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Sturgis 701

1. ON APRIL 21, MIAMI HERALD PRINTED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE ARTICLE IN WHICH FRANK STURGIS GIVES LENGTHY INTERVIEW ON HIS PLOTTING CASTRO'S DEATH ON BEHALF OF CIA. ARTICLE CLAIMS STURGIS WORKED FOR CIA FROM 1959-68. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES STURGIS AS BEING INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION PLOTS AND CONSPIRACIES TO OVERTHROW CUBA, PANAMA, GUATEMALA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI.

2. STURGIS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "THE FIRST DISCUSSION OF ASSASSINATION WITH MY CIA CONTACTS WAS IN FEBRUARY 1959."

3. REQUEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PUBLIC DENIAL THAT STURGIS WAS CIA AGENT. - *CLM feels no reply necessary*

4. NO FILE. E2. IMPDET *We not in business denying!*

Warm, with highs in the upper 80s. (Details, Page 2A.)

SUNDAY'S TEMPERATURES

7:00 AM	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM
72	82	88	88	78

THE MIAMI HERALD

Monday, April 21, 1975

Florida's Complete Newspaper

88 Pages

63th Year — No. 143

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20 APR 1975

I Plotted Castro's Death, Sturgis Says

By PAUL MESKIL

Miami Herald Staff Writer

"I was a spy," Frank Sturgis admits.

"I was involved in assassination plots and conspiracies to overthrow several foreign governments, including Cuba, Panama, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

"I smuggled arms and men into Cuba — for Castro and against Castro. I broke into the intelligence files of the Cuban army and air force. I stole and photographed hundreds of secret documents.

"That's what spies do.

"I ALSO BROKE into foreign

consulates and business offices in Cuba, for the purpose of obtaining information and into an import-export office in Caracas, Venezuela, that was a front for the KGB (Soviet secret service)."

Sturgis was a hired operative of the Central Intelligence Agency for at least a decade. He still may be though his cover was blown forever by the notoriety he received as a Watergate burglar. He constructed and controlled an espionage network in Cuba that still is functioning despite frantic efforts by Castro security forces and the KGB to destroy it.

Though he was only a bit player,

'Green Light' Never Came

in the Watergate drama, Sturgis is a real-life James Bond whose exploits rival those of any fictional spy. Interviewed at the office of his Miami lawyer, Ellis Rubin, and at other places in New York and Florida, he candidly revealed many details of his colorful career as a war hero, secrets-stealer, gunrunner, guerrilla fighter and professional plotter.

Asked if he also had been an assassin, he politely changed the sub-

ject. Some things he will not talk about.

A STOCKY, iron-jawed man who looks much younger than his 50 years, he was born Frank Angelo Fiorini in Norfolk, Va. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the start of World War II and fought through the Pacific with the famed First Raider Battalion. After the war, he served in the Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve.

He had the perfect training for a secret agent. The Marine Corps taught him judo, knife-fighting and jungle warfare techniques. The Air Force taught him to fly a plane and the Navy Reserve trained him to handle small, fast ships.

The Army completed this education. During a hitch in Germany, he was assigned to a security unit that handled top-secret reports from Allied intelligence agents all over Europe. This was his introduction to the dark world of espionage and intrigue.

In Berlin during the chilliest part of the Cold War, he met his first real spy. She was a beautiful ac-

tress who also was an agent of Haganah, the secret army formed to defend the new state of Israel.

WHEN HE returned to civilian life, Frank became a Haganah courier — perhaps the only Roman Catholic in this group. In the 1950s, he went to Miami to visit an uncle who had married a Cuban exile. Her family was close to Carlos Prío, the Cuban president who was ousted in 1952 by a military coup led by Fulgencio Batista. Frank met Prío and other wealthy Cubans whose Miami mansions were hotbeds of

Turn to Page 13A Col. 1

FRANK STURGIS

Miami
April

CIA Agent Details Plan to

FROM PAGE 1

support for a fiery young rebel, Fidel Castro, who was then living in Mexico.

In 1957, Prio asked Sturgis to go to Cuba, join Castro's army and let me know what he's doing." Sturgis accepted the assignment. He flew to Havana, and with the help of a Cuban priest, he quickly located Castro's camp in the Sierra Maestra Mountains and volunteered his services.

"Fidel remembered me," he said. "We could understand each other. I spoke Italian, which is similar to Spanish, and he spoke some English. I offered to help train his troops, but he said, 'Frank, what I need is guns.'"

So Frank became a gunrunner. With money supplied by the Castro underground in Florida, he purchased thousands of rifles and other weapons from International Armament Corp. (Interarmco) of Alexandria, Va., believed to be the world's largest dealer in surplus arms. He then set up an elaborate land-sea-air smuggling network to get the guns and ammunition into Cuba.

AFTER SEVERAL months as a double agent, working for Prio and Castro, Frank became a triple agent. This time, he was recruited for the game of intelligence by a major league scout, Park F. Woolam, the State Department official then in charge of the U.S. consulate in Santiago de Cuba.

"We met at the Case Grande Hotel in Santiago," Sturgis recalls. Woolam knew who I was and what I was doing. He approached me or someone introduced us. We had several other meetings and he discussed my patriotism and so forth. I agreed to work with him.

