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C O N T E N T S


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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

ON CIA ACTIVITIES

- - -

Langley, Virginia

Wednesday, April 16, 1975

Deposition of WILLIAM C. STURBITTS, called for examination by Counsel for the Commission on CIA Activities, the witness being duly sworn by Thomas C. Hogan, a Notary Public in and for the State of Virginia, in the offices of the Central Intelligence Agency, Langley, Virginia, at 9:50 o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, April 16, 1975, the proceedings being taken down in stenotype by Ruth G. McClenning, and transcribed under her direction.

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Commission:

GEORGE MANFREDI, ESQ.,

ROBERT B. OLSEN, ESQ.

- - -

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 Thereupon,

3 WILLIAM C. STURBITTS,

4 called as a witness by Counsel for the Commission on CIA

5 Activities, and having been first duly sworn by the Notary

6 Public, was examined and testified as follows:

7 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION

8 BY MR. MANFREDI:

9 Q Mr. Sturbitts, will you state your full name for the

10 record?

11 A William C. Sturbitts.

12 Q Mr. Sturbitts, do you recall when we spoke some

13 weeks ago you signed a document entitled, "Advice and

14 Waiver"?

15 A Right.

16 Q You understand that document is still in effect?

17 A Sure.

18 Q Mr. Sturbitts, by whom are you currently employed?

19 A You mean the Agency or --

20 Q That is right.

21 A Central Intelligence Agency.

22 Q And what is your current position with the Agency?

23 A I am a Special Assistant, Latin America, for

24 Economic Intelligence Collection and Operations.

25 Q And would you briefly review for me the history of

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1 your employment with the Agency?

2 A When I first came in I was in the Intelligence

3 Directorate for approximately ten years and I was put on special

4 detail, special indefinite detail, in the Deputy Director, Plans,

5 which is now the Directorate of Operations.

6 Q What year were you put on that detail?

7 A I guess it was 1964, January, I believe.

8 Q And what did that detail involve?

9 A Cuban operations, economic warfare.

10 Q And how long were you on that detail?

11 A I was in the Cuban operations for nine years.

12 Q Between 1964 and 1973?

13 A (Nods in affirmative.)

14 Q And in 1973 did you assume your current position?

15 A Yes, January.

16 Q Now, while you were on special detail -- to the DOD?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Were you stationed in Washington?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And did you commute with some frequency to Miami?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Were your activities in Miami in any way connected

23 with the operations of the Miami Station?

24 A In some way. My responsibilities were worldwide.

25 I took temporary duty predominantly in Europe, and then Miami.

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1 Most of my operations were run out of Europe.

2 Q Run out of --

3 A Europe. Some were run out of Miami but the big ones

4 were run out of Europe.

5 Q Well, in the course of your activities with respect

6 to Cuba did you have occasion to become familiar with the

7 operations of the Miami base?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And the situation in the Cuban community in Miami?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q During the nine years you were with DDO's Cuban

12 operations, who was -- who were the chiefs of the Miami

13 Station?

14 A I think in 1963 Ted Shackley was the Chief and he

15 was followed by -- I can't think of his name. I should know

16 it. Well, I will come back to that.

17 Then, the next Chief of Station was Paul Henze.

18 Q What years was he Chief?

19 A I think Paul was there about a year and a half. He

20 left in 1968 when we reduced the size of the Station. Let's

21 say Henze was there from 1966 to 1968. And then Jake Esterline.

22 He was Chief of Station from 1968 to 1973.

23 Q Now, what was the formal title of the group to which

24 you were assigned for the 9-year period?

25 A Well, when I first came in it was known as the

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1 Special Activities Staff. It was headed by Desmond Fitzgerald.
2 And then, I believe after that it became the Cuban Operations
3 Group.
4 Q Now, was this a special group within the DDO or was
5 it attached to one of the area divisions?
6 A No. Following the Bay of Pigs, they created a thing
7 called Task Force W which was headed by Bill Harvey. And
8 that -- when Harvey left, he went to Chief of Station,
9 and Fitzgerald took over, it became Special Activities Staff.
10 It wasn't attached to anything except -- it reported to the
11 Deputy Director, Plans.
12 Q And that was Mr. Karamessines?
13 A Yes. Well, it was Helms at that time back when it
14 was first created. Helms was DDP at that time.
15 Q And Task Force W was created immediately after the
16 Bay of Pigs?
17 A Well, not immediately. I think sometime around --
18 in the Bay of Pigs was in April. I think this was created in
19 September, something like that, 1961.
20 Q And that subsequently became the Special Activities
21 Staff?
22 A Special Activities Staff and consequently became the
23 Cuban Operations Group. As the Cuban Operations Group it went
24 back into the Western Hemisphere Division.
25 Q And what was the date of that reorganization?

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A Well, let's see. I would say that was probably around 1965 because Fitzgerald then became Chief, W.H., and then later DDP.

Q Now, Mr.Harvey -- do you recall what position Mr. Harvey held after he left Task Force W?

A Yes. He was Chief of Station,

Q And is he still with the Agency?

A Oh, no. He retired a long time ago.

Q Do you know where he lives at the present time?

A Frankly, I don't. I have an idea where he lives. He went to work for a friend of mine who had a law firm. Harvey is a lawyer.

Q Indianapolis area?

A Yes, some place around there. It is in the midwest, Indiana.

Q What was the role that was assigned to Task Force W?

A It was the overall Cuban operations.

Q Did the Miami -- when was the Miami Station established?

A Well, I think they had a forward operatio-s base down there about 1960 which was small, in Coral Gables.

Q This was, then, prior to the Bay of Pigs?

A Oh, yes.

Q Now, in addition to Task Force W, was the Miami

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1 Station running any operations against Cuba?

2 A You mean prior to the Bay of Pigs?

3 Q Yes.

4 A I really don't know. It was a small -- it was a

5 forward base and it was more or less as I recall, a support type

6 thing.

7 Q Well, after the Bay of Pigs when Task Force W was

8 established, did it have sole responsibility for Cuban

9 operations?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Or was that shared with the Miami base, Miami

12 Station?

13 A No. The Miami Station was under Task Force W.

14 Q All right. Would that also be true of the Special

15 Activities Staff, the Cuban Operations Group?

16 A Right,

17

18 Q I understand that. When were Cuban operations termi-

19 nated?

20 A At the Station? Let's see. Sternfield went down

21 there in 1972. It was during fiscal year '72. I think it was

22 in early 1973. It was a gradual reduction.

23

24

25

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7 Q Mr.Sturbitts, in the last couple of weeks you may
8 have seen some allegations in the press about possible assassina-
9 tion attempts that have been mounted or alleged assassination
10 attempts that have been mounted --
11 A Right.
12 Q -- against Fidel Castro. In the course of your
13 activities with respect to Cuba, did you ever learn of any such
14 attempts?
15 A Well, let me answer it this way. I wouldn't say
16 attempts. I know there was discussion. "Attempts" is too
17 strong a word.
18 Q Well, can you place in time your first knowledge of
19 any such discussions?
20 A Well, the first knowledge I had of any discussions,
21 I was on TDY and this was October,November, 1963, with Fitzgerald
22 in [redacted] And I knew that he was going to meet -- let me put
23 it another way. I had overheard that discussions were going on
24 with a member of Castro's military but that he wanted, as
25 I recall, he wanted some British -- I mean Belgian rifles and

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1 a telescopic sight.

2 Q Who wanted them?

3 A This military guy that was in Fidel's -- I think

4 at one time he was a commandante. Now, I knew that was going

5 on. I didn't participate in it because I was there for another

6 reason. And I know that subsequent to that time that Fitzgerald

7 met with him again and as I recall, as the personal representa-

8 tive of the Attorney General, Bobby Kennedy.

9 I provided all those files. There are 19 volumes that

10 we gave to your people. But I don't know who was reviewing

11 them. I think Belin was going to do it himself.

12 Q Yes. He is. He is doing it himself.

13 You said there were 19 volumes of documents with

14 respect to this.

15 A 19 files, manila.

16 Q All having to do with possible assassination?

17 A All having to do with this whole time period and --

18 can we go off the record for a minute?

19 (Discussion off the record.)

20 BY MR. MANFREDI:

21 Q The first knowledge of such conversations that you

22 had, I take it you obtained on a trip to Europe with Mr.

23 Fitzgerald?

24 A I simply overheard it, that is right.

25 Q And who were the parties to the conversation you over-

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1 heard?

2 A A fellow named Nestor Sanchez.

3 Q And Mr. Fitzgerald?

4 A Yes, and I really can't recall some of the other

5 people. We were -- we had just moved the Station at that time,

6 [redacted]

7 and we felt that it was probably bugged, so all conversations

8 took place -- we walked around the garden and tyat type of

9 thing, and, you know, I was walking with somebody, somebody

10 was in front of me, and you just overhear conversations.

11 Q This was [redacted]

12 A Yes.

13 Q I see.

14 Mr. Sanchez -- was he a member of the military?

15 A No. Mr. Sanchez was in the Special Activities Staff.

16 He was stationed in Washington. And he was in contact with

17 Cuban military-type.

18 Q Was it your understanding that the Agency had received

19 instructions with respect to this activity from another

20 component of the Government?

21 A Well, let me put it this way. I don't know whether

22 they received instructions. I have to assume, and I am pretty

23 positive, that this was a result of a Special Group decision.

24 And at this time you have to remember that Bobby Kennedy was

25 overseeing this deal, presumably for his brother, and he was

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1 part of that Special Group. He called the meetings, he presided,
2 he did a number of things.
3 Q Were there any other occasions that you can recall
4 in which the possibility or the subject of assassination of
5 Fidel Castro was discussed?
6 A No, not really.
7 Q You referred to this as the first occasion.
8 A This is the first --
9 Q Was there a second?
10 A -- the first time I knew about it or even heard it
11 discussed.
12 Q Well, prior to the investigation that is currently
13 underway -- I am referring now to our Commission's investigation
14 -- were there any other occasions in which this subject came
15 to your attention after this discussion in the garden in
16
17 A The only other thing that came to my attention was
18 that the decision was made not to provide him with this sight
19 that he wanted. Whether that is right or wrong, I don't know,
20 but that is what I was told.
21 Q When did you learn that?
22 A Oh, I would assume in -- must have been early 1964,
23 around February, something like that.
24 Q Off the record.
25 (Discussion off the record.)

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1 MR. MANFREDI: On the record.

2 BY MR. MANFREDI:

3 Q Mr. Sturbitts, are you familiar with a gentleman by

4 the name of Frank Sturgis?

5 A Indeed.

6 Q Is your familiarity based on what you have read in

7 the press?

8 A No. It is what is contained in the files.

9 Q Have you caused a search to be made of CIA files,

10 particularly the files of the Western Hemisphere Division,

11 in an attempt to determine whether Mr. Sturgis ever had any

12 connection with the Agency?

13 A I have.

14 Q What were the results of that search?

15 A Absolutely no connection, never has been.

16 Q When we talk about connection, are we talking about

17 an employment relationship?

18 A That is what I am speaking of.

19 Q Was Mr.Sturgis ever an independent contractor of

20 the Agency?

21 A No.

22 Q Was he ever a contract employee?

23 A No.

24 Q Was he ever a regular employee of the Agency?

25 A No.

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1 Q Was he ever hired to do any piecework for the
2 Agency?
3 A Not to my knowledge.
4 Q Do you know whether or not Mr. Sturgis ever partici-
5 pated in any type of paramilitary or other operation against
6 Cuba?
7 A On his own behalf he did, not on behalf of this
8 Agency.
9 Q How did you learn of those operations?
10 A Through the newspaper. And through FBI reports.
11 Q Now, are these recent FBI reports?
12 A Oh, no. These go back -- I know at one time, the
13 thing that comes to mind, I think he made a leaflet drop
14 over Cuba and this was subsequently reported in the press and
15 by the Bureau office in Miami.
16 Q Do you know who financed his activities?
17 A I have no idea.
18 Q Is it possible that Mr. Sturgis' activities were
19 indirectly financed by the Agency through --
20 A I don't see how. Frank Sturgis is a soldier of
21 fortune; has been. He has constantly tried to associate himself
22 with the Agency. When I went through his file they wanted me
23 to classify the file and the way I classified it was "don't
24 destroy it, he is an intelligence nuisance."
25 Q Off the record.

