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FBI/DOJ

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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General Counsel

APP 23 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C., 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose two copies of the transcript of the testimony of Mr. Carlos Bringuier which was taken in New Orleans by Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff on April 8, 1964. Mr. Bringuier's testimony raises several questions which appear to require further investigation. Mr. Liebeler discussed some of those questions on April 9, 1964, with Mr. Maynor, Special Agent in Charge of your New Orleans office, and has also mentioned some of them to Mr. Malley.

We also have several other questions concerning the New Orleans phase of the investigation of the assassination. These questions, along with those raised by Mr. Bringuier's testimony, are set forth below:

1. Beginning at line 16 of page 40 of his transcript, Bringuier testified that Orestes Pena had told him that sometime during the summer of 1963 Pena had seen Lee Harvey Oswald in the Havana Bar in the company of a man who Pena thought was either Mexican or Cuban. That subject is covered on page 43 of the report of Special Agent Reynolds, dated December 6, 1963, at New Orleans.

Oswald was also allegedly seen in the Havana Bar by Mr. Evaristo Rodriguez, 1239 Chartres Street, New Orleans, as is reflected on page 48 of the report of Special Agent Reynolds, dated December 30, 1963, at New Orleans.

Bringuier testified that the brother of the owner of the Havana Bar (Rodriguez, apparently) had told Bringuier that, apparently sometime prior to August 15, 1963, the FBI had shown an interest in locating the Mexican who was allegedly seen with Oswald. This alleged interest of the FBI does not appear to have been related to Oswald in any way.

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ENCLO. BEHIND

According to Bringuier, an FBI agent had been in the Havana Bar and told Rodriguez (and possibly Pena) that if he saw this Mexican he should call the FBI immediately because the Mexican "was a pro-Communist." Bringuier said that Rodriguez then saw the Mexican in the company of another Mexican for whom the FBI was also supposedly looking, and had come to him and asked him to call the FBI. Bringuier says that he did so sometime between August 15 and 30, 1963.

No mention of those allegations is made in any of the above reports, or in the report of the interview with Bringuier which is set forth at page 696 of Special Agent De Brueys' report dated December 2, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

Would you please conduct further investigation to check Mr. Bringuier's testimony on the above points and, if possible, to identify the person or persons who were allegedly with Oswald in the Havana Bar.

In connection with that investigation, you might wish to obtain from Mr. Bringuier a copy of the letter to which he refers at the bottom of page 43 and the top of page 44 of his transcript.

2. Bringuier refers on page 9 of his transcript, and again at page 33 et seq., to an anti-Castro military training camp which had been established in the New Orleans area, apparently in the late summer of 1963. Bringuier suggests a connection between Oswald and pro-Castro individuals because Oswald attempted to infiltrate Bringuier's organization to assist in giving military training to anti-Castro Cubans at a time when such training was allegedly being given in the New Orleans area, but at a time when such alleged fact was not publicly known. Bringuier suggests that Oswald could only know of the camp, if he did, as a result of information supplied by pro-Castro agents who had apparently infiltrated the anti-Castro training camp.

We would appreciate your advice on whether or not a training camp such as that described by Bringuier was ever set up in the New Orleans area.

We would like to have copies of the newspaper articles to which Bringuier refers on page 33 of his transcript, together with translations of the same into English and any information which you may have in your files, or can readily obtain, concerning Mr. Fernandez, or the letter he is purported to have written to Mr. La Chuga and the alleged interception thereof.

We would also like to have your assurance that you have 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, together with an indication of the result of that investigation.

3. At pages 45-47, Bringuier testified about a magazine article which reported Fidel Castro as having committed a lapsus linguae in a speech given at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963. Castro was reported to have said, under the influence of cognac, "The first time Oswald was in Cuba"

We would appreciate it if you would determine through appropriate sources whether or not Castro made a speech at the University of Havana on November 27, 1963, and whether or not he made the remarks set forth above.

If you could provide us with a copy of Bohemia International magazine for February 2, 1964, together with a translation into English of the article indicated in Bringuier's testimony, it would be very much appreciated.

4. We note that reports of interviews of Dean Andrews, Esq., are set forth at pages 20-36 of Special Agent John J. Reynolds' report dated December 6, 1963, at New Orleans, and at pages 195-196, 198, 230, 234-235, and 305-306 of Special Agent Warren G. De Brueys' report of December 2, 1963, at Dallas. Mr. Andrews has also been interviewed by the Secret Service.

We note also that Mr. Andrews states that Lee Harvey Oswald came to his office on several occasions during the summer of 1963 and was accompanied by several different people, including a person of Mexican extraction. Andrews also states that he received a telephone call from one Clay Bertrand, asking that Andrews represent Oswald in his defense of the charges placed against him in Dallas. The most recent report (page 33 of Reynolds' report of December 6, 1963) indicates that Andrews had concluded that the above call was a figment of his imagination.

Mr. Andrews now states that he met Clay Bertrand in the street subsequent to the date of such report but was unable to detain him long enough to bring him to the FBI office. Mr. Liebeler has previously advised Mr. Maynor of the above.

Consideration should be given to the possibility that the Mexican alleged to have accompanied Oswald to Andrews' office may be the same man with whom Oswald was allegedly seen in the Havana Bar. If you are able to identify the Mexican or Mexicans seen by the owner of the Havana Bar or by his brother (and this should be possible if the statements of the latter as to their previous contact by the FBI in respect to the Mexicans are correct), Andrews should be asked whether he is able to identify either of such Mexicans as the person who was with Oswald when Oswald came into Andrews' office.

We realize that Andrews has indicated that he would not be able to identify the Mexican who was with Oswald, but in that connection we wish to call to your attention the reports of the Secret Service Special Agents Gerretts, Counts, and Rice, dated December 6, 1963 (Secret Service Control No. 467), in which Andrews does not seem to demonstrate this inability.

We will probably wish to examine Mr. Andrews after you have conducted the investigation requested in this letter.

5. Consideration should also be given to the possibility that the Mexican or Mexicans who may have been associated with Oswald, if the stories of Rodriguez and Pena are correct, may have been involved in the distribution of FPCC literature on August 16, 1963. We note that at least one of the individuals who was so engaged has not yet been identified.

