

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 7602D AIR INTELLIGENCE GROUP (AFIS)
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060



14 JUN 1973

ACSI
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ACSI
ACTION
INFO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: INFPB

SUBJECT: Cuban Interrogators in North Vietnam (NVN)

TO: AF/IN (Major General Keegan)

1. Reference Memorandum from USAF Legislative Liaison; Subject: Hearings on Treatment of POWs While in Captivity, dated 6 June 1973.
2. To date, no identification has been made of the suspected Cubans who interrogated US PWs in NVN, despite concerted efforts by the entire intelligence community to resolve their identity.
3. Of the 19 officers who were subjected to the Cuban program, 11 were Air Force and eight were Navy (Atch 1). All four Air Force officers who may be called to appear before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security were in this Cuban program. Comments of the 18 officers who survived the Cuban episode, as well as comments of other returnees, are compiled in the dossier at Attachment 2.
4. Various actions were taken in an effort to identify the Cubans:
 - a. Sketches of the Cuban participants were made by returnees in collaboration with illustrators (Atch 3).
 - b. All returnees who saw the Cubans viewed available photography of known Cuban intelligence personnel and other Cubans known to have been in NVN during 1967-1968.
 - c. Name rosters of Cubans who attended training in the US and in the Panama Canal Zone prior to the break in diplomatic relations with Cuba were obtained and compared with other data, with negative results.
 - d. Two returnees who had extensive contact with the Cubans viewed the entire CIA photographic holdings of Cuban personalities with no positive identification.
 - e. NSA, through AFIS/INR, provided information on Cuban travel to NVN during the five year period which encompassed the Cuban interrogation effort. No positive leads resulted.

4. Research on identification of the Cubans is continuing. The FBI is cooperating in the effort to identify the Cubans, but no leads have surfaced yet through that agency. CIA is attempting through its contacts to identify the Cubans from composite sketches developed by returnees.

George J. Ives
GEORGE J. IVES, Colonel, USAF
Commander

3 Atch

1. List of PWs in the Cuban Program
2. Cuban Program Dossier
3. Sketches of Fidel

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LIST OF PWS IN THE CUBAN PROGRAM

USAF

CAPTAIN THOMAS J. BARRETT USAF
CAPTAIN RONALD G. BLISS USAF
LT COL JACK W. BOMAR
MAJOR EARL G. COBIEL (DID NOT RETURN)
MAJOR ROBERT N. DAUGHTREY
LT COL DAVID H. DUART
MAJOR HUBERT K. FLESHER
CAPTAIN EDWARD L. HUBBARD USAF
COLONEL JAMES H. KASLER
MAJOR GLENDON W. PERKINS
LT COL DONALD G. WALTMAN

USN

LCDR ALLEN R. CARPENTER
LCDR EARL G. LEWIS
CAPTAIN WENDELL B. RIVERS USN
LT CHARLES D. RICE
CDR PETER V. SCHOEFFEL
CDR PAUL H. SCHULZ
LCDR LARRY H. SPENCER
CDR RAYMOND A. VOHDEN

Atch
1

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Atch 1

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Atch
2

CUBAN PROGRAM

Compilation of Data Extracted

from

Debriefing Reports

of

US PW Returnees

000179

Atch 2

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000181

in appearance of movie stars, Jose Vincente Ferrer or Fernando appeared in the movies in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

ly well-groomed and always dressed in civilian clothes. referred to as Major by other Cubans.

ved in Cuban Embassy in Hanoi, enjoyed the company of women, and of a "boozier". Liked the good life and ate special foods for his (ms.)

Maj Cacillio Moss

dark complexion. Over 6' tall, muscular. Excellent physical ew cut when arrived; long enough to comb upon departure. Net niard or Italian. (First impression - French.) Nice looking. r to U.S. army fatigues, field jacket, jump boots. Occasionally but usually in civies (ex. shirt and slacks).

an. Spoke fluent English, often utilized American slang, and able Spanish accent.

e. Not congenial looking.

all build, dark hair.

ll-built and big-boned. Has a long face, brown sunken eyes, and crew-cut hair with widow's peak in front. golf-style civilian clothes during interrogation.

of Latin decent.

ficer. Professional, intelligent interrogator; master of Had a violent temper. High degree of intelligence

Vietnamese in Waltman's presence; either spoke French to the guards. English was very good, as was his ng of Americans.

important of the two Cubans present. Never saw him

program. Occasionally called "Viet" by another of the who was described as "not too swift". Described ons as slips and indicated that "Viet" was thought to ppelation.

for some opportunity to clearly establish Fidel's ID. ad in an NVN newspaper that a Cuban "friendship" was headed by a Maj Maus. NAME felt there was a bility that Maj Maus was, in fact, the person in e Cuban Program. Individual in charge of Program AKA

on one of his letters believed to be Fidel's because ng style and use of the English language exhibited

er. Signature - "Viet" (Lump)

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Usually attired in pair of trousers and a sport shirt. Never observed in a uniform.

Leader of three Cubans who participated as interrogators and torturers at Zoo. Conducted majority of his initial interrogations.

Was at least 6'4" tall.

Extremely egotistical. Used only English. Spoke no Vietnamese. If spoke Spanish, as POWs believed, was very careful to conceal from all Americans. Overheard on several occasions to use "Si" rather than yes. Spoke good English with a bad accent. His comprehension was better than his speech. Hammer man of the 2 (Chico).

The names Maj Cicillio Moss, Maj Enrico Mauss, Chico, Pancho, or Che Guevara unfamiliar.

When first saw in Feb 68, Fidel was wearing green, quilted jacket. Thought he was a fellow Caucasian POW. In early 30s; 6'1"-6'2" tall; 190-195 pounds; long, black hair combed back and parted on left side; straight nose; medium complexion; and clean shaven. Had "hard eyes" but a handsome face. As far as he knew, no one had seen him with glasses. No discernable disfiguring marks on blemishes were apparent. Did smoke. Was described as a muscular man with a forceful demeanor. A proud, confident man who had the respect of the NVN guards, who he seemed to despise.

At least 34 years old, though looks younger. Is about 6'2" tall, and weighs about 205 pounds + or - 5-10 pounds. Carried himself very erectly and with military bearing. Features, though not unusual, were very sharp. Reminded Luna of Sean Connery; says there was a striking resemblance. Was dark-haired, with a high receding hairline. Hair was close-cropped, but the hair itself was not short. Had a fairly light complexion. Speaks fluent Spanish and English.

Fidel considered to be most important of 2 Cubans. Described as being European in appearance. Was a "big mah - 6'1" tall, about 195 pounds, with black or very dark brown hair on head and chest. Had sharp facial features and always dressed in Cuban-style fati- gues. Conversed with VN and POWs in English. Projected a "mean SOB appearance".

Fidel able to understand Americans to a much greater degree than any VN was ever capable of doing (cigarette).

Very impressed with Fidel's caliber of English.

During first interrogation, spoke in deep, awesome voice.

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Feels Fidel was a professional who was trained in psychology and prison control in Russia or Europe. Was "forceful and extremely good". Knew exactly when to use duress and when to use "Father image". ran an extremely tight, closely-controlled program. Was not clumsy like VN. Understood the Western psyche. Often gave impression he had a great deal of respect for the Americans. Knew how to control Americans and was much more successful than the VN ever were. Capable of using all forms of psychological and physical methods and was good at them. Feels the Cubans sent one of their best men for this program.

NAME

Fidel was 6' tall, weighed 180 pounds, was approximately 30-35 years of age at the time. Had a full head of black hair which he wore in a pompadour. Hair was receded on each side. He was "brutishly handsome and had a lean face with very dark arching eyebrows". Had brown eyes. Voice was deep and awesomely loud. Walked with "stilted gait" and rocked from side to side. Wore either civilian clothes or fatigues and sometimes wore combat boots. Wore a ring and watch, and had no visible scars. Had no noticable accent, except that he pronounced some words like a Latin. Often used the term "Si". Was right handed. Was knowledgeable of Latin American affairs and the United Fruit problem. Was also knowledgeable of German and European History. Was well-versed in Communist theory. Often used slang which he may have picked up near GIs, such as "I'll kick the shit out of you". Was introduced as a European; however, POWs have no doubt he was Cuban.

On night of Tet 68 at interrogation, Fidel and Chico appeared in green serge uniforms similar to those worn by high-ranking VNV officers. They also wore a hat with a red star. Neither wore any rank insignia.

Wore civilian clothes.. Very intelligent.

Interrogator and political camp commander.

Fidel apparently was a heavy user of perfumed soap and body colognes. Worked to his disadvantage in that his presence could be detected at great distances due to the overwhelming smell of the man.

Spoke good English and used American idioms and slang.

About 6'2" tall and weighed about 200 or more pounds, with a lean but husky strong build. Had strong hands and appeared to look like Lil Abner. Dressed in VN work shoes that did not fit and walked like Lil Abner. Appeared very confident and had high opinion of self. Had no other identifiers such as scars or mannerisms. 35-40 years old.

May have been called "Vet" by VN. A POW thought he heard Lump call him "Vet".

Wore perfume.

NAME

000184

met Fidel at Auditorium of 7.0 in May 68. Fidel spoke to him in perfect English. Was in a Cuban-type khaki uniform, no rank. Dark skin and eyes, pleasant face, short hair, approximately 6'1" tall.

Competent in English, knowing many idioms and slang expressions and capable of speaking without hesitation. Occasionally replied to a yes question with "Si", for which he was embarrassed.

Fidel spoke English very well, normally communicating with the V in this language. He appeared very tempermental.

6'2" tall, big boned, spoke good English and no Vietnamese.

Used American slang terms and swear words while addressing POWs.

Had a Spanish accent, noticed by NAME and verified by a Spanish-speaking POW.

NAME

NAME

000185

at Ford automobiles up to the 1956 model. PWs thought he might
mechanic at one time; hence, his use of the fan belt as an
torture.

it about American parachute operations and terminology. PWs
s trained as a paratrooper in the U.S. prior to Castro's take-

wledge to all POWs that he had stomach problems of some sort.
is temper and, after settling down somewhat, blame the POWs for
blems.

ed about his physical condition and probably exercised to
lf in good physical shape.

chuting; could convert time rapidly; familiar with cars and
compression ratios. Egotistical.
bad accent. Did not speak Vietnamese. Said "Si" instead of yes

authority on policework, as evidenced by a new biography
was different from ones previously used by NVN.
was one of Fidel's projects since he was overly inter-
s construction and output.

l's associates told one of the prisoners that he used
ght aircraft in Cuba.

y discussed parachuting during interrogation. Believed
mar and Duarte about various aspects of parachuting.
d (Bomar and Duarte) that Fidel seemed quite knowled-
. Had good working knowledge of automobiles.

hat Fidel was heard chewing out a NVN guard in
(couldn't remember source) Personally witnessed
mmander talking to Fidel. Since Camp Commander could
nclish, assumed he was speaking VN. When mad at an
and before striking the POW, Fidel would shout at him
which sounded Spanish and sounded like "sheet mon".
likely a Communist.

ble of Latin American affairs and the United Fruit problem. Was
able of German and European History. Was well-versed in
ory.

ensive knowledge of U.S. cars through 56 models. Believed to be
. Had extensive knowledge of Guatemala and U.S.

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000186

FIDEL (INTERESTS)

Fidel was extremely familiar with American slang and obscenities. Also able to
rapidly identify and correct grammatical errors in POW writing.

Fidel spoke Vietnamese, Spanish, and Russian.

Fidel used to ask him about gear ratios, etc, and was surprised at the extent of
his car knowledge.

Detailed questions he asked indicated he had an intimate knowledge
of the American Navy.

When saw Fidel in May 68 in Zoo Auditorium, he was repairing electrical wiring.
Two weeks later when he saw Fidel, he was working on his car.

Knowledge of Cuba.

Familiarity of Southeastern U.S. led him to believe that Fidel had
lived in that area at one time.

Freely admitted he had been to Russia. Believed he was fluent in
Russian language and probably had attended an interrogation school
there, particularly on how to control prisoners.

On one occasion, he was observed working on one of the cars with the
spark plugs and distributor removed. His ability and knowledge was
sufficient to produce a smooth running car after 1-1 and 1/2 hours.

Had an extensive knowledge of U.S. automobiles, particularly Ford
products, through approximately 1957 models. Mechanically
inclined and knew automobile repair. Knew enough about parachuting
that Duarte is sure he is jump qualified. Fidel was observed
intoxicated during June and July 1968, and complained of a liver
problem at this time.

Had extensive knowledge of the U.S., Guatemala, and of the United
Fruit Company.

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000187

Appeared to NAME that Fidel was a very important person. When drove into compound every morning, in small, blue foreign car (make unknown), VN would salute the car, then hug and kiss Fidel in greeting. Fidel's office in Admin bldg (#40 of Zoo, N-53). Introduced use of hidden tape recorders during interrogation; but due to alertness of POWs, their use was discontinued. (Discovered Fidel and VN putting a hole in wall of an interrogator's room. Next POWs to be interrogated noticed a new bamboo screen hanging over the hole and could see the microphones. From that time on,

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Initiated program to teach turnkeys to speak English, called "the Kitty Program". POWs were required to go to quiz rooms to listen to 3 NV speak English each day for 2-3 hours each morning and afternoon. One would speak while POW and other 2 would listen. Eventually one asked him to write about his aircraft during a session.

VN had party for Fidel approximately 2 weeks before he left.

Fidel taught and trained the NVN guards to speak English, finger print prisoners, and how to interrogate. Introduced the hose and fan belt as torture equipment. These were used by Fidel and the guards on all prisoners in Cu Loc. Used 9-10 prisoners as a control group to work on propaganda projects such as raising fish, growing fruit, and baking bread so he could publicize how prisoners grow and cook their own food. These and many other propaganda projects never materialized.

Signed letter "Viet". ? Handwriting on letter.

Arrived at camp each day in car, indicating the importance of his position. VN gave party in his honor when he left in summer of 69.

Additionally, he taught several young VN the English language, American slang, information on the U.S., and handling of POWs. Was highly regarded by VN and had a car with a driver.

Other Cubans in program referred to him as their senior. Usually driven into compound in a chauffeured automobile. NVN always saluted when he passed. Occasionally arrived at quiz sessions really hung over. When first arrived in NV in August 67, could not speak VN; picked up phrases in his working with NVN guards and prison officials.

Kerr - psychological consultant by Fidel in the interrogation of Cobeil. At time he was called, Cobeil's mental condition was quite serious; responded to very little. Spent several weeks in close observation.

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000188

Directed torture methods as well as personally applying severe torture on occasions.

Collins - only reason name of Major Mauss associated with Fidel.

Learned that at least 1 and possibly both spoke "perfect English" with a complete grasp of American idioms and unquestioned comprehension.

Feb 68, Cubans seemed to be training NVN interrogators. (VN enlisted who were learning English - "Kiddie Project". Had to undergo interrogation by them.) Seemed to worship Fidel. Participated in beatings of POWs.

When passing the HQ bldg, Waggoner saw a group of 20 "quiz kids" being instructed by "Fidel".

Fidel Program was a rough, 1-year period with Fidel in charge.

Fidel and second individual ^(Pancho - also) also known as Amos and Andy. In charge. Treated Camp Commander with disdain and NVN immediately obeyed all commands. Second individual with Fidel acted as an assistant. He and Pancho also called "Amos and Andy".

4 Cubans involved in Program; Fidel was leader and principal activist of the group.

VN treated Fidel with great respect, although he wore no visible signs of rank or nationality.

Fidel was very important in eyes of VN. Arrived each morning (except Sunday) at approximately 0600 in his own staff car. No one else, even high-ranking VN, ever came to the camp in a staff car. Fidel also had his own mechanic who took care of the car.

From Feb-Jul 68, taught several young VN about U.S. customs and language.