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(Discussion off the record.)

MR. MANFREDI: On the record.

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q Have you caused the Agency records with respect to Mr. Sturgis to be assembled in any one location?

A Yes. Ihave custody of them.

Q And what is the volume of that material?

A As I recall, there are five volumes. Your Committee called for them the other day after the article in the paper, I guess it was last Saturday. They called for them Monday and they returned them Monday afternoon.

Q Do you know who examined those files?

A No, I don't.

Q You indicated a moment ago that Mr. Sturgis contacts the DCD office in Miami with some frequency, is that correct?

A Well, not great frequency but he does with tidbits of so-called information.

Q Is this information limited to narcotics, alleged narcotics traffic?

A Recently it has been.

Q Has Mr. Sturgis been encouraged by the DCD office in Miami?

A Mr. Sturgis has been told by the DCD office in Miami to take his information to the Drug Enforcement Agency or the FBI.



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Q Do you know whether or not they consider him an established contact?

A No manner.

Q Do they have any -- do they periodically seek to collect information from Mr. Sturgis?

A I can't speak to that but the records that we have don't reflect anything like that. Before they would contact somebody in that context, knowing that there is a 201 file on Sturgis, they would have to coordinate with the Latin American Division before they did anything since we do hold the file.

Q Would you briefly explain what a 201 file is?

A A 201 file is a personnel file. It consists of any information relating to an individual appearing in the press as a result of other agency reporting and that type of thing.

Q Personnel or personality file?

A Personality file, I should say. Excuse me.

Q Do you know whether or not there is any connection or relationship between Eugenio Martinez and Mr. Sturgis?

A Well, I will say this. Obviously, they do know each other. They have to know each other from their days in Cuba.

Q Do you know whether or not Mr. Sturgis ever participated with Martinez in raids against Cuba?

A No. As I recall, we employed Martinez around 1961,

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I guess, and he was in our maritime activities. He was a boat captain eventually. And he did participate in infiltrations and exfiltrations and perhaps one or two raids, hit and run, sabotage-type actions against Cuba. Sturgis never engaged in any of these things. He never did it for us nor did he ever do it on any of our boats, planes, or -- anything that belongs to the Agency.

Q When Martinez would run such an operation or captain a boat on such an operation, would he be charged with putting together his own crew?

A No. He had an assigned crew and every boat had a Case Officer operating either out of the -- probably out of the Miami Station. Sometimes I would assume that we did have some people in the Key West base. But he, Martinez, would receive his instructions and briefings from his Case Officer.

Q So it is likely that he could have brought Sturgis along on any of these operations?

A Absolutely unlikely. Oh, the guy whose name I was trying to think of, Chief of Station, John Dimmer.

Q And that would be for a period of time between Shackley and Henze?

A Yes.

Q 1964 to 1966?

A Something like that.

Q Would you describe briefly for me the nature of the



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activities conducted by the Special Activities Staff during your -- and subsequently the Cuban Operations Group during your 9-year tenure with those groups.

A Well, there was -- it was an across-the-board intelligence operation consisting of collection of foreign positive intelligence, counterintelligence, paramilitary activities, covert action, economic activities. That is about the breadth of the thing.

Q Now, these were all conducted through the DDO?

A Right.

Q Now, let's speak for a moment about the paramilitary operations. Were these operations run out of southern Florida?

A Right.

Q And in particular out of the Miami Station?

A Yes.

Q Were there any other CIA facilities in that area of the country that participated in these activities?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Were there any southern harbors other than Miami that were used in these activities?

A [redacted] As I said, we did have a [redacted]

Q Were there any other bases in that area of the country that were utilized in these operations?



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A Well, not that I would call a base. We did have training facilities for the UDT teams.

Q What is a UDT team?

A Underwater demolition.

Q Where were those bases located?

A I frankly don't know. [redacted] There were a number of sites. I really can't recall them.

Q Were there any other sites within the United States in which paramilitary training was conducted, for people participating in these activities?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Where were these people trained?

A What do you mean?

Q Well, Cubans who participated in these activities.

A We trained them at these places we had [redacted] Now, there also -- some of them were brought up here and trained at the Domestic Training Station.

Q Where is that located?

A That is down in [redacted]

Q Were any CIA personnel actually involved in these raids?

A Occasionally, I would think that -- you have got to understand at this time that we had a great many contract employees, independent contractors and this type of thing.



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1 Most of the paramilitary operations and the training was
2 conducted by the Special Operations Group which is another
3 entity of the --
4 Q DDO?
5 A DDO.
6 Q Now, the facilities that we have been talking about,
7 training facilities, were manned, then, by the Special
8 Operations Group, or at least supervised by the Special
9 Operations Group, is that correct?
10 A Well, supervised, yes, and I would think that probably
11 some of the training was given by their people. The Domestic
12 Training Station is under the Office of Training and -- but I
13 would think that in the paramilitary field that the SOG would
14 probably staff the training facility with their people who have
15 the expertise in paramilitary operations.
16 Q Now, were the people that were being trained at
17 these facilities basically Cuban refugees?
18 A Yes.
19 Q And at the outset I take it not many of those people
20 were American citizens?
21 A No.
22 Q Or had become American citizens.
23 A I would assume a great many have.
24 Q By this time.
25 A By this time, yes.

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1 Q At the present time, how large is that Cuban community
2 in Miami? Do you have any idea?
3 A Well, it is extremely large. I would think it is
4 probably -- I was trying to think. I would say up towards a
5 military people.
6 Q You spoke about paramilitary operations and covert
7 action. How do you distinguish between those two categories
8 of activities?
9 A Well, actually one can fall into the other. The
10 paramilitary could fall into covert action but in those days
11 we did distinguish somewhat. A lot of the covert action was
12 media placement. We had a number of operations at -- legal-
13 type operations, harassment operations. For instance, Fidel
14 seized a great many art treasures and in particular he had a
15 Napoleonic collection which was supposed to be the finest in
16 the world that he sold to dealers in Europe. He had paintings
17 that were immensely valuable that he tried to have auctioned
18 in London and the London auctioneer would not accept them
19 because he obviously didn't have clear title to them. He was
20 -- they were stolen, in the eyes of the auctioneer. He was
21 forced to auction them in Toronto, Canada.
22 We ran legal operations, got the owners and had them
23 hire attorneys and bring them to court and this type of thing.
24 He seized these race horses. He tried to peddle them
25 in Europe and up in Canada. We ran opposition against that

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1 type of thing.

2 Q These were what you considered to be covert operations?

3 A Yes, covert action.

4 Q Now, this is what you were referring to, legal-

5 type operations?

6 A Yes.

7 Q You used legal process to harass Castro.

8 A Yes.

9 Q What other types of harassment activities did you

10 run that would fall under this covert action category?

11 A Well --

12 Q Would economic warfare be --

13 A That was sort of something separate unto itself.

14 This was -- the economic warfare aspect of this thing was a

15 decision of the Special Group to enforce an economic blockade.

16 Q What special group is that?

17 A It is now called the Forty Committee.

18 Q Is that 302 Committee?

19 A Well, it was a 302 at one time, too. First of all,

20 it was called the Special Group, CI, Counterinsurgency. Then

21 it went to the 302 and then it had another name in between

22 there and now it is the Forty Committee.

23 Q All right. We will return to that a little bit

24 later, but what other types of harassment were you running

25 against Castro --

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A This is what I was trying to think of.

Q -- that would be considered covert action?

A Well, as I say, a lot of propaganda, press placement, media placement. It has been so long ago I really don't remember. I know we had a number of things going against him. We used suasion, moral suasion, otherwise. We did some extra-legal things. We tried to get to his sources of supply, particularly when they were countries that we had treaties with, [redacted] this type of thing.

Q Let's talk about each of those in turn. You said you used moral suasion. What kind of activities are you referring to?

A Well, in the moral suasion field we -- actually, we were the catalyst in this whole thing and we had the legal activities, the legal -- well, I don't know how you would phrase it, [redacted]

I guess as you are aware, Cuban industry was totally U.S.-oriented. As parts began wearing out and this type of thing, Castro had his little people there running around trying to place orders with subsidiaries of U.S. companies. [redacted]

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1 [redacted]
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10 Q All right. And that is what you were referring to
11 as moral suasion?
12 A Yes.
13 Q Anything else in that category?
14 A Not really. None that I can think of.
15 Q Did you make the same kind of efforts with foreign
16 companies?
17 A At one point we did but it was absolutely useless,
18 the point in case being the Leyland buses. We pulled all stops
19 to stop that sale. The [redacted] turned us down
20 flat.
21 Q Now, did you attempt to reach any other sources of
22 supply?
23 A Well, we also had what we call a preemptive purchasing
24 program. If there was a single source of supply for a
25 particular item we would go in and buy it to deny the Cubans

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1 the market.

2 Q Would that then be re-sold somewhere on the domestic --

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- domestic market?

5 A No. It would be re-sold abroad.

6 Q In all cases?

7 A The cases that I was associated with, it was all

8 sold abroad.

9 Q What kind of purchases were made?

10 A Well, we purchased at one point -- we purchased

11 some Bright Stock in Antwerp.

12 Q What?

13 A Bright Stock.

14 Q What is that?

15 A Heavy, heavy oil, and since Cuba -- 85 percent of

16 her energy comes from oil, this was considered a critical

17 commodity. Bright Stock can be -- oh, it is almost like tar,

18 melted tar, and it can be cut into additives, lubricants, this

19 type of thing, and this was critical to the Cuban economy. So

20 we had an oil firm purchase this Bright Stock from a dealer for

21 which we reimbursed the guy and the Bright Stock was eventually

22 sold in Africa.

23 Q Do you know of any sales of such materials that

24 were made within the United States? Resales, I should say.

25 A No.

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1 Q In addition to preemptive buying were there any
2 other actions taken by this group with respect to sources of
3 supply to Cuba?
4 A Well, we did provide through third country agents
5 who got orders for Cuban goods, in collusion with the Commerce
6 Department, and I would assume the Special Group, we had
7 replacement parts manufactured that were substandard.
8 Q And you had them sold through foreign companies?
9 A Well, we had our agents get the Cuban orders all
10 over Europe. Then they would come back and, as a matter of fact,
11
12
13 Q Mr. Dillon?
14 A No. He was Secretary of the Treasury.
15 Q But --
16 A But you must remember that these American --
17 Q Mr. Connors?
18 A Yes. But you must remember these American manufacturers,
19 well, their places were nationalized and they were only too
20 happy to work with us. And actually, it was a cash deal, bona
21 fide business. These things were transshipped through two
22 or three countries, finally wound up in Havana.
23 Q You referred to some extra-legal activities.
24 A Yes. That is what I was trying to think of, what
25 we did. I just can't think -- I remember this was on one of

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our activities but I just can't think -- I remember this was on one of our activities but I just can't remember what the extra-legal was. I just can't remember what it was. I know it was one of the parts of the program.

Q This was illegal activities? Is that what you are referring to?

A Well, I wouldn't say they were illegal, but they weren't exactly legal, I don't think. Perhaps they were in a gray area some place.

Q Well, whose laws are we talking about, international law, the laws of the United States?

A I would have to go back and review the thing. I really can't remember this. I would have to go to the files.

Q Where could we find that kind of thing in the files?