Your continued cooperation in the work of this Commission is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosures
2 Transcripts

1 COMMISSION TO REPORT UPON THE ASSASSINATION
2 OF
3 PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

4
5
6 P R O C E E D I N G S
7

8
9
10 Room 415-B, Old Civil Courts Building
11 Royal and Conti Streets
12 New Orleans, Louisiana
13 April 7-8, 1964
14

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16
17
18 THERE WERE PRESENT:

19 WESLEY J. LIEBELER, Esq.,
20 Staff Counsel;

21 MRS. HELEN R. DIETRICH,
22 Reporter.
23
24
25

I N D E X

E X H I B I T S

<u>EXHIBIT NO.</u>	<u>IDENT.</u>
Bringuier Exhibit No. 1	.26
Bringuier Exhibit No. 2	30
Bringuier Exhibit No. 3	36
Bringuier Exhibit No. 4	44

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CARLOS BRINGUIER,

having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. LIEBELER:

Q. My name is Wesley J. Liebeler. I am a member of the legal staff of the President's Commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

Staff members have been authorized to take testimony of witnesses, including you, by the Commission, pursuant to authority granted to the Commission by Executive Order No. 11130 dated November 29, 1963 and Joint Resolution of Congress No. 137.

I understand that Mr. Rankin wrote to you last week, telling you that we would be in touch with you later on in connection with the taking of your testimony, and I understand that he sent with his letter a copy of the Executive Order and Resolution to which I have just referred as well as a copy of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission relating to the taking of testimony of witnesses.

Did you receive Mr. Rankin's letter?

A. Yes, sir, I received it.

Q. And you received copies of the documents that I have referred to?

A. That is right. I received.

Q. The Commission is interested in learning

1 from you, Mr. Bringuier, about the contact that you had with
2 Lee Harvey Oswald during the time that he was present in New
3 Orleans in the summer and early fall of 1963. Before we get
4 into the details of that testimony, however, will you state
5 your full name for the record.

6 A. Carlos Bringuier.

7 Q. What is your address, Mr. Bringuier?

8 A. Excuse me one moment. May I explain to you?

9 In Cuba we use a long name with a lot of middle names. Do
10 you want the whole middle name too?

11 Q. Oh, I think that is enough.

12 A. It is enough? O.K.

13 Q. Where do you live?

14 A. I live in 501 Adele Street, Apartment F.

15 Q. Here in New Orleans?

16 A. Here in New Orleans.

17 Q. Where were you born?

18 A. I was born in Havana, June 22, 1934.

19 Q. And how long did you live in Havana?

20 A. Well, I was living in Havana until May 4,
21 1960. I left Havana to Guatemala and Argentina, and I came
22 to the States in February 8, 1961.

23 Q. And you came then to New Orleans? Is that
24 correct?

25 A. That day I arrived to Miami, Florida, and I

1 was in Miami for ten days, and I came to New Orleans in
2 February 18, 1961.

3 Q. And you have been here in New Orleans ever
4 since?

5 A. That is right.

6 Q. And you are a Cuban national? Is that
7 correct?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Are you presently employed?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And what do you do?

12 A. Well, I am a salesman, retail clothing store
13 with the name of Casa Roca, 107 Decatur Street. I am a
14 salesman and manager of the store.

15 Q. How long have you been so employed?

16 A. I started to work in that store in October
17 1, 1962.

18 Q. Had you been employed here in New Orleans
19 prior to that time?

20 A. Yes, sir, I was working for one year in
21 Ward's Discount House, 708 Canal Street.

22 Q. And you worked there as a salesman also?

23 A. As a salesman also.

24 Q. What is your educational background?

25 A. Well, I was attorney in Cuba and Assistant

1 Secretary for the Criminal Court in Havana. I got my degree
2 in 1957.

3 Q. Your degree in what field?

4 A. Law.

5 Q. In Law?

6 A. That is right.

7 Q. So you then were trained as a lawyer in
8 Cuba --

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. -- prior to the time that Castro came to
11 power? Is that correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And did you actually practice law in Cuba?

14 A. Not actually, no. I didn't practice law,
15 because I was working, as I told you, in the Criminal Court,
16 and in Havana, in Cuba, when you was employee of the Criminal
17 Court, you could not practice law.

18 Q. Did you become a member of the Bar in Cuba
19 or do some act that is similar of becoming a member of the
20 Bar here in the United States?

21 A. No, I didn't do any act to become here in
22 United States member of Bar.

23 Q. But in Cuba?

24 A. In Cuba, yes.

25 Q. You actually were a member of the Bar in

1 Cuba?

2 A. That is right.

3 Q. It is my understanding that you have been
4 active in the Anti-Castro Movement here in New Orleans. Is
5 that correct?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Am I correct in understanding that you left
8 Cuba because of your feeling against the Castro regime and
9 your opposition to that regime?

10 A. That is correct. I did not believe in it,
11 I did not agree with the Communist regime in Cuba.

12 Q. And as a result, you left Cuba and came to
13 the United States? Is that correct?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Has your family joined you here in the
16 United States?

17 A. Well, when I went to Argentina, I went with
18 my wife and the three kids at that moment, and after I came
19 to the United States alone, and two months later they met me
20 here in the States. I want to explain that I am not in the
21 States as a Cuban refugee but as an immigrant, as a resident.

22 Q. And as an immigrant from Cuba, or from some
23 other --

24 A. From Argentina (producing document).

25 Q. And you have shown me an identification card

1 from the Department of Immigration and Naturalization,
2 indicating that you were admitted to the United States as an
3 immigrant on February 8, 1961. Is that correct?

4 A. That is correct.

5 (Document returned to witness)

6 Q. I am correct in understanding, am I not,
7 that you have been involved to one degree or another in
8 Anti-Castro activities here in New Orleans since your
9 arrival?

10 ^{La}
11 A. Yes, sir. Soon after I arrived here to
12 New Orleans, I founded a Newsletter for the Cubans with the
13 name of ~~X~~Crusada. That was my first work here in New Orleans.
14 After that I joined, at the beginning of 1962, the ~~X~~New ^{La}
15 Orleans Delegation of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, and
16 I was working as Secretary of Publicity and Propaganda here
17 in New Orleans for the Cuban Anti-Castro. That was, I believe,
18 June or July -- June 1962. After that, I resigned, and in
19 July 1962 I was designated New Orleans Delegate of the Cuban
20 Student Directorate, and I am in that position from that time
21 to now. ^{La}

22 Q. Did there come a time when you met Lee
23 Harvey Oswald?

24 A. I beg your pardon?

25 Q. Did there come a time when you met Lee,
Harvey Oswald?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would you tell us when that was and the
3 circumstances of the event. .

4 A. Well, the first day that I saw Lee Harvey
5 Oswald was on August 5, 1963, but before we go deeper in
6 this matter about Oswald, I think that I would like to
7 explain to you two things that I think will facilitate the
8 Commission to understand my feeling at that moment.