"Later, when the revolution was over, I received orders to go to Havana. Woolam told me who to contact in the American Embassy there." His new contacts, Sturgis said, were CIA agents, one of whom was the embassy's military attache.

Castro placed his most trusted officer in command of the Cuban military services, Maj. Pedro Diaz Lanz, a close friend of Sturgis, became commander-in-chief of the air force and his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, became inspector general of that service.

FRANK HELPED the Diaz Lanz brothers reorganize the air force, and they made him their security and intelligence chief. He also became the officer in charge of inspecting and supervising all Cuban

"The whole idea was to kill all of them (Fidel Castro and his staff) at once. Unfortunately, if some of the anti-Communist officers were in there at the same time, they would have to go too. The lives of some of the anti-Communist commanders would have to be sacrificed in order to get Castro and his crew."

gambling casinos, which were owned and operated by American mobsters.

Frank said his CIA advisers "asked me to recruit reliable people so that we could put agents in the military, in the presidential palace, in with Fidel. I recruited everyone I could, Americans and Cubans, to be undercover agents."

Max Gorman Gonzales, a Miami businessman who took part in cloak-and-dagger operations against both Batista and Castro, has known and worked with Sturgis for many years. He says Sturgis was a CIA employe from 1959 to 1968. The CIA asked him to participate in assassination plots in Cuba and elsewhere. Sturgis introduced Cuban military and political leaders to American agents at the U.S. Em-

bassy in Havana. During these visits, a conspiracy to assassinate Castro and other Cuban leaders developed.

"Two attempts against Castro's life were made in the early part of 1959. Both failed. The assassins then waited for a green light from Frank Fiorini Sturgis. A third attempt was made in 1960."

THIS REPORTER asked Sturgis when the agency first began thinking about assassinating Castro.

"The first discussion of assassination with my (CIA) contacts was in February 1959," he replied. "I was making reports on all the Communist activity in the military. I suggested that this would be a good time to assassinate Fidel. I said I

Assassinate Castro

would organize it and follow it through.

"I would arrange an important conference at Campo Libertad (Camp Liberty, the combined army-air force base and headquarters formerly known as Camp Columbia). All the top commanders would come to the base in their jeeps and cars. I was going to station gunners on the roofs, set up a cross-fire. I would have wiped out Fidel, his brother Raul and all the top (pro-Communist) military commanders in 30 seconds.

"I asked my contact in the embassy to get a green light (official approval) on this. Whether this would have to come from the top level in Washington or a lower level, I don't know."

WHILE THEY waited for the green light, Sturgis and his CIA contacts devised two alternate plots. One was to execute Castro in the second-floor conference room at air force headquarters. As he and the other officers would not arrive at exactly the same time, it might be more practical to wait until they were all assembled around the conference table.

"The whole idea was to kill all of them at once. Unfortunately, if some of the anti-Communist officers were in there at the same time, they would have to go too. The lives of some of the anti-Communist commanders would have to be sacrificed in order to get Castro and his crew."

The third scheme involved planting a bomb in Castro's office. "I had access to the prime minister's office," Sturgis said. "I knew Fidel's private secretary, Juan Orta. I recruited him to work with the embassy. I planned to go to Fidel's office with a briefcase full of explosives which I would leave there. When Fidel entered the office, a signal would be given and the bomb would be set off by an electronic device across the street."

The plotters waited several months for the green light from Washington, but it never came. "They couldn't make up their minds," Frank said of the unseen, unknown decision makers. "They couldn't decide what to do."

BUT, ACCORDING to former intelligence agents, the CIA later approved and bankrolled other plots to wipe out Castro. American adventurers, Cuban exiles, Mafia dons and high-ranking Cuban officials played prominent parts in these conspiracies.

In June 1959, Castro fired 25 top

"The first discussion of assassination with my (CIA) contacts was in February 1959. I was making reports on all the Communist activity in the military. I suggested that this would be a good time to assassinate Fidel."

air force officers suspected of disloyalty, including the Diaz Lanz brothers. Pedro Diaz Lanz then resigned from the air force and denounced Castro as a Communist. The new air force chief, Maj. Juan Almeida, ordered Pedro's arrest and the Diaz Lanz brothers went under.

At this point, Sturgis was pulled out of Cuba. "I left Havana on June 30 and came to Miami to arrange the escapes of the Diaz Lanz brothers and their families. Pedro and his wife got out by sailboat; Marcos was picked up by a plane."

The brothers fled to Florida, told all they knew about the Castro regime and went to work for the CIA.

A FEW WEEKS after Sturgis' abrupt departure from Havana, he received word that Castro was sending an assassination team after him. Frank's informant supplied full descriptions of the three assassins, who were Mexican Communists. The FBI posted an around-the-clock guard on Sturgis' Miami home and federal agents followed him wherever he went.

Customs and Immigration officers were alerted. The Mexican gunmen were spotted when they

crossed the border and were tailed to Florida, where they were arrested. Their car was confiscated and they were bused back to Mexico.

On Oct. 25, 1959, an American B25 bomber swooped over Havana and dropped thousands of anti-Castro leaflets. Castro called this "bombing" said a Cuban Pearl Harbor.

