

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 26, 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 dated April 23, 1964, wherein you requested that certain investigation be conducted based upon testimony furnished to your Commission by Mr. Carlos Bringuier.

Enclosed are two copies each of the reports of Special Agent James J. O'Connor dated May 8, 1964, at Miami, Florida, and Special Agent Stephen M. Callender dated May 15, 1964, at New Orleans, Louisiana, both of which are self-explanatory. Also enclosed are single copies of the following publications requested by you:

- (1) "Diario Las Americas," dated September 4, 1963
- (2) "Diario Las Americas," dated September 6, 1963
- (3) "Bohemia Internacional," dated February 2, 1964

The pertinent articles contained in these documents and referred to in your referenced letter have been translated and incorporated into the enclosed Miami report.

Item three of your referenced letter concerns an alleged "lapsus linguae" committed by Castro in a speech given at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963, at which time

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Castro allegedly indicated Oswald had been in Cuba. Enclosed are two copies of a translation of this speech, pertinent portions of which have been included in the enclosed Miami report. A review of this speech fails to indicate any slip of the tongue as alleged. It is noted, however, that page 35, last paragraph, of the enclosed Miami report relating to Castro's speech contains a statement wherein Castro refers to Oswald's visit to the "Cuban Embassy" in Mexico following which he corrected himself indicating he meant the "Cuban Consulate." This could possibly be the basis for the slip of the tongue referred to by Herminio Portell-Vila.

Two copies of a memorandum dated May 15, 1964, setting forth the results of an interview with Herminio Portell-Vila, writer of the article containing the above-mentioned allegation, are also enclosed. You were previously furnished a memorandum dated February 13, 1964, containing additional data obtained from Portell-Vila concerning this matter.

It is noted that Portell-Vila has stated his articles are primarily interpretive analysis, speculation and conjecture based on a review of public source data.

The enclosed memorandum of May 15, 1964, states that according to Portell-Vila, he gave the original of a message received from an unknown source in Cuba pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald's alleged relations in Moscow, Russia, with two Cuban Ambassadors to Mrs. Mariada Arensberg, Secretary of the Cuban Freedom Committee in Washington, D. C. Portell-Vila believed she passed the message on to an unknown Government agency.

On May 22, 1964, a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) advised he recalls receiving such a communication; however, at the time it was received the name Oswald was believed to relate to Osvaldo Dorticos, President of Cuba, rather than Lee Harvey Oswald. Further inquiries are being conducted in this regard.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2952

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2952—Continued

The following is a translation of an article from the Spanish language magazine, "Bohemia Internacional", February 2, 1964, pages 16, 17, 53:

CHANGE OF DISGUISE

By HERMINIO PONTELLI-VILA

On December 27 and 28, with a surprising and alarming uniformity many United States dailies published the news that the so-called "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" was disbanding or was ceasing to exist. It is evident that the publicity directors for these defenders of FIDEL CASTRO RUIZ and his government prepared a single press release, called their friends and comrades on various newspapers and gave them the signal that the time had come to publish the obituary for the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba", because it seemed to be involved in something that was more serious than all the other complications which it had had: namely, its connection with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, supposed assassin of President KENNEDY, which would henceforth be a heavy load on the Committee, on CASTRO, and to some extent, on KHRUSHCHEV, himself, because of the disrepute of the crime, which, in addition, is very prejudicial to International Communism in these times of "peaceful coexistence".

I am sure that the Communists decided to do away with the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" because it suits them to do so at this time, but they have already made plans to set it up again under some other name such as "Cuban-American Friends", "Free Cuba under Castro", or something like that.

The release given to the United States press places a great deal of emphasis on the fact that for some time no one has been going to the office at 799 Broadway, New York, even though the rent, light and telephone have been paid until the end of December, 1963. We are also told that VINCENT THEODORE LEE, incumbent Secretary General of the Committee, had left the organization before the assassination of President KENNEDY (though at the time he made statements to the effect that he had nothing to do with OSWALD), and that when RICHARD GIBSON, his predecessor, resigned, he began to work for the government of Algerian BEN BELLA, which is, in itself, a revelation. As for ROBERT (RED) TABER, the

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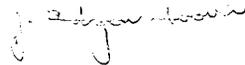
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Interviews with Orestes Pena and Carlos Bringuier have not yet been conducted due to their unavailability. Pena reportedly is traveling in Europe as indicated in the memorandum dated May 1, 1964, at New Orleans concerning Orestes Pena, two copies of which are enclosed. Carlos Bringuier has been away from New Orleans on an extended speaking tour. Both Pena and Bringuier, however, are due to return to the New Orleans area by May 30, 1964, at which time they will be promptly interviewed and you will be furnished the results.

With regard to your inquiry as to whether this Bureau has conducted a thorough investigation into the question of possible contacts between Lee Harvey Oswald and any representative of or known sympathizer with the Castro government of Cuba, you may be assured that this Bureau has thoroughly explored this question. To date, however, no information has been developed indicating Oswald was controlled, directed or employed by any individual so identified.

We will continue to furnish you with communications in duplicate containing the results of our investigations.

Sincerely yours,



Enclosures (2)