

CUBA AND THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY

by

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If one were to judge the efficiency and success of the International Communist Conspiracy by its performance in Cuba, one would, I am afraid, have to award the Conspiracy a rating of 100%. To clearly dramatize this situation, one need only look at the mass media press and entertainment channels in the United States: in the five years of Communist rule in Cuba, there has not been one major radio, television, or motion picture drama about the Cuban tragedy. A thousand dramas take place daily in Cuba: parents are betrayed by their children; patriots are executed; the resistance movement is engaged in dangerous underground activities; whole families escape via the most hazardous means--yet none of this has found its way into a play, a TV drama, a motion picture, or a major novel. Instead, the complacent American audience is fed an endless series of brutal stories about a war which took place twenty years ago against countries which are now our allies. And in Hollywood, the motion picture industry is busy making films about McCarthy-type military men plotting to overthrow the United States Government.

This writer spent a week in Miami interviewing Cubans of all kinds in an effort to find out what is really happening not only in Cuba but among the Cuban exiles. I went there specifically to find out what was being kept from the American people by their controlled press, radio and television. What I found out primarily was the following: that the United States Government is doing everything in its power to keep from the American people the naked, brutal reality of Communism in Cuba and its full impact on the Cubans. This reality is so horrible that few Americans would be able to accept its continued existence a day longer were they made aware of it. The traumatic nightmare of Communism in Cuba is what is being kept from the American people. The only place in the world outside of Cuba where one can come close enough to that nightmare to feel its reality is Miami, Florida, ninety miles from Cuba, where the refugees from Communism have set up their colony in exile. But even there, the nightmare is not apparent on the surface. Miami as a city is too unconcerned about serious matters to care much about what is going on in Cuba. In addition, Miami has been one of the more successful testing grounds for some of the Conspiracy's domestic projects, such as Metro Government and flouridation. The people of Dade County have accepted both, which is a fair indication of how successfully the citizens of that area have been brainwashed by the "liberal" establishment. In addition, the English-language press there is dominated by two newspapers which Adlai Stevenson could be proud of, The Miami News and The Miami Herald. Both papers print more about Cuba than any other newspapers in the country, but their reportage

on Cuba is noticeably underplayed and "managed." Occasionally they will print a series of articles by a recent visitor to Cuba, but a second-rate tornado in central Florida gets a much bigger headline and more space than a mass execution in one of Castro's jails. The mass execution is treated like a minor auto accident. Over a period of time the reader becomes conditioned to accepting a peculiar hierarchy of values: to wit, that a local natural tornado injuring five persons is of much more importance than a man-made holocaust in Cuba affecting six million people.

Thus, the great blackout of news about Cuba begins in Miami itself, and little of what appears in the English-language press ever reaches beyond Miami. As for the Spanish-language press, the situation is virtually the same. The Cuban exile press for the most part is subsidized by the United States Government through the CIA or other agencies which lay down the editorial line. This is clearly visible in a magazine like Bohemia Libre, which sings the praises of such "democrats" as Juan Bosch, Romulo Betancourt and Muncos Marin and excoriates the military coups which have been throwing monkey wrenches in the State Department's plans to communize Latin America.

The only exile newspaper in Miami of large circulation which is not subsidized by the United States Government is Patria, edited by Armando Garcia Sifredo. Patria was founded in July, 1959, by Sifredo, who was one of the first anti-Communist journalists to see the inside of Castro's jails. After two arrests, totalling forty days of incarceration, Sifredo was released, after which he went to Miami where he founded Patria. Patria, since its

inception, has maintained an editorial line independent of any particular exile group. Of late, it has been particularly critical of the Kennedy Administration and its pro-Castro measures. For this reason, the Cubans in Miami prefer it to any other Spanish-language newspaper, and thus it has become a constant source of irritation to the State Department whose aim is the total asphyxiation of all Cuban resistance to Communism. Not only has the Attorney General sent the FBI to investigate Patria's source of funds, but another newspaper--obviously financed by the CIA--was recently founded to combat the strong anti-Communist line of Patria. That newspaper is Replica, which came out with its first edition on October 20, 1963. It is edited by a notorious ex-Fidelista who "sought refuge" in Miami after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. This man, Max Lesnik, was not only a member of Fidel's party but is also credited with ~~having~~ originated the highly anti-American propaganda slogan "Cuba Si, Yanqui No." This is the man the CIA has chosen to combat Patria. Patria, of course, has been a thorn in the CIA's side since its inception, and the CIA has subtly approached Patria via Cuban go-betweens on occasions offering to subsidize it. That is the money trap into which so many of the Cuban exiles fall.