"Pedro Diaz Lanz was the pilot," Sturgis told The News. "I was the co-pilot. Marcos Diaz Lanz and another Cuban were with us. Cuban air force fighters came after us but they missed us and almost shot their own planes down. The big guns at the navy station and the Cubana fortress opened up, but the angle of the guns was such that they were firing from the heights into the city. At least 36 people were killed and wounded."

THE LEAFLET bombardment was the first of many CIA-sponsored missions Sturgis made to Cuba by air and sea. "I made at least 125 air operations into Cuba," he said, "with the green light and without the green light (with and without official approval). And I made some 60 boat missions."

American Mata Hari Who Duped Castro

Its clandestine operations now undergoing a sometimes painful official scrutiny, the Central Intelligence Agency maintains, as always, a tight lip. Dis- from interviews with the agents who lived out to do the CIA's cloak-and-dagger work. News reporter Paul Alkek tells here for the first time of the intrigue that surfaced as the Cuban missile crisis, a confrontation that pushed the U.S. to the brink of war with the Soviet Union. First of a series.

By PAUL MESKIE

A BEAUTIFUL German-American girl scored an intelligence coup for the CIA by stealing secret papers from the Havana hotel suite she had shared with Fidel Castro.

Among the papers, she told The News, were maps showing the sites selected for Soviet missile installations in Cuba.

Canny, black-haired Mario Lorenz, who lives quietly in New York, was the Mata Hari of the Caribbean cold war. She was one of the most glamorous members of a spy ring recruited for the Central Intelligence Agency by Frank Borgia, a onetime triple agent who later became known to the American public as Watergate burglar Frank Borgia.

M. Lorenz, Sturgis, other former espionage agents, Caribbean conspirators, and Cuban freedom fighters were interviewed for this series on CIA operations in the Caribbean and the Americas. Some of their clandestine activities are told here for the first time, and some are being investigated by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Vice President Rockefeller's Commission on CIA Activities.

According to sources, the CIA was, to one degree or another, involved in:

- Plots to assassinate foreign heads of state, including Castro of Cuba, Papa Doc Duvalier of Haiti and Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic.

- Smashing a Castroite attempt to invade Panama and sabotage the Panama Canal.

- The explosion of a munitions ship in Havana harbor.

- A fantastic scheme to seize a Soviet ship and use it to obtain the release of the captured American spy ship Pueblo.

- Secret deals with American mobsters who had lost their multimillion-dollar Cuban gambling casinos.

- Armed raids on Cuba and many shipments of guerrilla fighters, weapons, explosives and other war materials to the island before and after the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Mario Lorenz played a small but important role in the labyrinth of Caribbean conspiracies.

Her Cuban adventures began on a balmy evening in February 1959, when a launch flying the Cuban revolutionary flag pulled alongside the gleaming white luxury liner Berlin, anchored in Havana harbor on the next-to-last stop of a Caribbean cruise.

In the launch were 20 or so heavily armed Cubans, all wearing beards and rumpled olive-green fatigues. The liner's accommodation ladder was

lowered and the barbudos (bearded ones) swarmed aboard like pirates, grenades dangling from their belts and machine guns swinging from their shoulders.

Women in evening gowns screamed and ran for cover with their dinner-jacketed husbands, believing the ship was being raided by bandits. But other American tourists recognized the leader of the sinister-looking band as Fidel Castro, the new prime minister of Cuba, and they crowded around him for autographs.

"I'm a friend," he shouted, obviously enjoying the commotion he had caused. "I like Americans."

The Berlin's skipper, former German Navy Capt. Heinrich Lorenz, invited the barbudos to stay for cocktails and dinner, and he introduced Castro to his vivacious 18-year-old daughter, Marie.

"My father spoke Spanish and he got along well with Castro," Marie told this reporter. "He took Castro and his men on a tour of the ship, then asked them to please leave their guns outside the dining room before they sat down for dinner."

"Castro said they didn't feel safe without guns, so my father allowed them to keep their pistols, but he made them leave the machine guns, automatic rifles and grenades in the smoking room."

Castro sat at the captain's table, between Lorenz and Marie. During the meal, he smiled frequently at Marie, and she was as impressed as any normal teenage girl would be by compliments from the flamboyant hero of the Cuban revolution.

She spoke German and English, which she had learned from her American mother. Castro said he needed a secretary who could write letters in these languages. Before the meal was over, he offered the job to Marie.

Took Offer As Joke

"He asked me to stay in Havana and work for him," she said. "My father and I both laughed. My father said I was going back to Germany to finish my education."

Castro promised to write to her, so she gave him two addresses—her parents' home in Bremen, Germany, and her brother's apartment in New York, where she planned to stay when the Caribbean cruise ended. She never expected to see or hear from Fidel again.

About two weeks later, two Cuban officers called on Marie in New York. They carried a message from Castro, saying he was in desperate need of an English-German translator. He had sent a Cubana Airlines plane to bring her back to Havana.

"I made a big mistake," Marie said. "I got on that plane."

During the flight to Havana, she tried to imagine her life in Castroland. She thought she would have a desk in the premier's secretarial pool and a small apartment of her own. She may even have dreamed of a romance with



Mario Lorenz: spied on Fidel.

the tall, charismatic dictator. But her airborne illusions were shattered soon after the plane landed.

