

### Chapter 1 : Don Bohning: "The Castro Obsession" (Miami Herald, March 20, )

*The Castro Obsession provides new insight into the bold U.S. covert war against Cuba that lasted from until Eisenhower and Kennedy's fervent desire to get rid of Castro led to the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, but the efforts to oust his regime did not end there.*

Many of those who had worked for the CIA had learned how to fire a weapon, use an explosive, operate a boat, and in some cases, fly a plane. Much of the unused stock of C-4 and other such material was readily available at the right places in Miami and apparently found its way into the hands of would-be terrorists. Explosions rocked Miami with regularity. A report from the Metro-Dade County Organized Crime Bureau file on terrorism dated June 18, , and posted on the Internet, started by saying that since May 25, , "there had been 24 bombings and attempted bombings" in the U. Of these, 41 were bombings and 2 were shooting murders. New York City has had 25 of these terrorist incidents since . In one hour period in December a Cuban exile terrorist placed 8 bombs in the Miami, Florida area. Government supported the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion in , and later supported other Cuban exile groups in their missions against Cuba. Government was withdrawing support for their anti-Castro cause. The reign of terror continued sporadically in Miami throughout much of the s and into the s. Among the most notorious of the extremists were Orlando Bosch, a pediatrician by profession but terrorist by trade who had no documented CIA link, and Luis Posada, who, according to a Miami Herald story, "learned the finer points of demolitions from a friend on the CIA payroll. The agent then supplied him with explosivesâ€”the cheap stuff that stained your handsâ€”to use in Cuba. Both Bosch and Posada were implicated in the deadly Cuban airliner bombing and jailed in Venezuela. One of its ranking officers was Posada, who was working with the unit at the time he was implicated in the airliner bombing. Posada escaped, with help, and Bosch, after nine hunger strikes, was acquitted and deported back to the United States. He was later convicted and jailed in Panama for plotting an assassination attempt against Fidel Castro during a visit there, but was pardoned in August and fled to Honduras. Bosch has a lengthy history of terrorist acts, including firing a. In one of the more absurd episodes, Bosch was arrested for towing a torpedo in a trailer along a busy South Florida roadway. Some joined the fight against communism in the Congo. Others went to Vietnam. This project led to the Iran-Contra scandal.

### Chapter 2 : The Castro Obsession | Larry Hancock

*Bohning might also have emphasized Castro's strategic and military alliance with the Soviet Union as a cause of the Kennedys' obsession. It was not until early December that Fidel announced he was a Marxist-Leninist, although by then the alliance with Moscow was well advanced.*

Posted on Sun, Mar. Mongoose contributed to an already-substantial population of CIA agents, Cuban exiles, wannabe soldiers-of-fortune and assorted other adventurers either involved -- or wanted to be -- in the secret war against Castro. Then the missile crisis came to make Miami the hottest spot in the Cold War -- apart from the three capitals involved -- and further fuel the perpetual intrigue simmering beneath the city surface. An alphabet soup of Cuban exile groups numbering in the hundreds had sprung up, each trying to outdo the other in anti-Castro militancy. More than one such organization had no more members than the leader who announced its existence. For JMWAVE, its activities were to reach a peak in late and early leading up to, and during, the missile crisis and its immediate aftermath. Ted Shackley, a rising CIA star, was in charge as station chief from early through mid The station itself had more than a hundred cars under lease. It ran the third largest navy in the Caribbean, after the United States and Cuba. There was a strong anti-Castro feeling among Americans. And the influx of Cubans in late and early were the cream. I would meet him occasionally but only when we had a problem. That distinction belonged to Justin F. Gleichauf told his story more than 40 years later in an unclassified CIA publication. They were ready to go as soon as they got the green light,. It turned out to be completely ineffectual. It was all bull. The green light was money. It was a racket, one guy and his brother-in-law, and existed only on paper. Bob Reynolds arrived to head the covert office in September and left a year later. Shackley left Miami in June , after beginning the scale-down of what had been the frontline command post for the secret war. The new station began operation, this time under official cover with about 50 persons, in August at a U.