It would take a book to describe in detail how the CIA has used money as its most potent means of neutralizing effective anti-Communist activity among the Cubans. The exiles, for the most part, leave Cuba destitute. The language handicap makes it difficult for many of them to obtain work, and therefore the temptation to get on the CIA's payroll is great, particularly if there are many mouths to feed. Once the CIA has economic control of you,

you are as good as lost to the cause of genuine anti-Communism. Whatever anti-Communist activity you might be permitted to pursue in any one of the CIA's many groups of "controlled anti-Communism" eventually ends up helping the Conspiracy. That is why serious anti-Communists among the Cubans, like the editor of Patria, have steered clear of the CIA and will have nothing to do with it. But a newspaper like Patria, so small in scope when compared to the lavishly financed CIA press, cannot hope to break the news quarantine by itself, despite the courage of its editor.

Thus, the reality of Communist Cuba--particularly to an American whose ability to read Spanish is limited--is still not wholly apparent until one goes directly to the people who have experienced it first-hand, that is, the refugees themselves, and ask them to tell you about it. That is what this writer did for one week, interviewing as many Cubans as possible in order to get a first-hand understanding of what has happened and is still happening. In one week, this writer was merely able to scratch the surface of a story which is still largely untold. It would take a team of ten men, interviewing Cubans over a period of a month, before one could have a picture of the Communization of Cuba which would resemble the full reality of the holocaust. In this article, I shall try to set down what one man could find out in one week.

What becomes apparent after the first few interviews is the fact that the United States press has been lying about Cuba since the very beginning of the orchestrated campaign against the Batista government. The two most prevalent myths propagated far and wide were (1) that Cuba was an underdeveloped

country ripe for a "progressive" revolution and in dire need of "agrarian reform," and (2) that 20,000 persons had been killed during the Batista regime under brutal police repression. The truth which debunks the first myth is that Cuba was one of the richest and most agriculturally developed countries in the world, with three crops a year, producing a wide variety of agricultural products of the highest quality via the most advanced means. Its cattle industry was second to none for its size. The communization of Cuba took place during the most prosperous year in the island's history, thus giving the lie to the tiresome bromide mouthed by Batancourt, Munoz Marin, Rockefeller and Kennedy, that Communism is caused by ignorance, poverty and disease. Cuba was the third wealthiest country per capita in the hemisphere, a lush, tropical paradise in the process of spectacular industrial expansion. It was the country most favored by American investors and tourists. Cuba was being given all of the favored treatment we are told is necessary to prevent Communism from taking hold. Yet, it is precisely in Cuba that Communism succeeded, which, one would imagine, would require Romulo, Nelson and Jack to revise their theories about what causes Communism.

The second great myth--that 20,000 people were killed during the Batista regime under the most atrocious repressive measures--has been debunked by Batista's own enemies. The actual figure of all persons killed during the Batista regime, on both sides, by acts of terrorism, assassination and executions totalled approximately 600. This list of 600 was published by the strongly anti-Batista magazine Bohemia, which did not take pains to minimize the number of political deaths under Batista. Compare this figure of 600 for the entire

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seven years of Batista's government with the number of political deaths which have occurred in Venezuela under Betancourt in only one year---1961. According to the official figures published by the Venezuelan police department, 3,719 political deaths occurred that year in Venezuela under the "democratic" regime of Romulo Betancourt. The big lie of the 20,000 political deaths under Batista has been tossed around so indiscriminately by the American mass media press, that it has become the most obdurate substitute for fact in the minds of most Americans.

