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**"Why Didn't
They Tell Us?
Important News
Big Media
Suppressed**



Cliff Kincaid

A Soviet defector has testified that the Soviet Union has been carrying on military-bacteriological research for more than 50 years. Mark Popovsky, a former Soviet journalist who published 14 books on Soviet scientists, told the House Intelligence Committee on May 29 that Moscow operates several secret compounds that conduct work on bacteriological weapons. "On the basis of a large number of facts which were at my disposal in the USSR, I maintain that the Soviet Union never, either after 1925 or after 1975, carried out its commitment to renounce bacteriological weapons," he said. Popovsky said it was likely that the Soviets were conducting germ warfare experiments in Afghanistan. This testimony was ignored by the Washington daily newspapers and the New York Times.

Fidel Castro's crackdown on dissent helped trigger the massive influx of Cuban refugees, a report issued by the House Intelligence Committee's Oversight Subcommittee has revealed. The report, released on June 2, quoted the CIA as noting on January 9, 1980: "Until mid-1977 public dissatisfaction over food shortages, inadequate public services, and lack of housing had been expressed through such passive means as absenteeism and low productivity. The trend since then has been toward more open displays of frustration—crime, vandalism, illegal departures, and even some isolated an-

ti-government activity and sabotage. By late 1979, Raul Castro—the regime's ideological hardliner—was demanding the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. Last month, security forces instituted an unusual series of security checks and mass arrests in the Havana area. The operation, along with the appointment of hardliner Ramiro Valdes as Minister of Interior—underscored the regime's determination to "crack down." The subcommittee report, ignored by the Washington Star, was mentioned by the Washington Post and the New York Times. But these papers ignored the above section on mass repression.

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(This survey of missing news is based upon examination of the New York Times city edition, the Washington Star's AM Extra, and the Washington Post's third edition.)

EXCERPTED