"I was very idealistic then," she said. "I was going on an adventure and to my first job. I was going to help the new government. Instead, I became Castro's plaything."

"I was driven from the airport to the Havana Hilton, where Fidel had taken over the 24th floor. For the next four months, I hardly ever got out of the Hilton. When I did get out, I was under guard. If I wanted to go down to the pool or coffee shop, two barbudos would go with me."

'I Was His Prisoner'

Asked to define her relationship with Castro during this period, Marie said: "I was his prisoner. I was trapped."

"Were you ever in love with Fidel?"

"No, never. How can you be in love when you're afraid, when you're treated like a piece of furniture, when you're sleeping with a live bazooka under the bed, when you're living in a room with guns on every table and cigar butts all over the floor?"

"My way of thinking was German," she continued. "Everything in my life had been very orderly, very neat and clean. I never realized anyone, especially a prime minister, could be so disorganized. I thought he would have several offices, with desks, chairs and telephones. All he had, at this point, was a suite of rooms at the Hilton, where he lived and worked. I was kept in one of the rooms. The door to the room was locked from the outside. Barbudos and visitors were in the next room, but the door between the rooms was kept locked."

"All I could do was read books, study Spanish, walk back and forth, listen to the radio or go on the balcony and look out over Havana. I was miserable. My father tried to find out what had happened to me. He contacted the American Embassy in Havana (Marie was born an American citizen,) but nothing happened."

continued

"The only clothes I had were what I brought with me from New York. I couldn't go out to buy anything. Fidel had me measured for a uniform so I would look like a member of the 26th of July Movement. An olive-green uniform with a lieutenant's star.

"That way, when I was allowed out under guard, he thought people would think I was one of his officers. But almost every Havana housewife heard rumors that Castro was keeping a foreigner, an American girl, at the Hilton. I was becoming a problem to him.

"One day two barbudos came to the room while Fidel was out. They said they were there to help me. They took me on a 25-minute plane ride to the Isle of Pines. They showed me the beautiful black sand beach there and then drove me by jeep to this huge prison complex. They showed me a cell where doctor Fulgencio Batista had imprisoned Fidel and Eusebio (Fidel's brother) years before I went into the cell to look at a bronze plaque on the wall. They spun the door and locked me in the cell. Then they went away.

She Wasn't Rattled

"I spent a week there, eating the same food as the other prisoners—black beans, rice, stale bread and coffee. As far as I know, I was the only woman there.

"Every morning we would hear the strident squawk. As soon as it got light, the birds would start singing. Then the guns would go off. Then marching and quiet. Then head count and cell checks. The guards would check to see if you'd hanged yourself during the night or if you'd done something wrong in there where there was hardly room to turn around. It was horrible.

"After some days, I was taken out and flown back to Havana."

Marie was never told why she was jailed. She now believes Castro had her locked up to make sure she didn't escape while he was out of the country visiting the United States and South America.

One night she was with Castro and his bodyguards in the lobby of the Riviera Hotel when a handsome, wavy-haired man approached her. He wore the olive-green rebel uniform and the insignia of a captain in the Cuban air force.

While Castro was conferencing with his aides on the other side of the lobby, the captain mingled with the barbudos around Marie and whispered to her in English: "I know about you."

"Can you help me?" she responded.

"Can you get me out of here?"

"Yes, I can with the American Embassy. I'll get you out."

This was her introduction to Commandante Frank Florin (later known as Frank Bergin), Castro confidant and hired agent for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Agrees to Spy on Fidel

For the next few weeks Frank kept in contact with her in person and through Castro officers who were working for him. Marie agreed to spy on Castro. She Eichel secret documents and reported Castro's conversations with important visitors overheard through the hotel walls. By now, she could read and speak Spanish fairly well.

The suite was full of guns and papers," she said. "Fidel had papers strewn all over the tables, the floor, the bed, the dresser. He had one filing cabinet that was never locked. It was full of money, papers, documents, maps. I took papers out and slipped them to Frank. Fidel never missed them.

"Frank said, 'Get all the data you can,' and I did. I was a regular Mata Hari."

Then Marie became sick, and Frank arranged her escape. Two Cuban officers took her out of the hotel while Castro was away and put her on a Cubana Airlines flight to New York.

About that time, Frank also set up the escapes of two top Cuban air force officers, a project that forced him to leave Cuba. He moved his base of operations to Miami, but he kept in touch with his agents on the island and his CIA contacts in Havana and Washington.

When she recovered from her illness, Marie joined him in Florida and volunteered for a mission that meant certain death if she were caught.

Early in 1960, Castro went to Cienega de Zapata, a vast swamp that he intended to convert to rice fields. As soon as he left Havana with his usual entourage, Marie received orders to return to the Cuban capital immediately. She boarded a regular Cubana Airlines flight, posing as an American tourist and carrying her Castro uniform and a loaded revolver in her overnight bag.

She arrived in Havana a few hours after Castro left town. Americans were still welcome there in those days, and Cuban customs officers seldom searched tourists' luggage.