A I would think probably down in the Records Center some place.

Q Would it be possible to obtain that material some time during the lunch hour?

A No. It is forty miles away.

Q Well, is there some place in the building where you could refresh your memory?

A Not to my knowledge. All that stuff has been shipped. This is talking 11 years ago, 12 years ago. All that material has been retired.

Q What category of activity would we be talking about



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1 when we refer to extra-legal activities?

2 A This is what I was trying to think of and I can't

3 think of what it was. I know extra-legal activities was one

4 parts of the program that we were involved in.

5 I might have a chart in my safe downstairs that might

6 tell me what that is.

7 Q Well, let's make a note of that and we will have to

8 come back to that.

9 A All right.

10 Q Who else would be knowledgeable about extra-legal

11 activities that were run against Castro?

12 A Well, the people that would be knowledgeable are

13 probably retired and I was running the program. So I ran

14 the economic program.

15 Q Well, these are activities that were run in connection

16 with the economic program?

17 A Yes.

18 Q We talked about media placement during this nine-

19 year period. To what are you referring when you refer to

20 media placement?

21 A Well, stories or news items that perhaps our

22 propaganda people wrote. We had them placed in newspapers

23 and magazines throughout the world.

24 Q Would this also include broadcasts over radio

25 stations?

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A Oh, yes. Radio is a very big part of it.

Q Now, were any of these newspapers or magazines published within the United States?

A Not to my knowledge, no.

Q These were essentially foreign publications?

A Yes.

Q Were any of them published in the Cuban community in Miami?

A No. The intent was to get world opinion against Castro. You don't do that by publishing in the United States.

Q What about the radio broadcasts? How were those handled?

A Are you speaking of Radio Swan now?

Q Well, I am unfamiliar with how many radio stations were involved. Was there more than one radio station?

A No. We only had the one radio station but we did contract time [redacted]

Q For broadcasts to what areas?

A For broadcasts to Havana.

Q And the station in [redacted] was that received also -- was that also broadcasting to various areas of the United States?

A I have no idea. I don't know whether they used a particular frequency to get this out or whether they did it on short-wave or what they did.

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Q But the intention was to reach Cuba.

A Reach Cuba.

Q You referred to a station [redacted] referred to as Swan. Were there others?

[redacted]

I think, and one down in Key West that they used.

Q Where was Radio Swan located?

A On Swan Island.

Q Where is Swan Island?

A Swan Island is a little glob around Honduras.

Q As far as you can recall, were there any other radio stations in the United States that were utilized to broadcast propaganda materials toward Cuba?

A Well, there conceivably could have been, not that I recall right now.

Q Do you recall any attempts by the Agency or groups affiliated with the Agency to raise money from the American public to support those propaganda activities?

A No. As far as I know, Radio Swan and this type of thing was fully subsidized by the Agency.

Q Do you recall the advertising campaigns that were run in connection with Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty?

A Oh, yes.

Q Was anything of that nature done in connection with



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1 Cuban propaganda?

2 A Not to my knowledge.

3 Q And that would include both the publications and the

4 radio?

5 A Right.

6 Q Let's talk about economic warfare for a couple of

7 moments. Could you describe for me briefly the type of

8 economic activities that were conducted against Castro?

9 A Well, first of all, we wanted to denigrate the

10 regime, his credit worthiness, and this type of thing. We

11 worked very closely with the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs in

12 the State Department and, well, for instance, in those days, I

13 guess it was back in 1964, the price of sugar had jumped from

14 about a penny a pound to 13 cents a pound, something like

15 that, and we couldn't understand why. So we kept -- Fidel kept

16 saying that he had such a poor crop and this type of thing and

17 we just couldn't figure out why he had such a poor crop because

18 some of our own island assets told us they were out there cutting

19 this cane like mad and the mills were working 24 hours a day,

20 this type of thing. So subsequently, we found out that he was

21 lying and he was storing the raw cane in the schools, any

22 place. He had no storage facilities and put it any place he

23 could.

24 So in cooperation with a couple of sugar brokers in

25 New York, we surfaced this fact and the price of sugar took a

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real tumble and all of a sudden then Cuba started exporting.

It was this type of thing that obviously he was trying to build up the world price because he didn't have any money, he was so short on his exchange, and obviously we didn't want him to get the exchange. So it was those types of activities.

Q Was the assistance of any U.S. businessmen or U.S. companies enlisted in that effort?

A Oh, yes.

Q In what manner did you use U.S. companies and businessmen?

A Well, we simply used them as the experts. A great many -- the sugar industry in Cuba was controlled by the American community, by American bankers, and obviously they lost everything when they had to pull out. Sugar is the lifeline of Cuba as far as any exchange, foreign exchange, this type of thing, and it was naturally our Number 1 target. So it was only natural that we would go to the American businessmen.

Q What kind of assistance did you seek or obtain from these businessmen?

A Well, we simply talked with them about why -- you know, the market conditions were, why the price was rising, if we could find out that Fidel has plenty of sugar, what would happen to the market price. This type of thing.

Q They were used as consultants,basically.



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1 A They were used as consultants, basically, yes.

2 Q We have spoken about the investment American business

3 had in Cuba. Did it ever come to your attention that American

4 organized crime --

5 A No.

6 Q -- had considerable investment in Cuba?

7 A No. Well, everybody knew that the Mafia was in

8 Cuba. I mean, all the casinos and this type of thing.

9 Q The casinos were run --

10 A I knew that long before. When I was in the Air Force

11 during the war, I used to fly into Havana on weekends and this

12 type of thing.

13 Q I understand that. It was fairly well known.

14 A It was a criminal element.

15 Q The Mafia was involved with the casinos in Havana.

16 A Right.

17 Q Do you know of any attempts by the Agency to enlist

18 the support or assistance of any crime figures in any manner

19 whatsoever in the Agency's efforts against the Cuban regime?

20 A No.

21 Q Have you ever heard of Mr.Roselli?

22 A Oh, yes.

23 Q When was the first time you heard of Mr. Roselli?

24 A Well, I guess it was -- it seems to me it was either

25 Drew Pearson or Jack Anderson had an article on him a number

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1 of years ago.

2 Q Was that the first time you heard of the man's

3 name?

4 A Yes, as I recall.

5 Q Is that also true of Sam Giancana?

6 A No. I have heard that name but I don't know where.

7 Q In connection with --

8 A Not in connection with the Agency, no.

9 Q In connection with the casinos or --

10 A No.

11 Q -- gambling interests in Cuba?

12 A No.

13 Q You know of no instance in which organized crime

14 figures were used as consultants by the Agency?

15 A Only what I read in the paper. I had no knowledge

16 of that whatsoever.

17 Q Do you know of any offers of assistance from figures

18 of that type --

19 A No.

20 Q -- who were interested in getting back into cuba?

21 A No.

22 Q We were talking about economic warfare. We have

23 talked about attempts to keep the price of sugar low. What other

24 types of economic activities were conducted against Castro's

25 Cuba?

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A Well, we used all-source information to find out what his commercial dealings were. When we would see -- well, for instance, the Nicaro Nickel Mine which is a source owned by the General Services Administration, finally got back into production and nickel, of course, and still is -- was in short supply. We had a French firm, Societe le Nickel, who was buying almost the entire output of the Nicaro mines. And this French firm ex ported to the United States. So we went to the Treasury Department and to the Foreign Assets Control people and said, isn't there something we can do to stop these le Nickel exports coming into the United States? So they looked into the thing and indeed they did.

Q Who owned the mine?

A The U.S. Government owned it when Castro took it over.

Q I see.

A General Services Administration. And it was leased out for operation. But the ownership rested with the Government.

So the Treasury simply made the French provide a Certificate of Origin for the nickel that went in -- they export a lot of metal that contains nickel, silverware, knives and forks, this type of thing, and -- you know, stainless steel, and since nickel is used as a hardening agent we simply -- Treasury simply said you can't import any more into this

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1 country until we have a Certificate of Origin. As a matter
2 of fact, there was a boat that was pulling into the dock in
3 New York and they wouldn't let it unload. They just turned it
4 around. Eventually, over a period of months, le Nickel
5 found other sources and export privileges to the United States
6 were restored.
7 You know, it is -- you just -- any time you raise
8 or lower a tariff you have economic warfare. It is that
9 simple.
10 Q Were there any other instances that you can recall
11 of economic warfare in which you enlisted the support of
12 American business firms?
13 A I know we were in touch with a great many American
14 business firms. We enlisted everybody's support that we could.
15 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.
16 (Discussion off the record.)
17 BY MR. MANFREDI:
18 Q When we broke for a moment we were discussing other
19 instances where the Agency has enlisted the support of American
20 business in economic warfare against Cuba. Can you think of
21 any other such instances?
22 A Oh, certainly. The Cubans were having an awful time
23 with their Maritime fleet,such as it was. These boats were
24 powered with Nordberg engines. We simply went to the Nordberg
25 people and told them -- asked them to cooperate with us,which

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1 they said they would. They notified their manufacturer's
2 representatives around the world if they got any orders from
3 the Cubans they were to be refused. This type of thing.
4 We did the same thing with --
5 Q Let's just stop for a second. Now, was Nordberg
6 compensated in any way for cooperation with the Agency?
7 A No.
8 Q Were they compensated for the loss of business
9 involved in that activity?
10 A No. No.
11 Q I take it, you received similar cooperation from
12 other companies.
13 A Oh, a great many other companies, yes.
14 Q Did any American companies refuse to cooperate in
15 that manner?
16 A No. Not a one.
17 Q Were there any legal sanctions threatened against any
18 companies?
19 A No. No.
20 Q Were there any sanctions that could have been brought
21 to bear upon those companies had they chosen to trade with
22 Cuba?
23 A Well, in the first place, they couldn't trade with
24 Cuba. They couldn't get export licenses from this country
25 anyway. Then, under the Foreign Assets Control Act of the

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1 Treasury Department you have the extra-territorialty clause
2 in there where a subsidiary of an American company cannot --
3 foreign subsidiary of an American company cannot trade with
4 the country that is designated and Cuba was a designated country.
5 And all the businessmen were well aware of this. Nobody tried
6 to twist their arm.
7 Q Other than insuring that these companies refused
8 to accept orders from Cuba, which I take it you feel they were
9 legally constrained from doing, what other types of support did
10 you receive from American business?
11 A Well, if American business -- sometimes they would
12 receive correspondence, particularly, say, from -- well, they
13 received it from Cuba asking for publications and this type
14 of thing. They would normally forward all this type of thing
15 to the Commerce Department and the Treasury Department, or in
16 some instances they might call me and I would just give them
17 a Post Office box to send the correspondence to.
18 Q Any other types of support solicited or received by
19 the Agency from American business?
20 A No. Not that I can recall. There just wasn't one
21 firm we approached, and God knows we approached I don't know
22 how many, that wasn't extremely cooperative. As a matter of
23 fact, a lot of them, you know, thought we weren't doing enough,
24 that we ought to do a little more than we were doing, the
25 government wasn't really pushing Cuba the way it should, but

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1 outside of that, nothing. There wasn't any problem of coopera-
2 tion. There wasn't any arm-twisting. It was all voluntary.
3 Q Did you identify yourself as CIA --
4 A Yes.
5 Q -- in dealings with these companies?
6 A Indeed, I do and we went to the top level, even
7 the Board Chairman or the president. No problem at all.
8 Q Let's talk about paramilitary operations. We started
9 but didn't really discuss that in any depth.
10 What kind of paramilitary operations were run
11 against Cuba by the CIA?
12 A Maritime operations.
13 Q Is that the extent of it?
14 A That is the extent of it.
15 Q Were there any aerial operations?
16 A Not to my knowledge.
17 Q Leaflet drops?
18 A No.
19 Q Bombing?
20 A No. Of course, you had the over-flights. As far as
21 I am concerned that is the only aerial activity.
22 Q That was run by another directorate, wasn't it?
23 A Yes.
24 Q Aerial photography, and so forth.
25 A Yes. They run a flight when you ask them. It has to

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1 be requested and that is about it.