Fidel often returned to Cu Loc during lunch hours in an inebriated condition. Occasionally smelled liquor on his breath. Fidel also had access to American products.

Arrived at the camp daily in a staff car with an officer driver.

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000189

Felt Fidel lived at Cuban embassy because -

1. Always had access to current American publications such as Newsweek, Time, and some newspapers.
2. At one time, NAME was shown an article in Nam Dham newspaper about a member of Indian Embassy staff being killed during a bombing raid in Oct 67. Fidel's VN driver appeared in article when he supposedly saved life of another member of Indian embassy staff. Felt the Cuban Embassy had to be near Indian Embassy in Hanoi for this to happen. (Had no positive way of knowing that he did actually live in Cuban Embassy.)

Fidel appeared to be important individual. Had a car and chauffer that waited for him each day. Ate well POWs discovered then they were required to wash his dishes.

Saw Fidel only once during which time Fidel attempted to hide in a nearby building to avoid being seen.

Main enemy personnel involved were known as Fidel and Chico.

Did not like V.

Was very arrogant with both the VN and the U.S. POWs. Would smile and joke with VN at times, but always in a sarcastic manner. Apparently considered the VN to be socially and intellectually inferior. Returnee had impression that he despised the VN. Once told a POW the VN could not make decent mortar and generally criticized their construction methods.

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PANCHO

(DESCRIPTION)

Nearly 6' tall; "fat slob type"; big, thick, Italian-style mustache and bushy hair. ~~Not good in English.~~ Did not speak English very well at all.

Non-PW Caucasian.

Constantly let Spanish words slip out.

Over 6' tall and quite heavy. Wears a mustache. *← clean*

Caucasian man of Latin decent.

Strong Spanish accent

~~Strong Spanish accent~~

About 35 years old; 140-150 pounds; 5'7"-5'9" tall; short, naturally curly hair; darker complexioned than Fidel; pencil-like mustache; slightly built; rather demure-looking individual; looked like should have been a pimp. Definitely looked Latin. Never seen to wear glasses or smoke. Saw once working with and talking to GE (Gook Electrician) without an interpreter. Believed they were speaking in VN since GE couldn't speak English.

Capacity unknown. ?

One of 3 Cubans who interrogated and tortured POWs. Others - Fidel and Chico.

Pancho=Chip ?

Believed Pancho knowledgeable of electronics as he oversaw GE installing wire for the camp radio system. (second individual)

He and another who arrived later seemed to be radio and electronic technicians. Worked on camp radio and installed speakers in rooms.

Pancho=Garcia ?
Garcia was far clumsier than Fidel and had an inferior knowledge of English.

Was approximately 5'9" tall, stocky, and weighed about 190 pounds. Also about 30 years old. Had big arms; a barrel chest; and a big, square jaw. When first arrived, had a bushy mustache, which was quickly shaved off. Had a full head of kinky, dark brown hair. Dressed sloppy, often wearing dirty green tee shirt. "He looked like a bum", according to Bliss. Always needed a shave and was very strong physically. Not in system long enough for Bliss to note anything about his personality. (Had only 1 short quiz with before the Cubans departed.)

Could possibly be a doctor. Was another assistant of Fidel's.

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Had a beard and big moustache, kind of paunchy, about 5'10" tall, rather heavy set and very Cuban looking. Second day in camp, shaved off his beard and mustache. Spoke excellent English.

Pancho = Garcia.

When saw Fidel in May 68, had an assistant with him, approximately the same size (6'1" tall).

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CHICO

(DESCRIPTION)

Blonde, slightly curly hair and pale complexion. Wore wedding ring.

Non-PW Caucasian. Spoke fluent English, often utilized American slang, and had a very notable Spanish accent.

Heard to play Spanish-type music on organ.

Caucasian man of Latin decent

5'8" tall; short, graying hair and sandy complexion. Unimpressive and nondescript. Blue or green eyes. Believed arrived late in Program.

Some Spanish accent.

Didn't speak or understand English nearly as well as Fidel. "Nice guy" of the 2.

Always felt that Chico was subservient to Fidel.

Felt he was not an officer.

Admin assistant to Fidel. (Was with Fidel as assistant)

Participated in torturing POWs upon arrival. One of 3 Cubans who interrogated POWs at Zoo.

4 non-POW Caucasians noted in Zoo between August 67 and Jul 68.

Man with Fidel became known as "Chip", a little guy that spoke good English with no accent.

A second Cuban, "Che" or "Castro", next in hierarchy, but stayed in background.

Second Cuban arrived a few weeks after Fidel appeared. Was a smaller man and made far fewer appearances around the camp. Feels second man was something of an "errand boy" or admin type. Reported to have conducted very few interrogations. Looked nice in appearance (nicer than Fidel); had light brown curly hair; and looked like he could be a nice guy.

Capacity Unknown. ?

Has never seen "Che" nor a possible fourth Cuban.

Andy usually wore a French-style hat, similar in appearance to an old-style golfing cap with a snap-down front.

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On night of Tet 68 at interrogation, Fidel and Chico appeared in green serge uniforms similar to those worn by high-ranking VNV officers. They also wore a hat with a red star. Neither wore rank insignia.

Shorter than Fidel, possibly 5'10" tall.

Not a very smart person. Was Fidel's helper. Only wore civilian clothes:
Had a neatly-trimmed beard, Goatee type.

Side kick of Fidel's. Approximately 5'9" tall and had an extremely wrinkled face. Average build and weighs from 160-170 pounds. May have light-colored hair.

Was sort of flunky.

~~When seen in Tet 68, he was identified with him, approximately the same size (5'10" tall). - Chico or Pancho? (most likely)~~

Only one of Fidel's assistants he was aware of. 5'10" tall. Although had swarthy complexion, had a "pretty boy" face.

Main enemy personnel involved were known as Fidel and Chico.
Did not like LV.

Had a Spanish accent, noticed by Duart and verified by a Spanish-speaking PC. Observed to spell Squadron as "Esquadron".

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(INTERESTS)

oted to say "he knew how he felt, because he, too, had served a prison term.

third man was with the group (Fidel and Radioman/possibly Pancho)

Used American slang terms and swear words while addressing POWs.

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000195

RADIO MAN (DESCRIPTION)

Extremely young (poss. early 20s). Could easily pass for American

caucasian

caucasian, may have been East European or Cuban.

caucasian man of Latin decent

did not appear to be Latin

as always well dressed, approximately 5'8" tall, slender build,
dark wavy hair, and always appeared to be nervous. (?)

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000196

RADIO MAN (INTERESTS)

May have been electrician. Saw removing speakers from cells.

Caucasian. Appeared to be a technician. Was seen working on P/A system.
East European or Cuban. Has no knowledge of any contact between this man and
any POWs.

Capacity unknown. ?

4th Cuban observed on limited occasions. Appeared to be a technician of some
sort. Never participated in torture.

He and other Cuban who arrived later seemed to be radio and electronic
technicians. Worked on camp radion and installed speakers in rooms.

Described as an Electronics Technician of sorts who bugged some
of the rooms and changed or cleaned all of the camp speakers.

Had one limited contact with Fidel and another individual who re-
wired the Annex and Zoo speaker system.

One of the group was observed on 1 occasion. Was helping a VN electrician
rewire the radio speakers located throughout the camp. Appeared to be more
knowledgable than the VN. Even had his own pair of needle nose pliers and
a hammer, something that the VN did not have in those days. He was
extremely friendly with the VN. Did not speak Vietnamese, but communicated
with hand gestures.

One of Cubans who appeared in July 68 (described as a mousey character)
repaired the camp communications system.

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OTHER POSSIBLE CUBANS

Garcia? See Pancho (Description)

Driver of car.? Driver of car continually working under the hood, while the car was parked inside the camp.

Fidel also had his own mechanic who took care of the car.
(ARE DRIVER AND MECHANIC THE SAME PERSON?)

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000198

WHERE POWS KEPT/PROGRAM CONDUCTED

Program conducted primarily in "Chicken Coop" (Room 5). Fidel used two buildings - Pool Hall and Stable.

On 13 Sep 67, Barrett and 9 others moved into "Stables" (Bldg #48, Ref C, P 4) and placed under Fidel Program.

Cobeil - Rice lived with him till Fidel started working on him and sent him to the Outhouse.

In May 68, Cobeil went to Carriage House for quiz.

Other POWs took Cobeil to Pig Sty Shower and cleaned him up.

On 26 May 68, were 8 in a room in Stable.

Cobeil given shock treatments in Stable room. ?

After submitted, put in Room 2 of Stable with Perkins. Next to Room 3, where other 8 in Program were being held. After about 1 month, Perkins and he moved to Pig Sty, where he felt they were out of main stream of the Program. He had only occasional contact with Fidel and Chico after the move.

Shortly before Fidel left, inspected POWs under him (Stable and Pig part of Pig Sty).

Fidel had Room 3 of Stable - 10 men.

Initial interrogation took place at room on E end of bldg called "Headshed". (13 Sep 67 - moved to when part of Preprogram.) 12-18 Feb 68 - moved (Program expanded)

20 POWs involved were housed apart from the others in camp in the Stables.

One bldg, the Stable, emptied of POWs and set aside for the Program. Men in Program re-assigned to Stables. Later in the Program, Fidel obtained additional rooms in the Pig Sty.

First group kept in Stables part of Cu Loc.

After first quiz with Fidel, sent solo for few hours to back of Pig Sty, which had been cleared out for second group. All in second group kept in Pig Sty.

First group still together in Stable.

Bomar's room - located in a central area of Bldg 13, Area A.

In Sep, moved to room 1 of the Stables.

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Men on backside of Pig Sty also identified with Cuban Program. Noted eventually all older POWs moved out of Pig Sty and POWs identified with Cuban Program moved in. Summer 68 (?) Bliss and NAME moved from Room 7 of Pig Sty to Room 4 of Stable. (To give better room and place next to friends.)

After POWs broken down, moved together to Room 3 of Stable and allowed to work outside together.

14 Feb 68, taken to first interrogation with Fidel in Room 1 of Coop. Assigned to Room 7 in Pig Sty.

21 May 68, Cobeil taken to Carriage House and beaten savagely by Fidel.

Cobeil - placed with Waitman and later in Room 3 of Stable with original 9-10 Cuban POWs.

Program carried out in Rooms 3, 4, and 5 of the Stable at Zoo. Fidel's beating of Cobeil in Carriage House.

POWs selected for Program kept in Stable at Zoo.

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000200

When first encountered Fidel and Chico, they were presented by Lump. Felt Lump was in charge. Fidel initially subservient to Lump, as he was in a learning situation. After first few interrogations, Fidel more independent, and Lump acted as advisor. Soon Fidel gained complete autonomy and was obviously in charge of the interrogations, and even in an instructor status training VN interrogators.

Fidel definitely in charge of Latin group and seemed to have freedom of action in Latin group and in the camp with regard to beatings and determining fate of prisoners.

Tidel had complete charge of 10, then 20, POWs.

Appeared Fidel had complete control of guards associated with the Program.

Fidel pretty much ran the 4-room Stable (1-no, 2-unc, 3-yes, 4-maybe)

Fidel was initially escorted around camp by 1 or 2 VN, but after 2 months appeared to have gained the confidence of the VN and was given full run of the camp. NAME is quite firm in his belief that the VN Camp Commander or higher authority had assigned people to keep an eye on Fidel when he initially began work. Reduction in amount of escort-type attention given to Fidel as weeks wore on.

VN catered to Fidel, and he appeared to receive whatever he requested from the VN.

Fidel carefully controlled the fish pond project, as he did all aspects of the Program.

Fidel liked to work through VN. Ex - when NAME started working outside and had possible heart attack, told Fidel. Fidel told him to tell the Camp Commander, since he was in charge.

Fidel had complete domination over the Americans.

Fidel had complete charge of several POWs for 1 year.

NAME

NAME

NAME

000201

Cubans were interrogators who seemed to be very much in charge of the NVN camp guards. Had authority to order NVNs to torture American POWs. (Ex. - On 21 May 68, POW tortured throughout day until passing out. On morning of 22 May 68, Cuban ordered NVN guards to throw water on him. In response to the Cuban's question, POW said "No" and Cuban ordered NVN guards to stop the torture.)

Oct 67, learned Cubans were, in fact, placed in charge of some 9 POWs.

Indicated that after Feb 68 release, Fidel apparently lost his authority. Henceforth, Lump exercised more control around the camp than Fidel. Was an indication the Cuban Program had lost some of its zest and high pressure.

After Cobeil incident - 21 May 68 - Cubans seemed to lose their respect and authority around camp.

14-28 Feb 68 - appeared Fidel had upper hand in dealings with Lump, the Camp Commander's superior. In fact, during early stages of Program, Lump seemed to take as an order all suggestions from Fidel.

Word generally filtered through camp that 9 in first group were under the control of the Cubans.

NAME

NAME

000202

Before the Program began, observed what he described as a Russian automobile.

Driven into compound every morning in small, blue foreign car (make unknown).

Sedan (arrv in at first; before Program began))

On several occasions, saw Fidel and Pancho in a small car (resembling a Volvo) driven by VN. To his knowledge always used this car and was parked NE of "Auditorium" (Bldg 44 in DIA Diagram) and SW of "Chicken Coop" (Bldg 41 of DIA Diagram). Was light pastel green with poor quality paint job. Name started with M and contained 5-7 letters. Thinks name was Polish. Had a single-piece windshield; probably 4 doors; one headlight on each side; engine probably in front. Capacity of carrying 6 people, but would be closely packed if done so.

Originally driver and car remained in camp all day. Later on, car left and returned in late afternoon to pick up Cubans. Normally parked near a corner of camp administration building or near a corner of the pool. First car used - clear, shiny black, Volvo-like. (Quite an attraction to guards. Examined engine and interior extensively.) Later - another vehicle. Light brown or green color, not as clean as first, and of unknown make. Still had a VN driver.

Car driven by NV officer.

Arrived each morning (except Sunday) in his own staff car. Also had his own mechanic who took care of the car.

The gray car Fidel and Andy used while being transported to and from the Zoo was parked in varying locations around the swimming pool. Whenever Fidel and Andy were in the camp, the car remained in the camp. Peterson cannot recall the car being gone when Fidel and Andy were in camp. The driver of the car was continually working under the hood while the car was parked inside the camp.

Car entered at gate on West corner of Area A, and usually parked in front of Bldg 1. Occasionally parked about halfway between Bldg 7 and the swimming pool. Sometimes parked at East end of Bldg 3, Area A.

Car was what they said was an official NVN government car, driven by a NVN Army man whose rank was "Chuan Uy" (MSgt). Painted light blue, had four doors, and looked like a French-made Peugeot that was at least 7-8 years old.

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000203

CAR EMPLOYED BY CUBANS

2

Staff car used by Fidel was of special interest to him because of his interest in automobiles. Was a green sedan, year of make unknown, believed to be of Russian make. To his knowledge, were no markings identifying its make. Was writing on the tires in English, "made in USSR". Engine looked to be a straight flat head 6-cylinder Dodge type engine. "Appeared to be in pretty good condition and always kept clean. Appeared to be no special holders for staff flage, etc. Always parked alongside Auditorium, next to a tree. Had a three-set number on front license plate; thinks was something like 755 or 655. (Not sure of exace #)

Fidel utilized one of 3 vehicles during his tour at the Zoo. All 3 vehicles were closely scrutinized by NAME. The car normally used was a black, chrome trimmed well built and cared for machine that looked like a "49 Oldsmobile". The other 2 cars looked like Datsuns used in Japan in the late 50's, make unknown, one painted green and the other a faded brown, with very poor quality interiors. The vehicles were normally parked either in front of the Coop or the Auditorium by the chauffeurs, who were always company grade officers.

Vehicle described as a small car, about size of a VW, pea green in color. Had Czech-made tires. Had a VN driver. Parked usually in area around the Headquarters/Chicken Coop/Auditorium area. At times might be parked anywhere within the camp compound.