9 Q. That is perfectly all right. Go ahead.

10 A. And you see, in August 24, 1962, my
11 organization, the Cuban Student Directorate, carry on a
12 shelling of Havana, and a few days later when person from
13 the F.B.I. contacted me here in New Orleans -- his name was
14 Warren C. de Brueys --

15 Q. O.K.

16 A. And Mr. de Brueys was talking to me in the
17 Thompson Cafeteria. At that moment I was the only one from
18 the Cuban Student Directorate here in the city, and he was
19 asking to me about my activities here in the city, and when
20 I told him that I was the only one, he didn't believe that,
21 and he advised me -- and I quote, "We could infiltrate your
22 organization and find out what you are doing here." My
23 answer to him was, "Well, you will have to infiltrate myself,
24 because I am the only one." And I want to put this out,
25 because after the assasination of Mr. Kennedy, when I was

1 interviewed, I told something that some part of the press or
2 some persons now are trying to use to tell that maybe Oswald
3 was a man from the F.B.I. or the C.I.A. I will go into that
4 later on.

5 After that, after my conversation with de Brueys,
6 I always was waiting that maybe someone will come to
7 infiltrate my organization from the F.B.I., because I
8 already was told by one of the F.B.I. agent that they will
9 try to infiltrate my organization.

10 Next thing that happened: On August 2, 1963, I
11 receive in my store -- I have over there the office of the
12 Delegation too, the visit of two Cubans, who told me that
13 they had already desert from one Anti-Castro training camp
14 that was across Lake Pontchartrain here in New Orleans.
15 Until that moment I did not know nothing about that Anti-
16 Castro training camp here in the city, and they told me that
17 that Anti-Castro training camp was a branch of the Christian
18 Democratic Movement -- that is another Anti-Castro organiza-
19 tion -- and they told me that they had the fear inside the
20 training camp that there was a Castro agent inside that
21 training camp.

22 A few days before too the Police found here in
23 New Orleans about one mile from that training camp a big lot
24 of ammunition and weapons and all those things, and when
25 Oswald came to me on August 5 I had inside myself the feeling,

Well, maybe this is from the F.B.I., or maybe this is a Communist, because the F.B.I. already had told me that maybe they will infiltrate my organization, but that feeling -- I only had that feeling on August 5, because four days later I was convinced that Oswald was not an F.B.I. agent and that he was a Pro-Castro agent.

When I told that to the press after the assassination, I saw in some magazines that I was not sure if I was an F.B.I. or not, and that is not the truth, because on August 9, three months before the assassination, I was sure that he was a Pro-Castro and not an F.B.I. I want to have that clear.

Q. To summarize your statement, when Oswald came to see you on August 5 --

A. That is right.

Q. -- your were suspicious of him on two different counts?

A. That is right.

Q. One, that he might possibly have been an infiltrator working for the F.B.I.?

A. That is right.

Q. And you were worried about this because of Agent de Brueys had said to you --

A. A year ago.

Q. -- almost a year prior to that time?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. You were also concerned about the possi-
3 bility that Oswald might have been a Communist or a Castro
4 agent of some sort, who was trying to infiltrate your
5 organization on behalf of that group?

6 A. That is right. Now that day, on August 5,
7 I was talking in the store with one young American -- the La
8 name of him is Philip ~~X~~Geraci -- and five minutes later Mr.
9 Oswald came inside the store. He start to look around,
10 several articles, and he show interest in my conversation with
11 Geraci. I was explaining to Geraci that our fight is a fight
12 of Cubans and that he was too young, that if he want to
13 distribute literature against Castro, I would give him the
14 literature but not admit him to the fight.

15 At that moment also he start to agree with I,
16 Oswald start to agree with my point of view and he show real
17 interest in the fight against Castro. He told me that he
18 was against Castro and that he was against Communism. He
19 told me -- he asked me first for some English literature
20 against Castro, and I gave him some copies of the Cuban report
21 printed by the Cuban Student Directorate.

22 After that, Oswald told me that he had been in
23 the Marine Corps and that he had training in guerrilla war-
24 fare and that he was willing to train Cubans to fight against
25 Castro. Even more, he told me that he was willing to go

1 himself to fight against Castro. That was on August 5.

2 I turned down his offer. I told him that I
3 don't have nothing to do with military activities, that my
4 only duties here in New Orleans are propaganda and information
5 and not military activities. That was my answer to him.

6 He insisted, and he told me that he will bring
7 to me next day one book as a present, as a gift to me, to
8 train Cubans to fight against Castro.

9 Before he left, --

10 Q. Geraci was present throughout this entire
11 conversation? Is that correct?

12 A. Pardon?

13 Q. Was Mr. Geraci present throughout this
14 entire conversation that you had with Oswald?

15 A. I think so, yes, sir, yes, sir.

16 Q. Was there a Mr. Blalock there?

17 A. Who?

18 Q. Blalock, B-l-a-l-o-c-k. Do you remember
19 him?

20 A. Well, there was another young boy. What his
21 name did you say?

22 Q. Blalock, B-l-a-l-o-c-k.

23 A. I could not tell you, because I don't
24 remember the name of the other boy who was there, but I think
25 that I saw him just one time in my life. Geraci was with

1 another person over there, another young boy, and --

2 Q. Did Oswald mention during this conversation
3 that he could easily derail a train, for example, by securing
4 and fastening a chain around the railroad track? Do you
5 remember him mentioning something like that?

6 A. Well, you see, I do not exactly remember all
7 the details, because we were talking for about -- I believe
8 about one hour, something like that, and at that moment I
9 didn't know what was going to happen and I didn't pay too
10 much attention to all the things that was being telling over
11 there, but the result of the conversation were this that I
12 am telling to you. Maybe he mentioned that. I could not
13 tell to you that he mentioned that, because I am not -- I
14 don't remember. He could have mentioned that, because he
15 was talking about the experience that he had in guerrilla
16 warfare in the Marine Corps.

17 Before he left the store, he put his hand in
18 the pocket and he offered me money.

19 Q. Oswald did?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How much did he offer you?

22 A. Well, I don't know. As soon as he put the
23 hand in the pocket and he told me, "Well, at least let me
24 contribute to your group with some money," at that moment I
25 didn't have the permit from the City Hall here in New Orleans

1 day. Next day, on August 6, Oswald came back to the store,
2 but I was not in the store at that moment, and he left with
3 my brother-in-law a Guidebook for Marines for me with the
4 name "L. H. Oswald" in the top of the first page. When I
5 came back to the store, my brother-in-law gave to me the
6 Guidebook for Marines. I was look in the Guidebook for
7 Marines. I found interest in it and I keep it, and later --
8 I forgot about that just for three days more -- on August 9
9 I was coming back to the store at 2:00 o'clock in the after-
10 noon, and one friend of mine with the name of Celso~~X~~Hernandez *low*
11 came to me and told me that in Canal Street there was a young
12 man carrying a sign telling "Viva Fidel" in Spanish, and some
13 other thing about Cuba, but my friend don't speak nothing in
14 English, and the only thing that he understood was the "Viva
15 Fidel" in Spanish. He told me that he was blaming the person
16 in Spanish, but that the person maybe didn't understood what
17 he was telling to him and he came to me to let me know what
18 was going on over there.