"There was no trouble at the airport," Marie said. "I checked into a sleazy little hotel in downtown Havana, changed into my lieutenant's uniform and went direct to the Havana Hilton. By this time, Castro had a home on the outskirts of Havana, Casa Cojimar, but it was more convenient for him to keep his papers at the Hilton.

"He had Suite 2408 and the adjoining suites. I had the key to 2408. Nobody recognized me when I came into the hotel. I had changed my hair style and made my complexion darker than it is naturally. And I wore dark glasses. They (Castro's people) all wore dark glasses, even at night.

"A lot of people were loitering in the lobby, barbudos and everything. I just walked right through. Passing the desk was the main thing that bothered me because the desk clerks knew me. I had a snub-nosed .38-caliber Detective Special clipped to the inside of my waistband. Nobody seemed to notice me. I walked to the elevators and went up to the 24th floor.

Saw Her Opportunity

"Nobody was around. When Fidel left, they all left with him: his bodyguards, his advisors, whatever. When I had lived there, I was either all alone and everything was dead quiet, or else Fidel was there and there was a lot of noise and cigar smoke.

"I unlocked the door to Suite 2408, went inside and double-locked the door behind me. I felt pretty confident because I knew Fidel was at Cienega de Zapata. When he left the suite, no one was to go in. Those were the orders.

"As usual, the suite was littered with papers and the filing cabinet was open. I couldn't grab everything I took as much as I could and stuffed papers and maps into my uniform pockets and inside the jacket. Then I left the Hilton, went back to the other hotel, changed into a dress and caught the next flight to Miami.

"Frank met me at the airport and I gave him all the papers. I never knew exactly what information they contained. I was told the stuff was good, it was fantastic, the United States government is very happy."

Among the papers were topographical maps of Cuba on which several sections of undeveloped land, miles away from any population center, had been marked with hand-drawn circles. The maps also had handwritten notations that Marie couldn't read because "they were in a foreign language—Czech, I think."

Her Find Was Valuable

Three years later, another intelligence agent told her the maps were "the original groundwork plans" for Soviet missile sites. The circled areas were the spots where Soviet missile bases were built in 1962, setting off the historic showdown between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev.

From information supplied by agents inside Cuba and Cuban refugees, and from aerial photos snapped from U-2 spy planes, the CIA was able to pinpoint all the missile bases on the island. But Marie believes her own accession to Castro's air gave the CIA its first inkling of what the Russians were plotting. She also believes Castro expected she was the burglar who would steal his secrets. (The CIA has declined to comment on Marie's involvement.)

In March 1960, soon after she had completed this dangerous assignment, Marie received a mysterious telegram from Havana. Delivered to her brother's apartment at 344 W. 24th St., it said: "CALL 28607 (Castro's private number) - LATE AT NIGHT. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT."

It was signed "Yanez," meaning Capt. Jesus Yanez Bellator, one of Castro's closest aides. Marie's first impulse was to ignore the message, but curiosity overcame common sense. Without mentioning the telegram to her brother, she left the apartment around midnight to place a collect call to Havana from a phone booth on the corner.

As she stepped into the small vestibule between the outer and inner front doors to the apartment house, two men grabbed her. One of them was Yanez.

"They had guns," Marie recalled. "They were going to take me back to

continued

Cuba. Yanes said a plane was waiting at Idlewild Airport. They hit me in the face and tried to drag me out to a car.

"A person who lived in the building opened the door and saw me screaming and fighting. This person ran down toward Riverdale Drive. The interruption distracted the Cubans enough so that I broke loose and ran. I heard one of them yell, 'Shoot! Shoot!' but they didn't. I ran up to Broadway and found a cop there.

"The Cubans took off. My face was all bloody. Thank God for that cop. He took me to the station and I told the detectives an unbelievable story of intrigue and fear. I told them who Yanes was and I gave them the name of a West Side hotel where Castro people stayed when they were in New York. The detectives went there and found Yanes, but they couldn't arrest him because he had diplomatic immunity. He had a diplomatic passport saying he was with the prime minister's office. They told him to get on his plane and go back to Cuba."

When Yanes returned to Havana without Marie, Castro did what the New York cops couldn't. Jim Fiddel sent him to prison.

Discussed Killing Castro

Asked if she and other members of Frank's spy ring had ever discussed killing Castro, Marie replied: "Sure. We all did. We were going to bomb him during one of his speeches. We were going to fly over and drop it right on top of him."

"We had the bomb, the plane. I was going to go along. Hit and run. We were all set, but it was called off. Somebody stopped it. That's all I know."

Marie said two American agents went to Cuba to assassinate Castro shortly before the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"I met them at a little white house we rented in the Cuban colony in Miami. I think it was on Flagler St. We would never stay in one place too long. We'd rent a house and move on. Anyway, it was at one of our meetings that they talked real heavy about going in and killing him."

"The two Americans went in, but they didn't get out. They grew beards, dressed like Castro soldiers. I heard they came very, very close to killing him at one of his speeches."

She said she made three boat trips to Cuba, delivering guns and supplies to anti-Castro guerrillas. She worked with Frank and Alex Rucke, both of whom were contract employees of the CIA, meaning they were not listed on any federal payroll.