Same type as seen in downtown Hanoi by NAME earlier in 1967.

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

000204

FIRST/LAST SEEN/ENCOUNTERED

1

First - Fidel and Chico - 20 August 67.
 All 3 left about 15 August 68.
 Heard Kasler observed Fidel and Chico at apparent going away party with NVN o/a 14 August 68.
 Had no direct contact with Pancho and believes he arrived late in the program.
 Fidel last seen - 1 August 68.

NAME

Introduced into program (NAME) - 2200 hrs, 4 Sep 67 at Cu Loc. Heard through covert comm system that Fidel and Chico arrived, at Cu Loc in August 67 and departed about first week of August 68. Program lasted 1 year.

2 Cubans, Fidel and Chico, were at the Zoo from 29 Aug 67 to approximately 1 Aug 68. During Jul 68, were 2 additional Cubans at the Camp.

NAME

First encountered with Fidel - 17 May 67 at Zoo. Not seen again after Aug 68.

NAME

2 Cubans seen and heard torturing "Maj Bomber" at a motor pool in Zoo - Sep-Oct 67. Saw 2 Cubans - May 68. Last time sighted.

One evening during period Aug or Sep 67, felt unusual activity was taking place in camp (heard automobile enter). "Castro Program", Castro Era", and "Fidel Program" were one and the same, and the "Era" covered about a 1-year period beginning in Aug or Sep 67.

NAME

Last contact with Fidel, Pancho, and Chico - Jul 68. Chico arrived at Zoo - 1 Jun 68.

P

2 Caucasians first observed - Aug 67.
 14 Jun 68, new Cuban present at torture session - Pancho.
 Between Aug 67-Jul 68, 4 Cubans participated in Interrogation/Propaganda/Torture session at Zoo.

NAME

In August, beautified camp, apparently for a VIP's arrival. One night soon after the arrival in camp of a sedan, taken in for a quiz. Were 2 Caucasians, both wearing grey suits. One spoke to him in English in a very gruff voice.

Told they arrived at Zoo about May 67 and Hill thought they departed about May 68.

First aware of Cuban Program - May 70. - Terry, who had no direct contact with either, said leaders of Program were inflicting

000205

NAME

air own brand of harassment and interrogation.

FIRST/LAST SEEN/ENCOUNTERED

2

Latino interrogation group apparently arrived at Zoo - late Jul 67. 4 confirmed members - 4 males - Fidel, Chico, Pancho, Radioman. During same time frame, a female voice with Spanish accent first heard on Voice of VN propaganda broadcast, possibly a 5th member. Fidel first seen at camp - Jul 67 (late Jul). Fidel had contact with POW - 20 Aug 67. All 4 Cubans arrived together. Entire group departed late Jul 68. Activity restricted to Zoo.

Information through comm system from Carpenter and Spencer - First known appearance of Cubans on scene in Jun 67 at Zoo. Appearance of Fidel. Program started in Sep 67. Fidel last seen in Jun 68.

Fidel arrived during early summer of 67 and left approximately 12 months later.

Fidel leaves end of Jul 68.

Initial contact occurred - 3 Jul 68 - Ha Lo.

Fidel was at camp from late 67 or possibly early 68 till sometime between Feb and Apr 69. More sure of departure than arrival) Left Aug 68.

Program ended abruptly in summer of 68. Began summer 67.

Cuban interrogators active in 68 at Zoo. Cuban Interrogation Program (known as Fidel Program) was terminated 30 Aug 68.

Cubans first appeared in Cu Loc in late Aug 67.

Aware, through comm, that program began in August. All aware of man nicknamed Fidel and another called Chico.

In late May, Fidel brought his apparent replacement to the camp. He was nicknamed "Garcia". Garcia was being broken in by Fidel. Fidel was pointing out names of Americans to Garcia. Fidel was approaching 1 year in camp, and the POWs suspected he was there on a one-year tour and would leave in Aug. In late Jul, the VN had a party for Fidel. Camp Commander heard complimenting him for his good work. Soon thereafter, Fidel came around to them and asked if everything was alright. Smiled to the men, but never did say goodbye. Suddenly Fidel and Garcia disappeared and were never seen again. No one was sure why Cubans suddenly left. Had assumed Garcia was going to take over the Program. One possible reason was the Cobeil incident was at its peak.

Fidel left approximately 1 Aug 68. Two additional Cubans present in Jul 68.

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000206

OST/LAST SEEN/ENCOUNTERED

3

First met with Fidel on 4 Sep 67. Pancho did not appear at Cu Loc until after 8 Jan 68. At the time of his arrival, he had been in the Program for 4 or 5 months. Radioman arrived several weeks after Pancho. Was after Jan 68 that he first heard the female voice with the Latin accent on the Voice of Vietnam radio. She spoke excellent English, but occasionally placed the emphasis on the wrong syllable, as in "Liberation Armed Forces".

NAME

Observed three Cubans at Zoo from Sep/Oct 67 to Oct/Nov 68.

NAME

Woman possibly part of group heard in very early 68, probably Jan. Was very bad and lasted only about 2 weeks.

NAME

Woman was one of 5 persons involved in Cuban Program. Stated a woman was broadcasting over the Voice of VN, beginning Jan 68. Thought to have a Scandinavian accent. Broadcasts abruptly stopped upon the departure of Chico in Spring of 68, shortly after Pancho's arrival.

NAME

In Aug/Sep 67 (?) quizzed by 2 Caucasians. In Sep, moved to room 1 of Stables, where lived with NAME. Later Duart moved in.

NAME

Fidel departed the camps during summer of 68.

During second week of Aug 67, two Cubans known as Fidel and Chico observed by him.

NAME

On 14 Feb 68, he was taken to Room 1 of the Coop for his first interrogation with Fidel. This is when he realized he was being incorporated into the Cuban Program.

Fidel departed camp approximately 10 Jul 68 and never seen again by NAME.

Early Jun 68, new Cuban showed up - Garcia (Pancho).

About 22 Jun 68 - last time Rivers saw Garcia.

Chico and Garcia both left the camp sometime between 22 Jun and end of Jun 68. All interrogations with Cubans seemed to end at this time.

Believed VN terminated Program unexpectedly. Assumed they were dissatisfied with the way things were going and were probably very upset with Cobeil incident.

Fidel showed up at Zoo periodically until 10 Jul 68.

First discovered Fidel during the last months of 67.

000207

NAME

Program ran from approximately Jul 67 to Jul 68.

NAME

Heard Cubans arrived approximately Aug 67. As far as he could recall, they left in approximately Jul 68.

NAME

Individual resembling photo C-2 seen August 67 (possibly Fidel). Seen by he and NAME his roommate at this time.

NAME

FIRST/LAST NAME/INITIALS

NAME

First saw Fidel and Chico on 29 August 1967. They left the Zoo approximately 1 August 68. No other Cubans were also at the Zoo during the approximate period 1 Jul 68-1 Aug 68.

1. WILSON

000208

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Forced to write about the F-4 systems and to draw a picture of the F-4.
Interview with a French reporter.

Initial requests were for low-level propaganda. If POWs resisted, they would be forced to produce very strong propaganda and more of it.

Submission statement.
Asked to write serial number.

Interrogations initially involved aircraft, concentrating on the B-52, navigation devices, and pilot techniques. Also description of PW's unit, home live, and aircraft he flew. Interest also in survival training, concentrating on POW resistance training.

Tortured in an attempt to make him "surrender" and denounce U.S. actions before a future Japanese delegation.

Following is a general trend, and was carried out at Zoo after primary interrogation for tactical information was completed.

Threats of bodily harm
Confession of war crimes requested
Given propaganda to read
Information on a/c flown requested
Request to go home, ltr or amnesty requested
Ltr to Commander stating would obey camp rules required

To his knowledge, no attempt made to obtain military information or propaganda statements.

In 67, interrogation by Fidel on survival and resistance training. Fidel's major interest was in resistance techniques. Asked if Code of Conduct stated that POWs should give only name, rank, serial #, and DOB and then evade answering all further questions. Wanted to know what methods were taught to evade answering. NAME said methods not taught and that was left to individual. Fidel pressed for other facts. NAME said they learned to forage for food in the woods. Then wanted NAME to recite Code of Conduct, which he did. 5 Dec 67, requested to write letter to editor of Time Magazine condemning war, a letter to U.S. Congress, a letter to G.I.s in the South, and a letter to fellow POWs. Requested to tape one on 8 Jan 68 during interrogation with Fidel.

All but he and Rivers forced to sign surrender statement (Cobell, also, because he refused.

Fidel told him to write about F105F. Induced by solitary, leg irons, slapping, the threats, wrote Dash 1 description. Fidel had a Dash 1 and wanted more, but

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7302

000209
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INFORMATION REQUESTED

During quiz in Jun 68, asked about night tactics of the RF-4C and the ground area covered by aerial photos. Stuck with original story of arrival at target at 1000' and "popdown" to 500' for photos.

Fidel and Poncho wanted information about -

1. Data concerning the EB-66 a/c, to include drawings, description of equipment and a/c operation. Felt there was very little real interest in this requirement, and the information requirement was a test to see if he was cooperating or not.
2. His feelings concerning the possible U.S. intentions to bomb POW camps.
3. Wanted him to write letters or make tape recordings to be sent to President, senators, and the Chief of Staff.
4. Fidel constantly badgered the POWs during quiz sessions about their being war criminals and not POWs.
5. Fidel constantly asked him what the camp officials could do to improve POW treatment.
6. Would have him listen to taped American music and talk about sports, hobbies, or jobs.
7. When bombing raids were heavy during 67-68, told the U.S. was deliberately bombing hospitals, schools, and residential areas.

Number one man quizzed him and appeared to be extremely intelligent. (Initial quiz) Asked such questions as ship's number of his carrier, air with which he had flown, and other detailed questions. Also asked his position on the war, etc. (Said he supported U.S. Government.) (Note: not Fidel)

14 Feb 68 - interrogation commenced with questions concerning his personal background.

Second line of questions followed a different tact - "Why do you think you were brought to me for interrogation?"

Intensely interrogated by Fidel for details on the F-105. (Feels this information was demanded primarily as a point over which to demand and obtain surrender to Fidel's will rather than to obtain military information.)

000210

NAME

NAME

NAME

WHY THOUGHT TO BE CUBANS

1. Guards were overheard mentioning Cuba.
2. Pin was found in shower depicting a map of Cuba.
3. Propaganda news item showing Cuban-VN friendliness.
4. Constant slipping of Spanish words by Pancho.
5. Chico heard to play Spanish-type of music on organ.
6. Capt Quincy Collins said in a propaganda publication, The VN Courier, saw a statement that said a Cuban friendship delegation was visiting NVN headed by a Maj Cacillio Moss. PWs guess Moss may be Fidel's real name.

Pancho had strong Spanish accent and used work "Si" instead of "yes". Chico had some Spanish accent.

After the Cubans left, told a guard he had worked with the Cubans. Guard seemed shocked that Bliss knew they were Cubans and refused to talk about them.

A turnkey once told him he should "report Cuba" if he wanted Fidel.

Once when wanted to see Fidel, said to guard, "Bao Cao Cuba", and the guard went to get Fidel immediately.

The Cuban "Chico" was asking the POWs if they wanted to attend a Christmas service. If so, were required to sign their name and squadron to sheet of paper. Word squadron spelled in Spanish with the letter "E". Fidel gave one of NAME roommates a cigar for winning a room chess tournament. Cigar was an extra fine cigar which NAME said looked and tasted like Cuban cigars he'd seen prior to his SEA tour.

A later interrogator was nicknamed Fidel, because most POWs felt he was Cuban, their feeling being based on his possible use of the Spanish word "Poco".

Never directly admitted being from Cuba; but because of knowledge of Cuba, feels he was definitely Cuban.

000211

NAME

NAME

NAME

POSSIBLE NATIONALITY

This POW lived many years in Del Rio, Texas. Based on his experiences there, he believed these men to be Latin Americans.

Fidel assumed to be Cuban because he looked Cuban, spoke Spanish, and his associates told one of the prisoners that he used to fly a light aircraft in Cuba.

Has no personal knowledge that either Fidel or other interrogators were associated or representatives of the Cuban Government.

Debate among POWs as to who interrogators were and where from. Agreed they were Cubans.

Man was named Fidel by Alvarez because his accent was Spanish and most probably Cuban.

Spoke occasionally of Cuban sugar cane crop and other subjects related to Cuba as though he was knowledgeable of things in Cuba. Is nothing that would ID him as a Cuban. NAME opinion - could have been from any country in Central/South America. Refers to as Latinos or Latin.

ID substantiated second-hand only as Latin Americans and leader referred to as Fidel. Total number of Latin Americans involved - unknown.

Fidel seemed to go to great lengths to avoid him. Only reason Luna can surmise is that Fidel must have recognized him as being of Latin American descent.

Pronounced some words like a Latin. Often used the term "SI".

Was introduced as a European; however, POWs have no doubt he was Cuban.

A turnkey once told Bliss he should "report Cuba" if he wanted Fidel. Knowledgeable of Latin American affairs and the United Fruit Problem.

Pancho was a Latin American; specific nationality is unknown.

Radioman - specific nationality is unknown.

Chico is a Latin American; specific nationality is unknown.

Believes him to be Cuban.

Chico and Pancho also believed to be Cuban.

Saw a total of three whom they believed were Cubans. When first seen, thought thought might be Russians; but at a later date, NAME told them they were Cubans.

000212

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

POSSIBLE NATIONALITY

Cubans always wore civilian clothes and never referred to one another by name or rank in front of him. Lump asked him what nationality he thought (pointing to Fidel) he was. Did not want to say Cuban and picked locations as far away from Cuba as possible (Hungarian or Rumanian). Fidel said no, he was Vietnamese. NAME replied "no way", and Fidel said perhaps my mother is Vietnamese and my father is not. (Is sure Fidel put Lump up to asking the question.) NAME were very careful not to refer to any of Cuban Program personnel by name.

Woman broadcasting thought to have a Scandinavian accent. Strongly feels that her accent was Spanish and pronounced several words, as she did, to illustrate this point.

From their dress, appeared to be middle Europeans. One seemed to be in charge, while the other did very little. Fidel appeared from his clothing to be middle European.

Thought to be Cuban by some POWs (Fidel). Based on a POW overhearing him use Spanish word "Poco" to side kick, Chico. Doubts this because he didn't have characteristics of Cuban, such as dark, slim, shortness, etc.

NAME thought Fidel was Russian and said he heard him use Russian words. Most POWs felt his pronunciation of English indicated he was from Spanish-speaking country.

When saw him first time, was in a Cuban-type khaki uniform.

Pancho - very Cuban looking.

Fidel and Chico thought to be Cuban.

Individuals spoke Spanish, and had Spanish accents. Did know many U.S. slang terms. Does not remember if any of group ever identified themselves as Cubans but may have.

Fidel and Chico had Spanish accents, noticed by NAME and verified by a Spanish-speaking POW.

Chico was observed to spell Squadron as "Esquadron".

Assured the foreign female making radio broadcasts during and immediately after Tet of 68 was Cuban. (Fidel indicated he knew her.) Her accent was pronounced, and she was difficult to comprehend. (Spoke against American involvement in Vietnam and of the illegal war.)

000213

NAME

NAME

At Little Vegas. Squirt. Believed to be a trainee of Cubans at Zoo. Wore metal insignia of Cuba with red star affixed. Claimed to have been in Cuba but did not respond to Spanish insults. 5' X tall, 130 pounds, with squinty eyes. Very brutal and loud.

VN assistant to Fidel known as "The Lump".

Lump participated in the Cuban project as a torturer and interrogator. He always wore civilian clothes.