19 At that moment was in ^{*Cuba*} ~~the~~ store another Cuban
20 with the name of Miguel~~X~~Cruz, and we ^{*low*} ~~went~~ all three with a
21 big sign that I have in the store in color. The sign is the
22 Statue of Liberty with a knife in the back, and the hand, the
23 initials of the Soviet Union, and it said, "Danger. Only 90
24 Miles from the United States Cuba Lies in Chains." We pick
25 up the sign and we went to Canal Street to find the guy.

1 We were walking all Canal Street from Rampart
2 Street, but we could not find him. We were asking to
3 different people in the street, but nobody saw him, nobody
4 told us, Yes, I saw him, or, He went to this side. I decided
5 to get a Canal streetcar to search for him, and we went in
6 the Canal streetcar until about the 2700 block of Canal Street,
7 and we came back in the Canal streetcar, but we could not
8 find him at that moment.

9 I went back to the store, but just three or
10 four minutes later one of my two friends, Miguel Cruz, came
11 back running and told me that the guy was another time in
12 Canal Street and that Celso was watching him over there.

13 I went over there with the sign another time,
14 and I was surprised when I recognized that the guy with the
15 sign hanging on the chest, said, "Viva Fidel in the Land of
16 Cuba," was Lee Harvey Oswald. Until that moment I only knew
17 Oswald as a guy who was offering his service to train Cubans,
18 and when I saw that he was with a sign defending Fidel Castro
19 and praising Fidel Castro, I became angry. That was in the
20 700 block of Canal Street just in front of the store where I
21 was working my first year here in New Orleans.

22 Q. Was that the International Trade Mart?

23 A. No, Ward Discount House. He make another
24 appearance in the International Trade Mart later, and I will
25 go into that too.

1 When I saw that was Oswald and he recognized me,
2 he was also surprised, but just for a few seconds.

3 Immediately he smiled to me and he offered the hand to shake
4 with me. I became more angry and I start to tell him that
5 he don't have any face to do that, with what face he was
6 doing that, because he had just came to me four days ago
7 offering me his service and that he was a Castro agent, and
8 I start to blame him in the street.

9 That was a Friday around three o'clock at this
10 moment, and many people start to gather around us to see what
11 was going on over there. I start to explain to the people
12 what Oswald did to me, because I wanted to move the American
13 people against him, not to take the fight for myself as a
14 Cuban but to move the American people to fight him, and I
15 told them that that was a Castro agent, that he was a pro-
16 communist, and that he was trying to do to them exactly what
17 he did to us in Cuba, kill them and send their children to
18 the execution ward. Those were my phrases at the moment.

19 The people in the street became angry and they
20 started to shout to him, "Traitor! Communist! Go to Cuba!
21 Kill him!" -- and some other phrases that I do not know if
22 I could tell in the record.

23 Q. You mean they cursed at him, they swore at
24 him?

25 A. That is right, some bad phrases, bad words.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. And at that moment, one of the Americans
3 push him by one arm. One policeman came. When policeman
4 came to me and asked me to keep walking and to let Oswald
5 distribute his literature that he was handing out -- he was
6 handing out yellow leaflets of the Fair Play for Cuba
7 Committee, New Orleans Chapter -- and I told to the policeman
8 that I was Cuban, I explained to him what Oswald did to me,
9 and I told him that I don't know if was against the law or
10 if was enforcing the law, but that I will not leave that
11 place until Oswald left and that I will make some trouble.

12 The policeman left, I believe going to some
13 place to call the headquarters, and at one moment my friend
14 Celso took the literature from Oswald, the yellow sheets, and
15 broke it and threw it on the air. There were a lot of yellow
16 sheets flying. And I was more angry, and I went near Oswald
17 to hit him. I took my glasses off and I went near to him to
18 hit him, but when he sensed my intention, he put his arm down
19 as an X, like this here (demonstrating).

20 Q. He crossed his arms in front of him?

21 A. That is right, put his face and told me,
22 "O.K., Carlos, if you want to hit me, hit me."

23 At that moment, that made me to reaction that he
24 was trying to appear as a martyr if I will hit him, and I
25 decide not to hit him, and just a few seconds later arrive

1 two police cars, and one of the policeman over there was
2 Lieutenant Gaillot, G-a-i-l-l-o-t. They put Oswald and my
3 two friends in one of the police cars, and I went with
4 Lieutenant Gaillot in the other police car to the First
5 District of Police here in New Orleans.

6 When we were in the First District of Police,
7 we were in the same room, one small room over there, and
8 some of the policemen start to question Oswald if he was a
9 communist, what he was doing that, and all those things, and
10 Oswald at that moment -- that was in front of myself -- was
11 really cold blood. He was answering the questions that he
12 would like to answer, and he was not nervous, he was not
13 out of control, he was confident in himself at that moment
14 over there.

15 One of the questions that they asked to him
16 was about his organization, the Fair Play for Cuba, and I
17 saw him showing some papers that -- I believe they were the
18 credentials of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was supplying
19 that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee is a national
20 organization, and when he told that, he was so kind of proud
21 that it was not a small group but a national group all over
22 the United States, and they asked of him the name of the
23 members. No. Excuse me. Before they asked him if he has
24 any office. He told them no, that there were -- they were
25 holding the meetings in different house, different homes,

1 different members of the organization, one night in one house,
2 another night in another house, but in front of me he didn't
3 told nothing about any office. When they asked him about the
4 name of the members, he answered that he could not tell the
5 name of the members in front of myself, because he will not
6 like to let me know who were the ones who were helping him
7 here in the city, and at that moment the police came out of
8 the room and that was the last time that I saw him that day.

9 Q. Did the police keep you in jail too?

10 A. Well, yes. I had to put -- they took my
11 fingerprints and my picture, and I have to put \$25.00 bond
12 that night with my two friends too, and I don't know, but
13 after the assassination I heard that Oswald didn't put the
14 \$25.00 bond, that somebody went to the First District and
15 make -- I believe you call that an affidavit or something
16 like that, and he will appear in Court and he will put the
17 \$25.00. He didn't put the \$25.00 bond. That is what I heard.
18 I didn't saw that. I am not sure of that. Next time that I
19 saw him --

20 Q. Did you appear in Court later?

21 A. Yes, sir. Later. That was August 12.

22 Q. Yes, on Monday.

23 A. Monday.

24 Q. And you pleaded Not Guilty to the offense
25 that you were charged with?

1 A. That is right, that is right, and he plead
2 Guilty.

3 Q. Oswald was there in Court?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And you saw him in Court?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And that is what you were just about to
8 tell me?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Go ahead.

