

JAMESTOWN POST-JOURNAL
19 September 1981

CIA Contact Isn't New To Peter James

By CHARLES BOWEN

Jamestown native Peter James, author, lecturer and former CIA contact has once again become involved in international intrigue with his proposals to change U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba.

The 41-year-old James visited Cuba for 25 days in June and July and sent his observations and recommendations in an unsolicited letter to CIA Director William Casey.

James is the author of "Soviet Conquest from Space" and "The Air Force Mafia" which were aimed at exposing corruption in the military, industrial, and intelligence complex.

His professional career began with his employment at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft's Florida Research and Development Center in West Palm Beach from 1962-1971.

In 1970, while working as the firm's foreign technology expert, he submitted an 800-page report assessing the Soviet rocket technology upon request of President Nixon. Previously, James had submitted solicited intelligence reports to the CIA following encounters with scientists, engineers and agents from Athens, Madrid, Belgrade, Venice, Paris, Mar Del Plata, Rome, Konstanz, Dubrovnik, Marseilles and Brussels.

He was fired from Pratt and Whitney in 1971 for allegedly breaking company rules. In May 1972, James was again contacted by the CIA to associate with Soviet diplomats and scientists who were in Miami. He was asked to assess the official Soviet reaction to Nixon's announcement that the U.S. had com-

menced mining Haiphong Harbor in Vietnam and whether the planned Nixon-Brezhnev summit conference, scheduled for a few weeks away, was in danger.

James met with the Soviet diplomats two hours after being contacted by the CIA and reported that the summit conference was in no danger.

James, who was a Jamestown mayoral candidate in 1977, traveled to Cuba in June and July and befriended officials in Cubatur — the Cuban government travel agency — and a Cuban friendship organization ICAP. He also talked with government representatives.

While in Cuba, he found that the American perception of Premier Fidel Castro running a repressive regime without popular support was incorrect.

James said he observed that illiteracy is being eliminated, land reform measures and been undertaken and multiple-unit housing has been developed.

An important aspect that James said he observed was that the Cubans did not feel the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan could be justified by Marxism-Leninism. Public support of the Soviet Union on the Afghanistan issue is "lukewarm." If the Cuban were independent of Russian aid, their public support of the Afghanistan situation would probably vanish overnight," James said.

James will be on the lecture tour again this month until next spring. His trip to Cuba and his recommendations to Casey will be one of the subjects he will speak on.