Lump - principal liaison with Latino group. Spoke good English and French, some Spanish and Russian. Dealt almost exclusively with Fidel and his group.

Personnel involved in one mistreatment session of NAME and cellmates - Lump, Fidel, Chico, Pancho, and Numerous VN. Pancho participated in at least one group torture session under direction of Lump.

Between 4-9 Sep 67, punishment inflicted by Dumb Dumb, Rabbit, Fidel, Chico, and Lump.

During a mistreatment session of NAME On signal from Elg, VN hit on left side of head and Fidel hit across right ear with cupped hand, breaking ear drum.

Fidel had his own VN "flunkies" who listened to every word spoken by the Americans.

Fidel, Lump, and a turnkey participated in mistreatment during 25-26 Jul 68. Reason - failure to agree with VN political line. Beating included 8 roommates. That night one cellmate caught walking around room while unable to sleep. NAME again beaten or premise insomniac was communicating.

On night of Tet 68, all POWs in Hubbard's cell block taken to interrogation with Chico, Fidel, three VN interrogators and a water girl present.

Two VN turnkeys routinely assisted ^{Latin interrogator} Fidel with his submission program. Their nicknames were Incredible and Cedric. 000214

VNs also participated in torturing the POWs under Cuban supervision.

Bear/Gold Ganger - Camp Commander at Zoo during Cuban Program.

Cedric - Interrogator. Fidel's right-hand man. Administered torture on many occasions. Frequently used as interpreter.

14 Jun 68 - at time when NAME stated (in a gulch that) for the war to end both sides would be required to make concessions. Beat in face with fists by Fidel

NAME

NAME

NAME

Christmas Eve 68 - taken (he and NAME) by turnkeys Incredible and Casper to HA Bldg. Movie and still photography taken of them standing between turnkeys. These turnkeys usually worked with Fidel. Incredible assisted the Latin interrogator nicknamed Fidel.

14-15 Jun 68 - NVN guard called Sidrick participated in mistreatment to NAME and roommates.

Cedrick participated in mistreatment of NAME during period Oct 67.

Mistreatment during the period 4 Oct 67 included Fidel, Magoo, and Lockjaw. Mistreatment during the period 1-15 Oct 67 included Magoo, Lump, guards, and Fidel.

During beatings of Cobell (20-30 with a fan belt), Fidel was accompanied by a VN assistant called Cedric. Elf told him he was uncooperative. Accused him of communicating and told him some of orders he had given as SRO. Refused to acknowledge any such action. Elf had him placed in manacles and straps. Finally told he was surrendering. While in 2 weeks solitary after surrendering, Magoo slapped him around a lot during the entire period.

14-28 Feb 68 - appeared Fidel had upper hand in dealings with Lump, the Camp Commander's superior.

NAME

NAME

000215

U.S. PERSONNEL IN THE CUBAN PROGRAM

Glendon Perkins (AF) Edward L. Hubbard (AF)
 Larry H. Spencer (NA) Thomas J. Barrett (AF)
 Charles D. Rice (AF) Robert N. Daughtrey (AF)
 Allen R. Carpenter (NA) David H. Duart (AF)

10 original members from 20 Aug 67 to mid-Aug 68.

Donald G. Waltman Glendon W. Perkins
 David H. Duart Jack W. Bomar
 Raymond A. Vohden Larry H. Spencer
 Edward L. Hubbard Allen R. Carpenter
 Robert N. Daughtrey Thomas J. Barrett

During mid-Jan 68, Cobeil, Rice, and Lewis added. Later added
 Bliss, Rivers, Flesher, Kasler, and Shoeffel.

Fidel had complete charge of 10, then 20, POWs.

J. W. Bomar (AF) SRO in Program at that time.

R. A. Vohden (NA) D. G. Waltman (AF)
 Daughtrey (AF) E. L. Hubbard (AF)
 Cobeil (AF) R. G. Bliss (AF)
 A. R. Carpenter (NA)

Approximately 20 other POWs tortured by Cubans between 18 Sep 67
 and Jul 68.

12 or 18 Feb 68, Perkins and Waltman moved to another bldg. The
 Program had been expanded from the original 10 to 20. Included
 all men housed in S side of Pig Sty (49) and men in bldg 48
 (see N-53, Cu Loc).

In the first group of 10. Others -

Ray Vohden Jack Bomar Dave Duart
 Don Waltman Norlin Daughtrey Al Carpenter
 Larry Spencer

Six more were added later.

Second-hand information through comm from Carpenter and Spencer -
 20 POWs involved in program.

Suspects as many as 20 U.S. POWs may be knowledgeable of program.

Were about 20 POWs in program altogether. Most stayed in the
 program the whole year.

The 10 men in Room 3 of Stable were Fidel's.

NAME

NAME

NAME

000216

U.S. PERSONNEL IN CUBAN PROGRAM

Approximately 20 other POWs tortured during per

Initially, 10-12 POWs were in Program, and never more than 15-20
 at its height.

L/C Raymond A. Vohden - SRO of POWs in Fidel Program.

Maj Earl G. Cobeil Maj Larry H. Spencer
 Maj Allen R. Carpenter L/C Donald G. Waltman
 Capt Ronald G. Bliss L/C David H. Duart
 Maj Glendon W. Perkins

Capt Ronald Glenn Bliss (AF) (AF) Maj Herbert Kelly Flesher
 L/C Jack Williamson Bomar (AF) (AF) Edward Lee Hubbard
 Maj Robert Norlan Daughtrey (AF) (AF) L/C David Henry Duart
 Col James Helms Kasler (AF) (NA) Lt Charles Donald Rice
 Col Wendell Burke Rivers (NA) (AF) L/C Donald G. Waltman
 CMDR Peter Uanruyter Schoeffel (NA) (NA) LCDR Larry Howard Spencer

First group involved -

AF Capt Thomas Barrett AF L/C Jack Bomar NA LCDR Allen Carpenter
 AF Maj Robert Duagherty AF L/C David Duart AF Capt Edward Hubbard
 AF Maj Glenn Perkins NA LCDR Larry Spencer NA CMDR Raymond Vohnen
 AF L/C Donald Waltman

Bliss selected for second group. First roommate - Rivers. Others in second
 group -

AF Maj Earl Cobeil AF Maj Hubert Flesher AF Capt Michael Kerr
 NA LCDR Charles Rice NA CMDR Peter Schoeffel NA CMDR Paul Schulz

Fidel had complete charge of several POWs for 1 year.

First 10 POWs to be initiated into Fidel's submission program are -

Edward L. Hubbard Ray Vohden Jack Bomar Dave Duart
 Don Waltman Norlin Daughtrey Al Carpenter Glen Perkins
 Larry Spencer Tom Barrett

Later, 6 more POWs were added. They are -

Cobeil Rice Lewis Flesher Shoeffel Schulz
 2 others had minor association with Fidel while working outdoors - Rivers and
 Bliss. POW Tim Kasler was tortured severely by Fidel for failure to attend a
 delegation.

17 POWs under Fidel.

000217

NAME

NAME

NAME

About 10 individuals involved in Fidel's Program. NAME

Oct 67, learned Cubans were, in fact, placed in charge of some 9 POWs. Word generally filtered through camp that 9 in first group were under the control of the Cubans. Felt was no rhyme nor reason in selection of first 9. Cobeil - later placed in Room 3 of Stable with original 9-10 Cuban POWs. NAME

Believes that Norlan Daughtrey was the first man subjected to the Program. North had one limited contact with Fidel and another individual who rewired the Annex and the Zoo speaker system. NAME

Fidel's group of POWs - approximately 20. NAME

Approximately 9 participated. They were -
Earl G. Lewis Charles ID. Rice Thomas J. Barrett
Earl G. Cobeil David H. Duart Micheal S. Kerr
Glendon W. Perkins Larry H. Spencer One unidentified NAME

Navy Lt Charles Rice entered Program after others.

Two persons conducted quiz session with Daughtrey. Alvarex quizzed by one or both and asked if he spoke Spanish. Replied yes. NAME

Attempts by POWs to establish criteria of selection had negative results. Believed they were simply a cross section of those at Zoo at that time.

5 Sep 67 - Taken for interview with two Caucasians in the "Headshed" bldg. Initial interrogation consisted of basic biographic data and questions of a military nature. 13 Sep 67 - Moved with Hubbard and Waltman. Decided that everyone in that bldg had been interviewed by the two. Surmised that they were selected for a special-type program which they later named the "Cuban Program". NAME

Initially 10 prisoners were selected through a series of two interviews.

- Believed particularly hard-core resistors may have been singled out for this program.

No discernable pattern in manner POWs selected for Program.

Fidel selected 1 man from each bldg in Zoo. POWs never figured out Fidel's rationale for choosing men for the Program, but was strongly felt that it was more than a random selection. On numerous occasions NAME observed both Cubans deeply engrossed in POW files (as he was led through camp's admin section enroute to interrogation session with NV). The outwardly-manifested interest in POW records displayed by the Cubans convinced NAME they knew what they wanted to accomplish and were hardly approaching their project in a casual or "random" fashion.

Were some interviews to select people to be put under Program, but selection appears to have been random. People with all types of backgrounds were selected. NAME

Felt was no rhyme nor reason in selection of first 9. Generally they were a rough cross-section of the camp's POWs and included only a few senior officers. Among POWs he talked with during fish pond project in Apr 68 - Vohden. NAME

POSSIBLE WOMAN IN CUBAN GROUP

Only recalled hearing woman's voice, English-speaking with some sort of European accent, over camp radio system.

During same time frame (late Jul 67 when others arrived - 4), a female voice with a Spanish accent first heard on Voice of VN propaganda broadcast, possibly a 5th member of group.

Was after Jan 68 that he first heard the female voice with the Latin accent on the Voice of Vietnam radio. She spoke excellent English, but occasionally placed the emphasis on the wrong syllable, as in "Liberation Armed Forces".

Feels that there was a connection between the Cubans and the English speaking woman's voice heard over the camp radio. Feels she was also Cuban because of her accent. Supposedly her job was to help the NV radio announcers, such as Hanoi Hanne (Chi-Mai) and two others (Ver Nang and Pon Tone) (both phonetic). Cuban woman was very bad and only lasted about 2 weeks. Heard in very early 68, probably Jan. Topics which were normally broadcast included: race problems in U. S., anti-war activity in the U.S., student unrest, news of VN great victories in the South, etc. Never was anything "good" broadcast. Believes that an organization called "Voice of New Zealand" taped all Voice of VN broadcasts. (Suggests that broadcast tapes may be available through this source.)

A woman was one of 5 involved in Cuban Program.

Arrived in Jan 68 and ~~departed~~ in 68/ her broadcasting abruptly stopped in Spring of 68 upon departure of Chico.

Only apparently non-VN female voice heard during this time frame was on a program called Stateside Special. This program was broadcast on Voice of VN in 68. May have started in late 67 and continued into early 69. Featured both a male and female, who spoke excellent English with a slight tonal quality that suggested the speakers were American Negroes. Broadcast apparently directed at U.S. military personnel in the South attempting to demoralize. Program presented once a week. Returnee did not feel this female had any connection with the Cuban group.

Heard a foreign female voice making radio broadcasts during and immediately after let of 68. Fidel indicated he knew her and asked how well the POWs understood her broadcast. Assumed her to be Cuban. Her accent was pronounced and she was difficult to comprehend. (Spoke against American involvement in Vietnam and of the illegal, immoral war.)

000220

NAME

NAME

NAME

OBJECTIVES OF "CUBAN" PROJECT

Stated objective of Fidel was to make the ten involved better men. It was later explained that this meant they would be taught to do whatever they were told to do.

Believes this was an early release program.

To make VN propaganda that "all PWs would submit completely" come true. More important on paper than in reality (SUBMISSION)

To gain information and to break POWs' wills. Appeared to be testing interrogation and torture techniques. NVN also participated in torturing the POWs under Cuban supervision.

Seemed to be testing or practicing different techniques and attempted to train NVN interrogators.

NAME opinion that it was a training program for Fidel and Chico. Possibly they were Cuban Intelligence Officers being trained in interrogating Americans while learning the techniques of the VN. Feels the Cubans were experimenting with personalities. Were attempting to determine the quickest and most efficient methods to use to gain the complete submission and total domination of the POWs.

~~Topweaken will to resist.~~ (Coerced for desired results).

In 71-72, Torkelson passed information through the camp comm system that Fox, the Zoo Camp Commander, told a group of UI POWs that the "Cuban Program" at the Zoo was a Hanoi University Psychological Study. Thought this was a slip on Commander's part, as it appeared to be an admission that the VN had used the POWs for medical experimentation.

Program designed to gain submission of POWs.

Learned from Bomar that Fidel's goals were to effect total submission and obtain confession of "war crimes". Confessions were to appear as though accomplished voluntarily.

From comm with Spencer and Carpenter - Intent experimental and designed to obtain complete submission of American prisoners.

Possibly Fidel's mission was to determine how to handle Americans or people in order to break them down and have them completely under his will. Thinks this was an experiment "research program" and participating POWs were guinea pigs.

Seemed to be to improve the NVN interrogation abilities. (Majority of NVN interrogators - rough or unpolished.) Fidel was a professional interrogator brought in to show NVN how it was done. At one time, NAME heard a second- or third-hand report of a NVN officer stating that this was a NVN program, not a Cuban program.

NAME

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NAME

000221

OBJECTIVES OF CUBAN PROJECT

2

All in camp aware that Cubans had a goal of absolute control of group of 10. Initially, other POWs thought Cubans conducting a laboratory experiment to determine exactly how much pressure required and when needed to break a man down. Fidel said it was his duty to find out if NAME was "a reformed man or a recalcitrant".

NAME

His sometimes switch in approaches led to belief that Fidel was conducting the program as an experiment.

No one aware of why Cubans allowed in camp to conduct their program. Some feel that they may have been looking for candidates for early release. (NAME said Fidel often asked him about his treatment and food, and if had ever been hit by guards. At one quiz, admitted he had received good medical treatment after capture and was grateful; to which Fidel responded - "NAME you surprise me. You're an honest man".) Program may have been merely an experimental Program in determining how a man can be best controlled or may have been a source of propaganda. No one knows the answer.

Seemed to be training NVN interrogators (VN enlisted who were learning to speak English).

NAME

Interrogation/Propaganda/Torture Program.

Seemed to be practicing or testing different techniques, and attempted to train NVN interrogators.

Appeared to be testing interrogation and torture techniques.

Break POWs into complete and prolonged submission. Feels torture methods were of primary interest to Cubans and not directly tied to VN objectives.

NAME

Program of total submission. Cubans wanted prisoner to submit and to remain completely and totally submissive.

NAME

No attempt to get intelligence data or propaganda statement at first. Totally attempt at political indoctrination and total submission to Fidel's will. (Trained NVN also.)

NAME

New type treatment/recruitment program.

NAME

Reason behind all projects was an impending release program. Felt the Cuban was there to get a group ready.

NAME

000222

176/4246/4/

Firmly convinced, although some fellow Cuban Program members disagree, was a special phase of treatment to test POWs' reaction and prepare them for early release. (Detected Fidel extremely disappointed when first 3 released from VN were not from his program.)

NAME

OBJECTIVES OF CUBAN PROGRAM

3

Fidel and his program were established as a learning process rather than to teach interrogation to the Viets.

NAME

Object of Program seemed to be to force POW to submit to Cubans and to make written and oral statements to that effect. (Submission was to be gained without torture. Torture proved necessary to reach goal and beatings became part of program.)

Both individuals (possibly Fidel and Chico) appear to have no task other than to observe the POWs.

000223

PURPOSE OF CUBAN PROGRAM

Believes purpose was -

1. To teach or improve NVN methods of handling American prisoners.
 2. To gain information from American prisoners.
 3. To test every kind of interrogation setup known (soft sell; physical banging around; good treatment; the tremendous contrast of from good to bad, bad to good, etc.) in order to determine what effect it had on the prisoners.
- Does not believe the program was a designed torture program.