11 A. In August 12, we appear in the Second
12 Municipal Court in New Orleans. I came first with my friends,
13 and there were some other Cubans over there, and I saw when
14 Oswald came inside the Court. I saw him. He went directly
15 to sit down in the middle of the seat of the colored people.
16 See, here in the Court you have two sides, one for the white
17 people and one for the colored people, and he walked directly
18 inside of the colored people and he sat directly among them
19 in the middle, and that made me to be angry too, because I
20 saw that he was trying to win the colored people for his side.
21 When he will appear in the Court, he will defend Fidel Castro,
22 he will defend the Fair Play for Cuba, and the colored people
23 will feel good for him, and that is a tremendous work of
24 propaganda for his cause. That is one of the things that
25 made me to think that he was a really smart guy and not a nut.

1 When the Judge call us, he plead Guilty, I plead
2 Not Guilty, and my friends plead Not Guilty. I brought the
3 Marines Guidebook, the Guidebook for Marines, and I explain
4 to the Judge that the incident was originated when Oswald
5 tried to infiltrate the organization and that if he will not
6 do that, I will not have any fight with him in the street,
7 and I showed to him the Guidebook for Marines with the name
8 of Oswald on the front of the first page, and the Judge
9 dismisses the charges against us and fined him \$10.00.

10 Q. Fined Oswald \$10.00?

11 A. Ten dollars, that is right. In the Court
12 was at that moment one cameraman from WDSU, and he make --
13 he did an interview to Oswald after the trial and he took
14 some movies of ourselves, and later I receive one phone call
15 from Bill ~~Stuckey~~. ^{10'} I had talk to Stuckey the day of the
16 trial in the morning. I met him in the bank and I explained
17 to him what was going on in the Second Municipal Court, and
18 he was the one who send the reporter over there to the
19 trial. I am not sure if was the same day or next day of the
20 trial Stuckey called me asking for Oswald's address. I get
21 the affidavit from the Court dissertation, and I give to him
22 the address in dissertation, and I asked him why he was
23 looking for that. He told me that he was going to make an
24 interview to Oswald. I disagreed with him at that moment,
25 I told him that I was thinking that it was not good to let a

1 Communist go to radio station and tell all his lies, because
2 there are many people who understand what was happening in
3 Cuba, but there are many people who do not know exactly what
4 is happening in Cuba. Stuckey offered me to make another
5 interview to me next Saturday in his program, but I didn't
6 agree with that neither, and I asked him to arrange a radio
7 debate, because in that way we could tell our point of view
8 at the same moment in the same place.

9 On August 16 another friend of mine left to me
10 a message in the store that Oswald was another time handing
11 out Pro-Castro propaganda for the ~~Fair Play for Cuba Committee~~,
12 this time in front of the International Trade Mart here in
13 New Orleans. *LO*

14 I wasn't in the store at that moment, and when
15 I came back and I received the message, I went to the
16 International Trade Mart, but I could not find Oswald, he
17 had already left, and I was talking later on with my friend,
18 and the information that I received was that he was over
19 there with two other persons. Later I saw the picture of
20 those two persons, and they have a Latin aspect. I do not
21 know if they are Latin Americans or not, but at least there
22 is one who is.

23 Q. Did somebody show you pictures of these
24 individuals?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Who did?

2 A. The Secret Service tried to see if I know
3 them, if I could identify them.

4 Q. (Exhibiting photograph to witness) I show
5 you a picture, which has previously been marked as "Pizzo
6 Exhibit 453-A," and I ask you if that is one of the pictures
7 or a picture like the one the Secret Service showed to you.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. (Exhibiting photograph to witness) I show
10 you another picture, which has previously been marked "Pizzo
11 Exhibit 453-B."

12 A. (Indicating) See this guy, see this
13 Japanese? He is from the Kasuga Company here in New Orleans.
14 He had the office in International Trade Mart.

15 Q. And you pointed to the person standing
16 immediately behind and to Oswald's right with his hands up
17 behind his head?

18 A. (Demonstrating) That is right.

19 Q. And that is on Exhibit 453-A. Now do you
20 recognize the person with the "X" over his head?

21 A. Yes, sir, that was Lee Harvey Oswald.

22 Q. Now there is a person standing to Oswald's
23 left wearing a white shirt and facing the same direction that
24 Oswald was facing, and I will indicate that person with a
25 pen mark on the picture. (Marking photograph) I have drawn

1 an arrow pointing to the person to which I refer, and I ask
2 you if you recognize that person.

3 A. No, I don't recognize him. I believe that
4 this is one of the pictures that I saw before, but I don't
5 recognize him. For me, he looked like as a Latin American.

6 Q. Now in the far foreground of this picture,
7 there is a man who has been marked with a green mark, just
8 one mark, and we are referring at this point to Exhibit
9 453-A. Do you recognize that person?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Is that another one of the individuals to
12 which you referred as having a Latin type complexion, or is
13 it not?

14 A. No, sir. I believe -- no, this is not the
15 one that I said.

16 Q. I have one other picture here of this scene
17 which has not previously been marked, and I will show that
18 picture to you and ask you if you can identify anybody in
19 that picture with the exception of Oswald, of course
20 (exhibiting photograph to witness).

21 A. The only one that I could recognize here
22 is Oswald.

23 Q. And he is the person with the "Hands Off
24 Cuba"?

25 A. "Hands Off Cuba" leaflets in his hand, the

1 the first one in front, just in the middle of the picture.

2 Q. (Marking photograph) I have marked the
3 picture I just referred to as "Exhibit No. 1" to your
4 deposition.

5 A. Do you want that I sign the picture?

6 Q. Yes. Would you initial the picture for
7 identification purposes.

8 (The witness complied.)

9 Q. Thank you.

10 A. You want that I sign these too?

11 Q. No. We have identified those as Pizzo
12 Exhibits 453-A and 453-B, and you have noted that they are--

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I thought you mentioned that there were two
15 different people that appeared to you to be Latin people.

16 A. Sure. This one that I see here (indicating),
17 this is the one looked like to me a Latin, but, if I am not
18 wrong, somebody showed me another picture where is another
19 guy distributing the leaflets. I believe so.

20 Q. Do you think that was a Secret Service man
21 or an F.B.I. agent? Do you know?

22 A. I think that was a Secret Service man. Maybe
23 I am wrong. I saw those days a lot of pictures, but -- let
24 me tell you something else: If my opinion is not wrong, if
25 I am not mistaken this moment, I think that the other man was

1 maybe in some kind of Bermuda shorts or something like that.

2 Q. I don't have any pictures in my possession
3 showing that. The Commission has requested the actual film,
4 the TV film itself, to be delivered to it, and they will
5 examine it, and if such a person does appear in the films, I
6 will send you a picture of it.

