



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Seattle, Washington
November 26, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

[REDACTED]

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY

The following contains information relative to the reaction to President KENNEDY's death by various subversive groups in the Seattle area:

Northwest District, Communist Party, USA (NWDCP)

On November 26, 1963, a first source advised that following the death of the President, it was learned that BURT GALE NELSON, who is known to the source as the District Chairman of the NWDCP, was somewhat apprehensive and did not desire to be contacted by anyone. NELSON's apprehension stemmed from the fact that he considered the situation as "tense" in view of the publicity surrounding the President's assassin.

On November 26, 1963, a second source advised that at a CP club meeting held on November 25, 1963, in Seattle, THORUN ROBEL, who is known to the source as a section officer of the South Central CP Section, asked what should be done by the CP in view of the assassination of the President. ROBEL asked those present as to how they could fight the "ultra-right" in this matter. ROBEL suggested that they call for a diluge of letters to President JOHNSON requesting that he continue with the programs started by President KENNEDY. ROBEL continued that the Young Political Explorers League's function scheduled for the evening of November 23, 1963, in Seattle was cancelled not because of the death of President KENNEDY but because it was to have featured a skit which was derogatory of President KENNEDY and therefore, it was felt that it should not be presented at this time.

*declassified 7/2/77
EFG/ML 2040*

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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

ROBEL surmised that the publicity concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his Marxist characterization has hurt the Communist Party and she stated that the Communist Party is going to deny any connection with OSWALD. ROBEL referred to the "far-right" as hate groups and she stated that in view of the developments of the President's death the CP should publicize the actions taken in the South in recent weeks by Civil Rights groups and hate groups, implying that such publicity would tend to take the CP out of the publicity spotlight.

"People's World" (PW)

PW is a West coast Communist newspaper published weekly in San Francisco, California.

On November 26, 1963, a third source advised that local Seattle PW officers are urging that the next issue of the PW be spread throughout the area in much larger numbers since the Communist Party is going to deny any connection with the President's assassin and that it is necessary to spread this view point around to as many people as possible.

Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba Committee (SC, FPCC)

SC, FPCC is in a latter part of this document.

On November 26, 1963, a fourth source advised on that same date CLARA FRASER, Chairman of the Adult Chapter of the FPCC in Seattle, mentioned that it is possible that the SC, FPCC at the University of Washington, Seattle, would be discontinued, although there may be a few members who might still be willing to have their names on a membership list of the group, in accordance with rules of that university. FRASER indicated that the Adult Chapter, FPCC, would continue in the Seattle area.

On the following page is a newspaper article which appeared in the November 24, 1963, issue of the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer", a local Seattle, Washington daily newspaper. This article concerns a statement regarding the FPCC in Seattle by CLARA KAYE, which is an alias used by CLARA FRASER, who according to a fifth source is a current chairman of the Seattle Branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

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No Link With Kennedy's Slaying:

'Fair Play' Groups Here Protest

BY CHUCK DUNSIRE

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee, of which the man accused of slaying President Kennedy is reportedly a member, has two chapters active in Seattle.

They are the Seattle Chapter and the Student Chapter, the latter a recognized student organization at the University of Washington.

REPRESENTATIVES of both organizations here yesterday protested "the attempt to link our committee" with the assassination.

Mrs. Claire Kaye, chairman of the Seattle Chapter, said the committee's prime objectives are to restore United States trade with Cuba, to remove the travel ban to Cuba and to grant diplomatic recognition to the Castro government.

Among public demonstrations in which the local groups have participated was a march protesting U.S. Cuban policy in front of Seattle's Federal Office Building on April 29, 1961. About 50 placard-carrying pickets demonstrated against the April 17, 1961, Cuban invasion.

A similar demonstration was conducted at that time in front of the U.S. Court House here.

The Fair Play for Cuba Committees were also among groups which picketed at the University of Washington when President Kennedy delivered a convocation address there in November, 1961.

Mrs. Kaye said the committee was organized nationally by two television network newsmen after their dispatches from Cuba "were suppressed."

In December, 1960, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was reported to have sponsored a visit to Cuba by

300 Americans, to rally support for the Castro program. Both Seattle chapters yesterday released the following statement:

"The Seattle Chapter and Student Chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee are outraged by the vicious murder of President Kennedy and we strongly protest the attempt to link our committee with this unspeakable crime.

"The FPCC does not advocate or condone acts of violence or terrorism anywhere in the world. We seek to educate and publicize issues through peaceful persuasion and objective discussion. We are an educational and study organization composed of people of varying political beliefs.

"The national horror over the murder could be deliberately provoked into a lynch spirit. Our committee hopes that the American people will not give way to hysteria and a further outrage against freedom of speech.

"The President's death was a blow against democracy. Let it not be used as the pretext for persecuting innocent people."

MRS. KAYE SAID she was unable to estimate the number of FPCC members here because members do not pay dues. She said monthly meetings are conducted in different homes.

"We're a small group," she said. "When we hold public meetings an average of about 100 attend—we're sort of a booking agency."

Both Mrs. Kaye and Barbara Tomlinson, program chairman for the University group, said the committees here had no knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassination suspect.

