

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

August 4, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
 General Counsel
 The President's Commission
 200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of July 9, 1964, requesting that this Bureau investigate the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald, either alone or with others, may have distributed Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature in the vicinity of a United States aircraft carrier which was docked in New Orleans, Louisiana, approximately June, 1963.

Enclosed are two copies of a memorandum dated July 16, 1964, at Washington, D. C., and two copies of a memorandum dated July 22, 1964, at New Orleans, Louisiana, which set forth results of our inquiries in this matter. You will note in the enclosed memorandum of July 22, 1964, it is reported that Patrolman Girod Ray, Harbor Police, New Orleans, Louisiana, stated he believes Lee Harvey Oswald distributed literature in the vicinity of the Dumaine Street Wharf in New Orleans. You will also note that copies of the literature obtained by Patrolman Ray from the individual he believes to be Oswald are included in our memorandum of July 22, 1964.

In connection with the handbill made available by Patrolman Ray, entitled "HANDS OFF CUBA!" which he obtained from the individual he believes to be Lee Harvey Oswald, your attention is directed to the report of Special Agent Warren C. deBrueys dated December 8, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, in the Oswald case which sets out data on pages 393 through 401

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

regarding the handbill containing the same caption "HANDS OFF CUBA!" which was ordered by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Jones Printing Company, 422 Girod Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. A copy of this handbill entitled "HANDS OFF CUBA!" and copies of other literature ordered by Oswald in connection with his Fair Play for Cuba Committee activities in New Orleans, have been furnished to the Commission in our Evidence Exhibit Number D-31.

This concludes our investigation in this particular matter.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures (4)

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412-Continued



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 20535

July 16, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

It will be recalled that a Mr. Martin Samuel Abelow advised that in or about June of 1963, while on a vacation trip in New Orleans, Louisiana, he observed a young man distributing Fair Play for Cuba Committee leaflets to a crowd waiting to board a United States aircraft carrier, which was docked in New Orleans at that time. It will also be recalled that in a letter to Mr. V. T. Lee, then National Director of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Oswald said that "we also managed to picket the fleet when it came in and I was surprised at the number of officers which were interested in our leaflets."

Pursuing the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald, either alone or with others, may have distributed Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature under the circumstances indicated above, inquiry was made at the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI).

On July 14, 1964, Wilbur Sartwell, ONI, Potomac River Naval Command, telephonically advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), that the files of his office contain no information that would relate to the subject and the incident described above. He indicated any such record would be at Headquarters, ONI.

On July 15, 1964, Mr. Don Gorham, Acting Chief, NCISC-3, United States Naval Counter Intelligence Support Center, ONI, made available to a representative of the FBI, the Headquarters, ONI files pertaining to the subject.

A review of these files, on July 15, 1964, failed to disclose any record of, or reference to, the circumstances described previously in this communication. This also includes a summary of information available in the file relating to the subject up to the period of the assassination.

Mr. Gorham pointed out that the actual file of ONI is with the President's Commission, that the files reviewed represent about ninety-eight per cent of available ONI information pertaining to the subject. He said he did not recall any reference to such an incident possibly involving the subject, and felt if there had been such an incident reported it would have been contained in the previously mentioned summary.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412--Continued

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412--Continued



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

July 22, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

On July 21, 1964, Mr. Lloyd Beck, Office of Naval Intelligence, Eighth Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that according to the records of his agency, the aircraft carrier "USS Wasp" (CVS - 18) visited the Port of New Orleans from June 13, 1963 to June 20, 1963 and during this period of time, was berthed at the Dumaine Street Wharf. Mr. Beck informed that the "USS Wasp" was one of six U.S. Naval Vessels visiting the Port of New Orleans during this period and that the "USS Wasp" is currently at its home port of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Beck informed that no information had been received by his agency that during the period that the "USS Wasp" visited the Port of New Orleans, any individual was engaged in distributing leaflets in the vicinity of the "USS Wasp" or any other Naval vessel.

On July 21, 1964, Raymond Martinas, Harbor Master, Port of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he recalled the visit of the aircraft carrier, the "USS Wasp" to the Port of New Orleans during June, 1963. Mr. Martinas informed that no information had come to his attention that any individual had been distributing leaflets near the "USS Wasp" during the period of time this ship was visiting the Port of New Orleans.

