

# Experts believe Cuba sold information collected by spies

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A week after a presumed spy network working for Cuba was deactivated, intelligence experts believe that the group's operations were meant to collect sensitive information to protect the interests of the Cuban government or to be sold to foreign powers linked to international terrorism.

Matías Farías, a veteran U.S. Air Force colonel who specializes in international policy and intelligence defined the network as "a group meant to collect information."

"They were not a group meant for action, because they were identified in 1995 and from that date onward never carried out any terrorist action," said Farías, who is the host of the Crossfire radio program broadcast Monday through Friday by La Poderosa (The Powerful One) 670 AM. "Cuba, convinced that at any given moment the United States would intervene, sought to infiltrate the southern triangle in order to perform specific tasks."

The southern triangle consists of the McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, the Boca Chica Air/Naval Base at Key West, and the Southern Command (Southcom) in Homestead.

Farías explained that Boca Chica is well known as "an advance base" because it was from there that fighter planes operated during the Cuban crisis. Meanwhile, McDill would serve as a base for moving infantry troops and fighter/bomber aircraft. Southcom coordinates all operations related to Latin America and the Caribbean, he added.

However, Enrique Encinosa, who has participated in various intelligence operations and written about espionage processes, argues that the information compiled by the supposed spies would have various uses.

"There are three possibilities: offensive strategies, defensive strategies, or the market," said Encinosa. "The possibility of selling information about the United States to terrorist countries in Africa and the Middle East in exchange for oil or military goods is totally within the mentality of Fidel Castro."

He added that it is likely that U.S. intelligence "may have detected or have indications that this information is passing through terrorist organizations outside the United States."

Luis Enrique Chinae, a former captain in the [Cuban] Rebel Army as well as the U.S. Armed Forces offers a very different theory.

"In my judgment, the idea that Cuba would sell the information received is not very solid," said Chinae, who has worked in intelligence operations directed toward Latin America. "I am more inclined to think that the Cuban government gave these people up because they were no longer useful and their work was unprofessional and technologically obsolete."

A high-ranking intelligence official who asked to remain anonymous told *El Nuevo Herald* that the arrest of 10 presumed spies at the service of Fidel Castro's regime was meant to send a clear message to Havana: the United States intelligence services are always on alert.

“They should have known that all information broadcast over the air is captured, that the information cannot be kept in houses, but in a safe place. They also made mistakes in the compartmentalization of information and in maintaining lists of agents,” he added.

For Farías, one of the most troubling aspects is the degree of penetration in exile political and business organizations.

“These groups are outside the technological mechanisms for detecting infiltrations. U.S. intelligence is aware of this and has the majority of infiltrators pegged,” said Farías.

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