

Germ War Plans



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

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

Now we have learned that the Cubans had a scheme of their own to infest 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.

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

Nunez Jimenez informed the four scientists, according to 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 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.

Federal agents, alarmed at the first-person account of Nunez Jimenez' threat, made further inquiries and

* (N 1971 (SFC 10 JAN 77))

found that "the Cuban government had opened a bacteriological laboratory in Soroa, Pinar del Rio Province."

This secret lab, "located in the former orchid gardens of Soroa," was run by a Spanish exile named Dr. Martinez Viera. He was assisted by a Cuban and a former American resident. The latter was a woman who washed the test tubes and vials used by Dr. Viera, reported the memo.

At the time of the memo, written in 1963, it appeared that "Nunez Jimenez had made arrangements for three Soviet bacteriologists to take over the laboratory."

One purpose of the lab, interestingly, 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.

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ASSASSINATION FILES: The FBI never opened its files on the John F. Kennedy assassination to the Warren Commission.

The commission members were in such awe of the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, that they never dared ask for the files, but depended upon what the FBI wished to provide, inside sources say.

The special House Committee which is now investigating the assassination will belatedly request the full FBI files.