NAME

000224

AFTERMATH/RESULTS OF CUBAN PROGRAM

English-speaking guards and continued use of a fan belt and hose for purpose of beating prisoners.

Cobeil's death was a direct result of extended torture and humiliation intentionally inflicted in the course of the Fidel Program.

After Fidel left in Aug 68, NVN guards blamed all previous years of mistreatment of American POWs in the Cuban Program on Fidel and appeared ashamed of the treatment meted out during that period of time.

Cobeil beaten to point where he was incapable of surrender. Was completely catatonic.

About 21 May 1968, Cobeil moved in with. Heard him take vicious beatings about the head. Thought cellmates were enemy. Was in a state of complete mental breakdown. Surmised beating Cobeil experienced contributed greatly to his death in NVN.

After departure of Fidel group, treatment changed immediately for the better.

After Fidel left, POWs put blame for ills of the camp on Fidel's head, including the Cobeil problem.

VN began using fan belt on POWs.

When program abruptly ended in summer of 68, POWs in the Program were simply "melded into the rest of the POWs". Cobeil is only participant who did not rejoin the others, to best of NAME memory. POWs were of opinion Cobeil had suffered a complete mental collapse at the hands of Fidel. Although Fidel and cohort left Zoo with VIP fanfare, appeared a bit more restrained than that accorded them upon arrival at year before. POWs assumed VN ended Fidel program because of Cobeil's probable demise and other unproductive aspects. NAME felt program was in "full bore" when it terminated unexpectedly.

Fidel and Garcia suddenly disappeared when the Cobeil incident was at its peak. Cobeil was, by this time, in very bad shape and the VN may have been worried over his condition. VN never seemed too impressed with the Cuban Program. May have felt guilty that they were doing their work.

Fidel departed during summer of 68, and generally treatment improved. Letters were passed to POWs, etc.

NAME

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000225

TIME SPENT AT CAMP BY CUBANS
(DAILY ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE)

Before the program began, Fidel would enter the camp each and stay for about two hours (Aug 67). Returned to camp each night.

After the program began, Fidel driven into compound every morning.

Driver always brought them to compound about 0700 and picked them up about 1600-1630.

Fidel and Cuban cohort arrived at approximately 0900 daily and departed at approximately 1700 each day. NVN chauffeur drove Cubans into camp each day.

Fidel arrived each morning (except Sunday) at approximately 0600 in his own staff car. Left the camp each day at about 1800. He occasionally showed up on Sundays to check on them.

Fidel and Andy usually arrived at the Zoo at 0730 hours, departed for lunch at approximately 1100 hours, returned from lunch at approximately 1400 hours and departed for the day at 1630. Rarely did they ever work at night, although it did occur.

Arrived at the camp daily in a staff car.

Were in camp Monday through Friday. At 1100, left, presumably to eat lunch. Returned at 1400. Exited camp at 1600.

Because of Fidel's use of perfumed soap and body colognes, POWs were always aware of his presence as he moved around the camp at night monitoring them.

Fidel usually arrived at camp between 0700-0900. Normally departed at 1100 and returned at 1400. Would depart at various times in evening and is not known to have stayed overnight.

Ate well, the POWs discovered when they were required to wash his dishes.

For their first 2 weeks after their arrival (2nd week in Aug) entered camp at 2100 and stayed about 2 hours. In subsequent weeks, they came earlier in the day and stayed until about 1700

as Observed in compound during "regular duty hours". Not sure if group was billeted at camp or elsewhere!

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000226

EFFECT OF FIDEL/ENGLISH SPEAKERS ON POWS

The presence of interrogator personnel who spoke English at this time for for about a year to come was considered both "dangerous" and "frightening" to POWs. Prior to their arrival, the POWs used command of English language as a weapon of resistance and confusion.

Fidel had 1 quiz with one of his roommates, Jim Young, which caused them to fear that their room was entering the Cuban Program.

The word "Fidel" was feared throughout the camp.

After the Cubans departed, the Americans felt as if the weight of the world had been taken off their shoulders. Were "relieved that the intensive " (rest of sentence missing).

He was thankful that the Program ended when it did, and that the VN were not willing or able to continue it.

NAME

NAME

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000227

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E Name

Name: _____

000225

Fidel threw away without reading. Fidel then dictated a short anti-war statement which NAME copied and signed. From then on, only had occasional contact with Fidel and Chico until reported departure from Cu Loc in Aug 68.

Initially Fidel and Chico were very friendly toward him. Just talked with him and tried to convince him of correctness of VN position and fallacy of the American involvement in the war. These political discussions continued through end of 67. However, during this period, Fidel became more and more abusive toward him, and he felt he was under increasingly greater stress. Cuban tactics soon consisted of alternating sessions conducted first by Fidel and then by Chico. Fidel was extremely threatening, while Chico was always the "nice guy". Chico expressed concern that if NAME did not cooperate with Fidel, Fidel would lose control and do him bodily harm. During this period, was no attempt to gain either intelligence data or propaganda statements from him. Was totally an attempt at political indoctrination and total submission to the will of Fidel. Was told he must submit totally and that he could do so voluntarily or would be forced to do so. Fidel said if force was used, it would continue even after submission so he would never again resist. Fidel always used different threats for different people. For some, he was "going to break both arms", for others he "was going to break their heads". In any event, he was going to hurt them badly enough that they would never again resist. Fidel "submitted" one POW at a time. After a man was "submitted", he was put in solitary and leg irons for approximately 2 weeks. Each man "submitted" was shown to others who had been broken to reinforce the willingness to cooperate that had been gained previously.

Felt interrogations during the Cuban Program were more frequent and intense than those conducted by the NVN both prior to and after the completion of this Program. Attributed to high intelligence of Fidel.

Fidel conducted quizzes, work details, and torture.

Demanded total surrender by his charges, and tortured until he felt he achieved that end. (With the exception of Cobeil, who became mentally unbalanced)

Fidel was instrumental in the extensive torture of Cobeil in May and June 68.

Inhumane torture was applied to everyone associated with the Program and also to other prisoners in the camp.

Fidel beat and tortured many of the prisoners, especially Cobeil and Kasler. The type and frequency of the torture to Cobeil consisted of continuous beatings about the head, face, and body with a fan belt and a piece of hose throughout his exposure to Fidel because Cobeil would not bow, and Fidel believed him to be faking serious injury. Bomar and others received similar torture, but not as often.

000230

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

Leg irons, wrist manacles, and beatings were used to torture the control into signing propaganda statements, delegation interviews, and surrendering to the will of Fidel.

Fidel ordered numerous beatings.

Fidel's first tactic was to tell him he (Fidel) was going to crush him like a match box. Lectured on obeying camp rules and said he would break his spirit.

First POW program of Fidel's was 2 fish ponds behind (SE) the Pig Sty. Convinced POWs he was going to bring in fish and stock the ponds for their food supplement. POW would get extra sun while digging the pits and also exercise. No effort made to force POWs to dig, nor were all under Fidel asked to dig. Also had many POWs convinced they were getting sun to look healthier because the NVN were going to release them.

Attempt to improve food in Zoo under Fidel, as evidenced by fish pond project and the building of a bakery adjacent to the Zoo. After bakery completed, quantity of bread to POWs increased.

Appeared Fidel had an organized method of treatment for the POWs, but it varied in individual instances.

Interrogations almost always conducted at night after had gone to bed. Would be rudely awakened and taken to quiz rooms, often as many as 2-3 times a night.

Knew 2 Cubans used to interrogate U.S. POWs and possibly (along with Russians) used to write English script for propaganda broadcasts.

Cuban interrogators beat him on numerous occasions. Rubber hoses, straps, and ropes used. Ear drum broken on first encounter. Cobeil.

Cobeil got off to very bad start with Fidel in Cuban Program because refused to give Fidel anything. Put in solitary and thought to have been beaten to some degree at quizzes by Fidel.

Fidel took a personal interest in Cobeil and wanted to break him. One day, heard Fidel come in and ask Cobeil something. Hit Cobeil every 15 minutes with a rolled up magazine for remainder of day. Fidel moved Cobeil back to solitary at some time and worked very hard with him. Known to have hit Cobeil in face many times with a fan belt and put him through the ropes. Cobeil refused to give in. Beaten to point where incapable of surrender.

000231

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

When initially arrived, quizzed other prisoners, punished some with leg irons.

NAME

Fidel and Chico - principal interrogators. 2 prisoners had 1 interrogation session each with Pancho. 4th Latin did not interrogate.

NAME

During first meeting with Fidel, Latin launched into an immediate series of threats. Said going to get gun from car and shoot him. When initiated the program, used a variety of methods. Appeared to be experimenting with different approaches for different prisoners. Several common interrogation patterns apparent -

1. Threats of severe body damage if prisoner did not sign statement of unconditional surrender. Held by Fidel. If refused, brutal beatings followed immediately.
2. Political harangues. Not necessarily about VN war, but other political issues (1 concerned activities of United Fruit Co. in Guatemala).
3. Good Guy - Chico. Mild-mannered conversations about nearly any subject. To put prisoners at ease. For some, played tapes of classical music. Had read marked passages from Newsweek. Contents critical of life in U.S. After reading, questioned about opinions of. On occasion, offered "Fatherly" advice, - "You are very young and I advise you to surrender before you get hurt".

Interrogation for a given prisoner alternated between threats, beatings, and consolation with Fidel and Chico as interrogators. If ever there was a good guy/bad guy pair, Chico and Fidel were it.

Differences between Latin and NVN interrogation methods -

1. Latins felt unacceptable for Americans to have been prisoners 1 and 1/2 years and not do all told to do. Did not approve of NVN methods/results. Fidel stated that once a prisoner submitted, would then do all told. Program of total submission.
2. Latin thinking a little more Western in that if Fidel requested a prisoner to write he was getting good treatment, mail, etc. that he intended that it be true. Fidel was working toward a compound situation. After forced them to submit, allowed outside more. Created chores that would get them outside and increased their mail. If embarrassed Fidel even slightly, brutally beaten.
3. NVN bluffed a great deal (empty threat). Beating was a temporary thing and prisoner was back where he started. With Fidel, once the prisoner surrendered, he remained submissive as the experience was so memorable and painful that he did not care to repeat it.

Punishment did not end with submission as did with the NVN. Continued after submission. Under Fidel Program, beatings were followed wity 2 weeks in leg irons, no cigarettes, and solitary confinement.

Punishment intended to serve as reminder to prisoners that he had not "won". Fidel always indicated conditions would become much worse. His beatings were characterized as much more brutal than NVN.

The only equipment used on NAME by Latinos were the straps.

000232

Second-hand. POWs in this program were undoubtedly recipients of most harsh forms mistreatment as compared to standard treatment meted out by NVN. Envisions standard Cuban treatment as paralleling NVN treatment upon initial capture or as a result of some particularly serious infraction of NVN camp policy. Defines Cuban treatment as "standard high pressure interrogation and harsh treatment".

NAME

Second-hand. Info from comm with Spencer and Carpenter - Techniques used by group was to first establish credibility. Purpose was to insure the prisoner that when something was desired, it would be accomplished. When resistance was encountered, severe measures were invoked. Included torture by use of ropes, and beatings with a 4' rubber hose, a rubber V-hose, or with fists and kicking. Treatment ran gamut from very severe to occasional use of good guy act. Some prisoners yielded easily and others subjected to severe torture and beatings. Cobeil put up, what was considered, abnormal resistance. Subjected to brutal treatment at hands of Fidel, who believed he was faking insanity. Once prisoner gave in, forced to do a variety of things.

NAME

1. Writing letters home to friends, government officials, and peace groups denouncing U.S. actions in SEA.
2. Creating items such as shoes, toys, etc.
3. Working on projects such as bomb shelters, fish ponds, etc.
4. Making propaganda tapes.

Some benefits were accrued by individuals in the program -

1. Were able to contact families at home and receive letters.
 2. Given more rice than other prisoners.
 3. Able to go outside and get more exercise than other prisoners.
- Cuban program ended shortly prior to June 68, when last seen.

NAME reported Cuban operation "was very strange program". Participants received some special treatment:

NAME

More rice than other POWs.

Warm milk and occasionally crackers for breakfast long before other POWs received such food.

More outdoor time.

Made toys for VN children and wooden shoes.

Built fish pond near the Stables.

Wrote lots of letters and received far more mail than other POWs (including periods when other POWs were neither writing nor receiving any mail).

American cigarettes (Viceroy).

Earned any special treatment received. Pressures they were under was terrific. Few in program were not mistreated (Bliss "never had a hand laid on him" for some unexplainable reason). However, Spencer entered program with hard line (name, rank, etc.) and was physically beaten to submission. Spencer received 17 letters at 1 point after being forced to write to a U.S. Congressman.

Fidel's terror tactics included -
Slapping POWs on face.

000233

Beating PWs with strip of rubber cut from an automobile tire (approx. 1" square and resembled thick fan belt).

NAME

Constant visual observation. Seemed POWs in program that Fidel was constantly watching them.

Making 1 POW watch another POW being physically mistreated for failure to answer one of Fidel's questions. (Saw possibly Glendon forced to stand in doorway of auditorium while an unknown POW was being beaten inside auditorium.)

Making 1 POW watch another being physically mistreated prior to asking first question at an interrogation session in order to give the POW a clear feeling of punishment Fidel would administer when displeased.

Program lasted approx. 1 year and ended at same time that Cobeil was reported to have suffered a mental collapse. During entire stay, Cubans driven to Zoo in a car each day and warmly welcomed by VN camp officials. Each day began with a "conference session" between Fidel and camp officials in a camproom.

Told once an individual completely submitted to Fidel, then would leave him alone. If resisted even the slightest, could detect it. Appeared to want complete submission.

NAME

Some thought Fidel played part of rough guy and second individual assumed part of good guy.

Said someone supposed to have seen Cobeil going to quiz in Carriage House or Stall (just inside gate in Zoo to right). Came out all-wet and supposedly went insane after this. Believed water torture used.

Eye injured in beating by Fidel in 67.

NAME

May 68, Hubbard and cellmates taken to courtyard, struck several times in mouth, and put on knees and beat with a rubber hose.

April 69, Bomar, Rivers, Bliss, and Daugherty all accused of comm and beat with a fan belt by Fidel.

4-9 Sep 67, punishment imposed by Dumb Dumb and the Rabbit. Punishment terminated by Fidel with a reminder that Hubbard owed him one.

NAME

Went to quiz on 14 Feb 68. Fidel asked where his shoes were. NAME said never had shoes or sandals. Fidel said "would have shoes. Problems like that were over. NAME first reaction was fear of what was to come. Asked about treatment, if had received any mail, and if had been allowed to write home. Replied that had written, but had not received any mail. Fidel ended quiz with promise that he would be seeing him in the future. Then sent solo for a few hours.

Both groups separated from rest of camp and had own turnkeys. Quizzed only by Cubans or Camp Commander.

Second group never exposed to as intensive a program as first group. Also, length of program much shorter due to sudden departure of Cubans.

Second quiz - late Feb 68. Fidel asked him why he thought he was there, and NAME said probably because wanted propaganda out of him. When Fidel asked why

000234

NAME

NAME said that's what they wanted in past. Fidel looked NAME in eye and said he didn't need anything out of NAME had many people in camp who would write for him. Said could promise he would never ask NAME for. Rivers given essentially same story at quiz the same day. Neither believed Fidel. On another occasion, Fidel assured NAME he didn't want anything out of him. Said he had the duty to find out if he was "a reformed man or a recalcitrant". NAME has no idea why Fidel used this approach.

