine and attractive."

While battling with the nuances of Cuban protocol Richmond was sought out by a man named Cliff McCrary. Who three years ago with his wife and two children chartered a fishing boat out of Key West, Florida. He then stuck a gun in the captain's ribs and told him to go to Cuba.

McCrary told me this week while walking around as a

free man: "I did it only to protest conditions against the working man in the States. I'm not a criminal, not a hijacker, just someone who was desperate. That's why I sought out Congressman Richmond."

After patiently listening to America's first "boat-jacker" Congressman Richmond felt that the deal really was not inside constituency.

Following several hours with representatives from the Agriculture, Fishing and Cultural Ministries, Richmond's Cuban hosts decided to take him to "The Tropicana."

"It is," said Richmond, "unquestionably one of the most beautiful nightspots in the world. Frankly, in communist countries you don't expect to see such exotic trimmings as 100 female dancers and a big band that compares with the best in the world."

When Richmond managed to excuse himself from functions he went over to the Havana Synagogue to meet with the congregation's children. He lit the first light of Chanukah candle and commented: "It was a beautiful experience."

On top of it all, Richmond had to get down to brass tacks and talk tough with Fidel.

"It's very difficult to scold a man of his intelligence and depth," he said, "he is an incredibly charming man. But we had some tough battles that went for hours."

It is amazing w



Jewish children at the Havana Synagogue



Congressman Richmond met everyone from Shirley