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>Castro - America's "Terrorist Next Door"
>by Paul Crespo
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>In the rush to find terrorists in far-flung places such as Afghanistan and
>the Persian Gulf, lets not overlook a sly terrorist on our very own
>doorstep - Cuba's Fidel Castro; a dictator with a bankrupt economy, long
>history of support for terror groups, hatred for America and a bio-warfare
>capability.
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>In 1959 Castro expressed his passionate belief that he was destined to lead
>an anti-American crusade. "I am going to launch another much longer and
>bigger war against them. I realize now that this is going to be my true
>destiny," he wrote. In the 60's he dispatched his terrorist mercenaries to
>Africa and South America and also supported domestic US terrorists such as
>the radical Weathermen underground and Puerto Rican nationalists
>responsible for numerous bombings and murders in the US.
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>Castro's terror connection exploded in the 1970 and 80's. As the spearhead
>of the Soviet Union's global subversion effort, he trained, equipped and
>advised an alphabet soup of terror groups and Latin American guerillas such
>as the FMLN in El Salvador, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, Colombia's FARC
>and ELN, Peru's Shining Path as well as the European Red Brigades, Carlos
>"The Jackal," the IRA, and the Palestinian PLFP. His campaign left a trail
>of blood over several continents.
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>Some argue that the aging Castro is now more interested in the tourism
>trade than the terror business; this is a dangerous delusion -- he is
>interested in both. Castro may be less active now, but Cuba is still one of
>seven nations along with Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, North Korea, and Sudan)
>on the US State Department list of terrorist states. This status is well
>deserved. In the year 2000, the State Department reported that "Cuba
>continued to provide safe-haven to several terrorists and US fugitives."
>Afghan nationals detained
in the Cayman Islands in the wake of recent attacks reportedly transited
through Cuba; two others detained in Panama for their possible financial
connection to the Bin Laden network, were reportedly en route to Cuba.
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>The Cuban dictator has never wavered in his ideological rampage against
>America, even as he has wooed western investors. Recently he has been
>organizing a new "anti-western alliance" of rogue states (including now
>Chavez's Venezuela). In 2001 Castro visited Libya six times. As recently
>as May 2001 Castro toured Syria, Libya and Iran to garner support for this
>effort. On May 10th in Tehran, Fidel Castro stated, Iran and Cuba, in
>cooperation with each other, can bring America to its knees.
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>Castro's intelligence threat is real. He reportedly supplied intelligence
>on US military activities to Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War -
>information gained through his Soviet-built, Russian-financed
>signals-intelligence facility in Lourdes capable of eavesdropping on phone
>calls in Washington, DC, and from spies in the US. The Russians pay him
>over \$200 million a year in much needed hard currency for access to his
>intelligence. We can only speculate how much bin Laden and Iraq may be
>paying.
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>Cuba's myriad of agents operating in the US, included a military-spy ring
>code-named the "Wasp" network, recently uncovered in Miami. That group had
>a dramatic addition on September 22, 2001, with the arrest of a senior
>American intelligence officer (the US Defense Intelligence Agency Cuba
>analyst) in Washington, DC. She is the highest level American ever accused

>of spying for Castro and significantly had considerable input into recent
>Defense Department reports minimizing the Cuba threat!
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>The Chinese have also built an electronic espionage complex in Bejucal,
>Cuba operating under the cover of "Radio China". The FCC has stated they
>are capable of interfering with U.S. communications and air traffic
>control. On May 13th, the Chinese reportedly sent a message to New York air
>traffic control falsely identifying themselves as a U.S. military transport
>plane - A chilling foretaste of things to come.
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>More worrisome though, is his potential chemical and biological weapons
development and proliferation. Castro has long been suspected of hiding a
chemical/biological weapons program within his sophisticated, Soviet-created
biotechnology industry.
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>In May 1998, Secretary of Defense William Cohen testified before Congress
>that Cuba possesses advanced biotechnology and is capable of mass-producing
>agents for biological warfare. High-level Cuban defectors as well as
>Colonel Ken Alibek, former Deputy Chief of the ex-Soviet Union's biological
>warfare program, and author of "Biohazard," support that assessment. Castro
>may also be exporting this capability to his rogue friends. In 2000, Cuban
>officials inaugurated a new biotech research plant near Tehran.
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>Castro's continued anti-American fervor, close intelligence links to rogue
>states and terrorists and bio-warfare capability make him a dangerous
>neighbor. What should the US do? First we should clearly tell China and
>Russia that we will no longer allow Cuba to be used as an intelligence
>collection or subversion site against the US, and demand they withdraw
>their advisors and technicians immediately. At minimum we should also
>demand that Castro shut down these facilities and allow for independent
>inspection and verification.
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>We should also demand to inspect all suspected chemical / biological
>(research weapons) sites on the island. Finally, we should redouble and
>refocus our intelligence efforts to verify and confirm the details of Cuban
>complicity with terrorist groups, and we should tell Castro clearly that we
>will not tolerate Cuba being used as a haven for international terrorists.
>Castro is a player in this global terrorist network, and should be treated
>as such.

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