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# U.S. to Return CIA Guano Isle

WASHINGTON — (CST) — After a decade as a center of U.S. cloak and dagger activities, a tiny island of bird droppings in the Caribbean will be formally returned to Honduras today by Robert Finch, the presidential assistant, during a one-day visit.

The island, Swan Island, about 100 miles north of Honduras, is composed almost entirely of guano, the accumulated droppings of sea fowl.

It served as the site of a covert Central Intelligence Agency radio station broadcasting to Cuba during and after the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and later to other points in Latin America.

Diplomatic sources indicated that final disposition of the station, and whether it will be used again by the CIA, will be subject to negotiation.

The United States has claimed the island since 1863 under the Guano Act of 1836, which gave the President the

right to designate an unclaimed island as U.S. territory once an American citizen had discovered guano on it.

During the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion, Radio Swan was on the air 24 hours a day, transmitting coded messages and mysterious orders to nonexistent battalions. Havana Radio set up a counterbarrage, denouncing Radio Swan as "not a radio station but a cage of hysterical parrots."

After the invasion failed, the CIA station was renamed Radio Americas and continued broadcasts to Cuba, Mexico, Central America and the upper tier of South America.

Finch will be in Honduras for only a few hours, arriving in the morning from Brazil and leaving in the evening for Mexico. He will return to Washington on Thanksgiving Day after an 11-day tour of six Latin American countries.