7 A. O.K.

8 Q. And I will also speak to the Secret Service
9 about it and see if we can find such a picture. According to
10 the Secret Service, one of these gentlemen has been identified
11 as Mr. Charles Hall Steele, Jr. *La*

12 A. He was working in the Pap's Super Market
13 here in New Orleans. I believe so, that he was working over
14 there. There was one Cuban who, when saw his face in the
15 television, called me to tell me that, and I called the
16 Secret Service and let them know.

17 Q. Mr. Steele will be in the office here this
18 afternoon, so we will have an opportunity to determine if it
19 is the same man that was marked with the arrow in "Pizzo
20 Exhibit 453-A" or not.

21 So you went over to the International Trade Mart
22 on this day in an attempt to find Oswald, but you were not
23 successful? Is that correct?

24 A. That is correct. After that my friend
25 showed to me one of the leaflets that Oswald was handing out

1 in front of the International Trade Mart, the yellow leaflets,
2 and I found something interesting at this point. There was
3 a difference among the leaflets that he was handing out on
4 August 16 in the International Trade Mart and the leaflets
5 that he was handing out on Canal Street on August 9.

6 Q. What was the difference?

7 A. The leaflet he was handing out on Canal
8 Street August 9 didn't have his name of Oswald, at least the
9 ones that I saw. They have the name A. J. Hidell, and one
10 post office box here in New Orleans and the address, and the
11 leaflets that he was handing out on August 16 have the name
12 L. H. Oswald, 4907 Magazine Street. In the yellow leaflets
13 he was offering free literature and lectures, and he was
14 asking to the people to join the New Orleans Chapter of the
15 Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and at the end he said, "Every-
16 one welcome." My friend asked to me if I think that it would
17 be good that he will go to Oswald's house posing as a
18 Pro-Castro and try to get as much information as possible
19 from Oswald. I told him yes, and that night he went to
20 Oswald's house with the leaflets.

21 Q. What day was this now? Do you remember?

22 A. August 16. I believe so. I think that. I
23 am sure.

24 Q. That was the same day that --

25 A. -- that he was distributing the leaflets.

1 Q. The second time?

2 A. The second time. The first time was a
3 Friday, August 9, and the second time -- I think that was
4 another Friday, August 16.

5 My friend went to Oswald's house and he was
6 talking to Oswald for about one hour inside his house, in the
7 porch of the house, and there was when we found that Oswald
8 had some connection with Russia, or something like that,
9 because the daughter came to the porch and Oswald spoke to
10 her in Russian, and my friend heard that language and he
11 asked Oswald if that was Russian, and Oswald told him yes,
12 that he was attending Tulane University and that he was
13 studying language, that that was the reason why he speak
14 Russian. He give to my friend an application to become a
15 member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba
16 Committee.

17 After the assassination my friend turned (over)
18 to the Secret Service one copy of the application. I have
19 here one, one copy (producing document). This is a photocopy.
20 My friend keep the original.

21 Q. Do you have another copy of this?

22 A. No, that is the only one that I have. He has
23 the original. If you want to keep that, for me it is no
24 trouble, because always I could take more copies.

25 Q. I see. Your friend still has the original?

1 A. The original, that is right.

2 Q. Well, let's mark this one as "Exhibit 2"
3 to your deposition. Off the record.

4 (Discussion off the record)

5 MR. LIEBELER: Let the record show that we
6 asked Mr. Bringuier to initial a picture which we discussed
7 before on the record, and that picture, which is a picture
8 of a street scene in front of the International Trade Mart
9 has been marked "Exhibit 1" to Mr. Bringuier's deposition
10 taken here in New Orleans on April 7, 1964. We shall now
11 mark as "Exhibit 2" to that deposition a photocopy of an
12 application to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, New Orleans,
13 Louisiana, which Mr. Bringuier says is a copy of an
14 application which was given to a friend of his whose name we
15 have agreed not to indicate on the record, given by Lee
16 Oswald on or about August 16, 1964. Is that correct?

17 A. 1963.

18 Q. I have initialed "Exhibit No. 2" and I ask
19 you to do the same, if you would.

20 (The witness complied)

21 Q. Please go ahead.

22 A. At that conversation Oswald was defending
23 Fidel Castro, and he advised to my friend that the United
24 States don't have the right to invade or to overthrow any
25 other government, and that if the United States will do that

1 to Cuba, he will fight defending Castro, because Castro was
2 right.

3 I gave the copy of the transcription of the
4 conversation with my friend to the Secret Service the days
5 after the Kennedy assassination.

6 Q. That is the day that you and your friend
7 discussed this after your friend returned from Oswald's and
8 you made a recording of that conversation?

9 A. Not a recording, not a recording exactly,
10 but when my friend came back from Oswald's house, he told me
11 what happened over there, and he was trying to contact some
12 authority to let him go deeper inside the Fair Play for Cuba
13 Committee here in New Orleans.

14 Q. Your friend was?

15 A. Yes, my friend was trying to contact some
16 authorities, because he didn't want to be involved in that
17 matter without the knowledge of the United States Government.
18 We also discussed this conversation in front of Ed Butler.

19 Q. Who?

20 A. Ed ~~Butler~~, Edward ~~Butler~~, for the ^{LA}~~Information~~
21 Council of the Americas, the day or two days previous to the
22 debate when my friend and myself went to Butler's office, and
23 my friend was explaining to Butler all the conversation and
24 the point of view of Oswald, and the matter that Oswald spoke
25 in Russian, and at that moment my friend had found that

1 Oswald had been in Russia and that he was married to one
2 Russian girl. We gave all that information to Butler and he
3 was trying to contact some person, somebody in Washington,
4 to get more the background of Oswald before the debate.

5 Afterthat, the last day that I saw Oswald was
6 August 21, the day of the debate. I went to WDSU Radio about
7 5:30, 30 minutes before the time of the debate. When I went
8 to the lobby, there were already there Bill Stuckey and Lee
9 Harvey Oswald. I shake hands with Stuckey. Stuckey indicate
10 to me that Oswald was there. Oswald stand up and came to me
11 and shake hands with me. I was talking to Stuckey for a few
12 minutes, and after that Stuckey left the lobby and went
13 inside the WDSU Radio Station to check -- I believe that was
14 to check in what room we will have the debate. I was talking
15 to Oswald that day before the debate started. I was trying
16 to be as friendly to him as I could. I really believe that
17 the best thing that I could do is to get one Communist out of
18 the Communist Party and put him to work against Communism,
19 because he know what Communism mean, and I told to Oswald
20 that I don't have nothing against him in the personal way,
21 just in the ideologic way. I told him that for me it was
22 impossible to see one American being a Communist, because
23 Communism is trying to destroy the United States, and that
24 if any moment when he will be at bed he will start to think
25 that he can do something good for his country, for his family,

.1 and for himself, he could come to me, because I would receive
2 him, because I repeat to him I didn't have nothing against him .
3 in the personal way. He smiled to me. He told me -- he
4 answered me that he was in the right side, the correct side,
5 and that I was in the wrong side, and that he was doing his
6 best. That were his words at that moment.