"There's really no contract," she explained. "Nothing is put down on paper. You just say you're doing this for the good of your country. I didn't handle the money end of it. We were given what we needed."

'Eduardo' Supplied Cash

When cash was needed, it came from a CIA man she knew only as Eduardo. He would meet Frank and Alex from time to time at a "safe house" in Miami.

"Eduardo was funding our thing," Marie said. "When we went to pick up the money, I stayed in the car. I saw him when he opened the door of this little white house we used."

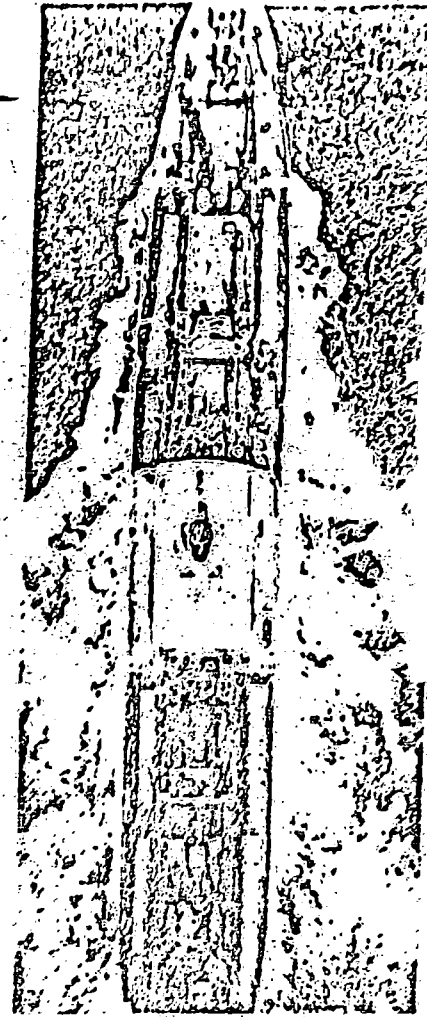
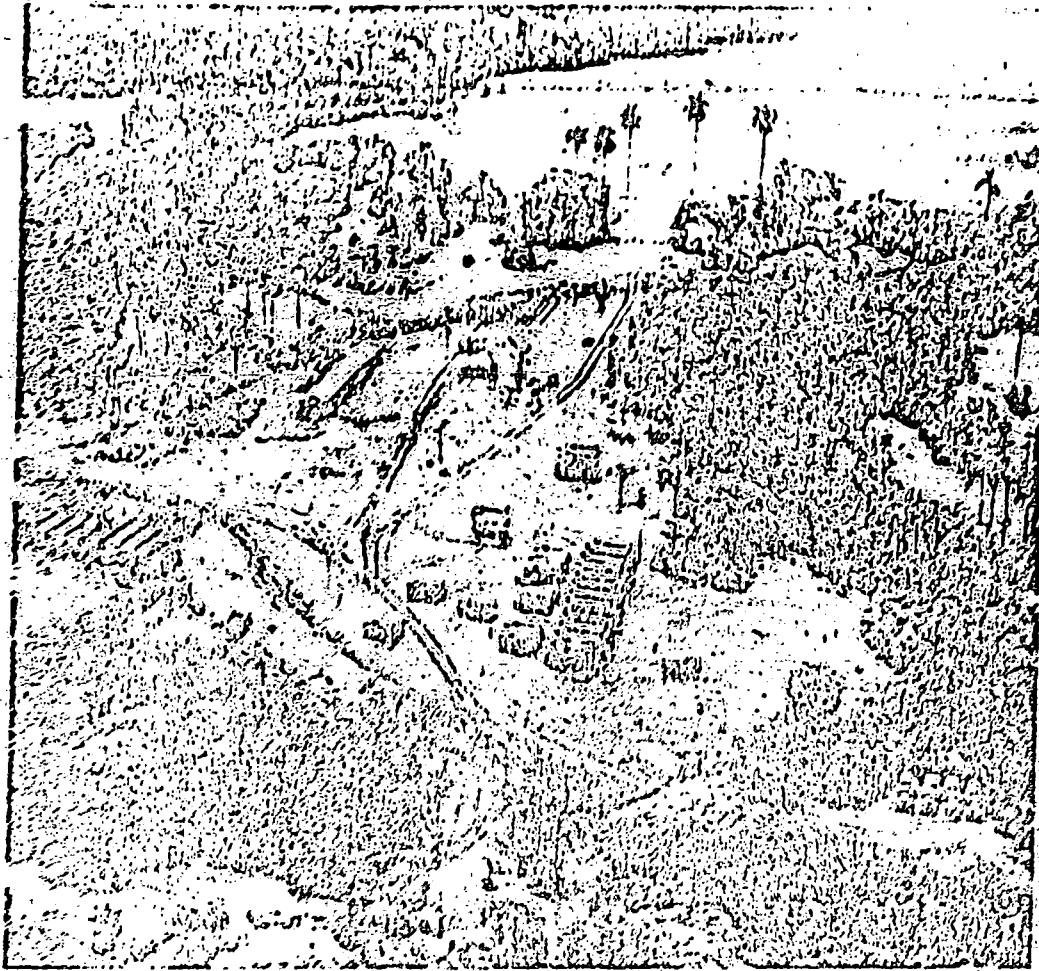
Years later, while reading about the Watergate break-in, Marie saw a newspaper photo of former CIA man E. Howard Hunt and immediately recognized him as the elusive "Eduardo." She also recognized a picture of Sturgis, whom she had known as Frank Yurial.