2 Q And those were run out of the United States?

3 A Oh, yes.

4 Q Can you think of anything, any other type of para-

5 military activity other than maritime operations.

6 A No. I really can't, no.

7 Q Am I correct that those operations were manned

8 by CIA contract employees?

9 A Right.

10 Q Which would include Cuban refugees.

11 A Right.

12 Q And some CIA officers?

13 A Right.

14 Q Any other branches of the services, Armed Services,

15 involved? This, of course, is posted Bay of Pigs.

16 A Yes. No, not to my knowledge. You have got to remember

17 that probably down at our Domestic Training Station we

18 probably have people on detail from other -- from the military

19 branches in the Government, but other than that I don't think

20 that -- of course, during the Bay of Pigs operation we also

21 had people detailed into the Agency.

22 Q Now, the training of persons involved in maritime

23 operations, I take it, was conducted in part within the

24 United States and in part outside of the United States. Is

25 that correct?

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1 A I would think probably the major portion of it was
2 conducted within the United States.
3 Q The Keys would be considered within the United
4 States.
5 A Oh, yes.
6 Q Or were there any locations where it was conducted
7 outside the United States?
8 A Following the Bay of Pigs,I don't think so. Not
9 to my knowledge. I just don't know, I just don't recall
10 but I don't think that -- I think all the training was done
11 domestically.
12 Q Now, what kinds of operations are included within
13 this category of maritime operations?
14 A Well, the infiltration operations, infiltrating
15 agents into Cuba, exfiltrating agents, hit and run sabotage
16 raids. That is about the extent of it.
17 Q Now, when did these operations commence? Was it
18 shortly after the Bay of Pigs?
19 A I would -- I think these operations were probably
20 at their height during the period about 1963 through, say,
21 1967. The program was terminated in 1968, I think in December
22 1968, something like that.
23 Q Why was the program terminated?
24 A First of all, it was too expensive. It wasn't provid-
25 ing enough intelligence and it simply wasn't -- economically,

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1 it wasn't feasible to continue these things. The agents were
2 getting wrapped up. We were -- we just felt that the return
3 wasn't sufficient for what the investment was.
4 Q You say the agents were getting wrapped up.
5 A Yes.
6 Q What do you mean by that?
7 A When we infiltrated an agent, Cubans would identify
8 him and capture him.
9 Q These various types of paramilitary operations that
10 were conducted by the Agency I trust were approved by the
11 Forty Committee?
12 A Every operation received a specific approval from
13 the Forty Committee.
14 Q In advance?
15 A In advance.
16 Q Now, what was the procedure for submitting -- for
17 initiating such an operation?
18 A Well, normally in the case of an infil or an exfil.
19 or perhaps we wanted to lay down the cache.
20 Q You are referring to a cache of arms.
21 A A cache of anything, replay of radio, batteries,
22 whatever they might need. If we decided that we should have
23 one of these operations and the request would go from here
24 over to the, I guess to the White House and then the Forty
25 Committee at its weekly meeting -- they used to meet very

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1 frequently -- they would either approve the operation or say
2 no. These operations had to be planned well in advance because
3 the tides had to be right, the moon had to be in the proper
4 phase for communications and this type of thing. And these
5 things, all these were coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of
6 Staff, the Navy, the Coast Guard, the FBI. If we were
7 exiltrating people, the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
8 Every Government agency or enforcement agency or military
9 agency that had any involvement whatsoever, and the entire
10 thing was coordinated.
11 Q Do you know of any such paramilitary operations
12 that were run unbeknownst to the Forty Committee?
13 A No.
14 Q What kind of volume of operations are we talking
15 about?
16 A You are not talking about a very big volume of
17 operations because of the planning that had to go into these
18 things. I would say that probably at the height of the thing
19 they may be running three or four a month. No more than that.
20 Q You have heard Eugenio Martinez refer to having
21 run 300 operations.
22 A I have seen that.
23 Q Is that inaccurate?
24 A Well, it all depends on what is in his mind. He
25 may have considered some of the training exercises as opera-

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1 tions. Obviously, these guys trained. In order to run one
2 of these operations, you know, you would have to have a mother
3 ship in place and rubber boats and the UDT people to go in to
4 see if there were mines and this type of thing on the shore
5 before you go. So he may have considered that all these train-
6 ing exercises were operations but no way did he ever partici-
7 pate in any three or 400 active operations into Cuba.
8 Q Now, from what specific locations were these
9 operations launched?
10 A They were mostly launched from the Keys.
11 Q Any other locations?
12 A Not to my knowledge.
13 Q Now, would you describe for me the kind of hit and
14 run sabotage operations that were conducted?
15 A Well, we conducted one hit and run sabotage against
16 the Texaco refinery.
17 Q What used to be the Texaco refinery?
18 A What used to be the Texaco refinery.
19 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.
20 (Discussion off the record.)
21 THE WITNESS: These things, a great amount of planning
22 went into these things. We did have a model of the refinery.
23 We agonized over the best approach to the refinery and this
24 type of thing to do the most effective damage. This was run. It
25 was successful, as I recall, not totally successful but it was

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1 a successful operation. By that, I mean they didn't do as
2 much damage as they wanted to because they had to get out
3 because the Cuban defense came after them. It was that type
4 of operation that we did.
5 As I recall, another time we took a team in to burn
6 some cane fields. Really, the classical operations that we
7 did in the maritime activities were the infiltrations and
8 exfiltrations.
9 Q Were any CIA operations run out of Guantanamo?
10 A Not to my knowledge.
11 Q Was it impractical to use the base there for --
12 A Well, the base is so surrounded and has been that
13 I think if a guy went through that fence you would carry him
14 back. He wouldn't walk.
15 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.
16 (Discussion off the record.)
17 MR. MANFREDI: Back on the record.
18 BY MR. MANFREDI:
19 Q Are there any other categories of sabotage run out
20 of the Keys other than what you have just described?
21 A Well, we did lay down a cache, if you will, sabotage
22 kits to be used by our own island agents. They contained
23 sugar to dump into gas tanks and metal fragments to put down
24 crank cases. Things of this nature.
25 One of our main objects was to, of course, sabotage

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1 all the oil. We did that with a big operation. We made our
2 own oil, substandard. Additives, I should say, not oil. We
3 contracted with an American firm for that. And we shipped
4 it in through third countries in Europe. It did hit the target.
5 The thing we wanted to get at was the oil and the
6 automotive machinery on the island. We knew it was breaking
7 down and if we could get a complete breakdown we would have
8 everything at a standstill because in those days the automotive
9 equipment wasn't coming in that rapidly from Europe because
10 Castro didn't hve the money to buy it and they weren't going to
11 extend the credit.
12 The railroad system was in total disaster. The
13 Soviets had such a long logistics line, supply line, plus
14 the fact that the Cubans didn't like the Soviet equipment
15 because they were used to good American equipment. And these
16 were principal targets that we were trying to get to.
17 Q In your experience at the Agency can you think of
18 any other analogus or similar paramilitary operations run
19 from a base in the United States?
20 A No.
21 Q I know there has been some paramilitary training
22 in the United States.
23 A Oh, yes.
24 Q In connection with other operations.
25 A Oh, sure.

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1 Q But do you know of any paramilitary operations that
2 were actually run out of the United States?
3 A No.
4 Q As far as you know, then, this is a totally unique
5 situation.
6 A As far as I am concerned, it is, yes.
7 Q Now, how large a Navy was actually organized in
8 Miami? On a previous occasion you described this to me as
9 the third largest Navy in the Caribbean.
10 A That is right.
11 Q What kind of equipment did these people have?
12 A Well, we had -- honestly, everything from a canoe
13 up to three to 500 foot mother ship. We had Boston whalers,
14 rubber boats. We had a number of craft in, say, the 27 to
15 45 foot length. And they looked like real tubs. They were
16 painted and they looked like they wouldn't even float but
17 they had the fastest engines in them. They could outrun any-
18 thing. They were extremely well armed. We had our under-
19 water demolition teams. We had a pretty good Navy.
20 Q Did these craft operate under non-official cover
21 in the Miami area?
22 A Yes.
23 Q Were there a variety of covers or was there one
24 firm?
25 A No. Variety.

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1 Q Fishing companies?

2 A Well, fishing companies, Geodetic Survey, marine

3 supply. In all, I think during the period that the station

4 and these other entities were under commercial cover, or non-

5 official cover, I think we had 100 so cover companies.

6 Q Did any of these companies actually engage in any

7 legitimate commercial activities?

8 A Not to my knowledge, no.

9 Q None of them -- were any of them in competition with

10 firms in that area?

11 A These are probably what we would call devised

12 facilities. They were probably registered with the State of

13 Florida and they paid taxes and this type of thing, but if one

14 was blown or became known, we just crossed that out of

15 existence and started up a new one.

16 Q What did Eugenio Martinez do when he wasn't running

17 these operations?

18 A Well, he was down -- this is one of the reasons, as

19 I told you before, we brought him back and put him under that

20 contract, that retainer, because of the years that he spent

21 under such strict operational discipline down in the Keys.

22 Obviously, he didn't stay down there all the time. He

23 came back -- he might come back once a month, or something

24 like that, to see his family, perhaps once every two weeks

25 if he got some time off.

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1 Q I see. So some of these boats and personnel were
2 actually stationed full-time in the Keys.
3 A Oh, yes. Oh, sure.
4 Q Were there any operations run out of the United
5 States which involved destruction of crops or poisoning of
6 sugar or anything of that sort?
7 A What did you have in mind specifically? You mean the
8 Puerto Rican thing?
9 A Well, that is one of the things I had in mind.
10 Would you describe that for me?
11 A Well, this is, I guess you could term it a target of
12 opportunity. This was where a vessel was carrying Cuban sugar
13 to the Soviet Union and I forget exactly now what happened to
14 it but I know that it got a hole below the waterline, or
15 something, and had to put into Puerto Rico for repairs.
16 In order to repair it, I guess, and get it in the
17 drydock or wherever it was, they had to remove the sugar and
18 put it in the warehouse and at that time I guess somebody came
19 up with a plan to try to widen the rift between -- there was
20 a rift at that time between the Soviets and Cubans and to
21 put a harmless substance into the sugar that would make it
22 acid, sour tasting, and it wouldn't harm the sugar or the
23 individual, and some of this was done. And then when it
24 leaked, of course, we had to get rid of it and we had a sugar
25 firm buy it back from the Soviets.

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1 Q Bought it back from the Soviets?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.

4 (Discussion off the record.)

5 MR.MANFREDI: Back on the record.

6 BY MR. MANFREDI:

7 Q Are there any other operations in which crops were

8 -- were there attempts to destroy crops in Cuba?

9 A No. No.

10 Q Place foreign substances in Cuban products?

11 A In Cuban products?

12 Q Yes.

13 A No. Not that I recall. You see, Cuba really -- in

14 those days the only thing, Cuba was exporting sugar and nickel.

15 The agriculture sector of the economy was in absolutely total

16 chaos. God, they didn't have any citrus, they didn't have

17 anything, and the poor people in Cuba were literally starving.

18 There just wasn't anything to eat. And Fidel was going around

19 with this big plan -- of course, there were a number of

20 experimental cattle ranches in Cuba. King Ranch had one there.

21 I forget -- several other European and American companies that

22 had experimental cattle ranches there and they were experiment-

23 ing with the, you know, cross-breeding and this type of thing.

