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Diplomat Spy 500, two takes, total 670

By ISAAC M. FLORES

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MIAMI, Fla. AP - A Cuban diplomat spy who defected to this country in 1969 with a batch of secret intelligence documents says Cuban agents systematically infiltrate the United States, Latin America and Africa.

In a book to be published here this week, Orlando Castro Hidalgo writes of Cuba's sophisticated intelligence apparatus both at home and abroad, with specific details of espionage and guerrilla activities on three continents.

Castro Hidalgo says in the book that the Paris Embassy served as a center for much of the Cuban intelligence system's infiltration and insurrection work.

In London, the Daily Telegraph reported yet another senior Cuban intelligence officer had defected to the United States with details of a new Cuban insurrection setup, now based in Santiago, the capital of Chile.

The newspaper, not quoting any sources, said the defector is now in the United States after contacting the U.S. Embassy. The defection was confirmed by the State Department in Washington.

Castro Hidalgo, once a third secretary in the Cuban Embassy in Paris, has been living in this country with his wife and family under an assumed name since his defection.

The publisher of the book "Spy for Fidel," E.A. Seemann, says he dealt with intermediaries and has no idea where the author is.

"Cuba has never had any real difficulty in infiltrating agents into the United States," Castro Hidalgo writes.

Because of the large numbers of refugees arriving in this country daily, "there is no way of weeding out all the men and women who may be working for DGI (Direccion General de Inteligencia)," Castro Hidalgo says.

The DGI operates in the United States, he says, with the Cuban mission to the United Nations serving as headquarters.

Castro Hidalgo details the Castro regime's attempted infiltration of Alpha 66 and other anti-Castro exile groups in Miami.

He tells of attempts to blackmail would-be refugees and individual exiles already in this country into conducting undercover work for the Communist government in Havana.

Castro Hidalgo, believed one of the highest ranking Cuban intelligence officers ever to defect, writes of "the full magnitude of the Castro-Guevara subversive plan for South America" and "the secret agreement between Fidel Castro and Moscow which today is virtually converting Cuba into a Soviet colony."

He tells in detail of Ernesto "Che" Guevara's attempts to carry out guerrilla activities in the Congo before giving it up and going to Bolivia.

Castro Hidalgo contends that Guevara's guerrilla movement in Bolivia in 1967 was merely the precursor of "a two-pronged attack on South America."

The first prong was to emanate from Bolivia, the second from Venezuela," Castro Hidalgo says.

Never before had so ambitious a program of subversion been launched by a small country. North Vietnam had tried to subvert South Vietnam; Cuba was aiming at subverting an entire continent. The Castro-Guevara program was one of the most systematized subversive schemes in the annals of the cold war. The tentacles reached out from Havana to every corner of the continent."

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The Paris Embassy served as a center for much of the subversive work by Cuba's intelligence service for Europe, Africa and Latin America according to the author.

Castro Hidalgo says many of the visitors to Cuba were channelled through Paris. He was in charge of infiltrating guerrillas into Bolivia, Venezuela and other Latin countries through Paris and Prague, he says.

Castro Hidalgo says "the French were not unduly concerned" about the activities in the Paris Embassy except as they pertained directly to French affairs.

The Cuban DGI operated on lines quite similar to the Soviet KGB and ultimately "virtually became an arm of Soviet intelligence," the former spy says.

In the United States, he said, "DGI had been utilizing the stream of Cuban refugees as a cover for the infiltration of agents."

"I was convinced that it was not Cuban intelligence, but rather Soviet intelligence that was seeking the information. We Cubans were being utilized as a means of obtaining it for Moscow."

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