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THE ROLE OF CUBA IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

THE ROLE OF CUBA IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION

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the Cuban community, attempted to coordinate and encourage better relations between the United States and Cuba, hopefully culminating in trade and economic exchange.

There have been some allegations that the Committee of 75 is, in fact, a DGI operation. Do you have any information or opinion on

this? Mr. Pinon. Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have-Mr. Benitez has also been involved in this with me-sources that were members of the Committee of 75. I can give you an approximate estimate of at least five that were members of the Committee of 75. These sources have reported to us that the Committee of 75 was actually a committee formed by the Cuban Government and approved by the Cuban Government, and they selected and approved the personnel to be involved in this.

I have documents which were turned over to me by sources which clearly state that the Committee of 75 was formed in Cuba, and it was signed by the Prime Minister, Fidel Castro, himself, plus

other members of the state council.

In these documents, it clearly shows the purpose and the way they were supposed to operate. I have those documents; I do not have them with me right now, but I could make them available to the committee at a later date.

Senator Denton. Please submit these so we can insert them in

the record.1

Mr. Pinon. Yes, sir.

Senator Denton. With your experience with disinformation and recognizing the sophistication with which one must address information such as you have just mentioned pertaining to the Committee of 75, how would you assess the likelihood that the documents discrediting the committee are a disinformation effort or, on the other hand, an actual indication of proof that the committee is indeed a Cuban operation?

Mr. Pinon. I am not really sure I understand the question prop-

erly, sir. Senator Denton. Do you consider the evidence that it is a Cuban Government-sponsored organization to be valid?

Mr. Pinon. Yes, sir.

Senator Denton. Please describe any information you have pertaining to DGI propaganda efforts in the Miami area, such as radio and television broadcasts, including short wave? To the extent pos-

sible, identify the broadcasting media involved.

Mr. Pinon. They have publications which are printed and distributed within the United States, one of them being Areito. There is another publication by the name of Granma. Granma, according to our information, is printed in Cuba and is brought into the United States and distributed in the United States, and specifically, I believe, at Miami University.

Mr. Benitez. Yes, it is available at the University of Miami.

There is another publication that has not been published since approximately 1974 or 1975, but it was available for a while, and that is called Cuba Va, meaning "Cuba Goes." And several persons that are involved in quasi-government jobs and quasi-political positions have been involved in writing for some of those magazines or periodicals.

Senator Denton. How about electronic media-radio, for exam-

ple?

Mr. Benitez. During some of the incidents that we have had, it has been reported that the electronic media—basically, the Spanish media-has been involved in adding something to the mood of the public or to the mood of the people involved, rather than objectively reporting what is actually happening.

Mr. PINON. One of the Latin media, in my opinion, was advocating violence during these particular incidents, and right now is

under investigation.

Senator Denton. I am going to have to excuse myself for a few moments. I will turn this over to Mr. Joel Lisker, my staff director.

Mr. LISKER. Can either of you gentlemen identify the electronic media involved—the call letters of the radio stations?

Mr. PINON. I would like to defer that to the executive session due

to the fact that they are being investigated right now.

Mr. LISKER. I see. These are Spanish-language stations broadcasting to the Cuban population in Miami?

Mr. Pinon. That is correct, sir.

Mr. LISKER. Prior investigation and testimony has disclosed that much of the intelligence collected is collected by so-called "front groups"; that is, organizations which have an ostensible legitimate purpose, but in reality have a more sinister purpose.

Could you describe any organizations-you have already mentioned the Committee of 75, and I presume that your characteriza-

tion leads you to conclude that that is a front.

Mr. Pinon. Yes.

Mr. Lisker. Could you describe any other organizations of which

you are aware that actually are fronts for the DGI?

Mr. PINON. Well, for example, the Antonio Maceo Brigade; we believe that that is specifically sponsored and headed by the Cuban DGI. There may be members of the brigade that may not know ex-

actly what their purpose is, but it is being led by them.

There are other brigades, like the Venceremos Brigade, which is also sponsored and led by the Cuban DGI. We have BAMM, which is the Black Afro Militant Movement. This group is headed by Alfred Featherston. Although there are basically American blacks involved, members of this group have been meeting with members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, as witnessed by us during surveil-

They have met, and we have received reports from informants that they have received money from the Antonio Maceo Brigade to

supply the blacks with their militant movement.

Mr. LISKER. In your opening statement, you mentioned Havanatur, American Airways Charter, Cuba Travel, et cetera. Those are

Mr. PINON. That is correct, sir. Central Travel, which was one of also——. the agencies—it is a retail credit front which was used to funnel money to Cuba. That firm is being indicted right now for trading with the enemy.

Mr. LISKER. Mr. Benitez.

The documents were subsequently submitted for the record and are on file with the subcommittee