Sturgis was one of the five burglars caught in Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972. Four of the five—Sturgis, Bernard Barker, Eugenio Orlando Martinez and James W. McCord, then security chief for the Nixon reelection campaign committee—were former CIA employees.

Sturgis, Barker and Martinez had been active in preparations for the Bay of Pigs landing. So was Hunt, the fiction-writing mastermind of the Watergate burglary. And he referred to Sturgis, Barker and Martinez in court testimony as "some of my old CIA contacts."

Sturgis returned to Washington this month, nearly three years after his arrest there, to testify at secret staff sessions of the Rockefeller Commission on CIA Activities. He won't discuss his testimony, but other sources said he was asked about CIA operations ranging from domestic spying to political murders.

Continued



Mario Lorenz says she was told that maps she took from Castro's headquarters were factor in locating and photographing missile sites (above). Under pressure from U.S., Khrushchev ordered missiles removed and shipped back to Soviet Union (right).

19 APR 1975

Ex-aide says CIA ignored troop data

New York (AP)—A former Central Intelligence Agency analyst says his figures on Communist strength in Indochina were ignored because "the military wanted to keep them low in order to display the 'light at the end of the tunnel.'"

"As many as 10,000 American soldiers had been killed in the Tet offensive (in early 1968) because the generals had played politics with the num-

bers," Samuel A. Adams writes in next month's issue of Harper's magazine.

Mr. Adams said the coverup by his CIA superiors and the Pentagon began in 1966 when his study of captured documents convinced him that the overall battle estimate of 270,000 Viet Cong might be 200,000 too low. Later, he raised his estimate of their strength to 600,000.

Mr. Adams said he sent his documented estimates to his superiors at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Nothing happened," he added. "No phone calls from anybody. Instead, on Friday (August 28, 1966) the memorandum dropped back in my in-box. There was no comment on it at all—no request for amplification, no question about my numbers, nothing. Just a routine slip attached showing that the entire CIA hierarchy had read it."

Mr. Adams charged that the CIA was committed to the military's numbers, which he said "were faked."

Not until the Tet offensive, Mr. Adams said, did the White House stop using the military estimate of the Viet Cong strength and begin using the intelligence agency's estimate of 600,000.

Later, Mr. Adams said he turned his attention to the number of Viet Cong spies in the Saigon government and Army. At the time, he added, the South Vietnamese military security service had about 300 suspects under scrutiny. Mr. Adams said he and a colleague eventually settled on a tentative figure of no fewer than 20,000 Viet Cong agents.

Mr. Adams said he next launched an inquiry into the Communist Army in Cambodia, estimated at the time as 5,000 to 10,000 men. He said the estimate was based on numbers put together by a Royal Cambodian Army sergeant in 1969.

"I came to the conclusion," Mr. Adams writes, "that the size of the Cambodian Communist Army was not 5,000 to 10,000 but more like 100,000 to 150,000. In other words, the U.S. government's official estimate was between 10 and 20 times too low...."

Panel probes CIA role in Castro 'plot'

Washington (AP)—The possibility that the Central Intelligence Agency withheld information from the Warren Commission about a plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro is being investigated by the presidential panel on CIA activities, according to informed sources.

The commission headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren probed President Kennedy's assassination and concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy.

David W. Belin, staff director of the panel headed by Vice President Rockefeller that is probing CIA activities, has demanded in writing that the CIA reveal all its contacts with would-be Castro assassins, informed sources said Thursday.

Mr. Belin, who was on the Warren Commission staff, refused to comment. However, W. David Slawson, another Warren Commission aide, said knowledge of the intelligence agency's participation in a plot to kill Premier Castro would have influenced the commission's probe of rumors that the Kennedy killing was a retaliatory act ordered by the Cuban premier.

"It would be of enormous significance" if the Central Intelligence Agency withheld information from the Warren Commission, Mr. Slawson said, adding the possibility of the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement in a plot to kill Premier Castro "never occurred to anyone" on the commission.

Our Havana Triple Spy Helped & Hurt Castro

By PAUL MESKIL

"I was a spy," Frank Sturgis admits.

"I was involved in assassination plots and conspiracies to overthrow several foreign governments, including Cuba, Panama, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

"I smuggled arms and men into Cuba — for Castro and against Castro. I broke into the intelligence files of the Cuban Army and Air Force. I stole and photographed hundreds of secret documents.

"That's what spies do.

"I also broke into foreign consulates and business offices in Cuba for the purpose of obtaining information, and into an import-export office in Caracas, Venezuela, that was a front for the KGB (Soviet Secret Service).

Sturgis was a hired operative of the Central Intelligence Agency for at least a decade. Maybe he still is, though his cover was blown forever by the notoriety he received as a Watergate burglar. He constructed and controlled an espionage network in Cuba that is still functioning despite frantic efforts by Castro security forces and the KGB to destroy it.