In addition, the entire nature of the Batista regime has been totally distorted by the press. Even those who fought against Batista know this and readily admit it. Batista was a dictator. But his power was severely limited by the very structure of Cuban society which had its own built-in separation of powers and its own internal checks and balances. The most serious complaint almost all Cubans had against Batista was not his over-exaggerated dictatorship, but the degradation of the Army which took place under his regime as a result of his deliberate actions. Batista, who had started the revolt of the sergeants--of which he was one--had destroyed the officer class which had been the backbone of the Cuban Army. This set many former officers against him from the very beginning. Thus, the Army, which is usually the stronghold of a nation's patriotic traditions, was severely undermined. The corruption of the Cuban Army, of course, produced the critical weak link in the nation's resistance to a Communist takeover. It also explains why the military was unable at any time to stop the process of communization once Castro began it. The moral destruction of the Army

had been thoroughly accomplished under Batista.

These days there is a great deal of speculation about Batista's motives while he was in power. Few are willing to accept the occasionally advanced theses that Batista may have been consciously working for the other side. Everyone knows that the Cuban Army had the physical power to crush Castro at any time during the rebellion. The explanation given why Batista did not destroy the rebellion is that the presence of the rebels in the Sierra Maestra provided him with the best and most legitimate excuse for maintaining dictatorial powers. As for his having released Castro and his cohorts from prison when they were tried and sentenced for their role in the bloody Moncada Barracks affair, the explanation given is that there was a general movement in the Cuban Congress for an amnesty of all political prisoners at the time, and that Castro had enough of a lobby in Congress to make sure that he too was included in the amnesty. Most Americans have been so brainwashed to think of Batista in terms of being a total dictator that they assume that he and he alone made all the political decisions in Cuba. Even under Batista, we discover, the Cuban Congress had very great powers. Nevertheless, many Cubans still find themselves unable to explain many of Batista's actions, and this accounts for the persistent rumor--which may very well be Communist-inspired--that Batista was working for the other side. Another factor which has never been investigated is the extent to which Batista was under pressure from the American Embassy in Havana to make some of the decisions he made. This would explain a great deal, since we know now what Washington was up to. No doubt, the present-day speculators about Batista's motives have fallen victim to

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the myth that Batista was the all-powerful dictator who knew everything and therefore must have been totally aware of what was happening. We admit that Batista had more power in Cuba than Calvin Coolidge had in the United States. But did he have as much power in his country as Franklin Delano Roosevelt had in ours?

II

The Cubans in Miami are virtually living in a state of prolonged shock and trauma. They are only beginning now to understand what has happened to them. But it has taken five years of being tricked, deceived, duped, used, betrayed and sold out before they have reached the point of thinking about how it all happened and where they made their mistakes. That they were susceptible to being deceived they realize easily enough. They lived in an island paradise where an "it-can't-happen-here" psychology prevailed. It couldn't happen here, they thought, because Big Brother to the north would never allow it to happen. Little did they suspect that it would be Big Brother himself who would do the communizing. The Cubans trusted the Americans as no other Latin Americans did. Ever since the Spanish-American war, there had been a warm tradition of friendship between Cubans and Americans. Other Latin Americans, aware of this love affair, looked on Cubans with envy and often referred to them as "gringos" because of their favored position in Uncle Sam's eyes. To the Cubans, of course, Americans could do no wrong. Thus, when the Eisenhower Administration dumped Batista and chose Castro, so did the Cubans. It was inconceivable to them that the United States would back a Communist, and all

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those who warned to the contrary were totally discredited. Cubans will tell you that when the Batista government denounced Castro as a Communist, the people ridiculed the denunciations as right-wing "propaganda." After all, right-wingers and reactionaries are always calling "democrats" and "humanitarians" Communists. That's standard McCarthy practice. But who's going to believe such poppycock?

Thus the Eisenhower Administration, which was paving the way for the Communization of Cuba, was able to capitalize on the Cubans' trust of Big Brother to the north. It is standard Communist practice to take full advantage of the trust and good will of your intended victim. If you don't, you are not a good Communist. Five years later, Cubans are able to see the entire process of deception quite clearly.