24 Fidel was preoccupied with this. He went up to

25 Canada and paid $100,000 for a bull and -- so he just put it

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1 on an old Cuban Airways airplane. The damn airplane few too
2 high and the bull became sterile by the time he landed in
3 Cuba. No thought given to, you know, pressurizing the cabin
4 and keeping the temperature at a certain point and this type
5 of thing. So he was helping us all along the line and
6 this here again, we generate propaganda, incompetence and this
7 type of thing.
8 But as far as sabotaging any Cuban product, no, we
9 didn't go into that. Our object was to enforce the blockade
10 and cut off his sources of supply.
11 Q When was the Miami Station established?
12 A As a station?
13 Q Yes.
14 A I think in September 1961.
15 Q And that was several years before you became involved
16 in Cuban matters?
17 A Yes.
18 Q Do you know of any other facilities of that nature
19 within the United States, Agency facilities?
20 A You mean, targeted against the opposition?
21 Q Yes.
22 A A station as such?
23 Q Yes.
24 A No. You have some communications facilities that
25 you really call stations because here again, they are not

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1 directed towards any domestic activity. They are in support of
2 overseas communications.
3 Q Of course, we have FR bases and DCD offices and
4 Office of Security officers, and so forth.
5 A Right.
6 Q But I am talking about actual stations.
7 A Operating stations, no.
8 Q This is the only such station in the United States
9 as far as you know, is that correct?
10 A Right.
11 Q And was this station established to deal primarily
12 with Cuban activities?
13 A Yes.
14 Q Cuban-related matters?
15 A With Cuba, period.
16 Q Did it have, when it was established, any other
17 responsibilities with respect to Western Hemisphere activities?
18 A Not to my knowledge.
19 Q Entirely limited, then, to Cuban activities?
20 A Yes, and in support of Cuban activity and other
21 countries in the Hemisphere.
22 Q When you joined the group dealing with Cuban
23 activities, what was the size or the number of personnel
24 attached to that Station?
25 A To that Station? Well, the Station had probably a
couple

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6 Q Full-time Agency people?

7 A No, no.

8 Q Combination of contract and --

9 A And full-time, yes. A regular employee we call a staff

10 employee.

11 Q Now, would Martinez have been one of those contract

12 people?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Even though he was located down in the Keys?

15 A Oh, yes.

16 Q And what kind of facilities did the Station have in

17 Miami? Physical facilities.

18 A Well, they were located on the south campus of the

19 University of Florida, I mean, the University of Miami, at

20 the old Richmond Naval Air Station. It was a self-contained

21 unit. It was pretty well off the beaten path, in fact, damn

22 well off the beaten path. It was about four miles from the

23 Dixie Highway inland. We had our own guard force.

24 Q Official cover?

25 A No. Non-official.

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3 one was called Zenith Corporation and it was set up with a
4 President and Vice President, normal corporate setup.
5 Q Engaging in any business?
6 A No.
7 Q Now, in a community of that type, Cuban community,
8 how long could a non-official cover last?
9 A Well, obviously it didn't, but it was research
10 activities. Funded -- it is a giant mechanism when you put
11 one of these things in for the funding and this type of thing,
12 for your ostensible customers, establishing bank accounts.
13 Q Yes, I understand.
14 A So it was a research activity and the only people that
15 ever paid any attention to the place were the newspapers. You
16 know, somebody would make an inquiry, you know, we can't accept
17 any work, we are loaded with Government contracts and this
18 type of thing, and it held up reasonably well. And out of
19 this one thing, of course, then we were running these innumera-
20 ble other covers with different activities. The guard
21 force, of course, were like -- well, they wore uniforms, similar
22 to the Pinkerton people and this type of thing. And I think
23 that there was -- in the later days at that site I think the
24 Department of Agriculture had offices in there and some other
25 Government agencies, in other buildings, of course.

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1 Q And this particular Station, then, was under the
2 supervision of the group we have been discussing?
3 A Yes. They were staffed within the Cuban Operations.
4 Q When did the Western Hemisphere Division resume
5 responsibilities for the Miami Station?
6 A Well, when Des. Fitzgerald left as Chief of the
7 Special Activities Staff and became Chief of the Western
8 Hemisphere Division, he brought it back into the Division.
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17 Q When you joined the group in 1963, what functions
18 were being performed by the Miami Station?
19 A Well, all the classical intelligence functions. I
20 think I have lined them out at one time -- collection of
21 positive intelligence, counterintelligence, paramilitary, this
22 type of thing. Covert action.
23 Q This is the list of things you gave me earlier in
24 the deposition?
25 A Yes.

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1 Q Which of these activities, if any of them were
2 actually being conducted within the Cuban community in Miami?
3 A Well, the collection of foreign positive and probably
4 counterintelligence.
5 Q So the Agency was conducting counterintelligence
6 activities in the Miami area?
7 A Yes, sir.
8 Q Can you give me an example of the kinds of counter-
9 intelligence activities that the Agency would be conducting
10 in that area or was conducting in the area at that time?
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11 Q Were there many activities of that type?
12 A Not really. You have got to remember that the
13 Bureau's Cuban squad was fairly small. I mean, it was a large
14 squad in terms of FBI squads. It had 36 people on it, some-
15 thing like that, but 36 people trying to follow a couple of
16 hundred thousand Cubans around, you know, it is pretty nega-
17 tive. This was one of the reasons that obviously from --
18 in those days when we had formed these revolutionary fronts
19 which were being run by the Cuban exiles, they were reporting
20 to Case Officers and they would report on things in the
21 community, of people they thought were suspect and this type
22 of thing. These leads in turn were then given to the Bureau
23 and it was to this extent that we got ourselves involved
24 in CI activity.
25 Q Would it be fair to say that the involvement in CI



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activities in that area was primarily a function of the overwhelming number of these people and the Bureau's inability to properly staff the thing?

A Yes, yes. You have got to remember, too, that a lot of the people on that Cuban squad were in the legal section of the Embassy in Havana. You know, the FBI overseas is known as Legal Attaches, obviously working out of the Embassy [redacted] and a lot of our Station officers from Havana were down in Miami at that time. So there was a relationship there that had gone over a period of years between the Agency and the Bureau.

MR.MANFREDI: We will reconvene at 1:00 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 11:45 o'clock a.m., the taking of the deposition was recessed, to reconvene at 1:00 p.m., this same day.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

Thereupon,

WILLIAM C. STURBITTS,

called as a witness by Counsel for the Commission on CIA Activities, and having been first duly sworn by the Notary Public, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION (Cont'd)

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. When we recessed for lunch you were talking about the Miami Station . Do I understand that the Miami Station was the largest CIA station in the world?

A. The largest CIA station in the world.

Q. At its height?

A. Nothing comes anyplace close to it.

Q. I wonder if you could describe briefly for the record what the AMOTS were.

A. Well, the AMOTS were Cuban a Cuban intelligence organization in exile. We full intended -- this was part of the overall contingency plan that US Government had. Should Castro ever be overthrown, these people would be the nucleus to go into Cuba and form a new Ministry of the Interior.

Q. Now, Ministry of the Interior, is that a euphemism for Security Agency?

A. Well, in most countries of the world the Ministry of Interior, unlike ours, is the security force, internal and



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1 Q. And these people were Cuban exiles?

2 A. Cuban exiles.

3 Q. How large an outfit were the AMOTS?

4 A. Well, at one time -- I can give you the exact figures

5 but I know it well exceeded [redacted], probably closer to --

6 Q. Go ahead.

7 A. Probably closer [redacted] something like that.

8 Q. Now, would that [redacted] persons be included within the

9 [redacted] who made up the Miami Station?

10 A. No.

11 Q. That was over and above the personnel of the Miami

12 Station?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. These people were fulltime CIA employes, weren't they?

15 A. Right. [redacted]

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1 A. That is right.

2 Q. And was training provided them by the Agency?

3 Q. Oh, yes.

4 A. You said the smaller group of the two groups that made

5 up the AMOTS conducted the interrogations, is that correct?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. When you speak of interrogations, are you referring to

8 debriefings?

9 A. I am referring to debriefings of newly arrived exiles

10 or perhaps exiles that had been in the country whom during their

11 time here had acquired new information.

12 Q. How were those -- how and where were those debriefings

13 conducted?

14 A. Well, normally the debriefings were conducted at

15

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20 Sometimes if there was going to be a lengthy debriefing, we had

21 a residence which we rented and the interior was changed into

22 small rooms like this where you could bring people in, sit them

23 down, under controlled conditions, and debrief them without any

24 interference and this type of thing.

25 Q. For how long a period did these debriefings go on?

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1 A. You mean in terms of years?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Well, I would think that I would probably say from
4 about 1962, and I think the debriefings as such, of course --
5 we relied principally on the airlift for the people coming out
6 and when the airlift was cut off, which Castro did -- cut off
7 about, I guess about 1970 or '71, in that timeframe --

8 Q. I see.

9 A. -- that stopped the flow of the refugees, so we just
10 terminated that part of the activity.

11 Q. Well, in addition to debriefing refugees that came
12 in in the airlift, did the smaller group of AMOTS have any other
13 intelligence gathering functions --

14 A. No.

15 Q. In the community?

16 A. Well, I can't give you a real yes or no to that. I
17 would suppose that there is an outside possibility they could
18 have been used to debrief people within the community, within
19 the Cuban community, but we had in the organization -- all these
20 people were Cuban with the exception of we had what we call an
21 On-Site Case Officer, who was a fulltime staff employee and he
22 had a couple of assistants, including a secretary. These people
23 were directly under his control. Though the organization as it
24 was set up, they had their own chief and this type of thing,
25 but the chief took his instructions from the On-Site Case Officer.

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1 Of course, if these people went out and did something on
2 their own, they could do things we were not aware of, obviously.
3 You can't -- you know what they are doing during their eight or
4 ten hours that they are going to work everyday but once they
5 leave, we don't know what they are up to.
6 Q. Did they have CIA credentials?
7 A. No sir
8
9 Q. Did CIA levy any intelligence requirements upon these
10 people other than in their duties -- in their debriefing
11 capacity, I should say?
12 A. No. When -- there were -- obviously there was a
13 standard debriefing form that covered questions of intelligence
14 interest or a battle, you know, anything -- economic questions,
15 morale, and this type of thing. When these questions -- when
16 these people were cebriefed and the debriefer wrote up the
17 report, it would be sent from the AMOTS over to the Station.
18 If the debriefing report contained something of positive
19 intelligence, of that nature, the Case Officer -- well, not the
20 Case Officer but a staffer in the Station may or may not jot
21 down some additional requirements and ask that that person be
22 recontacted and asked specific questions.
23 Q. Now, in addition to debriefing, what else did this
24 smaller broup of AMOTS do for the Agency in the Miami area?
25 A. This was their prime purpose.

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1 Q. How large was that particular group?

2 A. Oh, there were only about, I would say at the outside,
3 I think there were about five debriefers with the support people
4 which would be secretaries, translators, strictly administrative
5 types. I don't think there were more than probably 12 or 15
6 in that group, if there were that many.

7 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.

8 (Off the record discussion)

9 BY MR. MANFREDI: Back on the record.

10 Q. Before we move on to further discussion of the AMOTS
11 could you briefly describe for me what role the CIA plays in
12 resettling Cuban emigres?

13 A. CIA doesn't resettle Cuban emigres.

14 Q. What Agency is charged with that responsibility?

15 A. Health, Education and Welfare.

16 Q. Does CIA play any role in that process?

17 A. We may assist if we are asked but the idea of the whole
18 airlift was having relatives here for somebody to claim you when
19 you came in so you wouldn't become a ward of the State of the
20 Government, and normally when these refugees came in, they were
21 processed through the Center and then they had a place down on
22 Biscayne Boulevard they called Freedom House and this was, of
23 course, all run by HEW, and they -- if need be and they had to
24 stay overnight or stay several days, HEW would put them up and
25 care for them in Freedom House.

