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CIA SPY STATION Uncovered in Nicaragua

by Vito Echevarria
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Recently, Monitoring Times readers were the first ones to find out the origin of one of the so-called "spy number" stations, revealed to be transmitting from a military base outside of Washington, D.C. Earlier last year, I came across a bilingual "newsmagazine" from Managua, Nicaragua called *Soberania*, which seemed to be a pro-Marxist, anti-American publication.

One of the articles in that magazine (May-June 1983 issue) was titled, "Criminal CIA ring smashed in Nicaragua"; that story contained information that connects with the recent discovery of the spy numbers station revealed in Monitoring Times.

The story dealt with a woman named Marlene Moncada, a Nicaraguan who was allegedly recruited by the CIA to assassinate Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto back in 1982. Marlene, at that time employed by the Nicaraguan embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was allegedly trained by CIA

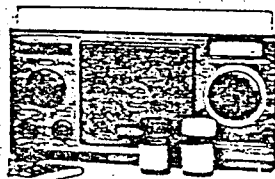
agents on how to operate a shortwave radio (they have given to her for her "assignment," instructing her to tune in on the frequencies of 9074 kHz and 14421 kHz at 11 pm in order to receive secret messages from the CIA in Langley, VA.

They supposedly taught her how to use secret writing and gave her two small bottles with chemicals for developing the writing, as well as giving her a notebook whose pages, if necessary, could be chewed up and would turn into chewing gum.

Brigade Commandant Lenin Cerna, chief of the Nicaraguan State Security, presented in a news conference all the "working tools" that the CIA delivered to Marlene. On a table stood two wooden idols about 20 cm. tall, one of which could be opened to reveal a tube where the keys to decipher the radio messages she was to receive by radio were found. The spy messages would be written in four digit groups that make up the content of the radio messages.

"Soberania" magazine also showed photos of some of the radio messages (in

transcript form) that were sent to Marlene by the CIA, instructing her where to pick up a bottle of wine that was allegedly intended for Foreign Minister D'Escoto (the wine was allegedly poisoned). Code books were also shown containing four digit groups that would be used to decode radio messages intended for her.



Sony ICF-6500W receiver with special notebook and writing chemicals.

The article also had a story on the CIA's recruitment of Nicaraguan Carlos Rodolfo Icaza Espinoza, who was given the same "working tools" as Marlene Moncada, and was instructed to tune in on 14156 kHz and decipher radio messages for further instructions.

If the Nicaraguans' story about the two alleged agents is true, then this, along with the April 1984 cover story on Monitoring Times will truly symbolize the breakthrough of revealing the origin of at least one or two of the mysterious spy number stations and demonstrate how the transmissions from these stations affect political situations around the world.



Indigenous wooden idol concealing cypher keys.

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