There were some, however, who found out much earlier than others what Uncle Sam was up to. One of them was Maj. Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz, former Chief of Castro's Air Force, who was the first of the top men to see the Communist complexion of the Castro regime and leave Cuba. He testified in no uncertain terms before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee as early as July 1959 that Castro was a Communist, while four months later, in November 1959, the deputy director of the CIA, Gen. C. P. Cabell, was still testifying to that same body that Castro was not a Communist. Today, it is interesting to compare the testimonies of the two men in the light of what developed afterwards.

~~Here are some of the more graphic excerpts from Major Diaz' testimony:~~

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Mr. SOURWINE. Why did you leave Castro?

Major DIAZ. Because he brought Communists to my country.

. . .

Mr. SOURWINE. You say you left Castro because he brought communism to Cuba. When did you first begin to have doubts about the Castro regime? When did you first begin to realize that Castro was not bringing Cuba freedom and democracy as you had thought he would?

Major DIAZ. In the first days of January I heard from him things like "If we don't attack Communists they call us Communists. Well, we are Communists."

. . .

Senator JOHNSTON. You reached your conclusions that he is a Communist from the actions of Castro?

Major DIAZ. Yes, sir; through facts. I had the complete conclusion that he is a Communist.

. . .

Mr. SOURWINE. Mr. Chairman, I will state for the record something that the members of the committee know. This witness has given the committee a great deal of additional information about Communists in Cuba, but for security reasons we don't want to ask further about that now.

I do want to ask the witness this question: Is it true that you have told this committee everything you know about the Communists in Cuba?

Major DIAZ. Yes, sir.

. . .

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Mr. SOURWINE. Do you know how "Che" Guevara regards Fidel and Raul Castro?

Major DIAZ. Well, they live very close to each other all the time, and once I was in front of them and "Che" Guevara say "My comrades, Fidel and Raul."

Mr. SOURWINE. Is that a term used in the army generally, in Cuba?

Major DIAZ. That is a Communist term, sir.

. . .

Mr. SOURWINE. Do you know whether Fidel Castro and Raul Castro and "Che" Guevara had meetings in Cuba with Communists from other countries in Latin America?

Major DIAZ. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOURWINE. Were there many such meetings?

Major DIAZ. Quite a few of them.

. . .

Mr. SOURWINE. Do you think Raul Castro is the strongest Communist in the Castro regime?

Major DIAZ. I think it is Fidel himself. I am sure he is the man who give the orders and the man who decides everything.

. . .

Mr. SOURWINE. You are completely sure that Fidel Castro is what?

Major DIAZ. Is Communist.

. . .

Let us compare, now, the testimony of the deputy director of the CIA with the forthright statements of the Cuban Major. The deputy director of the CIA appeared before the Senate Subcommittee four months after Major Diaz.

General CABELL. That question is related to the question. Is Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro a Communist? Let me develop that thought for you, sir. Our information shows that the Cuban Communists do not consider him a Communist Party member, or even a pro-Communist. . . . We know that the Communists consider Castro as a representative of the bourgeoisie, and were unable to gain public recognition or commitments from him during the course of the revolution. . . . We know that the Communists were concerned when, at the time of his trip to the United States, he showed evidence of a friendly attitude toward the United States. . . . Our conclusion, therefore, is that Fidel Castro is not a Communist. . . . Although it is evident that the Communists have been able to exploit Castro in his movement for their own benefit through these channels, as yet they do not appear to control him or his government.

It is hard to believe that those words were spoken by the deputy director of the CIA, who has at his command millions of taxpayers' dollars and hundreds of secret agents to get him any kind of information he may need. Yet, in essence, what General Cabell is saying is this: "Our information shows that the Cuban Communists do not consider him a Communist. Our conclusion, therefore, is that Fidel Castro is not a Communist."