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1 Then as soon as they could, of course, they would move them
2 to the areas where they wanted to resettle them, where the
3 relatives were, this type of thing, and we had nothing to do
4 with that whatsoever.
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15 Q. Okay. What activities was the larger group engaged
16 in?
17 A. WEll, the larger group was engaged in the collection
18 of intelligence. They compiled dossiers on the principals
19 inside Cuba. They carded -- they kept card files on every
20 refugee that came through the reception center. They provided --
21 they did do economic and social reporting. They put out a
22 monthly newsletter based on the information they collected.
23 The information these people collected as opposed to the
24 information we collected, ther's was all unclassified. That
25 came from -- all the information they had came from human sources

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or overt publications. We subscribed [redacted] a great many newspapers, periodicals, Spanish language type things.

Q. Well, they were doing clandestine collections as well, weren't they?

A. I don't know if you could call it clandestine. What did you have in mind?

Q. Well, would they run agents in the community?

A. Well, yes, there were penetrations of the Cuban community, yes.

Q. And that is clandestine collection, isn't it?

A. WEll, I call that human resources.

Q. All right. Where are these files now?

A. They are in the Headquarters here. A great many of them were really destroyed. It got to be rather comic. We went down there several years ago just looking through the files to see what kind of shape they were in and they had such great information for intelligence value in there as a picture of a gal who might be the daughter of a Cuban refugee who just won a swimming meet. It got rather ridiculous. So we purged those files and took out that material, you know, which just didn't have any pertinancy at all.



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7 Q. Now, is there any way to determine from those files
8 which of those exiles have become United States citizens?
9 A. No way.
10 Q. Has there been any effort to make such a determina-
11 tion?
12 A. We made an effort at one time but this -- you can
13 become nationalized out in California and your record of
14 nationalization wouldn't be reflected here in Washington for
15 two years. That is how far they are behind.
16 Q. So I take it --
17 A. So there is no central index you can go to. I mean,
18 there is a central index you can go to but it is not current.
19 Q. I take it, then, that there is a possibility that the
20 CIA has some files in Miami or here in Langley on Cubans who
21 are now American citizens?
22 A. Absolutely true.
23 Q. Now, are any of those files likely to contain
24 derogatory information about the individuals involved?
25 A. Well, no.

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15 Q. Well, the AMOTS were going to be the intelligence
16 service of Cuba?
17 A. Right.
18 Q. And they obviously were going to perform some function
19 in addition to recruitment of agents?
20 A. Right.
21 Q. I take it they were trained in counterintelligence,
22 gathering of positive intelligence, recruitment and all of the
23 traditional skills, is that correct?
24 A. That is about right.
25 Q. So I trust that they had files that were amassed for



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1 purposes other than recruitment?

2 A. Well --

3 Q. For example, let me ask you this. Were any of these

4 files on Cubans who were suspected or thought to be a possible

5 internal security problem?

6 A. No. No. They didn't keep those types of files. We

7 would simply task them with through your sources what do you

8 have on so and so. They would not be told the reason why we

9 wanted the information on anybody.

10 Q. Well, I guess

11 it is difficult to

12 make generalizations about the kind of information that is in

13 those files?

14 A. Well, that is right.

15 Q. So I guess I won't ask you to do so, but I want to ask

16 you this. I trust that there is the possibility that some of

17 these files do contain what you in the trade refer to as deroga-

18 tory information?

19 A. I would assume so.

20 Q. And that so much of them may -- some of the subjects

21 of those files may now be American citizens?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. And finally I take it that no effort has been made to

24 study that particular situation?

25 A. WEll, we did make an effort to do it at one time.

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Q. Excuse me, off the record.

(Off the record discussion)

MR. MANFREDI: Back on the record.

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. I want to straighten out confusion in my own mind where these files presently reside. The cards I take it are presently here in Washington?

A. The cards and what is left of the files.

Q. That is the soft cover files?

A. Yes.

Q. And --

A. I assume they are either here or down at the Records Center.

Q. And where is the computer system?

A. You mean our machine system? We have --

Q. The machine here that you tried to match up with the



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1 information on the cards?

2 A. Right down on the third floor.

3 Q. That is not the hydro system?

4 A. Oh, no, no.

5 Q. This is a separate --

6 A. This is a complete -- only the Latin American Division

7 uses this particular system.

8 Q. What kind of records -- strike that.

9 The AMOTS are still in existence, aren't they?

10 A. No.

11 Q. I thought they were going out in June.

12 A. Well, okay. They are on the books until June.

13 Q. I see.

14 A. But they have all been let go. They were let go --

15 they were all given six months termination bonuses and told to

16 go find a job.

17 Q. Do they have any facilities, physical facilities, in

18 Miami at this time?

19 A. no.

20 Q. So there are no records in Miami?

21 A. No. No. We brought all those records back here.

22 Q. Did the AMOTS have law enforcement responsibilities

23 in the Miami community?

24 A. No. No.

25 Q. Any affiliation with law enforcement groups?

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1 A. Not to my knowledge.

2 Q. What else did they do, this larger group of AMOTS that

3 was not doing debriefings?

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20 Q. What intelligence gathering activities did they

21 conduct in the Cuban community in Miami?

22 A. One of the big problems we had was within that Cuban

23 community, as I said earlier, were some of the militant anti-

24 Castro groups and this just drove the FBI and the Coast Guard

25 and Customs and in general the law enforcement US. Government

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1 agencies in Miami plus the State government enforcement agencies
2 up the wall and, of course, I guess it was around -- the
3 Government allowed a lot of this to go on for awhile but I guess
4 about 1965 or 1964 they got a little tired of it and they
5 started to tighten up.

6 I am sure the AMOTS were in part responsible for proposing
7 alerting us and in turn we alerted the enforcement agencies when
8 there was going to be a raid against Cuba by one of these
9 militant groups. A number of times raids were aborted, picked
10 up by the Coast Guard or Florida Coastal Patrol or the Bureau,
11 this type of thing.

12 Q. These people were arrested?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. Prosecuted?

15 A. Not really.

16 Q. Any of them American citizens?

17 A. Not to my knowledge.

18 Q. This would be Alpha 66 type groups?

19 A. I don't know whether this guy -- well, you know, they
20 are still after this Masferrer and this guy Donestevez. I don't
21 know if they ever did get him in jail but they had him up on
22 so many charges and he was a Cuban exile that made it big here.
23 He was a boat manufacturer, small boats, but whether he ever
24 served any time or not I don't know. I know he was convicted
25 but he was always walking around Miami when I was there. So

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1 I truthfully don't know whether any of these people ever went
2 to jaul or not.
3 Q. Other than identifying operations by militant anti-
4 Castro groups, what other intelligence gathering did the AMOTS
5 engage in?
6 A. Well, of course, there was a counterintelligence --
7 I wouldn't call it a project but a counterintelligence interest
8 at that time because we knew that they were infiltrating agents.
9 Q. Cubans were?
10 A. The Cuban Government. They couldn't do it very well
11 on the airlift because, as I said before, the aged, infirm, and
12 young, but they did infiltrate them by small boat. And I don't
13 -- well, we had knowledge that this was on and we did try to
14 identify those people whom we thought would be suspect.
15 Q. Was that done in cooperation with the Bureau?
16 A. With the Bureau, yes.
17 Q. Because of their manpower limitations you folks were
18 in a better position to do it?
19 A. Yes, and language-wise, too. That is always a big
20 factor.
21 Q. And this was conducted through the AMOTS?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. How substantial was the counterintelligence operation
24 in the community?
25 A. WEll, it wasn't that big. They identified not what I

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would call a great number of suspect infiltrees, but they did come up with a few promising ones and ones it turned over to the Bureau, of course, we have no idea what the hell ever happens to it because, you know, you just -- unless you personally know the guy in the Bureau that is handling the case, you might as well forget it. You have got too many other things to do.

Q. What other positive intelligence gathering activities were they engaging in?

A. Well, as I told you, one part of them were engaged in electronic intercept.

Q. Where was that done?

A. Down in Florda, [redacted]

Q. [redacted]

A. Yes.

Q. What ere they intercepting?

A. Well, originally they were set up to assist with the commo. for the infiltration.

As we phased down the maritime activities, they were made available to intercept Cuban communications. [redacted]



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1 Now, since they belong to us we could levy ceratin require
2 ments on them if we wanted to, which we did very infrequently
3 because the common interests, -- we have a common interest in
4
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14
15 MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.
16 (Off the record discussion)
17 MR. MANFREDI: Let's go back on the record.
18 BY MR. MANFREDI:
19 Q. Were the communications they were intercepting
20 exclusively foreign communications?
21 A. Exclusively foreign communications.
22 Q. Were they intercepting any communications, one terminus
23 of which was the United States?
24 A. No.
25 Q. These were basically Cuban Government communications?

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A. Right.

Q. On the Island?

A. Right.

Q. Or between the Island and other locations?

A. Yes.

Q. But not between the Island and the United States?

A. No. Let's go off the record on that.

(Off the record discussion)

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. To your knowledge were the AMOTS engaging in the intercept of any communications, either that facility or elsewhere, in the Miami area or in the southern part of the country?

A. No.

Q. Of other communications?

A. No.

Q. Is that their only intercept facility?

A. (Nods affirmative)

Q. Do you know of your own personal knowledge -- strike that. Do you have any knowledge of any wiretaps, surveillances, breakins or activities of thqt type other than what we have discussed --

A. No sir.

-- that were conducted by the AMOTS?

A. No sir. I want to go off the record a minute.

(Off the record discussion)

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BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. I understand that a study of the history of the AMOTS has been prepared by one of your members.

A. That is right.

Q. What is his name?

A. I think it is [redacted] -- I can't remember the last name. The poor guy is dead now anyway. Well, I will just have to get that for you.

Q. What is the title of the study?

A. The title of the study -- it is part of the historical series of the Miami Station and I think it is just entitled "The AMOT Organization."

Q. What is the historical series of the Miami Station?

A. It was done when [redacted] was down there. What we try to do as we go along, from year to year, is set aside what is considered to be some of the more siginificant things the station might do or that might occur in the station personnel-wise, this type of thing, and then these things are written.

Q. I see.

A. At intervening periods of time.

Q. When was this particular report prepared, the AMOTS?

A. I think it was preAared in 1967 or '68.

Q. It is a fairly lengthy document, isn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. And purports to be a fairly complete history of the

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activities of the AMOTS?

A. It starts back in 1959 when we first started using this gent..

Q. First started using what?

A. First started using, I forget what his name was.

Q. I see. Is it a chronological study of their activities?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have a copy of that in your custody?

A. Yes.

Q. I would like to see that document. And we will try and obtain it through Hank Knoche's office.

A. Okay.

Q. Excuse me just for a minute.

(Off the record discussion)

MR. MANFREDI: On the record.

BY MR. MANFREDI: I wonder if you would -- let me ask you this. There have been some allegations in the press that prominent newsmen in the Miami area have in the past been agents of the CIA.

Mr. Olsen just came into the office and I asked him to join us because some of your involvement in Cuban activities in the Agency in the Miami area touch peripherally on some of the things had has been charged with investigating, so I am going to turn the examination over to him for whatever time he needs.



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MR. OLSEN: Thank you, George.

BY MR. OLSEN:

Q. Can you begin, since I have not been in on the beginning of the interview here, can you start off, Mr. Sturbitts, by giving me about a one or two minute resume of what your contacts were with the Cuban elements in Florida and elsewhere withing this country on behalf of the Agency?

A. Well, I was a member of the Special Activities Staff which was in effect the Cuban task force at Headquarters and the Miami Station functioned under the Special Activities Staff in a variety of intelligence collection and operations.