**Chapter 3 : The Castro Obsession: U.S. Covert Operations Against Cuba, by Don Bohning**

*The Castro Obsession has 13 ratings and 3 reviews. Jerome said: This book examines the history of CIA operations against Cuba and argues, convincingly, t.*

You could say it does a revolution good. Former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro loves milk, and especially ice cream. The writer was a longtime friend and supporter of the dictator. He would occasionally recall the anecdote in interviews. Sometimes Castro ate 26 scoops, and other times it was Biographies about Castro are full of curious anecdotes, awkward diplomatic confrontations and bizarre schemes involving cows, milk and an array of other dairy products. Legend suggests the pill contained arsenic, but the CIA opted for a slower-acting botulinum toxin to allow the would-be assassin enough time to escape, according to CIA documents declassified in When the waiter tried to remove the pill, it split open and its poisonous contents spilled out. The failed assassin abandoned the operation. Above â€” the french cheese Cuba aimed to best. NJGJ photo via Wikimedia. At top â€” Fidel Castro treats U. George McGovern to ice cream in the milk-producing town of Jibacoa on May 8, Milk is a staple of the Cuban diet, and its production is a vital industry and relevant economic indicator. Castro retired from the Cuban presidency in , handing the reigns over to his brother, Pres. When Castro seized power in , he implemented a series of economic, industrial and agricultural reforms. One of his first pet projects was to produce a superior Camembert cheese. This failed to satisfy Castro, and he pushed Voisin further, comparing the Cuban version to the French. Castro pushed further, insisting that Voisin acknowledge it was in fact better than French Camembert. This was too much for Voisin. He slammed his fist down on the counter. My cheese and your cigars have centuries of experience behind them. The Autobiography of a Woman Foreign Correspondent. It had four indoor salons, four outdoor cafes and one outdoor bar. Today, Coppelia usually only offers one or two flavors, but patrons still start lining up at 10 a. In the days before the revolution, Cuba had millions of cattle, but most were Creoles â€” a breed dating back to the Spanish colonial era â€” and Zebus from India. Both breeds were well adapted to the steamy tropical climate of Cuba, but both were also notoriously poor milk producers. Holsteins, on the other hand, are famed for their milk production. But the few Holsteins on the island fared poorly during the hot dry seasons, losing considerable weight and yielding substantially less milk. Because improving milk production was necessary to the revolution, money was no object. Cuba would simply buy several thousand expensive Holstein bulls and cows from Canada and house them in the air-conditioned facilities â€” such as the Nina Bonita experimental breeding farm in Cangrejas â€” just outside Havana. Nearly a third of the Holsteins purchased from Canada died in the first few weeks. The Holstein plan was a bust. But for Castro, the solution was obvious and simple â€” crossbreed Holstein or Brown Swiss cows with Zebu cows to produce a super cow that could endure the climate and produce greater quantities of milk. Thousands of dairy cattle perished each year due to malnutrition and poor living conditions. For example, there was the famous cow known as Ubre Blanca, or White Udder. By all accounts, she was a giver. The Guinness Book of Records documented the cow as producing liters of milk in a single day in , and 24, Castro seized the opportunity to appear on TV with the cow to brag about how it had achieved something no American cow could. To be sure, Ubre Blanca was an isolated success, but she became a symbol of national pride. The communist party newspaper Granma published daily updates on her health and productivity, and featured her on its front page. When she died in , Granma ran a full obituary. Her statue still stands in the rural town of Nuevo Gerona, her hometown, near a spot where she once grazed. A Dexter breed mini-cow in the style Castro wanted. David Merrett photo via Wikimedia Mini-cow in every closet After the death of Ubre Blanca, the rest of the Tropical Holsteins continued producing modest quantities of milk. The program lingered, and excessive numbers of Cuban dairy cattle continued to die each year. Castro often attributed these failures to the United States. He blamed the U. Embargoes and theories of biological warfare aside, the revolutionary government realized they needed new ideas. The mini cows would feed on grass grown in drawers under fluorescent lights. Life in the New Cuba Today, Cuba still suffers from milk shortages. An army of cloned cows is nowhere on the horizon. Bill Clinton reformed agricultural trade relations with Havana. America is now one of the biggest suppliers of food

and cattle to Cuba. Barack Obama and Cuban Pres. Raul Castro announced the two countries would begin normalizing relations. Meanwhile, Fidel still lives as does his milk obsession. Anecdotes about his bizarre lactose fixation persist. In the early s, Chilean envoy Jorge Edwards traveled to Cuba. While he was there, Castro forced him to try milks from many different cows. And so we had a sort of very strange orgy of drinking milk.