Classical program for all participants of program was for Fidel to somehow force each man to sign a surrender statement. First step used to "break the man down". Statement usually went something like this - "I hereby surrender to the camp authorities and promise to carry out their wishes in any way possible". As far as NAME knows, each participant except he and Rivers forced to sign such a statement. He and Rivers have no idea why never asked to. All others with exception of Cobeil, who refused, were thought to have signed a surrender statement. Don't know why he and Rivers not asked to surrender, but theorizes that may have been because of their tactful stand with Fidel. They tried to be reasonable with him.

Had total of 7-8 formal quizzes with Fidel. During program, Fidel demanded "extreme politeness and respect". On some occasions, Fidel would discuss world events such as Hungarian Revolution. Often asked NAME what he thought. Could talk till said something Fidel disagreed with. Fidel would interrupt. Then proper thing to stop and listen. "Fidel was always right". Matchbox Analogy used to show Fidel was going to be their sole source of information. All quizzes obviously taped. Could hear squeaky of tape recorder behind screen behind Fidel. (VN assistant went behind screen occasionally, returned and whispered to Fidel. Fidel then told him to speak louder and more distinctly).

30 Mar 68, heard Fidel give 2 letters to guard and talk to. Guard gave NAME first letters ever received. Letter heavily censored with razor blade, but did contain picture of his child - another example of "good guy" treatment NAME got from Fidel.

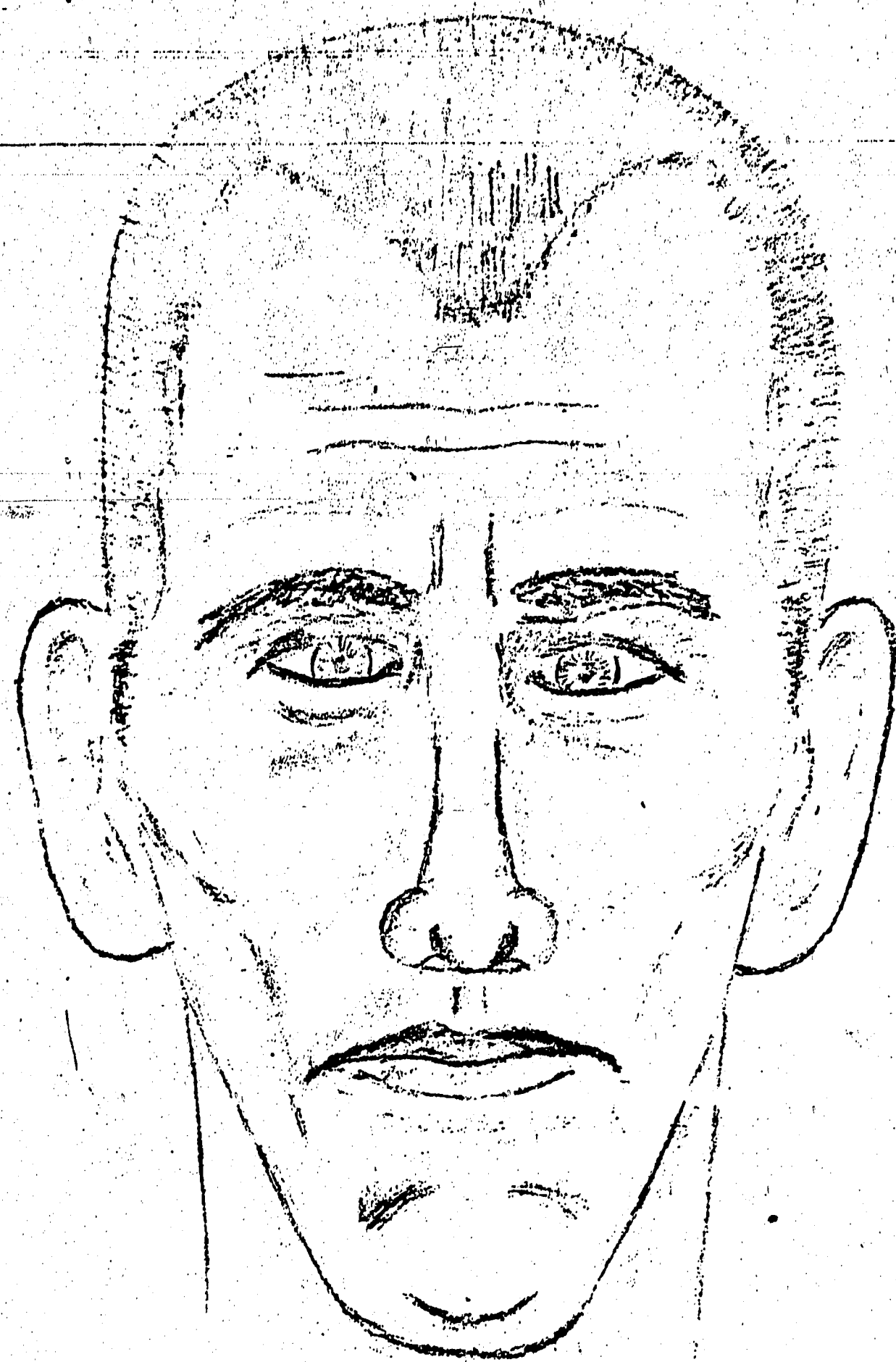
Techniques with other participants varied considerably. Some started program like NAME under "good guy" approach. Told to make sandals for children. Spencer and Carpenter put in leg irons for several weeks for no reason and not told why.

Flesher put on half rations to try to break him down. Schoeffel given ropes and irons and beaten to get him to sign the surrender. When signed, Fidel quietly brought his roommate, Flesher, to watch him sign and told him he was going to look like Schoeffel. Had 15 minutes to decide what he was going to do.

All aware of extreme physical punishment of program.

Cobeil refused to do anything, even after extreme beatings and torture.

000235



CUBAN KNOWN AS "FIDEL"
As described by Lt Col Donald G.
Waltman, ID W-062, and Capt Michael
S. Kerr, ID K-012. Travis AFB, Calif.

000236

In addition to the surrender statement, many of the participants forced to write letters to liberal senators, magazines, and GIs down South in attempt to break them down. Others asked to visit delegations. On some occasions, delegations never existed, indicating that Fidel was "testing" the men. Trying to determine if they were still willing to do as he said. Often tested by making write letters and make tapes.

In some cases if Father Image "good guy" treatment didn't work, Fidel would revert to a terror program.

Used men in several work projects. After NAME received letters from wife, he and Rivers allowed to join first group on an outside project. (6 Apr 68) The two continued working outside through June. First Project, which lasted till end of May, was digging of several large fish ponds in camp. Were 4' deep, 30' long, and 15' wide. Fidel carefully controlled the project, as he did all aspects of the Program. Appointed Bomar as foreman of Project, although Vohden actually senior man. Had to keep the men working. Fidel often gave the men the element of decision. "You plan it, use your imagination. You're college graduates." Seemed to understand they would respect this. VN, on the other hand, would always tell exactly what to do. In June, dug foxholes and bunkers.

NAME

NAME creature comfort treatment went up during the Cuban Program since he was given sandals; toothbrush; extra clothes; etc.; and allowed to work outside in the sun and, consequently, get daily baths after working all morning. However, this was more than compensated for by "mental strain and duress". Fidel was always around, looking in on people in the cells, dropping the peephole unexpectedly, asking questions. There was "a constant unspoken knowledge that Fidel might hammer you at any time". Fidel had complete domination over the Americans. There was always a fear that "big brother was watching". Fidel had his own VN "flunkies" who listened to every word spoken by them. Often at quiz, Fidel would bring up a comment he (NAME) had previously made. Fidel's ever presence "had a tremendous psychological effect on the men". Never knew if he was "going to beat the living daylights out of them" or ask them to be involved with some propaganda. After a time, this feeling of duress began to weigh heavily on the men involved.

Comm during Cuban Program was absolutely forbidden. On 1 occasion in Jun 68, Fidel heard a squeak and thought NAME and Rivers were comm. He then hit Bomar, Rivers, and Bliss one at a time inturn, 5 times with a fan belt on the buttocks. At a later quiz, NAME convinced Fidel he did not know why he had been punished. Fidel told him if he wanted to know who lived next door, just ask him. He then opened the door and let him see who was in the next room. Fidel found out that NAME bed squeaked and sounded like a code machine and had it fixed immediately. He almost apologized for the unwarranted beating.

000237

MISTREATMENT/METHODS EMPLOYED

Beating by Fidel, Lump, and a turnkey included 8 roommates. That night one cellmate caught walking around room while unable to sleep. Bomar again beaten on premise insomniac was communicating. (25-26 Jun 68)

Frequent use of leg irons, slapping, and kneeling used by Fidel to force total surrender to will of Fidel ~~between 17 Sep-17 Oct 67~~ during 17 Sep-17 Oct 67. During 13 Sep-15 Dec 67, 9 other POWs forced to surrender to him.

Demanded absolute surrender, conducted quizzes, torture, work details.

Fidel told him to write about F105F. Induced by solitary, leg irons, slapping, and threats, he wrote the Dash 1 description. Fidel had a Dash 1 and wanted more, but did not push the issue. Time involved was 1 month - 17 Sep-17 Oct 67.

Fidel had access to American products. On Thanksgiving Day 67, he and cellmates received several Viceroy cigarettes and some Wrigley's Spearmint chewing gum. Other POWs told NAME that Fidel gave them American after-shave lotion and Gillette razor blades to use prior to delegation interviews.

On night of Tet 68, all POWs in NAME cell block taken to interrogation with Chico, Fidel, three VN interrogators and a water girl present.

The six added to the Program later went through the surrender Program to a lesser extent.

POW Tim Kasler was tortured severely by Fidel for failure to attend a delegation.

Propagands (Possible) - The first 10 POWs to participate in Fidel's program were required to make 6 pair of wooden VN shoes and 4 toy wooden vehicles. These gifts had to be ready prior to Tet 68. (Toy cars known to have remained in the camp. Mrs Jack Bomar may possibly have received a pair of the wooden shoes.)

Electronic Surveillance: Fidel and Chico were observed directing the possible installation of microphones in NAME cell. The next day, Fidel seemed to be acutely aware of NAME and his cellmates' attempts to cover sensitive conversation with loud talking.

Described Fidel as Hammer Man and Chico as Nice Guy of the two.

NAME

NAME

NAME

000238

MISTREATMENT/METHODS EMPLOYED

29 May 68, NAME moved into Room 3 of Stable to help Cobeil, who was all bruised with a swollen face, marks from ropes and cuffs, and scratches on legs. No reaction when finger placed on his eye or pins stuck in his feet. Would do nothing for himself (little) except relieve himself. Occasionally accused fellow POWs of being Russian spies. Wrapped in blanket, even though it was summer. No reaction to flies crawling into his ears and nose. Some milk and vitamins provided. After 2 weeks of force feeding, condition still same. Moved out. Rumors indicated he received electroshock administered by local guards and then transferred to a local hospital for further electroshock therapy. Returned to camp badly burned, but coherent. Was "normal" for some time, then slowly returned to the catatonic state.

NAME

POWs stated concessions on "both sides" would end war. All residents of Room 3 mistreated. Included - Bomar, Carpenter, Spencer, Daughtry, Perkins, Waltman, Hubbard, Barrett, and Vohden. Bomar had mentioned in a quiz that for the war to end, both sides would be required to make concessions. Fidel and Poncho took each man outside in turn and hit them in the face with their fists. Then Bomar was forced to kneel while Cedric beat him with a rubber hose. (14 Jun 68)

To insure choir participation in taping of play and songs, Fidel administered continuous mistreatment to Bomar for a week (1-5 Feb 68). Also threatened were Barrett, Perkins, and possibly NAME

Between 20 Oct-15 Nov 67, Barrett forced to choose between cooperating or being tortured. Punishment began with threats of broken arms, etc, and increased gradually to being placed in leg irons to being slapped around each day. Finally, when faced with a very serious beating and possible permanent bodily harm, he agreed to cooperate. Despite this, he was still given a severe beating by Fidel the Cuban. (Involved Fidel, Chico, and NVA guards)

NAME

15 Nov 67 - NAME and 9 others gradually coerced through a long gradual period of punishment which increased in intensity until desired results achieved by Cuban interrogators. Cubans wished to weaken will to resist by gradually increasing punishment and repeating threats of bodily harm. NAME finally forced to have an interview with French reported. Pre-briefed on questions and answers by Cubans. Interview recorded by type-written report. Important issue-to try to get him to admit targeting civilian targets. Would not comply.

5-13 Dec 67 - Taken to shuttered interrogation room with 6 armed guards outside. Fidel knocked him to floor. Sat him up and began to beat his face with his fists. After throwing a punch, Fidel would return his fists by pulling backhand blows across NAME face. Instinctively tried to protect himself by throwing up an elbow, causing Fidel to hurt back of his hand. Fidel then tied him up and beat him senseless. Pushed him to floor, held his head with his knees, and hammered his back with his arm. Fearing a collapsed lung, surrendered. Then untied and ordered to write a surrender statement to NVN government. Sarcastic statement elicited a few more blows. When statement met Fidel's standards, POW Daugherty brought into observe battered NAME Fidel wanted NAME condition to serve as a reminder to Daugherty, who had surrendered a month before. This was Fidel's technique of continuous reinforcement. (Suffered 2 black eyes, 2 ruptured eardrums, 2 cut knees, and bleeding from nose, eyes, mouth, and one ear.)

NAME

000239

Then placed in solitary with leg irons until 13 Dec 67. Fidel listed his propaganda requirements after this beating.

24 Dec 68 - On Christmas eve 68, NAME and Perkind taken to HQ Bldg by Incredible and Casper. Movie and still photography taken of them standing between the turnkeys. Probably personal mementos for Fidel and Chico.

14-15 Jun 68 - NAME used the word concessions during a quiz in reference to the peace talks. Put on knees with hands up on the brick walkway, then hit twice in face with a fan belt and twice with a rubber hose. Then each roommate brought out and hit with fan belt and hose. Each time the roommates were hit NAME was also hit because he was the SRO. Were 9 roommates. NAME face and head were cut badly as result of this treatment.

15 May-15 Nov 68 - Cobeil would not bow and thought he was faking injury. Was beaten with a fan belt every day. Was hit with sticks and fists daily. This type of treatment occurred continuously throughout his stay at Zoo.

Oct 67 - After NAME wrote submission statement, was to urge Hubbard to do same. He did not. Hubbard had been beaten before/after this joint meeting/already submitted.

Spencer ended up writing a much worse letter than he was originally asked to write. Beating used as an example to NAME. Showed Spencer to him.

4 Oct 67 - Beat and knocked off a chair several times. Arms tied and hands manacled behind his back. Straps used on arms. Arms twisted till elbows touched. Kicked about the body several times. Gag put in mouth and then he was choked. Tried to break his wind pipe, also gouged his eyes with their fingers. Lasted about 20 minutes. (Still has scars on arms from this.) When returned to cell, was beat by Magoo. Hit over 10 times in the face. (Mouth and face cut very badly.)

1-15 Oct 67 - Beat continuously. Fidel said he had a bad attitude. Treatment so bad that after it ended, just the threat of it happening again produced the results the NVN wanted. Also throughout the period, he was kept in leg irons. (leg irons, beatings)

5 Sep 67? - Fidel wanted him to write all he knew about DATA. (Given 20 sheets of paper) After much torture, wrote about the DATA.

Subjected to "Cuban Program" where he was interrogated and tortured by a group of probable Cuban nationals. Solitary and daily beatings were not uncommon; and rubber hoses, bamboo sticks, etc. were utilized.

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

000240

Cubans - 2 separate individuals. Unknown military rank, possibly officers, for were treated with deference by camp commandant. Had car at their disposal. Spoke English better than the VN. A Mutt and Jeff team. Used physical and mental methods to break an individual, to get submission, and then would ease up. They are the ones who drove Cobeil insane. (Their arrival in NVN for camp duty may have been source of report that Cuba was sending pilots to NVAF.)