Q. Who was the head of the Special Activities Staff?

A. Desmond Fitzgerald.

Q. And who was his immediate superior?

A. Dick Bissell. Excuse me. No. At that time it was Dick Helms. He was the DEP.

Q. Deputy Director for Plans?

A. Deptuty Director for Plans.

Q. What period of time are we talking about now?

A. We are talking in the period of 1963 to 1965.

MR. MANFREDI: Off the record.

(Off the record discussion)

BY MR. OLSEN:

Q. So you were not involved in this Special Activities Group during the 1959 to '61 period?

A. No.



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Q. Or the period leading up to the Bay of Pigs?

A. No.

Q. And you were not involved in this program at all during the same time that E. Howard Hunt was involved in it?

A. No.

Q. Do you know what the position was Mr. Hunt occupied in connection with the Cuban operations of the Agency during the period of 1959 to '61?

A. To my recollection, Howard Hunt was on the Covert Action Staff dealing in propaganda.

Q. Was this propaganda directed to the Cuban people in this country?

A. No. Cuban people abroad.

Q. And what was his connection with the planning for the Bay of Pigs?

A. I would have to review the record to really answer that. I don't know.

Q. Didn't he spend an awful lot of time in the Miami area?

A. He commuted quite a bit.

Q. Between Washington and --

A. Washington and Miami.

Q. -- and Miami. During the period of 1960 and early '61?

A. Right.

Q. Mr. Hunt has stated in his interviews and in his

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1 published materials that he was the person who was in charge of
2 organizing a political unit among Cubans in this country which
3 would constitute the Cuban government in exile. Do you recall
4 where that was?
5 A. That could be quite true.
6 Q. Have you reviewed, Mr. Sturbitts, the Agency's entire
7 files relating in any way to the Cuban operations and particu-
8 larly with reference to whether they reflect any contacts
9 between the Agency and Frank Sturgis?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Or Frank Fiorini?
12 A. There is no relationship.
13 Q. Is it your testimony that the records and files of
14 the Agency reveal no official or unofficial contact of any
15 nature with Frank Sturgis?
16 A. To my knowledge that is true.
17 Q. I take it from that that you are emphatic in your
18 testimony that he was never an employee of the Agency?
19 A. Extremely emphatic.
20 Q. And you are also equally emphatic to the effect that
21 he was never a contract agent of the Agency?
22 A. Exactly.
23 Q. Do you know whether he ever served in the capacity
24 of being an informer or informant to the Agency?
25 A. It is possible that he could have been a source.

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1 Q. YOu mean a source of --

2 A. Source of information of another agent. Another
3 agency agent.

4 Q. Do the files of the Agency reflect any matter?

5 A. To my knowledge I don't recall anything like that but
6 it is entirely possible that that could have happened without
7 being a matter of record.

8 Q. Do the files of the Agency reveal any instance what-
9 ever in which Frank Sturgis was ever asked to undertake any
10 kind of an operation or activity on behalf of the Agency?

11 A. To my knowledge, nothing.

12 Q. Do the files of the Agency reveal any evidence
13 whatever that Frank Sturgis was ever paid anything directly or
14 indirectly by the Agency?

15 A. To my knowledge, no.

16 Q. Now, when you say "to my knowledge, no", in answer
17 to some of these questions, do I understand that to mean that
18 you are giving us the full benefit of your knowledge on the
19 basis of a full review of the Agency's records and files?

20 A. On Frank Sturgis, yes.

21 Q. Okay. During the period of time that you were with
22 the Special Activities Group from 1963 to '66, first of all,
23 can you tell us when that began in 1963?

24 A. When the Special Activities Group --

25 Q. No. When your contact with the Special Activities



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1 Group began?

2 A. It began -- well, it began around June of '63.

3 Q. Now, with particular reference to the last half of

4 1963, including whatever period in June '63 may not have been

5 involved, were there a great many Cubans in the southern United

6 States who were active in revolutionary fronts that were being

7 sponsored by the Agency?

8 A. Wellm you mean Agency sponsored fronts?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. The Agency subsidized these fronts in an effort to

11 have unity rather than these split factions, split anti-Castro

12 factions. Obviously the leaders of the fronts knew that the

13 CIA was subsidizing. Supposedly the people that joined these

14 fronts did not know they were being subsidized by the Agency

15 or the U.S. Government.

16 Q. But when you say "supposedly," does the fact appear

17 to be otherwise?

18 A. WEll, based on my experience with the Cubans and this

19 type of thing, and their penchant to talk, I would think that

20 it wouldn't take long for knowledge of any subsidy to surface

21 itself.

22 Q. Was it your opinion and impression at that time, Mr.

23 Sturbitts, that a great many Cubans considered themselves to be

24 involved in the CIA organizations?

25 A. Yes.

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Q. And again with particular reference to the Miami area?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there also Cuban activity of this sort elsewhere in the United States? I am asking now particularly with reference to New Orleans.

A. There was some Cuban presence in New Orleans. I am really not familiar with what happened in New Orleans that was sort of a sideshow to Miami.

Q. But the same is -- it is possible that some of the same Cuban organizations which were being sponsored or funded by the Agency also had activities or operations in New Orleans?

A. I don't know if I can answer that, whether they had the same functions. I know that some funding arrangement for subsidizing the organizations in Miami was carried out through New Orleans.

Q. Well, can you be more specific about what you mean by that?

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A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. How about David Ferrie? Was he ever connected with the Agency in any manner at all in providing funds or assistance to Cubans or Cuban groups?

A. I couldn't say. I am just not familiar with -- we had a great many people that did this.

Q. How about Clay Shaw? Was Clay Shaw ever used as a funding source?

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A. This I do not know either.

Q. Pardon?

A. This I don't know.

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. Where would that information be available?

A. Well, we have a guy that used to work with me who was down in New Orleans at that time. He would probably know.

Q. Is he in the building?

A. Yes.

Q. What is his name?

A. [redacted]

Q. [redacted]

A. Yes.

BY MR. OLSEN:

Q. Who is [redacted] with now? Which department?

A. He is still with the DDO.

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. Western Hemisphere Division?

A. No. He is on one of the staffs. He is on the -- I think Career Management Group Staff.

Q. Is he officed near you?

A. No. He is down in the basement.

BY MR. OLSEN:

[redacted]



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A. No. No. Totally unfamiliar with anything that took llace in New Orleans.

Q. I take it that Frank Sturgis was never an intermediary for providing funds to the Cuban fronts?

A. The files that I have don't reflect it.

Q. I think we covered this already just a few minutes ago but let me make sure that we have got it on the record.

I understood you to say that it was your impression in 1963 that large numbers of Cuban exiles, Cuban people in the southern United States, talked about and believed that they were involved in the CIA sponsored activities. Is that true?

A. That is right.

Q. Was it also your understanding and your impression that there was a good deal of talk among this Cuban element in the southern United States about plans or prospects for the assassination of Fidel Castro?

A. I would say no. I don't think there was -- you have got to remember that these people were embittered. They lost their homeland, their possessions, they lost everything and they blamed it all on one man.

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Q. That is Fiedl Castro?

A. That is right, and they would probably verbally do anything they could to get rid of him.

Q. Was there a lot of talk about killing Castro among these Cubans?

A. I would say among the Cuban exiles there probably was a lot of talk about that.

Q. Did you participate yourself in the overhearing of such conversations?

A. No.

Q. Was this a matter of something that was reported to you?

A. Well, it was -- I really don't remember what the source of it was but I know in my discussions with people at the Station and from my visits down there and that type of thing that this subject always came up. What were they going to do with Fidel? How are they going to get rid of him and this type of thing. I don't mean the Agency people. This is what the Cuban exile community was discussing.

Q. Yes. Do you know what Howard Hunt was doing for the Agency in 1963?

A. Well, it seems to me he was here at Headquarters in '63 and I think he was assigned to the European Division of the DDP.

Q. This is your best recollection --



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A. Yes.

Q. -- at the moment. Is it possible that he was with Domestic Operations Division in the field of proprietaries engaged --

A. I guess you are right, yes. I believe he was there.

Q. Did you personally know Howard Hunt?

A. No.

Q. Never met him?

A. I met him. That is all. I can't say I know him.

Q. You would not have known anything about his whereabouts on any particular day, then. Is that true?

A. Can we go off the record?

(Off the record discussion.)

THE WITNESS: Let's go back on the record.

BY MR. OLSEN:

Q. I would like to have it on the record.

A. Do you have a particular day?

Q. No. I am just asking you if your acquanitance with Hunt was such that you would have known of his whereabouts on any particular day.

A. No.

Q. Was it very infrequently that you ever saw him?

A. Oh, I would see him in the halls, this type of thing, but -- bump into him perhaps downtown on the street.

Q. But you would have no occasion for knowing from one

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day to the next where he was?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever conducted any kind of inquiry on behalf of the Agency as to where he was on November 22, 1963?

A. Yes.

Q. And when did you conduct that inquiry?

A. I have done it twice that I recall and the most recent one was I guess -- I am just trying to think. Well, it wasn't too long ago because we did have an inquiry and we obtained the time and the attendance records from the Office of Finance which showed that Howard Hunt was on sick leave on that day.

Q. Was this just fairly recently?

A. Yes.

Q. I understood from what files I have seen, Mr. Sturbitts, that the only records that were available from the Office of Finance showed that he had had nine hours of sick leave during the two-week pay period ending the 23rd of November but that the records were not available as to how much sick leave or annual leave had been taken on any particular day.

A. Well --

Q. Am I mistaken?

A. As I recall, he was in a duty status one day and a sick leave status the next day and back to duty the next day. I would have to check that with my Budget and Fiscal Officer. He is the chap that got that for me.

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1 Q. Can you check that for us?

2 A. Sure.

3 Q. And give us the results of that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Because this is much more detailed information than

6 I have been previouly aware is available in the files of the

7 Agency.

8 A. All right. I will do that.

9 BY MR. MANFREDI:

10 Q. Do you want to make a note of that?

11 A. Let me have a piece of paper.

12 Q. YOu might also want Mr. Sturbitts' phone number which

13 is 351-[redacted]

14 THE WITNESS: That was 22 November, right?

15 BY MR. MANFREDI:

16 Q. That is the day.

17 A. 1963.

18 Q. In response to whose inquiry was that investigation

19 made?

20 A. I don't know. I would have to look that up, too. I

21 don't recall exactly who asked for it. I don't know whether --

22 I will just have to check that. I don't know who it was.

23 Q. And the date? Do you have any idea when you made the

24 inquiry?

25 A. No. But Ican find out from the B and F guy, hopefully

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1 Q. You said there was a previous inquiry?

2 A. Yes. The previous inquiry came from [redacted]

3 who is now retired and was at that particular time the Chief of

4 European Division.

5 Q. When was that inquiry received?

6 A. That was about a year ago, I guess.

7 BY MR. OLSEN:

8 Q. About the first time these photographs began to be

9 circulated?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. About the bums in Dallas?

12 A. Yes, and actually I think this -- [redacted] inquiry

13 came from some magazine or newspaper man in Europe. [redacted] was

14 Chief of Station, [redacted] for a long time and he apparently

15 made a lot of acquaintances over there among the media.

16 Q. This is something you are relating to Der Sterm

17 Magazine?

18 A. That is right.

19 Q. And did I understand you to say that in checking with

20 the Office of Finance that it was positively ascertained that

21 Hunt was on sick leave on November 22nd?

22 A. Well, I will have to check that. That is the way

23 I understood it but I did get this through our Budget people who

24 have the contact with the Office of Finance.

25 Q. And that he was on annual leave the day before?

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A. No. He was on a duty status the day before, on sick leave, and then on duty status the following day.

