

CIA

## REPORT TO READERS

## Cuba: CIA's night crawlers

THE ADVENTURE of Anguilla Key came to an ignominious end June 4 for Manolo Ray. The former Minister of Public Works in the early Castro regime, who had pledged a "battle to the death" against Premier Castro, ducked out the back door of a police station in Nassau, the Bahamas, after having been arrested by a British sea patrol and fined \$14 for illegal possession of firearms. When last heard from Ray was boarding a plane for Miami (naturally) and pledging a battle to the death against Castro.

Ray was unusually camera-shy that day in the police station. As a matter of fact, his Anguilla raiding party (supposedly headed for Cuba) numbered two free-lance photographers and a woman who also described herself as "free-lance." One photographer was Andrew St. George, who has supplied the pictures for some of Life magazine's most vicious articles about Cuba and Latin America in general. One such series which began June 9, 1961 (as the beginning of a brain-washing foray to expunge the memory of the Bay of Pigs disaster a few weeks earlier), was launched thus under a blowup of Castro's eyes: "The messianic eyes of Fidel Castro, hypnotic and hungry for power, summon up a new and nightmarish danger for the United States . . ."

St. George, plump and cheerful as ever in Nassau, has bobbed up repeatedly whenever things were beginning to boil among the Cuban exiles. Judging from his connections and his comments (he undertook to be spokesman for Ray after the party at Anguilla was interrupted) his free-lancing extends considerably beyond photography.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, comic opera overtones to the Ray affair. And one can be sure that the Cuban people and their cartoonists will have a roaring field day with this misadventure of the leaking tub. Actually, Ray's failure was cheered also by his rivals among the Cuban exiles in Florida (there are 300 groups) because (they say) he represents "fidelismo without Fidel," and since (they say) he is an anti-Communist fidelista, he could be "even more dangerous than Fidel"—if you follow this tortured logic. Among those also hostile to Ray are the CIA and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to columnists Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott (Washington World). In the murky sewers of the exile movement, it is considered likely that a CIA agent in the Ray raiding party blew the whistle on him. In the New York Herald Tribune (June 5) Barnard Collier wrote:

"Other rumors being passed about—many by angry-sounding U.S. Congressmen—include dark hints that some U.S. agency tipped off the British, and under a long-standing 'cooperation policy' in cracking down on exile raiders, asked them to stop Mr. Ray's attempt." (A U.S. Coast Guard plane was overhead when the British destroyer Decoy was chasing the Ray boat off Anguilla Key.)

The Cubans in Cuba are not at all impressed with Ray's "fidelismo." They are far more im-

pressed by the fact that he accepted the role of right-hand man to Miro Cardona, the ultra-reactionary president of the "provisional government" of Cuba set up before the Bay of Pigs fiasco. If Ray ever gets back to his homeland he will receive the same treatment as all the others whom the Cubans call *gusanos* (worms).

FAR LESS COMIC are the revelations of continuing U.S. assistance to all the groups seeking to destroy the revolutionary Cuban regime. This has been made clear in the wake of the Ray expedition in news stories in the Washington Post, National Observer and New York Times. In the Herald Tribune (June 7) Collier said: "It is estimated that at least 500 Cubans in the Miami area get

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Headline in Los Angeles Times, June 1

an average of \$300 a month from the CIA for doing everything from infiltrating local exile organizations to landing and collecting intelligence inside Cuba." This is in addition to the financing, training and arming of exile groups in Guatemala, Venezuela and Puerto Rico, among other places.

On Capitol Hill the Senate Refugee Subcommittee, headed by "liberal" Democrat Philip A. Hart of Michigan issued a report May 29 saying that "the time has come for a meaningful infiltration of Cuba and a concerted effort to topple the regime." In the White House, President Johnson insists that there will be no change in Washington's total commitment to destroy the revolution. In a commencement address at Notre Dame,

Thomas C. Mann, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, said June 7 that Latin American governments whose "repression, tyranny and brutality outrage the conscience of mankind" should be the target of collective hemispheric action. He should have been talking about Brazil (see story on p. 1) whose counterrevolution he and his boss Johnson cheered, but he was pointing to Cuba.

In this welter of hate-mongering, the majority of the press, as usual, offers a mighty assist. The Los Angeles Times (June 1) restored the Russian missiles to Cuba on the word of "highly reliable sources inside Cuba." And the New York Times (May 14) published without comment a lengthy Associated Press report of an interview with a spokesman of the exile group which attacked a sugar refinery at Pilon May 13. The report had joyous Cubans flocking out to greet the heroic landing parties and joining them in their march to hideways in the hills.

The fact is that the refinery was shelled from a ship at sea—a ship, according to Havana, of the Rex type which the CIA operates from bases in Florida, Puerto Rico and Central America. There never was a land attack.

**THE PILON RAID** destroyed 11,000 tons of refined sugar at a time when Havana was forced to buy 20,000 tons of sugar in the world market to keep up its foreign trade commitments. As Washington exults and the U.S. press applauds, the people of Cuba burn with anger that only increases their determination to resist.

The U.S. has misread and continues to misread the revolution. The Cuban people are not likely to welcome as liberators the exiles who would take back the farms given to 20,000 people and the millions of acres once owned by United Fruit. They recall with horror the old slums (still being eliminated) in their cities and the unemployment rate of 60% under Batista. They look with pride at the thousands of scholarship students who before the revolution would never have had a chance at higher education. This is their revolution and they are not going to permit it to be consumed by worms wrapped in stars and stripes.

The irony is that the Cuban people want nothing more than friendship with the people of the U.S. and normal relations with Washington. The tragedy is that the people of the U.S. do not know the truth about Cuba, and they are not being allowed to know.

—THE GUARDIAN