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NORWICH SUNDAY BULLET
23 August 1981

Cuban intelligence gav to expose, discred

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WASHINGTON — Former CIA agent Philip Agee, who has done more than any other U.S. critic to expose CIA agents and discredit the agency, was forced to leave the agency and later got key support in his anti-CIA efforts from Cuban intelligence officials, *The Bulletin* has learned.

Agee, who touted his 1975 anti-CIA autobiography *Inside the Company: CIA Diary* by claiming to have quit the CIA to combat the suffering it was causing, in fact quit at the request of the U.S. ambassador to Mexico and the CIA Mexico City station chief.

Agee was asked to resign because he had kidnapped his children from the U.S. and was becoming an embarrassment to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico.

Later, after he ran out of money from his CIA pension, he drifted from Mexico to Paris and accepted help from a French publisher who was working with the Cuban intelligence agency, Direccion General de Intelligencia (DGI), according to a retired CIA official.

This contact provided Agee with financial support and entree to Cuba where he was allowed to consult what he called Cuban government "documentation centers" — really DGI intelligence data banks — in writing his anti-CIA book.

Agee's autobiography was described in 1975 by *Washington Post* reviewer Patrick Breslin as "the most complete description yet of what the CIA does abroad. In entry,after numbing entry, U.S. foreign policy in Latin America is pictured as a web of deceit, hypocrisy and corruption. Now that we can no longer plead ignorance of the webs our spiders spin, will we continue to tolerate CIA activities abroad?"

Agee acknowledged in his book only that government libraries in Havana "provided special assistance for research and helped find data (on the CIA) available only from (Cuban) government documentation.

"Representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba also gave me important encouragement at a time when I doubted that I would be able to find the additional information I needed," Agee wrote.

Agee mentioned the French publisher in the acknowledgements section of his 1975 expose but did not identify him as having ties to the Cuban DGI.

"Also during this early period, Francois Maspero helped me realize that I would have to leave Mexico to find adequate research materials," Agee wrote.

"His advice was also of special value for the general focus and for the decision to concentrate on specific (CIA) operations rather than types."

Agee reconstructed most of his autobiographical expose, *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, published in 1975, while he was in Cuba. He made six trips to Cuba during his research, including one that lasted for six months.

Permission from Cuba's DGI for an ex-CIA officer to come into Cuba to use government "documentation centers" — DGI data banks — for writing a book on the CIA had to have the approval of the Soviet KGB officer in charge of the Cuban intelligence system, Gen. Victor Simenov. Simenov and Agee had met in 1964 in Montevideo, Uruguay, when Agee was a CIA field agent there and Simenov was a Soviet KGB colonel.

After the 1968-69 Soviet takeover of the DGI, Simenov became one of three KGB officers supervising plans, operations, and sensitive projects at DGI headquarters. While in Havana he was promoted to KGB general and had an office next door to the DGI intelligence chief.

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