

Washington Merry-Go-Round

EU Bull 1-17-77

# CIA-Cuba Germ Warfare Plans Reported

Washington — Apparently the United States and Cuba planned to wage germ warfare against one another's livestock a few years back.

The Senate Intelligence Committee already is investigating the startling charge that the Central Intelligence Agency spread African swine fever in Cuba. The disease reportedly devastated the island's pig population.

Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infect U.S. cattle with hoof-and-mouth disease. The idea eventually was abandoned, but in April 1962 Cuban Politburo member Antonio Nunez Jimenez discussed the hoof-and-mouth plot with four top Cuban scientists.

**THE AMAZING STORY** has been buried in intelligence documents which we now have seen.

Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to a 1963 intelligence memo, "that Cuba was now ready to give the United States a 'dose of its own medicine.'

"Nunez Jimenez further explained," continued the memo, "that Cuba had the ability, through specially trained agents, to destroy the cattle



Jack Anderson with Les Whitten

industry of the United States by spreading an epizootic fever known commonly as 'hoof-and-mouth disease.'"

A hoof-and-mouth epidemic would have forced the destruction of the infected cattle. An outbreak in the United States in 1929 and in Mexico in 1946 wiped out millions of dollars worth of livestock.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez's threat, made further inquiries and found that "The Cuban government had opened a secret bacteriological laboratory in Sorora, Pinar del Rio Province."

One purpose of the lab was to "determine the cause of an epidemic which completely destroyed the birds

of a turkey farm." However, we can find no evidence that the turkeys, like a reported 500,000 Cuban pigs, may have been the victims of CIA germ warfare.

**ANOTHER COVERUP?** There is no longer any question that both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and CIA withheld essential facts from the Warren Commission about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The FBI never allowed the commission access to its files, and the members were so intimidated by the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover that they never protested. Instead, they relied on FBI summaries and Hoover's letters.

We have now learned, for example, that the FBI had in its files at least 69 reports on the pre-assassination activities of Lee Harvey Oswald. Only 46 of these were summarized for the Warren Commission. Thus the commission accused Oswald of the murder without considering all the available facts.

The CIA also provided the commission with selective information and

covered up crucial facts. Indeed, congressional investigators say the CIA deliberately lied about some of the details that were furnished to the commission.

The House's special assassinations committee has barely started its investigation of the Kennedy killing, yet its investigators have already interviewed about two dozen key witnesses who had never been questioned previously.

Now there are disturbing reports that the FBI and CIA are directing an undercover campaign against the committee. Congressional sources say the two embattled agencies are spreading derogatory stories about the committee.

**THE CIA**, these sources say, also offered to take over the committee's security. This incredible proposal would have placed the CIA, a target of the investigation, in charge of the committee files.

**Footnote:** At this writing, the CIA has not responded to our request for a comment. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI is cooperating fully with the committee.