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Castro Says U.S. Behind Nine Attacks

Washington

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro said yesterday that nine attacks aimed at Cuban diplomatic missions and at Cubana Airlines since last April 6 were launched because the United States was "resentful of Cuba's contribution to the defeat suffered by imperialists and racists" in Angola earlier this year.

In a speech at the funeral rally in Havana for the 57 Cubans who were among 78 persons killed when a Cubana Airlines plane was bombed in flight October 6, Castro blamed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for all the incidents.

In addition to the nine attacks he listed, Castro suggested that the CIA was contemplating another attempt on his life. The Senate intelligence committee investigation earlier this year reported several CIA plots to kill Castro in the 1960s.

Castro said that through a double agent his government had intercepted two messages from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., to a

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CIA agent in Havana.

On October 9, he said, headquarters asked the agent: "Please report as soon as possible any information dealing with Fidel's attendance at the ceremony on the first anniversary of the independence of Angola on November 11. If affirmative, try to find out complete itinerary of Fidel's visits to other countries during the same trip."

To applause from the crowd, Castro said: "We have the code, the ciphers and all the evidence of the veracity of these communications." He added: "The Cuban government has been kept fully informed by an agent recruited by the CIA ten years ago."

"Why does the CIA want the itinerary of the Cuban premier?" he asked rhetorically.

The CIA believed, Castro said, that the agent had been successful in planting an electronic bug in the office of the Osmany Cienfuegos, secretary of the executive committee of the council of ministers.

Cienfuegos is believed to run Cuba's Africa policy.

Castro said he realized he had ended the usefulness of the double agent by making his activities public, but had done so because of the "value in revealing the conduct and activities of the CIA."

The other message from CIA headquarters was intercepted earlier, Castro said, but he did not give a date. According to the premier, it asked the agent a series of questions about the terrorism against Cuban property and people.

"What is the official and private reaction to bomb attacks against Cuban offices abroad? What are they going to do to avoid

and prevent them? Who is suspected as responsible? Will there be retaliations?"

Castro said the explosion aboard the plane had been tied to the CIA by "absolutely reliable" sources in Venezuelan journalistic circles.

He accused a man named Herman Ricardo of the Caracas newspaper El Mundo of being a CIA agent and of having boasted that a Cuban airliner en route from Barbados to Cuba would be destroyed by a bomb. Castro said that Ricardo and a man named Freddy Lugo took the Cuban plane from Trinidad to Barbados and then flew back to Barbados on another plane right after the Cuban plane had resumed its flight from Barbados and gone down.

The eight earlier incidents Castro laid to the CIA were:

April 6 — Two fishing boats were attacked by private launches from Florida. One fisherman was killed.

April 22 — Two persons were killed and there was heavy damage when a bomb exploded in the Cuban embassy in Lisbon.

July 5 — A bomb damaged the Cuban mission to the United Nations.

July 9 — A bomb exploded in a luggage cart just before the luggage was to be loaded onto a Cubana airliner.

July 10 — A bomb exploded in the offices of British West Indies Airways of Barbados, which represents Cubana Airlines in Barbados.

July 23 — A technician of the Cuban National Fishery Institute was killed in an attempt to kidnap the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico.

Aug. 9 — Two Cuban embassy officials were kidnapped in Buenos Aires. They have not been heard from.

Aug. 18 — A bomb exploded in the Cubana office in Panama.

Cuban exile groups based in Miami have claimed credit for most of the incidents. Castro first threatened to cancel the treaty after the April 6 fishing boat attack for which the FLNC exile organization claimed credit.

An exile group called El Condor has claimed that it blew up the Cubana airliner.

The CIA had no comment on Castro's allegations.

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