Though he was only a bit player in the Watergate drama, Sturgis is a real-life James Bond whose exploits rival those of any fictional spy. Interviewed at the office of his Miami lawyer, Ellis Rubin, and at other places in New York and Florida, he candidly revealed many details of his colorful career as a warrior, secrets-stealer, gun-runner, guerrilla fighter and professional plotter.

Changed the subject

Asked if he had also been an assassin, he politely changed the subject. Some things he will not talk about.

A stocky, iron-jawed man who looks much younger than his 50 years, he was born Frank Angelo Fiorini in Norfolk, Va. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the start of World War II and fought through the Pacific with the famed First Raider Battalion. After the war, he served in the Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve.

He had the perfect training for a secret agent. The Marine Corps taught him to do, knife-fighting and jungle warfare techniques. The Air Force taught him to fly a plane and the Navy Reserve trained him to handle small, fast ships.

The Army completed this education during a hitch in Germany, he was as-

signed to a security unit that handled top-secret reports from Allied intelligence agents all over Europe. This was his introduction to the dark world of espionage and intrigue.

In Berlin during the chilliest part of the cold war, he met his first real spy. She was a beautiful actress who also was an agent of Haganah, the secret army formed to defend the new state of Israel.

When he returned to civilian life, Frank became a Haganah courier — perhaps the only Roman Catholic in this group. In the 1950s, he went to Miami to visit an uncle who had married a Cuban exile. Her family was close to Carlos Prío, the Cuban president who was ousted in 1952 by a military coup led by Fulgencio Batista. Frank met Prío and other wealthy Cubans whose Miami mansions were hotbeds of anti-Batista intrigue. Some of them supplied financial support for a fiery young rebel, Fidel Castro, who was then living in Mexico.

In 1957, Prío asked Frank to "go to Cuba, join Castro's army and let me know what he's doing." Frank accepted the assignment. He flew to Havana and with the help of a Cuban priest, he quickly located Castro's camp in the Sierra Maestra Mountains and volunteered his services.

"Fidel remembered me," he said. "We could understand each other. I spoke Italian, which is similar to Spanish, and he spoke some English. I offered to help train his troops, but he said, 'Frank, what I need is guns.'"

So Frank became a gun-runner. With money supplied by the Castro underground in Florida, he purchased thousands of rifles and other weapons from International Armament Corp. (Inter-armco) of Alexandria, Va., the world's largest dealer in surplus arms. He then set up an elaborate land-sea-air smuggling network to get the guns and ammunition into Cuba.

He Becomes Triple Agent

After several months as a double agent, working for Prío and Castro, Frank became a triple agent. This time, he was recruited for the game of intelligence by a major league scout, Park P. Woolam, the State Department official then in charge of the U.S. Consulate in Santiago de Cuba.

"We met at the Case Grande Hotel in Santiago," Frank recalls. "Woolam knew who I was and what I was doing. He approached me or someone introduced us. We had several other meetings and he discussed my patriotism and so forth. I agreed to work with him.

"Later, when the revolution was over, I received orders to go to Havana. Woolam told me who to contact in the American Embassy there." His new contacts, Frank said, were CIA agents, one of whom was the embassy's military attache.

Castro immediately placed his most trusted officers in command of the Cuban military services. Major Pedro Diaz Lanz, a close friend of Frank's, became commander in chief of the Air Force and his brother, Marcos Diaz Lanz, became inspector general of that service.

Frank helped the Diaz Lanz brothers reorganize the Air Force and they made him their security and intelligence chief. He also became the officer in charge of inspecting and supervising all Cuban gambling casinos, which were owned and operated by American mobsters.

Frank said his CIA advisers "asked me to recruit reliable people so that we could put agents in the military. In the presidential palace, in with Fidel. I recruited everyone. I could, Americans and Cubans, to be undercover agents."

Max Gorman Gonzalez, a Miami businessman who took part in cloak-and-dagger operations against both Batista and Castro, has known and worked with Sturgis for many years. He says Sturgis "was a CIA employee from 1959 to 1968. The CIA asked him to participate in assassination plots in Cuba and elsewhere. Sturgis introduced top Cuban military and political leaders to American agents at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. During these visits, a conspiracy to assassinate Castro and other Cuban leaders developed.

"Two attempts against Castro's life were made in the early part of 1959. Both failed. The assassins then waited for a green light from Frank Fiorini Sturgis. A third attempt was made in 1960."

This reporter asked Sturgis when the agency first began thinking about assassinating Castro.

"The first discussion of assassination with my (CIA) contacts was in February 1959," he replied. "I was making reports on all the communist activity in the military. I suggested that this would be a good time to assassinate Fidel. I said I would organize it and follow it through.

"I would arrange an important conference at Campo Libertad (Camp Liberty, the combined army-air force base and headquarters formerly known as Camp Columbia). All the top commanders would come to the base in their jeeps and cars. I was going to station gunners on the roofs, set up a crossfire. I would have wiped out Fidel, his brother Raul and all the top (pro-communist) military commanders in 30 seconds.

"I asked my contact in the Embassy to get a green light (official approval) on this. Whether this would have to come from the top level in Washington or a lower level, I don't know."

While they waited for the green light,

continued