

Undercover Agent Tells of Cuba Trip With Red Youth Unit

NYTimes OCT 18 1972

MIAMI, Oct. 17 (UPI) — A Congressional subcommittee heard an undercover sheriff's deputy testify yesterday how he infiltrated and went to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, a United States Communist youth movement.

Dwight D. Crews, a deputy in the Jefferson Parish (New Orleans) sheriff's office, told the subcommittee of the House Committee on Internal Security that he had been assigned to learn more about leftist groups in New Orleans.

He said he had infiltrated the Vietnam Veterans Against the War chapter in New Orleans and then later applied for a trip to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, which had sent five such groups to Cuba for instruction in leftist principles. Venceremos is a slogan meaning "we will win" adopted by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and his followers.

"To be a member of the brigade, you had to be confirmed as a Marxist-Leninist," deputy Crews said.

He said that the New Orleans chapter of that antiwar veterans had a program of non-violence and "aimed its activities at drawing publicity."

To get into the Venceremos Brigade, he said, required filling out a detailed application, undergoing interviews concerning his political beliefs and three-and-a-half months of twice-a-week indoctrination sessions.

Deputy Crews said he had been accepted as one of two persons from New Orleans for the 135-member Fifth Brigade trip to Cuba. They went by air through Mexico City on March 6, remained in Cuba nine weeks and returned home on a Cuban ship by way of Nova Scotia, he said.

Deputy Crews said that the brigade members had been put into a Cuban labor camp east of Havana and had helped to build 14 houses for a new town, working five-and-a-half days, 44 hours a week.

The remainder of their waking time was spent at caucuses of various brigade groups and in watching propaganda movies produced by Communist countries, he testified.

The deputy said that he joined a 20-member "propaganda committee" of the brigade that was ordered to "develop propaganda for use on our return to the United States in support of the Cuban revolution and further the cause of Communism within the United States."