BY MR. MANFREDI:

Q. Was there any effort to determine what Mr. Hunt's previous pattern with respect to sick days had been?

A. (Nods in negative)

BY MR. OLSEN:

Q. November 22, 1963, was a Friday. When you say that records reveal that he was on a duty status the next day --

A. It was a Friday. Then I was mistaken.

Q. Does that mean he was on duty the following Monday or on the next day, Saturday?

A. No. On the following Monday. I didn't realize the 22nd was a Friday.

Q. Will you check that thing for us and give us a brief memo together with whatever supporting -- copies of supporting documents you can find?

A. Okay.

Q. As promptly as possible on this question.

I think that covers the subject matter.

MR. MANFREDI: I can give you another moment if you want. Can you think of anything else?

MR. OLSEN: I think that is all.

MR. MANFREDI: Okay. Off the record.

(Off the record discussion)

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1 BY MR. MANFREDI:

2 Q I am sorry for the interruption but over the long

3 I think probably I saved you some time.

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Q We talked with Mr.Olsen for a short period of time about fronts, revolutionary fronts. How large were these organizations?

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A Well, the membership varied. As I said, we were principally interested in the leadership of the organizations. Once the organization was established and the leadership took over, then they would take care of enlisting the, I guess, getting membership from the Cuban exile community to join.

Q What were their functions, the fronts?

A Well, it was to bring some unity out of this chaotic thing of the splinter groups and get -- as I said, it was a political organization in exile.

Q Did they conduct any operations?

A No, not that I know of.

Q Just like a political party?

A Like a political party.

Q How many of these fronts were there?

A There were several of them. I really don't remember the names of them. The FRD was one. The Revolutionary Democratic Front. I guess that was probably the biggest one. And there were some others.

Q The RDF?

A FRD.

Q I see.

A Front Revolutionary Democratic. It is the Democratic Revolutionary Front.

Q All right. Are these groups still in existence?

A I would think not. I really don't know.

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Q Is there a CIA station in Puerto Rico?

A No. There was but there isn't any more. There hasn't been one there for years.

Q When was it disbanded?

A I think the station was established around 1958 and -- perhaps it was established before that. I think it went out of existence in 1958.

Q Do you know why it went out of existence?

A No, I don't. I don't have any idea.

Q Do you know what function it was performing?

A (Nods in negative.)

Q You mentioned earlier that Bernard Barker worked in the Cuban community for the CIA?

A

Q Was he performing any intelligence function in the community?

A Intelligence functions. Well --

Q Was he collecting information?

A Sure. If he got information that he thought was worthwhile he would pass it on.

Q Now, would he have been considered one of the three or 500 persons employed or assigned to the Miami Station?

A Yes. He was a contract employee.

Q And were intelligence requirements levied on such contract employees?



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A Normally, the requirements are pretty standard, or they were at that time. But here again, you always have ad hoc type things that pop up from time to time, and have to be surfaced.

Q Some of these contract employees were, then, in the business of collecting intelligence information in the Cuban communities in Miami.

A Right.

Q Now, I think we finished with the AMOTS but can you think of any other functions performed by the AMOTS that we have not discussed in the course of the afternoon?

A No, not really. No.

Q I think you previously described them for me as the eyes and ears into the Cuban community.

A Right.

Q And they actually had a physical facility in Miami which was their headquarters, did they not?

A Exactly.

Q And there was a CIA Case Officer who managed to supervise that facility.

A Yes.

Q Now, what has happened to the AMOTS?

A The AMOTS were gradually phased down and will go out of existence -- the AMOTS are out of existence, aren't they? Isn't it the AMDUKES or -- these are the radio people.

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mbh 5

Q And the AMDUKES are the AMOTS?

A The AMDUKES are AMOTS but they are radio people.

A Yes. The only reason we use two different names is that in each of these things in those days we had to have a project which had to be renewed every year to get the funding.

Q So AMDUKE and AMOT --

A Synonymous.

Q -- are cryptonyms?

A Yes.

Q Do the initials stand for anything other than --

A No. Just pick them out. If you want to encrypt somebody you just call downstairs and they give you a crypt. You don't have anything to do with it. The AM happened at that particular time to be the Cuban diograph.



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Q Were these people on whom name traces were requested all foreign nationals?

A All foreign nationals.

Q Was there any check made to determine whether any of them were American citizens?

A We levied on the Secret Service as a requirement that they have identified these people by nationality before we would run a name trace. Inadvertently, at one time they did submit a list, a rather long list of American citizens which we promptly sent back to them and told them we could not trace.

Q And this practice was followed both in 1968 and 1972?

A That is right.

Q And where were these names traced?

A They were traced back here and also in Miami. The Miami Station did their name check and we did our name check here. In the case of Cubans, probably the Miami Station had more information on the Cubans than we would have back here.

Q But the names were traced through Agency files?



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A Through Agency files.

Q Was Secret Service receiving cooperation from FBI on this as well?

A Oh, yes.

Q And in effect, they were getting an all-Agency name check --

A Right.

Q -- on people who might pose a security threat --

A Yes.

Q -- to a candidate?

A Well, they were just trying to determine who might be a security threat.

Q That is right. Potential threat.

A Yes.

Q For what political parties -- strike that.

In 1968 was this service provided for both political conventions?

A Both political conventions.

Q Were they both held in Miami that year?

A No. I guess it was in 1972 they were both held there. I think it was just the Democratic in 1968.

Q These requests did come from the Secret Service rather than --

A From the Secret Service and it was -- the Director of the Secret Service came to the DCI and asked him for



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1 support.

2 Q Do you still maintain the records with respect to

3 that tracing activity?

4 A I have all the names that have been traced.

5 Q And they are on little cards down in your files?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Why have those records been maintained? Is there

8 any reason those records have been maintained?

9 A Well, because we were told to maintain them when

10 the Watergate thing broke.

11 Q I see.

12 A And since then nobody will destroy anything.

13 Q OK. Are you aware of any picketing at various

14 places in the country that has been conducted by Cuban

15 groups?

16 A I was not aware of it until I was told of it.

17 I still don't know whether this was a spontaneous action on

18 the part of these people or whether they were instructed to

19 do it. I tried to run that down and I have been unable to.

20 Q At what locations has it been reported that pickets

21 were located?

22 A Airline offices in New York, Miami. I think another

23 place. I forget where it was.

24 Q Have you in fact been able to verify that these

25 persons were Cubans?

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1 A Well, it is a matter of record in the AMOT history
2 that this indeed did take place. Now, what I have been trying
3 to determine is whether the On-Site Case Officer authorized
4 this,which I fully doubt.
5 Q Who was the On-Site Case Officer?
6 A At that time it was a fellow by the name of Tony
7 Sforza.
8 Q Is he still alive?
9 A Yes, he is down in Miami. But I just do not know
10 whether this was a unilateral action on the part of the
11 AMOTS against the countries that were then trading with
12 Cuba, notably Spain and Great Britain and France.
13 Q Other than this incident which we -- strike that.
14 What kind of an investigation have you conducted?
15 A I have talked to people, which is really all you
16 can do. There is no other way you can do it.
17 Q You have been unable to determine who, if anyone,
18 authorized this activity? Have you been able to identify
19 any of the persons who participated in the picketing?
20 A No.
21 Q With what frequency did this activity occur?
22 A I don't have any idea. I only know of one instance.
23 Q This was in New York City?
24 A New York City and Miami.
25 Q Do you know of any organized political activity that

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the AMOTS engaged in?

A To my knowledge, they didn't engage in any.

Q Any political activity.

Do you know of any other activities that they have conducted within this country, they or any of their members have conducted within this country that we have not already discussed this afternoon?

A No.

Q Any political activities? Any operations?

A No. Not really. Of course, we have used certain select individuals to what we call hand-hold defectors, Cuban defectors. In other words, live with them until they are resettled and this type of thing. And this is another activity they engaged in. But other than that, I can't think of anything else.

Q Do you know of any criminal activities that have been attribited to --

A I have heard of some allegations which have never been proven.

Q What are the allegations?

A The allegations concern break-ins and surveillances and this type of thing.

Q Have those allegations been made with any frequency?

A Well, I forget who it was. It was during the



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Watergate trial. Some of these allegations that came out and I think they were carried in the Anderson column but we made file checks and this type of thing. One particular activity was supposed to have been carried out in Rockefeller Center in New York and it turns out it was taken out of context. It was a training mission and -- training exercise. These guys were being trained in surveillance in New York and they were simply asked to go into a branch of the Manhattan -- Chase Manhattan and to come back out and then they were supposed to diagram the layout of the bank. And this to some of them meant casing the bank when in fact it was just a memory exercise.

Q With what frequency were those kinds of training exercises conducted?

A Well, whenever there was an -- whenever it was felt that these people, selected individuals, were to be trained in trade craft.

Q And did their trade craft training include such things as surveillance?

A Sure.

Q And break-ins?

A No. Not break-ins. Nor surreptitious entry. As I said, in the case of this particular thing, it was misinterpreted as casing the bank. These exercises were given -- they could have walked into your office, your outer office and

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1 said -- the instructor could have said two hours later tell
2 me what is in that outer office? What is the layout of it?
3 This is just for observation.
4 Q You stated earlier none of those allegations have
5 been proven. Have any of them been proved to your
6 satisfaction?
7 A No. Ithink we disproved them to my satisfaction.
8 Q I take it you do not believe they took place other
9 than the training exercise?
10 A Oh, no. No. I don't believe they did.
11 Q Do you know of any instances where members of that
12 group have broken in, made any other type of illegal entry
13 in this country?
14 A No.
15 Q Have you ever been present at any discussions of
16 the legality or illegality of maintaining stations like the
17 Miami Station within this country?
18 A Legality? No.
19 Q How about the propriety?
20 A Well, to my knowledge, that really never came up.
21 No one to my knowledge, has ever questioned the legality or
22 the propriety of having the Station.
23 Q There have been some allegations in the press and
24 elsewhere about possible misuse of Cuban exiles, members of
25 that community, by the CIA. Are you aware of those?

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A No.

Q We received some correspondence and I have seen some articles that suggest that the Cuban community is sort of a resource that is occasionally tapped by the CIA for various operations in this country.

A You mean this country?

Q Yes. Picketing was one example. There were also some other examples of unusual activities. Do you have any knowledge of use by the CIA of Cuban nationals or exiles for any type of operation within this country?

A No.

Q Do you know whether or not the Agency has provided any financial support for Cuban businessmen in this country?

A No. Not to my knowledge.

Q Other than the maintenance of cover?

A No.

Q Establishment of businesses?

A No.

Q No?

A No.

Q In the course of our discussions today we discussed the AMOTS, the AMDUKES, various political front groups, revolutionary front groups. Are there any other emigre, Cuban emigre groups in the Miami area which have been supported by the Agency, either financially or otherwise?

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1 A Not to my knowledge.

2 Q Are you familiar with the appendix that was attached

3 to Mr. Colby?s statement?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you have some role in drafting that?

6 A You mean the Miami Station thing?

7 Q Appendix J, entitled, "The Miami Station".

8 A Yes.

9 Q You wrote it?

10 A Yes.

11 Q It has a familiar ring about it. There are references

12 to indigenous organizations, emigre organizations. Are

13 there any others other than the ones we have been discussing?

14 A Not to my knowledge. There are, you know, if you

15 want to call it an organization, we did, you know, subsidize

16 the shellout of Juanita Castro.

17 Q Yes, I am familiar with that.

18 A You are familiar with all that and that is by the

19 board now, too.

20 Q She was doing --

21 A Propaganda.

22 Q -- propaganda broadcasts.

23 A Yes.

24

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20 Q Well, I have no further questions, Mr. Sturbitts.
21 If you have anything you would like to add you are welcome
22 to do so.
23 A No, I have nothing.
24 Q I want to thank you on behalf of myself and the
25 Commission for your cooperation.



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A Sure.

Q I am sorry we had to take so much of your time.

A That is all right.

Q Thank you again.

(Whereupon, at 3:35 o'clock p.m., the taking of the deposition was concluded.)

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