Chapter 4 : the castro obsession | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

*The Castro Obsession Don Bohning Potomac Books PO Box , Herndon, VA www.nxgvision.com \$ Any in-depth political science library, particularly those with close coverage of Cuba, will want to be sure The Castro Obsession: U.S. Covert Operations Against Cuba is in their collection.*

Reviewed by Brian Latell For almost 50 years, Fidel Castro has relished telling audiences large and small of the hundreds of assassination attempts he has survived. Most recently, in June , he regaled a crowd in a Venezuelan port city, saying it may have been the only time he has traveled abroad when there was no plan afoot to kill him. Such hyperbole has always been an essential ingredient in the imagery of invincibility and cunning that he promotes about himself. Castro has had no higher priority from the outset of his revolutionary career than his personal security. When traveling abroad he typically surrounds himself with an entourage of hundreds of elite security and support personnel. Cuban intelligence has long been among the best in the world with a demonstrated ability to ferret out potential threats well before they coalesce. The actual number of assassination attempts against Castro is unknown, but surely many times smaller than the impression he encourages of CIA and Cuban exile rogues perennially plotting against him. Not a single foreign-based assassination plan is known to have come close to succeeding and most, including all of those hatched in the CIA under pressure from the Kennedy administration, were laughably inept. These are among the main themes that Don Bohning develops in *The Castro Obsession*, an excellent and much needed illumination in a single comprehensive volume of all the strange and counterproductive American covert schemes that Castro has survived. Other authors and congressional investigators— notably the Church Committee in — have covered portions of this ground, but none has tied all the threads together so neatly or made the case with such an abundance of declassified CIA documents and interviews with retired Cuba hands. Bohning quotes several ranking headquarters- and Miami station-based officers who were intimately involved in the s covert campaigns, as well as another who was detailed to the Kennedy White House as a staff coordinator for special operations. Some of them apparently reminisced on the record for the first time. The Kennedys wanted action, they wanted it fast. He was telling me about the Philippines. Most in the CIA and the Pentagon had recognized by the middle of , however, that nothing short of American military intervention could achieve that. He still enjoyed strong popular support and the Cuban uniformed services had become ruthlessly effective. CIA Director John McCone— normally skeptical about the prospects for covert action success in Cuba— told a White House planning meeting that more acute economic hardship on the island would cause the military to oust Fidel. It is not clear if that was his personal opinion, or if analysts had briefed him along those lines, but no such thing was possible then, or at any time since Raul Castro took control of the armed forces in October Under his leadership, the Cuban military has been the most effective, loyal, and disciplined among all its counterparts in Latin America. The author cites numerous documents declassified for the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board and the Church Committee hearings, and other records extracted through Freedom of Information Act requests. He has missed very little in this admirable work. During the run-up to the missile crisis, New York Senator Kenneth Keating was shrill in denouncing the Kennedy administration for minimizing the intensifying Soviet military build-up in Cuba. He insisted on the Senate floor that he had inside information that strategic missiles were being introduced. Another, more pivotal, issue that Bohning makes little effort to explain is why the Kennedy brothers became so obsessed with Castro and Cuba. He said that between 1, and 1, Latin Americans had traveled to Cuba the year before for ideological and guerrilla warfare training and that more had already gone in early We will pay your way, we will train you in underground organization techniques, in guerrilla warfare, in sabotage and terrorism. We will see to it that you get back to your homeland. In the second volume of the Mitrokhin Archives, Cambridge professor Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin reveal that from to a total of Cuban illegals were dispatched through Prague, most of them enroute to Latin America. During those years, powerful guerrilla movements, often employing terrorist methods, became entrenched in several countries. It was not until early December that Fidel announced he was a Marxist-Leninist, although by then the alliance with Moscow was well advanced. It was

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not a coincidence. Don Bohning is not the first author to argue that, through their anti-Castro militance, the Kennedy brothers were responsible for provoking the Cuban missile crisis. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev once ruminated about the new Cuban regime to members of his inner circle: Bohning demonstrates with overwhelming evidence the extent to which Castro indeed was in the American crosshairs. Apr 15, Jun 26,

### Chapter 5 : The Castro obsession : U.S. covert operations against Cuba, (Book, ) [www.nxgvision.com]

*"THE CASTRO OBSESSION captures, in abundant detail, the complex plotting and intrigue of covert operations against Cuba. Bohning has catalogued the secret side of an amazing history that remains relevant to this day."*

### Chapter 6 : The Castro Obsession: U.S. Covert Operations Against Cuba, - Don Bohning - Google Books

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### Chapter 7 : The Castro Obsession – Central Intelligence Agency

*The Castro Obsession Cuban exiles, the CIA and a secret war: A new book focuses on a post-Bay of Pigs program to get rid of Castro BY DON BOHNING. This is taken from.*

### Chapter 8 : Excerpt from "The Castro Obsession" by Don Bohning ( )

*Don Bohning has agreed to discuss his new book, The Castro Obsession: U.S. Covert Operations Against Cuba, For those who do not know his work, Don was for 36 years, foreign correspondent for the Miami Herald.*

### Chapter 9 : Fidel Castro Had a Bizarre Obsession With Milk | War Is Boring

*In this book, The Castro Obsession, the former Latin American editor of the Miami Herald, Don Bohning, provides a good, concise overview of the efforts by the United States to remove Fidel Castro from office in the period*