

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW ORLEANS

DATE: 2/21/67

FROM : SA ROBERT J. HEFREL

SUBJECT: SERGIO ARGACHA SMITH
INFO CONCERNING

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Serial 198 and 239 ident

On 11/25/63, SAM MIKE NEWMAN, owner of the office building at 344 Camp St., NOLA was interviewed by SAs ERNEST C. WALL and LAWRENCE F. FOLSE. He advised approximately eight or nine months before he had rented office space at 344 Camp St., which he believed was office number 6 or 7 to several Cubans, names unknown, who were with the Cuban Revolutionary Association. NEWMAN said he

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had seen these Cubans previously around the office of GUY PANISTER, Guy Panister Associates, but he did not know their names. Mr. NEWMAN believed that one of these individuals was SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH, who at that time appeared to be the head of the organization, but was later replaced by LUIS RABEL. He said that ARCACHA SMITH after being replaced as head of the organization was engaged in selling life insurance in NOLA.

Serial 237

On 11/25/68, FRANK BARTES, 1608 Mason Smith St., advised SA WALL that SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH was formerly the delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in NOLA.

Serial 238

On 11/25/68, GUY PANISTER, Guy Panister Associates, 531 Lafayette St., NOLA was contacted by SA WALL and advised that ARCACHA SMITH had told him at some time in the past, that he, ARCACHA, had office space at 544 Camp St. PANISTER stated that he had seen a young Cuban male with ARCACHA on a number of occasions in the vicinity of 544 Camp St., but he did not recall the man's name.

Serial 680

On 11/25/68, DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE, was interviewed by SAs WALL and SCHEARER. He stated that from approximately November, 1960 until August, 1961 he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front in NOLA. He stated that he had actively engaged in working for the Cuban Revolutionary Front collecting food, money, medicine and clothing for the organization as well as giving talks before various citizens groups. He stated that at the time he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front (CRF), the office was located in the Baltar Bldg. and that SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH was the head of this organization in NOLA. FERRIE stated that he never had known the CRF to maintain offices at 544 Camp St., nor did he have knowledge of ARCACHA SMITH maintaining an office at that address during the time he was head of the CRF and later after he was replaced. FERRIE stated that after disassociating himself with the CRF he continued to have contact with ARCACHA SMITH of a purely social nature. He indicated that after ARCACHA SMITH had been replaced as head of the CRF, he (ARCACHA SMITH) had gone into the advertising business and that he had assisted him in preparing letters in connection with his advertising business. FERRIE said that in 1962 ARCACHA SMITH attempted to organize a fund raising committee, the name of which he did not recall, but he did not believe that the organization ever materialized. At that time ARCACHA SMITH was interested in issuing a comm-

oration coin depicting the Bay of Pigs invasion, which was to be sold to a coin company. He stated that SMITH's plan provided that for a certain amount donated by an individual the donor would receive one of the commemoration coins from the coin company. FERRIE related that in connection with this plan ARCACHA SMITH obtained a vendor's license from the City of NOLA. This idea was subsequently abandoned.

100-16891

Serial 98, page 471

On 11/27/63, MANUEL GIL, Employee of The Information Council of the Americas, Inc, was interviewed by SA EARL L. HASKELL. He stated that he was not personally acquainted with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, but that the Information Council of the Americas had prepared a tape of a debate between OSWALD, EDWARD BUTLER, Staff Director of Information Council of the Americas, Inc. and other individuals.

GIL stated that there was a time when he thought and individual who had made numerous telephone calls to him was OSWALD and at that time had related his suspicions to Mr. BUTLER. GIL explained that the reason he had felt that the person making the calls was OSWALD was simply on the basis that the voice of OSWALD which he had heard at the time of the interview sounded similar to the voice of the individual who had made the telephone calls to him previously.

GIL stated the person making the telephone calls to him had a first name of STEVE, but he could not recall what the last name had been. GIL advised that STEVE had first started making telephone calls to him in approximately November or December, 1961 and continued to make telephone calls until approximately January, 1962. GIL stated he had considered STEVE a "crack pot", but STEVE had called him so many times requesting that he, STEVE, be put in touch with the head of the "Cuban Resistance Group", that he, GIL, had finally referred STEVE to SERGIO ARCACHA, who was "head of the anti-Castro Cuban organization" in NOLA. GIL stated that he had referred STEVE to ARCACHA merely as a means of getting rid of a nuisance.

GIL advised that STEVE had related his, STEVE's, plan to free Cuba was simply that STEVE wanted an organization to drop him into Cuba and he, STEVE, would kill CASTRO by means of a rifle with a telescopic sight.

GIL pointed out that since seeing the newspaper publicity concerning OSWALD, which indicated that OSWALD had been in Russia during the period of the telephone calls from STEVE, he, GIL, had changed his mind as to the

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to the source of the calls.

OIL stated that he was sure that SERGIO ARCAGA, who was then in Houston, had interviewed STEVE and could furnish additional information.

Serials 98, pages 680, 682 and 683 are identical with 57-67, serials 101, 237, 238 and 239.

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