On July 21, 1964, Lieutenant Roy Alleman, New Orleans Harbor Police, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that his agency is in no way connected with the New Orleans Police Department, but is a separate and distinct law enforcement agency. He informed that his agency is under the control of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, an agency of the State of Louisiana.

Lieutenant Alleman advised he recalled an incident wherein an individual was distributing leaflets on the Dumaine Street Wharf at the time the "USS Wasp" was berthed during June, 1963. Lieutenant Alleman stated that he recalled

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

that Harbor Patrolman Girod Ray had been contacted by a member of the United States Navy and requested to locate an individual who was passing out leaflets on the Dumaine Street Wharf near where the "USS Wasp" was berthed. As a result, Patrolman Ray located this individual, name unknown, and asked this individual to leave the premises. Lieutenant Alleman stated that no arrest was made and that this person upon request, did leave the Dumaine Street Wharf. Lieutenant Alleman informed that Patrolman Ray obtained two leaflets that this unknown individual had been passing out and recalled that one of these leaflets had "something to do with Cuba" but could not recall any additional information.

Lieutenant Alleman stated that he did not personally observe the individual passing out the leaflets and that he could furnish no additional information regarding this incident. He stated that the records of his agency do contain a brief, type-written report made by Patrolman Ray, and also one copy each of the pamphlets that this unknown individual was distributing. Lieutenant Alleman furnished copies of these pamphlets, together with a copy of Patrolman Ray's report, which are set forth in the attached pages.

On July 21, 1964, Patrolman Girod Ray, Harbor Police, advised a Special Agent of the FBI he recalled the incident in June of 1963 wherein he requested an individual to leave the Dumaine Street Wharf, after this individual was observed passing out leaflets in the vicinity of the "USS Wasp."

Patrolman Ray stated that he could not recall the day of the week, but believed it was either on a Saturday or a Sunday and that he had been assigned to a roving patrol in the area of the Toulouse and the Dumaine Street Wharves. He said this was a special assignment, inasmuch as the "USS Wasp" was berthed and that there were visiting hours for civilians who desired to go aboard this ship. Patrolman Ray stated that late in the afternoon, possibly between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm he was approached by an unknown enlisted man from the "USS Wasp" who told him that the Officer of the Deck of the "USS Wasp" desired Patrolman Ray to seek out an individual who was passing

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412—Continued

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out leaflets regarding Cuba and to request this individual to stop passing out these leaflets. Patrolman Ray stated that he was between the Toulouse and Dumaine Street Wharves when he received this information and thereafter, immediately went to the Dumaine Street Wharf where he saw an unknown white male passing out leaflets which were white and yellow in color. He described this unknown individual as a white male, age late 20's, 5'9" tall, 150 pounds, and slender build. He said this individual was distributing these leaflets to U.S. Naval personnel in the area and also to civilians who were leaving the "USS Wasp." Patrolman Ray stated that he approached this person and asked him if he had permission to distribute the leaflets. This person replied that he did not have permission to do this and felt that he did not need anyone's permission since he was within his rights to distribute leaflets in any area he desired to do so. Patrolman Ray stated that he told this individual that the wharves and buildings along the Mississippi River, encompassing the Port of New Orleans, are operated by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, and that if this individual received permission from the Board of Commissioners, he could distribute these leaflets. Patrolman Ray stated that after informing this individual of this information, this person kept insisting that he did not see why he would need anyone's permission and thereafter, Patrolman Ray informed this individual that if he did not leave the Dumaine Street Wharf, Patrolman Ray would arrest him. Upon hearing this, this person then left the Dumaine Street Wharf.

Patrolman Ray stated he could not recall how this person was dressed, other than that he was well groomed and that this unknown individual was alone and was not assisted in the distribution of these leaflets by any other person.

Patrolman Ray stated that he could not now recall whether he looked at some type of identification of this individual, but believes he may have done so. Patrolman Ray stated that he feels sure that he wrote this unknown person's name on a slip of paper, but that apparently he had lost this piece of paper,

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

as he did not include this individual's name in his typewritten report and that he could not recall the name.

Patrolman Ray stated that he feels that this unknown individual who was distributing the leaflets was Lee Harvey Oswald. He said he bases this on the fact that subsequent to the incident, he had observed photographs of Oswald on television and in the newspapers and that from these photographs he observed, he believes that the individual on the Dumaine Street Wharf was Lee Harvey Oswald.

