

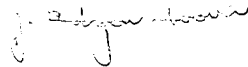
Honorable J. Lee Rankin

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)

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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journalist with a prison record, one-time member of the staff of the Columbia Broadcasting System, visitor in the Sierra Maestra, who was the founder of the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba", he is back in the United States after having spent some time in Communist Cuba, with a uniform and machine gun, in the service of CASTRO.

The "Communist Cuban apparatus" in the United States is very extensive, influential and diversified. It has always had plenty of financial support, furnished through CASTRO's delegation to the UNO, and also sent via Canada and Mexico, two countries which are used by Communist Cuba to smuggle propaganda and to transfer funds. "Fair Play" operated in accordance with the "apparatus" in question, which has not disappeared; quite to the contrary, it is even more to be feared now than it ever was, according to Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

On Wednesday, April 6, 1960, "The New York Times" published a full-page ad on page 33, Section C, which notified the general public of the formation of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee", with WALDO FRANK and CARLETON BEALS as co-presidents, and with a long list of sponsors, more or less known for their leftist tendencies, among them, ROBERT (RED) TABER, TRUMAN CAPOPEK, Negro writer JAMES BALDWIN, and the violent Negro racist, ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, later a fugitive to Communist Cuba when the United States law was after him for communist crimes. Friday, April 21, 1964, the "Fair Play" published another full-page ad in "The New York Times" with propaganda in favor of the Communist government of Cuba. According to statements made under oath to the investigators of the United States Senate, those ads were paid for at the regular rate of the New York daily, more than four thousand dollars a page. As for one of them, it has been proved that this was paid for with a check sent by the dictatorship of CASTRO to the deceased professor, MANUEL BISE ALBERNI, at that time Cuban Ambassador to the UNO. The check for \$3,500 was endorsed by the professor in favor of RAUL ROA KOURI, now Ambassador from Communist Cuba to Brazil, and at that time attached to the Cuban delegation to the UNO, and was then endorsed again in favor of Dr. CARLOS A. SANTOS BUCH, in such a way that the amount could be obtained in cash. In all that, the aforementioned Cubans worked hand in hand with ROBERT (RED) TABER, who had been sentenced to prison several times for armed robbery, kidnapping, carrying weapons, etc.

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The investigations carried on by the United States federal authorities could not prove all the aid received from Communist Cuba by the "Fair Play"; but if one bears in mind that the comrades on "Prensa Latina" received hundreds of thousands of dollars worth, it is to be presumed that its "out" was quite large, because just look at all the publicity which "Fair Play" gave throughout the United States since 1960! As incidental wages, WALDO FRANK collected thousands of pesos for praising CASTRO, as did JEAN PAUL SARTRE. CARLETON BEALS became CASTRO's paid writer, as did TABER also... And the others?

During the course of 1960-1961, I was a visiting professor at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where there was a branch of the "Fair Play" in operation. It boasted that it had 21 branches in the United States and 4 in Canada, with a membership of 8,000. The New Orleans branch was not among them at that time, because it was not formed until two years later, when IRE HARVEY OSWALD, the presumed assassin of President KENNEDY, returned to the United States after his contacts with the Communist Cuban Ambassadors in Moscow, FAURE CRONON and CARLOS OLIVARES. Concerning this last-mentioned fact, the Communist dictatorship of Cuba says nothing, although the Kremlin has turned over to the United States a file with the documents referring to OSWALD in the Soviet Union. During his speech of November 27, 1963, at the University of Havana, when CASTRO said "the first time that OSWALD was in Cuba", his tongue was under the influence of "Peralta" cognac, and he revealed something which is very important.

"Fair Play", with the aid of JUNE COBB, organized excursions of "students" and agitators from the United States to visit Communist Cuba, with all expenses paid. It published bulletins and announcements; it distributed propaganda received from Communist Cuba; it deceived the unwary; it kept CASTRO informed of these things which interested him concerning the United States; and it held in Canada and in the United States a large number of meetings in favor of the dictatorship in Communist Cuba and against the Cuban emigres, persecuted by the Castristas... It probably did much more before it had among its collaborators IRE HARVEY OSWALD, whose imprudent acts left the trail which was discovered at the time of the assassination of President KENNEDY, and which led to the main office of the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba", so that its usefulness under that name and with its present directors came to an end on

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November 22, 1963. The five thousand dollars with which OSWALD returned from Mexico probably had the same origin as the money which paid for the ads in "The New York Times" in other words, the Communist dictatorship which prevails in Cuba.

In March of 1961, a group of students at Harvard University invited me to debate with writer WILLIAM WORTHY, member of the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba", and I went there to engage in the debate with him. The moderator or judge of the debate was writer TRUMAN WINTER (guest of Communist Cuba during the festivities of July 26, 1963, four months prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY), and I found that each time that I had WORTHY in a corner after refuting his lies, TRUMAN WINTER came to his aid so that the audience could not get the whole truth. "Fair Play" did not thrive in the University of Florida, but it did at Columbia University, at the University of Chicago, at the universities in California, at the University of Pennsylvania, and at Antioch College (where Mrs. PAINE, LEE HARVEY OSWALD's protectress studied), and at Yale University, etc. During another debate at Brown University, in Rhode Island, my opponent was a DIHO GERMANI, enthusiastic defender of CASTRO's horrors, and also connected with "Fair Play". The greatest success of "Fair Play" in regard to influencing United States students took place at the University of Indiana, where it succeeded in getting a group of young people to take the side of the Soviet Union and Communist Cuba at the time of the crisis of October, 1962, involving Russian nuclear weapons set up in Communist Cuba.

