

January 28, 1964

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ROBERT RAY MC KEOWN, born January 28, 1913, residence Bay Cliff, Texas, unlisted telephone number Bay Cliff 9661492, upon interview at the Houston Division of the FBI furnished the following information:

He is presently employed as a salesman for the Houston Slush Pump Company, 2112 Quitman Street, Houston, and he formerly resided with his sister, MRS. FRANK DENNY, 9138 Wayfarer Street, Houston, Texas. His wife makes her residence in Miami, Florida. On February 25, 1958, he was arrested and charged with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba for the benefit and use of FIDEL CASTRO and his forces. On October 24, 1958, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas, he was sentenced for these activities to 60 days to serve and fined \$500 on one count, and was given a two year sentence suspended for five years on good behavior on a second count. The period of his probation expired December 11, 1963. At the time of his arrest, conviction and sentencing, considerable publicity concerning him and his activities appeared in the press. His photograph appeared in the newspapers on a number of occasions. He knows FIDEL CASTRO personally, and when CASTRO visited Houston, Texas, briefly in April, 1959, MC KEOWN went to the Houston Airport, visited with CASTRO, and had his photograph taken with CASTRO. This photograph was widely publicized. CASTRO tried to persuade him to stay on the airplane and proceed to Cuba with him (CASTRO). However, because he was then on probation, he told CASTRO it would not be possible. CASTRO was somewhat irritated at this, and suggested that MC KEOWN disregard the probation and go anyway. CASTRO stated he would give MC KEOWN a Government position in Cuba or perhaps he might give him some franchises or concessions there. MC KEOWN responded that he fully intended to comply with his probation to the letter, and stated he would come to Cuba when he could do so in a completely legal manner.

During 1958, while MC KEOWN was out on bond and prior to his sentencing, he and a MR. JARRETT entered a partnership and opened up the J and M Drive-In on Red Bluff Road near Taylor Lake and Clear Lake, in the vicinity of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED #6854 b7C/FBI
DATE 2/2/89 BY SP6 [redacted]
per CIA letter 9/23/88 File # 44-939

On 1/24/64 at Houston, Texas

by SA DANIEL W. FULTS, JR. : mem 44-24016 Date dictated 1/28/64

Kemah and Seabrook, Texas. MC KEOWN obtained his share of the funds for this venture by borrowing from CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, former President of Cuba with whom he had a close friendship. About two years ago, MR. JARRETT died, and the business was sold.

Cuba
Fla

FIDEL CASTRO took over the leadership of Cuba on about January 1, 1959, following the revolution which he had led. About one week after that, while he was on duty at the J and M Drive-In, Harris County, Texas, Deputy Sheriff ANTHONY "BOOTS" AYO appeared and said that some person had been frantically calling the Harris County Sheriff's Office in an effort to locate MC KEOWN. The name of the caller was not known to AYO, but he was calling from Dallas, Texas, and on the last call had said it was a life and death matter. MC KEOWN advised AYO to provide the caller with the telephone number of the J and M Drive-In. In about one hour's time, (8:00 p.m. or 8:30 p.m.) a person called MC KEOWN on the telephone and said his name was "Rubenstein". The caller said he was calling from Dallas, Texas, and indicated he was aware that MC KEOWN had influence in Cuba and particularly with CASTRO. The caller stated he wanted to get three individuals out of Cuba who were being held by CASTRO. He stated that if MC KEOWN could achieve their release he would be paid \$5,000 for each person. The caller added that a person in Las Vegas, Nevada, would put up the money. MC KEOWN replied that he most certainly was interested in making some money, and assured the caller he could obtain the release of any person being detained by CASTRO; however, MC KEOWN specifically advised the caller he would do nothing toward this end until he was paid \$5,000.00 in cash at the outset. The caller stated he would clear this with the man in Las Vegas, and would later recontact MC KEOWN. Nothing further was ever heard from this individual by MC KEOWN.

About three weeks following this telephone call, a man personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In and spoke with MC KEOWN. This person did not identify himself to MC KEOWN, nor did MC KEOWN ask his name. The man said he had a proposition whereby MC KEOWN could make \$25,000. When he indicated genuine interest in the man's proposition, they went to the rear of the Drive-In where patrons sit to

drink beer and where they could talk more privately. The man stated he had an option on a great number of jeeps which were in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he desired to sell them to CASTRO at a very profitable figure. He wanted MC KEOWN to provide him with a letter of introduction to CASTRO, which letter would clearly indicate that the bearer was responsible and reliable. MC KEOWN said he would gladly provide such a letter of introduction for a fee of \$25,000, but before he undertook to do anything he would have to have in hand at least \$5,000.00 in cash. The man indicated he wanted the letter right away, whereupon MC KEOWN asked if he had the necessary \$5,000 in his pocket. The man said that he did not, but that he would go and get the money and return. According to MC KEOWN, the man never returned nor did he ever again see him.

MC KEOWN stated that from the numerous photographs he has seen in the press and in magazines of JACK RUBY, the man with whom he talked concerning the letter of introduction to CASTRO resembles RUBY. The man gave the impression of being or trying to be a "big shot", and his manner and attitude was rather haughty. While his recollection of this man is somewhat hazy at this time, he vividly recalls the man had a small patch on his nose. MC KEOWN recalled he had asked the fellow what the patch was for, and he was advised that he had attempted to take out a blackhead and a small infection developed. To the best of his recollection, this man was probably 45 to 50 years of age, 5' 8" to 5' 10" in height, 200 pounds, stocky build, well dressed. He recalled the man had a tie clasp which matched his cuff links. He had no idea how the fellow traveled to the J and M Drive-In, and he never ascertained the man's name. MC KEOWN advised that he feels strongly that this individual was in fact JACK RUBY, the man whose photograph he has seen many times recently in the press.

MC KEOWN commented that because of the publicity accorded him in connection with his gun smuggling activities, he was literally besieged with requests for favors, requests for interceding with CASTRO, et cetera, following CASTRO's successful effort in Cuba. He stated his inability to leave the United States during his probationary period prevented him from fulfilling some of these requests which would have provided fabulous fees.

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He remarked he is not certain that the above-described telephone caller from Dallas or the man who personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In was identical with the JACK RUBY who killed LEE HARVEY OSWALD. To his knowledge, he has never seen or met LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

MC KEOWN stated that he knew of no one by the name of "Davis" who was convicted for gun running activity with Cuba.