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412—Continued

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1412—Continued

HANDS OFF CUBA!

Join the Fair Play for
Cuba Committee

NEW ORLEANS CHARTER
MEMBER BRANCH

Free Literature, Lectures

LOCATION:

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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The Truth about Cuba

IS IN CUBA!

On January 16, 1961, the United States Government imposed a ban on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba. Failure to abide by the ban is punishable by a fine of \$5,000 or 5 years in jail or both. (8 USC 1185, 22 USC 225.)

This is in clear contradiction to remarks made by President Kennedy before the United Nations on September 22, 1961, when he deplored action by any nation which "builds a wall to keep truth a stranger and its own citizens prisoners". It seems also to violate the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 which states "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own and return to his country".

What mysterious features exist on this tiny island of 6½ million people to become so taboo for American eyes? Although the policy of the Castro government is to promote tourism everywhere in Cuba, our government innocently explains that the travel ban is to safeguard our welfare.

- Why then does it allow American citizens to travel in such trouble spots as Somoza's Nicaragua?
- Why then does it exempt Americans such as "certain" businessmen and "certain" reporters from the ban when they are the very ones most likely to become involved in international incidents?
- Why then do other Western countries such as Canada, Mexico, England, France, West Germany, etc., find that the safety of their nationals does not require restrictions on travel to Cuba?

Our government states that another reason for the ban on travel is that it is in the national interest to combat Communism by preventing travel to Cuba.

- Why then is travel allowed and even encouraged to *admittedly* Communist countries such as Poland, Yugoslavia and even the Soviet Union?

In short, WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT HIDING?

As a result of the Cuban Revolution stopping the flow of Cuban wealth to the United States, Cuban soil, industry and manpower has been put at the disposal of the Cuban nation.

- Can it be that the new schools, homes and hospitals of revolutionary Cuba might contrast severely with the Cuba that served as a U.S. plantation and might weigh heavily on the American conscience?
- Can it be that we would also see the effects of the recent invasion which was supported by 43,000,000 dollars of our tax money?

WE MAINTAIN THAT THE TRUTH ABOUT CUBA IS IN CUBA AND THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBSERVE AND JUDGE FOR OURSELVES WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE!

If you agree:

- Seek permission from the Passport Office to go there. When it is denied, ask why.
- Write to the U.S. State Department and President Kennedy asking that our government adhere to concepts of justice and international law and expressing your opinion on the travel ban.
- Read books which present the side of the story you haven't been told such as
90 MILES FROM HOME by Warren Miller and
LISTEN YANKEE by C. Wright Mills.

Both of these books are in pocketbook editions and can be purchased at the bookstands.

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, 799 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

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FD-36 (4-61)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
(AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA)
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 16, 1964

TO: Chief L. Deutschman

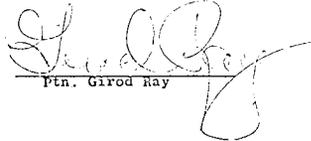
C.C.

FROM: Patrolman Girod Ray

SUBJECT: Distribution of Propaganda Literature

While working a special assignment at Dumain St. Wharf I was approached by a U.S.S. Navy Officer from the U.S.S. Wasp, who stated that he saw a white male adult subject handing out the enclosed pamphlets to persons visiting the Wasp, berthed at Dumaine St. Wharf.

I immediately looked for this subject and found him distributing these pamphlets and asked him if he had received permission from the Dock Board to issue these papers. He stated that he thought as an American citizen he did not need anyone's permission. I ordered this man off of our property and told him he would have to refrain from issuing anything on Dock Board Property without their express consent.


Ptn. Girod Ray



DR. THOMAS D. BURBANK
DIRECTOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BATON ROUGE

February 4, 1964

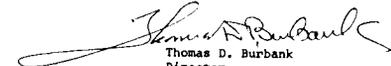
Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel
President's Commission On The Assassination
Of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, NE.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am enclosing a report asked for in your letter of January 13, 1964, to Governor Jimmie H. Davis.

If there is any additional information that we can furnish you, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Yours very truly,


Thomas D. Burbank
Director

TDB:brd

Enclosure

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1413