

Spies' infiltration among those who are anti-Castro, to be analyzed

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The Soviet advice for Cuban spies to infiltrate anti-Castro groups in Miami and the unsuspected secrets of the nuclear missile installations in Cuba, are amongst the topics to be analyzed at a seminar organized by the University of Miami.

Entitled "A review of the Cuban Missile Crisis", the School of International Studies at the University of Miami will host a seminar on Thursday, featuring political analysts Tim Naftali from the University of Yale and the historian Alexandr Fursenko. Both are Cold War specialists.

The seminar, moderated by Professor Jaime Suchlicki, is organized thanks to the contribution of Miami businessman Norman Braman, who facilitated Naftali and Fursenko's trip to Miami.

Both experts are authors of the book, *One Hell of a Gamble*, published in September 1997 by the publishing house W.W. Norton of New York, after secret documents from the Kremlin came to light in recent years.

This work maintains a dramatic effect, because it's based on Castro's behavior historically, revealing the potential dangers this regime could have for the United States and its traditional interest in the exile community in Miami.

The book tells how the idea to send Cuban spies on mass to Miami, developed more than three decades ago in the Georgian city of Pitsunda in the former Soviet Union.

According to the authors, this subject was amply debated between Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev one spring afternoon in May 1963 when the Soviet hierarchy of the time invited his Caribbean colleague to sun himself at the pool of his private 'dacha', during Castro's first trip to the Soviet Union after the Missile Crisis of October 1962.

Fursenko and Naftali have reconstructed the background to that crisis, its development and consequences, revealing that when President John F Kennedy ordered the naval blockade of Cuba, Khrushchev had already sent to the island 41,902 men, including 10,000 combat troops, and approximately one hundred tactical nuclear weapons.

Amongst those arms were dozens of short range nuclear missiles with a destructive effect similar to the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which was unknown by the United States intelligence.

The seminar will be held at the Faculty Club at the University of Miami at noon on Thursday. Participation is by invitation.

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