We had had the impression that the job of the CIA was to see through the lies of the Communists, not to swallow them hook, line and sinker. Nowhere in Gen. Cabell's testimony was the information supplied by Major Diaz--under great personal risk--integrated with the information he was obtaining from the Cuban Communists. It's as if Major Diaz had never existed. Major Diaz' name

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does not even appear in the Index of Cabell's testimony. Now a totally naive American like myself would have supposed that the CIA--short for Central Intelligence Agency--would have taken Major Diaz to its bosom and been delighted to have such first-hand information from a former intimate of Castro's. Instead, we find the CIA's deputy director mouthing information obtainable from any Communist newspaper for 20 cents. Is this the famous "craft of intelligence" Allen Dulles has made such a fuss over? Major Diaz had given up his career, fled his country and taken an enormous personal risk to warn the American people that Castro was a Communist and was bringing Communism to Cuba. What was the CIA's reaction? It did everything in its power to prevent Major Diaz from testifying, and once he testified, it ignored everything he said.

It did not take long for Major Diaz to put two and two together. Ever since then, the State Department and the CIA have had the bloodhounds after him. Major Diaz, because of his prestige, is still permitted to travel around the United States, but should he leave the country, it is unlikely that he would be able to re-enter. His brother, Marcos Diaz Lam, who shares his views, has been under a United States Immigration Department Parole Authorization since April, 1960. Mr. Diaz is not only restricted to the confines of Dade County, but he is not even permitted to be away from his residence for more than 24 hours, which is virtual house arrest in the land of the brave and the free. Mr. Diaz' Parole Authorization further reads: "The applicant shall not knowingly participate by any means (our italics) in any activity affecting directly or indirectly the political control of any country or territory or the foreign

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or domestic political affairs of any country or territory." In other words, a member of the Communist Party has more political freedom and freedom of movement in the United States than a Cuban anti-Communist like Marcos Diaz Lanz. What is his crime? The burning desire to overthrow the Communist tyranny in his homeland.

Compare ~~with~~ the stringent restrictions placed on Mr. Diaz's movements and the measures taken against the American Communist students who went to Cuba in the summer of 1963. On their return from their illegal jaunt, the latter were given a slap on the wrist by the State Department and then permitted to return to their homes where they could freely continue their leftist activities, while Marcos Diaz Lanz has been under severe restrictions for over three years. But this is only part of the harassment. The United States Government is still after Major Diaz to pay a \$2,000 fine for dropping leaflets over Havana in 1959. The fine was imposed by the Customs department which held that dropping leaflets over a foreign country was the same as exporting a commodity! This is typical of the harassment which any active ~~and~~ Cuban anti-Communist must put up with, and this harassment was inaugurated under the Eisenhower administration.

Major Diaz was one of the few of the top Cuban exiles who refused to participate in the Bay of Pigs invasion. The information he had received from eye-witnesses in the training camps and from members of the underground in Cuba revealed such irregularities that it left no doubt in his mind that unless some drastic changes were made the entire operation was doomed to failure. He tried everything possible to bring this situation to the attention of the

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powers that be in Washington. Three weeks prior to the invasion he addressed a seven-page letter to President Kennedy in which he described some of the more flagrant irregularities of which he was aware. He received no answer or acknowledgment. In desperation he made a special trip to Washington and conferred with J. G. Sourwine, Chief Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee about the situation. Sourwine telephoned Allen Dulles in Major Diaz' presence and told him the disturbing information. Dulles expressed the opinion that all would work out all right, but Major Diaz was neither asked to come to Dulles' office for further questioning or ever contacted after that.

III

Much has been said about the CIA's "organizing" Cuban anti-Communist resistance, but the truth is still to be told in its incredible entirety. It is this writer's conviction that the CIA is not only totally Communist controlled, but that it has been the principle instrument used to destroy all effective resistance to Castro. This conviction ^{was formed} ~~has been reinforced~~ ^{by the} ~~over and over again~~ ^{which have come to light} by dozens of details concerning what the CIA has known about Castro since, at least, 1943 and what it has done and is still doing in his behalf since then.

The CIA's role in the communization of Cuba did not begin with the Bay of Pigs fiasco. It began far back during the Batista regime when it collaborated with those Cubans working for the overthrow of Batista and the installation