Cowboys disliked Cobeil and would work him over whenever had the opportunity. Beat him just for kicks. Cubans would take him to quiz and put towel over face and pour water on it. A standard torture used by the Cubans was to pour water down nose.

May 68 - NAME and roommates returned from work detail to find room in shambles. POWs in next cell warned them they thought Fidel had installed microphone in room. NAME later that day saw Fidel with tape recorder and wiring equipment. First "Bug" apparently faulty so another installed in wall of next room.

Cobeil beat into a vegetable in 1968-67(?-dates).

Placed in program designed and administered by foreign nationals. While in program, interrogation much more severe and interrogators much more experienced.

Office located in SE end of Bldg 4, Area A. Would start day by translating documents from what believed to be from Spanish to English. They would start to interrogate American POWs. When returned from lunch, would walk around the camp. Frequently visited Bomar's room, located in central area of Bldg 13, Area A. Ended each day by a visit to NVN camp commander.

Once when NAME finally reached to turn on recorder to make tape recording, Fidel stopped him and told him he almost ruined a good Frank Sinatra tape. Stated Fidel was always doing things like this to keep the POWs off-balance and confused.

After had talk about sports, hobbies, etc., always tried to show that he and/or the NVN were not as dumb as Americans thought. Always attempted to place American POWs, American achievements, etc. in an inferior position vis-a-vis North Vietnam.

Fidel's interest, family, and travels were never discussed. Whenever he asked Fidel a direct question, he always answered with a question. Fidel was a master of intimidation, very intelligent, and an excellent interrogator. When he lost his temper, he was "near insane with rage". Could and did torture, beat, and threaten on numerous occasions to kill NAME.

In Jan 68, Program essentially same but was placed on "lower key". Feels there was definite relaxation that was related to release of some POWs during the period.

In late Apr or early May 68, young VN boys were brought to camp.

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

000241

and POWs in Cuban Program given numerous quizzes by these boys. Feel these quizzes used to teach VN boys English. Generally bull sessions, but eventually asked about their feelings on the War, etc. (Said they supported U.S. Government's position. In late May, Fidel accused him of demonstrating bad faith by telling others not to cooperate. Was moved out of Program. Moved in with Shulz. Waltman and Cobeil moved in next door. Cobeil was behaving as if he were having serious emotional problems, and Fidel thought he was faking the problems and told Waltman to get him to stop the behavior and cooperate. Cobeil accused Waltman, Vohden and others of being Russians, of poisoning the water, etc, and did not cease his behavior.

NAME

Moved NAME in with Cobeil, and he tried to get Cobeil to snap out of his behavior and cooperate by giving VN statement of incorrect and misleading information. Tried to persuade that abuse he was receiving was not worth withholding a statement of this sort. Cobeil was taking heavy physical abuse at this time. Showed Cobeil pictures he'd received from home to show he was not a Russian. Cobeil came around a little but wouldn't or couldn't halt his strange behavior. Appeared to be in a daze. Was extremely dirty, had not bathed for a long time, and would not bathe. Would not bow to guards. On one occasion, was kicked to ground by a guard for not bowing. Fidel asked NAME to get Cobeil to go along, but he was unable to accomplish this. Told Fidel that Cobeil had been pushed too far and was disturbed, and if they went further they would kill him. Later, Fidel looked in a window while NAME was trying to talk to Cobeil and concluded that Cobeil was faking his mental condition. Started taking Cobeil to quizzes in which guards beat him with what appeared to be a fan belt. On 1 occasion, beat with a fan belt 20-30 times, with possibly Fidel doing the beating. After the beating, Cobeil moved to Big Room in Stable where 7-8 Program POWs held. Never saw again, but heard he had been killed.

He and 3 others (unnamed) had numerous quizzes with Fidel. Were always accompanied by easy-listening American music and extra cigarettes. Began to feel this was a release program, and became leery of situation and could not accept the cigarettes. Fidel told him he was uncooperative. Elf also told him he was uncooperative. Also accused him of communicating and told him some of the orders he had given as SRO. NAME refused to acknowledge any such action. Elf had him placed in manacles and straps. Manacles tightened up to point of pain, but he stayed with it as long as could. Finally, told them he was surrendering.

Fidel came in and told him to get a good attitude and write a surrender to the VN people. Wrote it and was then ordered to eat the paper to show he was sincere by Fidel.

NAME and NAME moved out of the room and he lived alone for 2 weeks, with one leg in the irons. Received only 1 cigarette per day. Magoo slapped him around a lot during this period. Had no water jug, and given only 1 cup of water per day. Food was the same, but lost his appetite and tried to starve himself.

000242

Fidel seemed concerned about his morale and would take to quiz room to listen to music. But his morale remained as low as it ever got. Moved in Oct 67 to Ho Chi Minh room, which is at rear of Auditorium. Held there with irons for 2-3 days until Fidel took the irons off. Could hear Bomar being given straps in next room. After 4-5 more days, allowed to sun himself. Also given an occasional piece of fruit. In 2-3 more weeks, moved back into room with Bomar and Duarte. They received extra cigarettes and tea, as well as better treatment in general. But Fidel got angry and threatened them for refusing the extra cigarettes. NAME was SRO, and decided it was unwise to resist further and they should go along with the extra tea and cigarettes.

NAME

About this time given (he and others) carving knives, chess sets, and more time in the sun. Fidel prepared "A Statement for the GIs Down South". Copied and signed it since he thought people in U.S. would be able to tell it was not written by an American. Was also made to write a request to VN army and ask for amnesty. Further, he dug fish ponds to prove his sincerity and to show concrete acts of penitence. Around Christmas POWs were required to make small toys. Thought reason behind was an impending release program. Cuban, he felt, was there to get a group ready. Decided he would go along with the small stuff, but at the last moment he would refuse to cooperate.

Later learned that the Cubans were holding interrogations of certain POWs.

Those 9 POWs in Cuban Program were kept apart from the rest of the camp during initial phase of intimidation and torture. Upon completion of this phase, he knew these POWs had been broken down to a point where they would make statements and write letters to senators. Were then moved together to Room 3 of Stable and allowed to work outside together. (Definitely special treatment in repayment for what was done to them.)

Word generally filtered through camp that extensive torture was being applied to first 9.

14 Feb 68, taken to first interrogation with Fidel in Room 1 of Coop. Commenced with questions concerning his personal background; and despite his great apprehension, developed into a rather pleasant session. Second line of questioning followed a different tact. Fidel asked why he thought brought to him for interrogation. NAME replied he didn't know, but assumed for propaganda purposes. (Said would refuse but would be tortured till did.) Fidel chuckled and said no, he didn't want anything from him; he had nothing to fear from Fidel. Fidel said there had been a great deal of problems in Zoo due to communications problem between VN and NAME and alluded to VN lack of proficiency in English language as main reason for problem. Said here to help NAME with communications problem. Continued to assure him had nothing to fear from Fidel, that he was going to help him understand the war and what was happening. Not going to make him believe anything, only present the facts. In future, assured him and would see him daily so could discuss things.

000242

NAME said Fidel had interrogated him same morning, using soft-sell approach, but he NAME was very apprehensive concerning intimidation and torture previously administered in Program. (Decided nothing they could do about it, so decided not to worry about it.) Although Fidel stopped by daily and looked through peep hole, he maintained a stern but friendly air. Second interview with Fidel was pleasant - all he wanted was for NAME to understand war - but turned out to be just a reiteration of Communist pitch about the war. Mostly lecture with Fidel stopping occasionally to ask NAME for his thoughts. (Replies - in answer to questions along with affirmation of his support for President and Nation's policies.) Fidel understood this reply to be that of a professional military man, for which there can be no condemnation. Fidel's tact was that NAME was saying things he did not believe, that more than likely he agreed with Fidel, but could not affirm this due to NAME status. NAME said he felt free to tell Fidel exactly how he felt and had no cause to lie to him. Fidel continued to pursue soft-sell approach to prove NAME was wrong. Fidel then asked why shaking and replied he was cold (actually - nerves). Fidel continued to urge him to relax and reiterated that further conversations would be conducted.

Mar 68, Fidel brought NAME letter from wife (only censored letter he had received).

During Mar 68, Bliss and NAME isolation from others continued. Fidel visited POWs daily and conducted some interrogations. All intimidated and tortured except for NAME and Bliss.

Apr 68, asked if would like to work with group of POWs in construction of 2 ponds. Allowed to work outside on this project. Additionally they (?) were assigned a joint dish-washing detail. Are rewarded for contribution to work project by receiving extra cigarettes.

Propaganda received consisted of -

War unjust, illegal, and immoral.

U.S. neo-colonialist policy in VN

U.S. fear of election (1956)

War criminals - U.S. - greatest of

which resided in White House,

Defense Department, State

Department, etc.

Validity, integrity, sovereignty,

unity, and independence of VN

and that VN was one country.

Propaganda given day in/day out in great detail, along with Communist version of VN history over the last 4,000 years, especially the recent 40 years of Socialist gains under the Communists.

Third interrogation with Fidel mainly discussion of the war and Tet offensive, particularly capture of Hue. NAME wanted NAME to say capture of Hue was a great strategic victory for VN. But he wouldn't. Was a pleasant surprise.

000244

May 68 - large number of VN officer trainees in camp. Conducted interrogation training, using POWs. (17-20 years of age) Threat of punishment was more intimidation than actual carrying out of physical abuse.

Photos showing horridness of the was set up in rooms, and Cuban Program POWs had to view the photos for one-half hour at a time.

Felt that on 21 May 68, a significant event occurred which led to downfall of Cuban Program. Felt Cobeil's attitude (name, rank, serial#) contributed to his problem with Fidel. Spent a number of months in solitary, then taken to Carriage house, where Fidel administered a savage beating. Following that beating, Cobeil never again displayed any type of reasonable sanity. Placed with Waltman and later in Room 3 of Stable with original 9-10 Cuban POWs. Did not trust any of them and thought they were Russian spies. (Wanted to die and attempted to starve himself to death. DATA had to be force fed.) Health authorities also becoming upset about him. NAME felt the VN were giving him every possible opportunity to recover. Was his contention that Cobeil exhibited no signs of sanity whatsoever and felt that no medical treatment, even in U.S., would have restored him.

About 15 Jun 68, last interrogation with Fidel. Garcia present. More of a pleasant visit, basically to introduce NAME to Garcia. One week later (about 22 Jun 68), went to brief interrogation with Garcia alone. Informed Fidel would no longer have any control over him. Garcia conducted a rather stern quiz, unlike pleasant ones with Fidel. Felt Garcia was to be hatchmen and he was going to be subjected to all-out Cuban Program. Said he would be seeing him many times and had a great program mapped out for him. Felt Garcia had no knowledge that Cuban Program was about to end. Only time physically abuse administered to him - 5 blows with fan belt - squeaky bed incident (Bliss) (accused and had to be punished).

Told that Fidel's Program started out as a soft sell. No response was engendered from his group of POWs (approx. 20) and this negative response prompted harsher treatment from Fidel, which became his trademark. Fidel's Carriage House beating of Cobeil was so severe that Cobeil became more emotionally disturbed than he had been prior to the interrogation. This beating prompted Cobeil's visits to a Hanoi hospital for shock treatments.

Submission was to be gained without torture. Torture proved necessary to reach goal and beatings became part of program.

Program had minor advantages in addition to obvious disadvantages. Participants were permitted more time outside, were allowed to build fish pond in compound, and were given special projects such as making toys or medical kits to pass the time. Disadvantages included being subject to special quizzes and regular beatings.

While participating in this program, Cobeil went insane. Fidel felt insanity was faked and resorted to beatings to force him to resume normal activity.

000245

MISTREATMENT/METHODS EMPLOYED

reverse the trend... Questioned Kerr, a psychology major, for possible treatment. Resorted to shock treatment although was not recommended. Treatment was unsuccessful.

NAME
(NAME)

Navy Lt Charles Rice entered Program after others and underwent a unique experience. At direction of SRO, readily acknowledged submission to Fidel without taking torture. Fidel was surprised and permitted Rice to return to room without signing statement or any follow-up action. Prior to this, Fidel had attempted to humiliate Rice by giving him a cigar at end of each session and forcing him to smoke it in the presence of other POWs while returning to his room.

Fidel's first tactic was to demand total surrender to him. Feels information concerning F-105 demanded primarily as a point over which to demand and obtain surrender to Fidel's will rather than to obtain military information. When he conceded and began to write the Dash One description, Fidel dropped the issue. Fidel went out of his way to insure that his charges broke, to some degree at least, each of the rules of the Code of Conduct.

NAME

By the time Bliss was selected, the program was common knowledge. POW knowledge included methods used (beatings with fan belts and fists and water treatments). Fan belts were circles cut from old tires. Water Treatment described as mouth covered, then water poured in nostrils. Beatings with fists around head. Had them do what they (the POWs) said they would not do.

NAME

000246

MISCELLANEOUS (PEOPLE)

Individual resembling photo C-2 seen Aug 67 by NAME and Chauncey (NAME room-mate at this time). Cuban wore a shirt as depicted in photo, but appeared to be approximately 25 years old. Another Cuban, approximately 20 years old with Negroid features, accompanied this individual.

