

Possible Alliance with Terrorism

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The surprising offensive against an alleged network of Cuban spies in Miami, may be an action aimed at preventing a possible collaboration between the Cuban government and countries involved in terrorist actions against the United States, according to military and intelligence experts who expressed this to El Nuevo Herald.

Orestes Lorenzo, ex major of the Cuban Air Force who deserted to the United States in 1991, said that the search for military information on the United States by Cuba "seemed ridiculous and lacked practical objectivity".

"It's ridiculous to assume that the Cuban army can do something serious to the powerful US military", Lorenzo indicated. "However, if we think in terms of services provided to terrorist groups or nations like Libya, Iran or the like, things change".

Lorenzo said that he isn't surprised Fidel Castro's regime is "lending or selling its intelligence services" to Islamic terrorist groups or powerful nations that are interested in carrying out terrorist acts on US territory.

According to Erneido Oliva the director of the Cuban American Military Council, which is based in Washington, it's no surprise that Castro maintains links with groups and nations that practice terrorism.

"For me, there is no doubt that Fidel and Raul Castro represent a threat to the national security of the United States, which could include any type of action of this nature", affirmed Oliva, a retired General of the United States army.

The decision to break into the network was taken by "the administration because they believed that an action was near or for the prevention of their expansion", added Oliva.

After maintaining a controlled surveillance of the alleged spies over three years, the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Saturday dismantled the network with the arrest of 10 suspect, putting an end to their objective of spying on US military installations and infiltrating exiled groups in the south of Florida, as indicated in the indictment.

Comments made by Lorenzo and Oliva were also shared by Ernesto Betancourt, a Cuban intelligence analyst that resides in Washington.

"Castro possibly touched some button that lit a red light for the US intelligence", said Betancourt, who was the director of Radio Marti for many years.

Betancourt recalled that the prestigious British magazine Jane's Defence Weekly, published on the 6 March 1996 an article which revealed that Cuban special forces were training since 1990 in Vietnam to carry out military actions on US territory in case of a confrontation between the two nations.

"Havana's strategy to undertake this type of training consists of attacking the preparation and supply areas where the US forces would organise for the invasion of Cuba. The political

objective would be to bring the realisation of war to the American people to exert pressure on Washington” indicated the Jane’s Defence Weekly article cited by Betancourt.

According to Professor Edward Gonzalez, expert in military matters for the Rand Corporation that produced various studies on the political and military situation in Cuba, the espionage of military installations by the Cubans could correspond to this type of strategy.

“Although a military conflict with Cuba is extremely remote, you cannot discard that the United States could be entangled in a situation if there is internal destabilisation on the island”, said Gonzalez. “Within this perspective, Cuba’s espionage of US military installations is not surprising”.

On hearing of the arrests on Monday, there is a version circulating in Miami that the government acted against the spies in response to some Cuban exiles being tried in Puerto Rico for allegedly plotting to assassinate Castro.

The spokesman for the State Department, James Rubin, forthrightly denied this version on Tuesday.

“Such claims are unfounded” stated the spokesperson. “Both investigations that led to these accusations occurred completely separately from each other”.

Arrests in either case “simply demonstrates that the United States government is firmly committed to complying with our laws”, added Rubin.

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