The dailies have published several letters from LEE HARVEY OSWALD to "Fair Play", sent during the course of several months in the year 1963. It is said that this is all the correspondence between OSWALD and the defenders of Castroism in the United States, who had TAKEER, FRANK and BEALS as their leaders. Any one who wishes may be satisfied with that information; but the letters are innocuous and they did not publish the answers from VINCENT THEODORE LEE to OSWALD. Besides, the information from the anti-Communist underground movement which operates right under the nose of RAUL ROA GARCIA, in the Ministry of State in Havana, shows that OSWALD's relations with the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba" began before July, 1962, when he returned from the Soviet Union, and that they had been sponsored by CASTRO's diplomatic agents in Moscow, at the time that OSWALD was there.

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If OSWALD could have escaped to Cuba by way of Mexico after committing the crime in Dallas, it would have been easier for "Fair Play" to cover up the matter of its contacts with the supposed assassin; but the fact is that the plans for the flight failed, and OSWALD was arrested, and subsequently, assassinated in turn, without its having been possible to obtain a complete confession from him about his activities and his contacts.

At any rate, OSWALD had left behind him, in New Orleans and in other places, some data about his relations with the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba", which it was not possible to eliminate. BRINGUIER, the representative of the Revolutionary Student Directory in New Orleans, is endowed with an excellent memory, and recalls that strange individual who had wanted to infiltrate the ranks of the anti-Communist Cubans in order to serve the "apparatus" of Communist Cuba in the United States. But the thread got all tangled up, much to the despair of the leaders of the "Fair Play".

For more than two years, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee had been investigating the activities of the "Fair Play". The results of its investigations are published in some ten volumes, replete with documents, statements and conclusions comprising to the organization which defends the Communist tyranny prevailing in Cuba. More than once, during the course of these investigations, the press of the "useful fools" criticized the activities of the Judiciary Committee and said that this was a "witch hunt". References to the deceased Senator McCarthy, who had denounced the machinations of the Communists for several years, filtered into these statements in an attempt to discredit them. With arrogantly provoking and even insulting poses, the members of the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba" answered the Judiciary Committee when they appeared before it. Ingeuous and misinformed people allowed themselves to be misled by that propaganda to the point that they believed that the "Fair Play" was a victim of injustice. The Senators and Representatives who carried on these investigations, as well as their legal and police advisers, had sounded the alarm long in advance and had pointed out the danger of the Cuban Communist "apparatus" in the United States; but no one paid any attention to them, in spite of the seriousness of their revelations.

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However, after the assassinations in Dallas, it was possible to see that the Judiciary Committee was not wrong in its suspicions and in its charges, and that the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba" was not a simple group of individuals, mistaken in their evaluation of the true situation in Cuba.

The Communists are very skillful in escaping and evading their responsibilities, because of the very fact that they lack scruples. Thus, the "Fair Play for Communist Cuba" has suddenly ceased to be a useful tool for their plans. The blood of President KENNEDY, assassinated in Dallas by a member of the "Fair Play", who had renounced the United States, the country of his birth, in a very specific manner, and who had later, mysteriously decided to return to the United States, flew on November 22, 1963, as far as the office at 799 Broadway, New York. In Moscow, OSWALD had told the United States Embassy that he wanted to have nothing to do with the United States and that he was joining the Soviet Union. In Havana, ROBERT (RED) TAIER told French journalist, VICTOR FRANCO, that he wanted to have nothing to do with the United States and that he was joining Communist Cuba. Both later changed their minds and returned to the United States. Why and for what? The answer which OSWALD gave is in the whole series of activities which he carried on in the United States, in Mexico and in Communist Cuba since July, 1962, until the crimes in Dallas occurred.

We can be sure that the Communists are not now renouncing their machinations. The "Fair Play for Communist Cuba" is not really disappearing; it will only change its name, its headquarters and its leaders, and will reappear in another disguise. For that is the way the Communists intrigue, as they serve Soviet Imperialism, with a disguise, especially when they pretend to be dedicated to "peaceful coexistence".

(Captions under photographs on page 17 are taken directly from the text translated above.)

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On May 6, 1964, Mr. GEORGE VOLSKY, writer and researcher, U.S. Information Agency (USIA), Miami, Florida, stated he and several other members of USIA, listen to the speeches of FIDEL CASTRO broadcast from Cuba, and he is certain that CASTRO, while on the radio, has not made any "slip of the tongue" in making a statement such as "The first time OSWALD was in Cuba....."

Mr. VOLSKY said he did not know what source HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA might have for making such an assertion in the February 2, 1964, issue of the magazine BOHEMIA LIBRE. He said the possibility existed that CASTRO could have made such a comment in an off-hand manner to some private group, but such occurrence had not come to the attention of the Miami Office of USIA. He said his office was especially alert for any statements of CASTRO which might show a link between the CASTRO regime and the assassination of President KENNEDY and no such statements have been detected although every public speech of CASTRO is monitored.

Mr. VOLSKY made available the English translation of the speech by FIDEL CASTRO, made on the night of November 27, 1963, at Havana University. He said the translation is based on monitoring the radio broadcast and would therefore include any "slip of the tongue."

Mr. VOLSKY explained the notation at the beginning of the speech translation indicates the broadcast was made at 0229 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on November 28, 1963, which was 9:29 PM on November 27, 1963, in Havana.

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