NAME

000247

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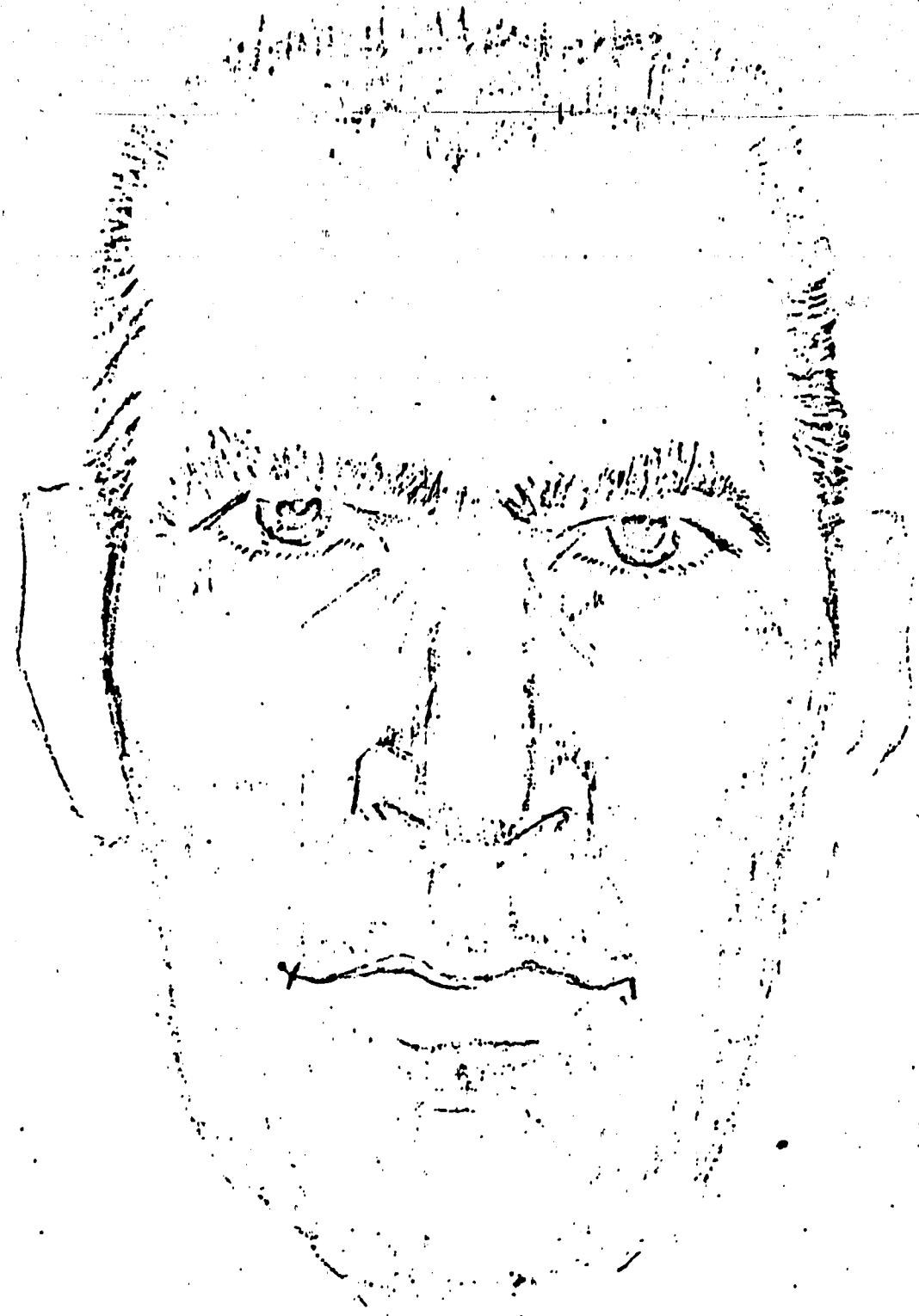
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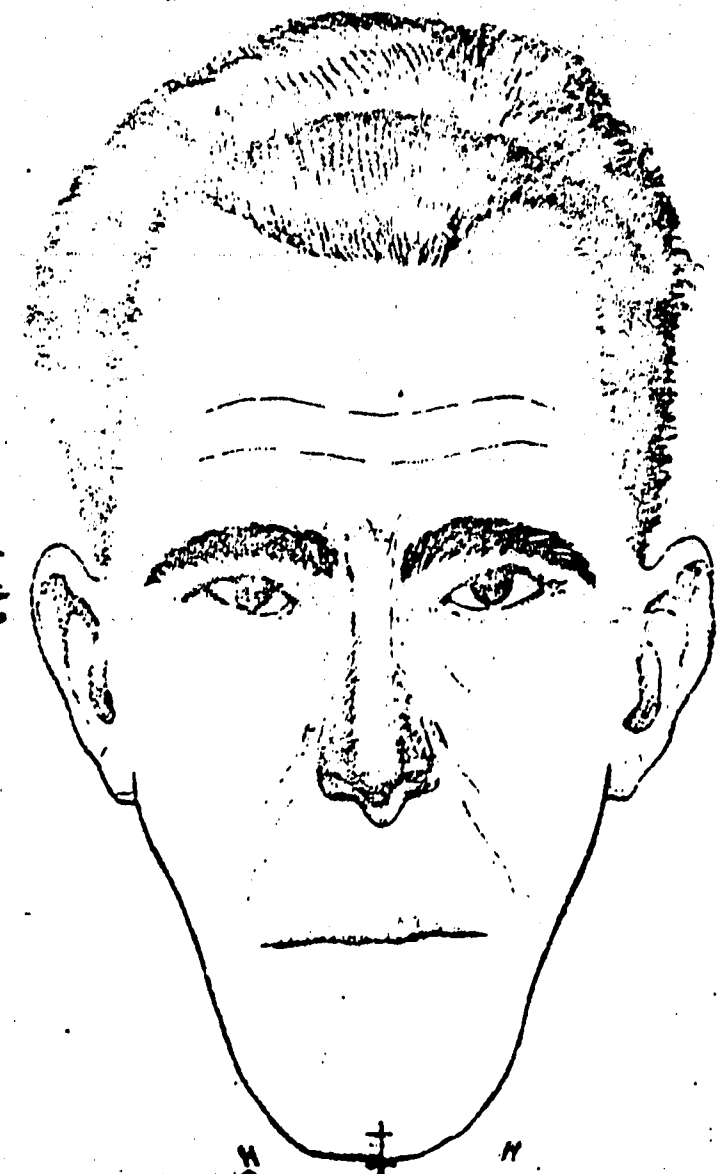
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Composit of "Fidel"
By: Capt Thomas J. Barrett

000251



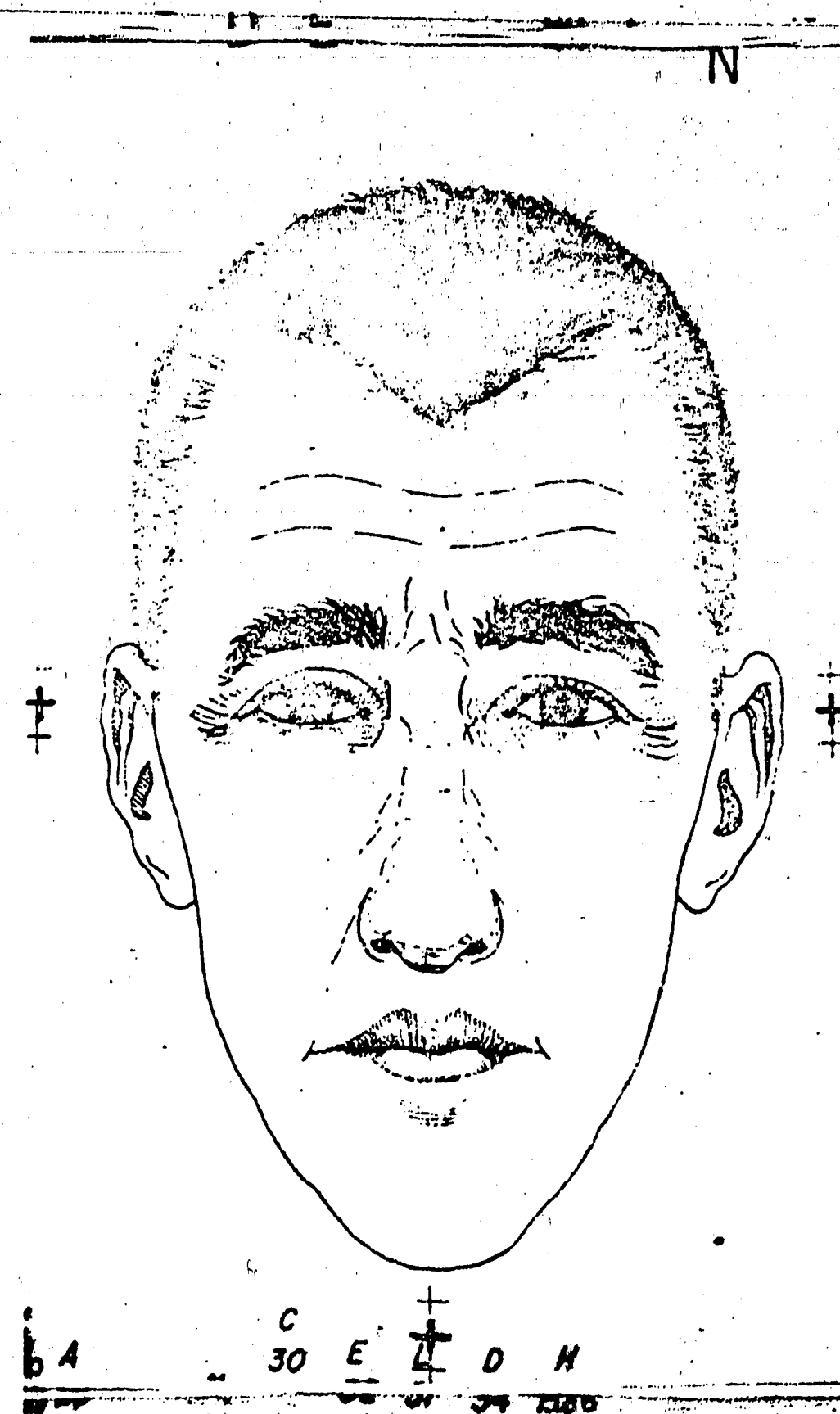
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Composit of "Fidel"
By: Capt Ronald G. Bliss

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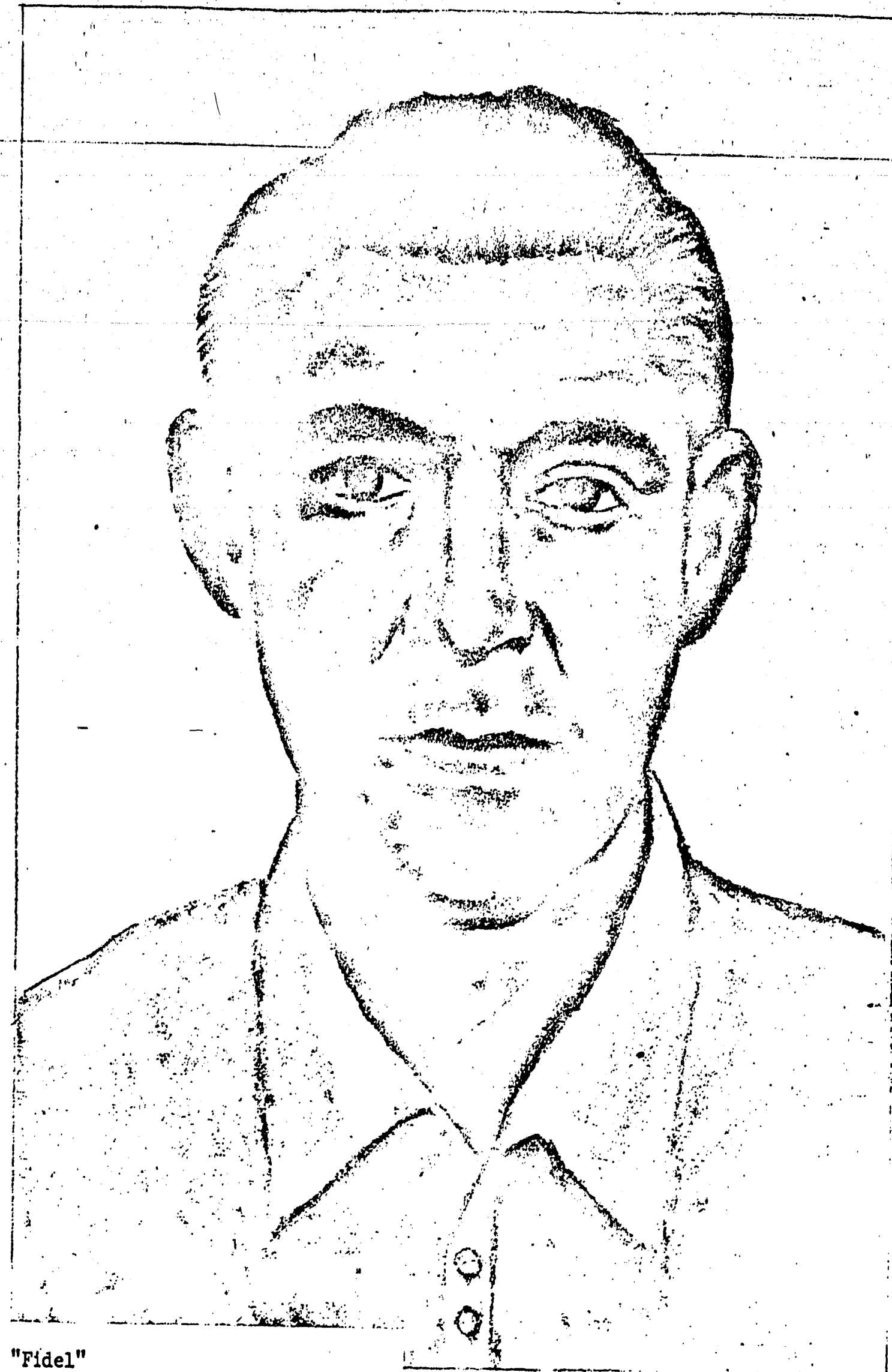
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Composit of "Fidel"
By: Lt Col Jack Bomar

000255

000256



SUBJECT: "Fidel"

SOURCE: James H. Kasler, Colonel, USAF

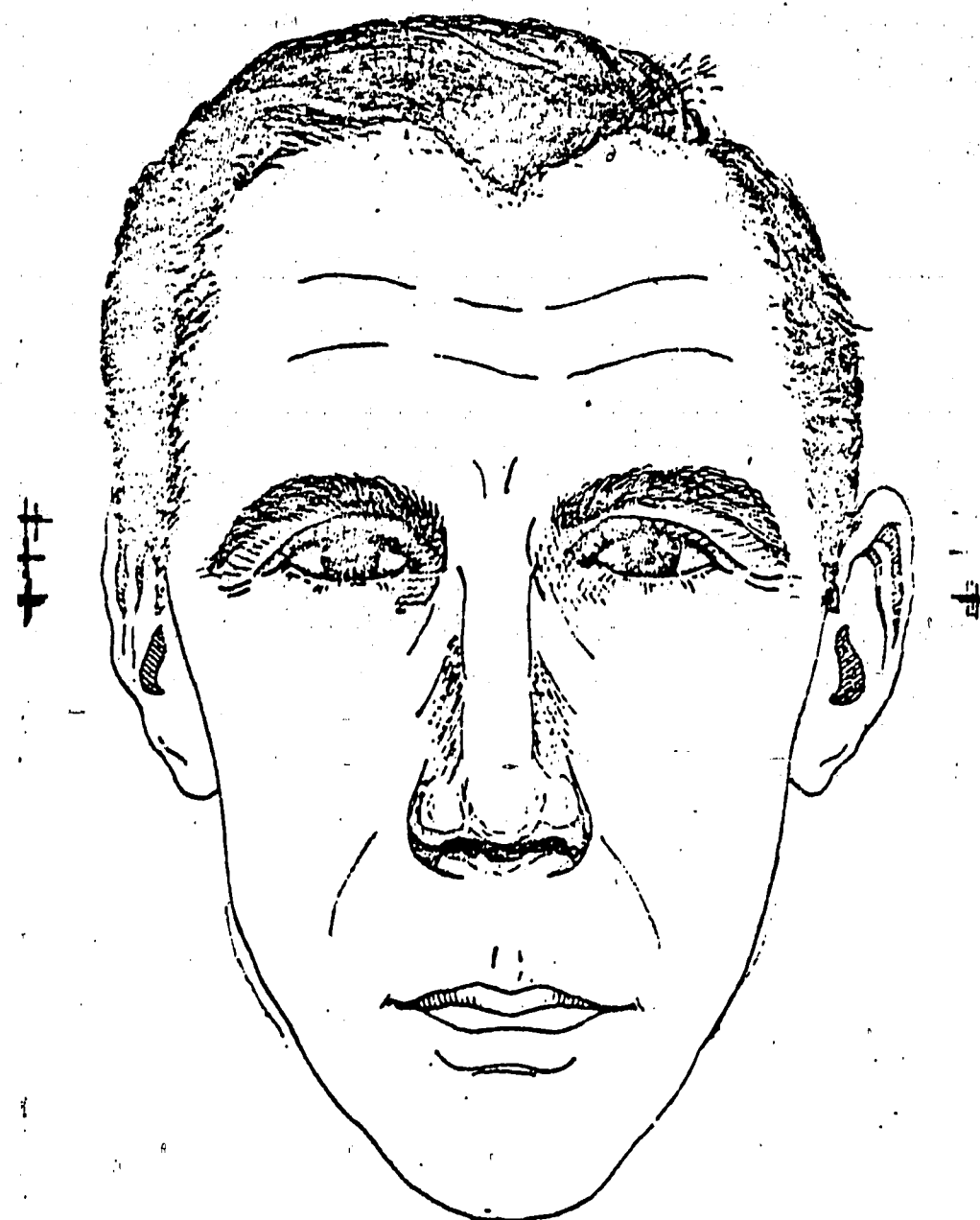
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CENTER: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

AID: OSI Ident-A-Kit

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000258



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		09	64

Composit of "Fidel"
By: Major Jose Luna

000259



CHAVE

2

Wm. W. W. W.

Angel Joel Chaveco Hernandez

Photos: 1 & 2 (1-7 set)

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