7 Before we went inside the room of the debate,
8 he saw my Guidebook for Marines that I was carrying with me,
9 because I did not know what will happen in the debate and
10 I will have to have that weapon with me to destroy him
11 personally as a traitor if he doing something wrong in the
12 debate. When he saw the Guidebook for Marines, he smiled to
13 me, and he told me, "Well, listen, Carlos, don't try to do an
14 invasion with that Guidebook for Marines, because that is an
15 old one and that will be a failure." That was his joke in
16 that moment.

17 After that we went to the debate, and I think
18 that you have the whole history of the debate, you have the
19 transcription and everything, (so) that I don't have to go
20 inside that, because that is subjective, not objective. You
21 have the objective, and that is the debate.

22 Q. That is right. We do have a transcript and
23 we listened to it on the tape last night over at the
24 television station too.

25 A. And there is something that I want to show

1 you too. I told to you about the training camp that were
2 across the Lake Pontchartrain.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. (Producing newspaper) At the beginning of
5 August in the Diario Las Americas from Miami for September
6 4 --

7 Q. For September 4, 1963?

8 A. That is right. (Indicating photograph) This
9 is the spy who was inside the training camp. The Christian
10 Democratic Movement turned him over to the F.B.I., and the
11 F.B.I. was questioning him in Miami. The Christian Democratic
12 Movement found a letter, according to this information, from
13 this guy directed to ~~Carlos LaChuga~~, former Cuban Ambassador
14 to Mexico and now Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations in
15 New York. In that letter the spy, Fernando Fernandez, was
16 warning LaChuga that they have to be alert from ^{last Cuban} ~~that~~ date to
17 August 8, and the day that Oswald came trying to infiltrate
18 my organization was on August 5. This sounds for me strange
19 in all this matter.

20 (Indicating) Here is another interview from
21 Fernandez here three days later.

22 Q. And you are referring to a copy of the same
23 newspaper but for the date of September 6, 1963, on the front
24 page of which --

25 A. (Indicating) Here. "Fernando Fernandez is

NY
Miami
Cuba

1 in favor of co-existence with the Communist regime of Castro."

2 That is the title in Spanish.

3 Q. Now let me see if I can understand what you
4 are saying. You say that Fernandez wrote a letter to LaChuga?

5 A. Fernandez wrote a letter to LaChuga in
6 Mexico.

7 Q. LaChuga is a member of the Castro government?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. He is now Ambassador to the United Nations?

10 A. In New York, right.

11 Q. Fernandez is the person who was the Castro
12 spy who had infiltrated the training camp in Louisiana?

13 A. For the Christian Democratic Movement here in
14 Louisiana.

15 Q. Now the Christian Democratic Movement is --
16 what? -- Pro-Castro?

17 A. Anti-Castro.

18 Q. It is an Anti-Castro organization?

19 A. Yes. They were training Cubans over here to
20 make a Commando action against Castro, but they find out
21 that there was a Castro spy inside the training camp, and
22 they went back to Miami with the people and with him, and
23 they turn him over to the F.B.I. I think that after that the
24 leader for the Christian Democratic Movement -- or that the
25 F.B.I. didn't find anything, because was not against the law

1 to spy inside an Anti-Castro organization. It was against
2 the law to spy inside the United States Government but not
3 inside the Anti-Castro organization. And my feeling -- and
4 this is the question that I am asking myself -- in New Orleans
5 we are about 900 miles from Miami. In Miami is where the
6 headquarters of all the Anti-Castro groups. I could not find
7 any reason for Oswald to come to me and offer me his service
8 to train Cubans in guerrilla warfare at the same moment when
9 there was a secret anti-Castro training camp in New Orleans
10 and a Castro spy was inside that training camp. That for me
11 is -- because, if he was willing to infiltrate one active
12 organization, he will go directly to Miami and he will offer
13 his service over there in Miami, but not in New Orleans where
14 it is not publicly known that there was something going on
15 at that moment. I believe that that was the only time here
16 in New Orleans that there was something like that, and it was
17 a coincidence. And there is another coincidence too for me,
18 and that is that when Oswald left the city he went to Mexico,
19 and the letter from Fernandez that was intercepted here was
20 to Mexico too, and Oswald visit the Cuban Consulate in Mexico,
21 and the Fernandez letter was to the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico.
22 For me, that is a big doubt.

23 Q. Go ahead.

24 A. You see, after the debate, the same night
25 of the debate, I went to the radio station here in New Orleans

1 and the local papers and the United Press International office,
2 and I gave a press release. If you want a copy, I could give
3 you a copy. I gave a copy to the Secret Service.

4 The most interesting thing is the four thing that
5 I asked to the Secret Service of New Orleans. I think that
6 this is the second one where I said, "Write to your
7 Congressman asking for a full investigation of Mr. Lee H.
8 Oswald, a confessed Marxist" (producing document). And that
9 was three months before the assassination.

10 Q. Do you have another copy of this?

11 A. I have the original of that. You can have
12 that.

13 MR. LIEBELER: I have marked a copy of the
14 press release distributed to the various communications
15 media here in New Orleans, on August 16, 1963 --

16 THE WITNESS: No, August 21.

17 Q. August 21, 1963?

18 A. August 21, the night of the debate.

19 MR. LIEBELER: -- and I mark it as "Exhibit
20 No. 3" to the deposition, and I have initialed it. Would
21 you initial it.

22 (The witness complied.)

23 Q. Now, let me go over some of this testimony
24 that you have just given and see if I understand. Mr.
25 Fernandez wrote to Mr. LaChuga a letter in which Fernandez

1 said that we -- meaning the Castro people?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- must be on guard up until August 8?

4 A. August 8, that is right.

5 Q. Of 1963?

6 A. That is right.

7 Q. You indicated that Oswald had come to your
8 store or offices on August 5, 1963?

9 A. That is right.

10 Q. Oswald came to you offering to assist in
11 the military training of Cubans?

12 A. That is right.

13 Q. At that time, there was, in fact, a training
14 camp near New Orleans --

15 A. That is right.

16 Q. -- for the training of people for military
17 action against Castro?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And that was not public knowledge at that
20 time?

21 A. That is right.

22 Q. So you are tying this up in your mind by
23 considering the possibility that Oswald was, in fact, a
24 Castro agent?

25 A. That is right.

1 Q. And did know about the existence of this
2 training camp, because Mr. Fernandez had already himself
3 infiltrated that training camp?

4 A. That is right.

5 Q. And that Fernandez had told Oswald about the
6 existence of this camp and had asked Oswald himself to try
7 to infiltrate that camp for your organization?

8 A. Excuse me.

9 Q. Is that correct?

10 A. Well, the only thing that I don't believe
11 is that Fernandez had told directly to Oswald. What I believe
12 is that Fernandez had informed some people outside the United
13 States, and those people had informed Oswald and had gave to
14 Oswald the order to try to infiltrate the Cuban group here in
15 New Orleans.

16 Q. And Mr. Fernandez was, on this theory,
17 aware of that and was aware of approximately the time Oswald
18 would make this attempt, and, therefore, indicated to LaChuga
19 that there would be some danger of Oswald being discovered as
20 an attempted infiltrator?

21 A. I beg pardon? I don't understand the words.

22 Q. As I understand, part of the hypothesis here,
23 the theory, relates to the fact that Fernandez said to LaChuga,
24 We must be careful, or we will be in danger, -- up until about
25 August 8. Now does that statement have anything to do with

1 Oswald?

2 A. Well, what I think is this: He send that
3 letter to LaChuga, and on August 5 Oswald came to me offering
4 his service to train Cubans, all in the same period of time.
5 Something that never was happening here in New Orleans, that
6 there was a secret Anti-Castro training camp, and the Chairman
7 of the Fair Play for Cuban Committee trying to join the Cuban
8 group here in New Orleans. Those are the facts. I don't
9 want to tell something that I am not sure about. I just want
10 to show you that tremendous coincidence or that connection.

11 Q. Now it doesn't seem likely, does it, that
12 Oswald would go around handing out literature in the streets
13 like he did if he was actually attempting to infiltrate the
14 Pro-Castro Movement?

15 A. Remember that that was after I turned down
16 his offer and after I told him that I don't have nothing to
17 do with military activities and that here there is nothing,
18 and that I turned down completely him. He didn't went openly
19 to do that before the attempt to infiltrate the training camp;
20 he went openly to do that after he was turned down.

21 Q. Do you know of any conceivable association
22 between anybody in the Pro-Castro Movement and Oswald that
23 could have acted as a source of information to Oswald,
24 conducted the orders to him?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Would you have any way of obtaining informa-
2 tion of that sort as a result of your anti-Castro activities
3 and contacts, and if there were such a person as this, do you
4 think you would be likely to know about it?

5 A. Beg your pardon?

6 Q. If there were such a person, that is to say,
7 some agent of the Castro movement who had been working with
8 Oswald, do you think that you would have had access to that
9 information or you would have been likely to find out about
10 it?

11 A. You see, that is a hard question, because
12 here in the city you have a lot of persons. There are some
13 who are pro-Castro, there are many who are anti-Castro. Even
14 among the Cubans you could have some Castro agents here in
15 the city and you could not have control of everybody.

16 But there is something else: The owner of the
17 Havana Bar -- the Havana Bar is located in 117 Decatur Street,
18 just two door or three door from my store -- the owner of the
19 Havana Bar is a Cuban, and he and one of the employees over
20 there, gave the information to me after Kennedys assassination
21 -- not before -- that Oswald went to the Havana Bar one
22 time. He asked for some lemonade. He was with one Mexican
23 at that moment, and when Oswald was drinking the lemonade,
24 he start to say that, sure, the owner of that place had to be
25 a Cuban capitalistic, and that he argue about the price of the

1 lemonade. He was telling that that was too much for a
2 lemonade, and he feel bad at that moment, Oswald feel bad
3 at that moment -- he had some vomits and he went out to the
4 sidewalk to vomit outside in the sidewalk. This person here
5 from the Havana Bar told me that the guy, the Mexican, who
6 was with Oswald, was the same one that one time the F.B.I.
7 told them that if they will see him, call them immediately
8 because that was a pro-communist. I remember that was between
9 August 15 and August 30 was that period of time. I could not
10 locate that because I start to find out all these things
11 after the Kennedy assassination, not before, because before
12 I did not found any connection. They did not told nothing
13 of this before to me. Between the 15th and the 30th the
14 brother of the owner of the Havana Bar came to my store asking
15 me to call the F.B.I., because he already saw one automobile
16 passing by the street with two Mexicans, one of them the one
17 who had been with Oswald in the bar, and he told me that the
18 F.B.I., one agent from the F.B.I., had been in the bar and
19 told them that if they will see those two guy to call them.
20 This person, the brother of the owner of the bar, he gave to
21 me at that moment the number of the plate of the automobile,
22 but he didn't get from what state. I called the F.B.I.,
23 because this person don't know to speak English. That was
24 the reason why he came to me. I talked to the person in the
25 F.B.I. I explained what was going on, but looked like this

1 person on the telephone didn't know nothing about that matter
2 and he took the -- I believe that he took the notes of what
3 I was telling to him, and that was all.

4 Q. When did this happen, before the assassina-
5 tion or after?

6 A. I called before the assassination, but I
7 didn't know that that was any connection with Oswald, because
8 they didn't told me at the Havana Bar that one of them was
9 the one that was with Oswald in the Havana Bar, and even
10 more they didn't told me Oswald had been in the Havana Bar.
11 After I learn that Oswald was one day over there with one
12 Mexican, the brother of the owner told me, "Yes. You
13 remember those two Mexicans? One of them was the one who
14 was with Oswald in the bar."

15 Q. Now, tell me approximately when you called
16 the F.B.I. about this.

17 A. Well, that was between the 15th of August
18 and the 30th of August, because that was when the owner of
19 the Havana Bar was on vacation. The brother was the one
20 who was at the front of the business at that moment, and we
21 figure that the owner of the Havana Bar went on vacation
22 from August 15th to August 30 and that had to happen in that
23 period of time.

24 Q. As I understand it, some time between August
25 15 and August 30 the brother of the owner of the Havana Bar

1 told you that he had seen a man that had been formerly
2 identified to him by the F.B.I., and the F.B.I. had asked
3 this man, the brother of the owner of the bar, to notify
4 them if he saw this man?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he had seen this man together with
7 another man driving in an automobile somewhere here in
8 New Orleans? Is that correct?

9 A. But the question is this: The F.B.I. was --
10 according to the information that the brother of the owner
11 of the Havana Bar told me, the F.B.I. was looking for both
12 men not for one.

13 Q. For both of them?

14 A. For both of them, but just one of them was
15 in the Havana Bar with Oswald, not both.

16 Q. What is the name of the brother of the owner
17 of the Havana Bar?

18 A. ~~Ruperto~~^{L ()} Pena, and the one who saw Oswald in
19 the bar -- that was the one who served the lemonade to him --
20 ~~Evaristo~~^{L ()} Rodriguez.

21 Q. Did you report this to the F.B.I. when you
22 talked to them after the assassination?

23 A. After the assassination?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I report this to the Secret Service. I