"Seattle Post Intelligencer"
11-24-63, Page 2, Col. 1

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening In Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. Charles A. Santos-Buch identified himself and Robert Taber as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and Taber obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. However, during the past year this source observed there has been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that today their influence is negligible.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that the National Headquarters of the FPCC is located in Room 329 at 799 Broadway, New York City. According to this source, the position of National Office Director was created in the Fall of 1962 and was filled by Vincent "Ted" Lee, who now formulates FPCC policy. This source observed Lee has followed a course of entertaining and accepting the cooperation of many other organizations including the CP and the SWP when he has felt it would be to his personal benefit as well as the FPCC's. However, Lee has indicated to this source he has no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. Lee feels the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations, but not support the Cuban revolution per se.

The CP and the SWP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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SEATTLE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

On April 20, 1961, a source advised that as of this date, no formal adult chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) had been organized in Seattle, Washington; however, in early 1961, the Seattle Branch, Socialist Workers Party (SWP) formed a temporary committee of the FPCC in Seattle which was headed by an active member of the Seattle SWP and was for the purpose of promoting the appearance in Seattle of a speaker on behalf of the National FPCC.

On September 25, 1961, this same source advised that an official active adult chapter of the FPCC had recently been organized in Seattle which is dominated and controlled by the Seattle Branch, SWP. As of this date, according to the source, the Seattle FPCC, an affiliate of the National FPCC, had no office headquarters and did not have a large membership.

This same source, on May 24, 1963, reported that the Seattle FPCC continues to operate in the Seattle area as an active organization. It has no office headquarters, but uses the mailing address of Box 743, 507 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington, which is the address of a mailing service.

The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

STUDENT CHAPTER, FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, aka
Seattle Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba Committee

On December 29, 1960, a source advised that youth of the Seattle Branch, Socialist Workers Party (SWP) had recently officially launched the Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba Committee (SC, FPCC) near the campus of the University of Washington at Seattle, Washington.

On July 31, 1961, another source advised that the SC, FPCC, Seattle, Washington, which operates from the homes of various council leaders, is a present active affiliate of the National SC, FPCC, following the aims and principles of the national organization. According to the source, the Seattle Council is dominated and controlled by youth members of the Seattle Branch, SWP.

The first source advised on July 3, 1963, that the Seattle Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba Committee, is currently known as the Student Chapter, Fair Play for Cuba Committee. It continues to function and is officially recognized as a student campus organization at the University of Washington. It is dominated and controlled by youth members of the Seattle Branch, SWP.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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STUDENT COUNCIL
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The initial publication of this organization, "Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba," Volume 1, Number 1, dated November 4, 1960, states that "this bi-monthly publication will be used to publish accurate information about Cuba, analysis of current events in Cuba and Cuban-U.S. relations, and for reports of the progress and activities of the newly-organized Student Council chapters."

A confidential source advised on January 17, 1962, that RICHARD GIBSON, then National Executive Secretary, Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC), advised on January 16, 1962, that a combined edition of the FPCC publications, "Fair Play" and "Student Council," published on October 28, 1961, was the last publication issued by the FPCC.

On January 15, 1961, a second source advised that TIM WOHLFORTH, National Chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) had commented that the YSA had been singularly successful in assisting in the formation of the FPCC Student Councils throughout the country and active within those councils.

A third source advised on May 11, 1960, that the original YSA was an organization formed during October, 1957, in New York City, by youth of various left Socialist tendencies, particularly members and followers of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). The leaders of this group were the guiding forces in the establishment of the national organization.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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STUDENT COUNCIL
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

On April 17, 1963, a fourth source advised that V. T. LEE (VINCENT THEODORE LEE), Director, National Office, FPCC, at a joint board meeting of the Seattle FPCC, Adult and Student Chapters, held on April 14, 1963, stated that the Student Council, Fair Play for Cuba Committee (SC, FPCC) was never actually formulated; that at present they are not considered full members and have no vote.

LEE stated that the difficulty with the Student Councils is that they are not permanent organizations. He said there were then approximately 30 Adult Chapters and 40 Student Councils.

On February 13, 1963, and May 20, 1963, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, by means of a suitable pretext, interviewed TED LEE, Director, National Office, FPCC, Room 329, 799 Broadway, New York, New York, and information was received disclosing that there is no current, acting head of the SC, FPCC.

LEE advised that the various SC, FPCC Chapters and educational institutions are autonomous organizations which more or less act independently from each other and, except for literature, receive little assistance or cooperation from the National Office, FPCC.

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YOUNG POLITICAL EXPLORERS LEAGUE (YPEL)

A source advised that REE ANN HALONEN, daughter of OIVA HALONEN, who was then the Chairman of the Communist Party's Industrial Section at Seattle, had stated on July 29, 1957, that the youth group in Seattle was considering adoption of the name Young Political Explorers.

A second source advised that a meeting of the Communist Party Downtown Club in Seattle was held on October 30, 1958. WANDA HUBBARD, a Communist Party member, stated that she was the youth director of the Young Political Explorers. She stated there were two groups in Washington and the Seattle group had fifteen active members. The age limits were from twelve to twenty years of age. The purpose of the group was to examine all political ideas, including socialism.

A third source also reported on the CP Downtown Club meeting on October 30, 1958. WANDA HUBBARD stated that the youths had chosen the name of Young Political Explorers, which is a statewide Communist Party organization and was formerly known as the Labor Youth League. HUBBARD stated it is directly supported and directed by the Communist Party.

The Labor Youth League has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The second source advised on December 23, 1960, that the Young Political Explorers League was the teenage group of the youth organization in Seattle.

A fourth source advised that MARY SUTHERLAND, Youth Director of the Northwest District of the Communist Party, stated on May 17, 1961, that she was handling two youth groups, one of which was the teenage youth group.

A fifth source advised on July 2, 1963, that the Young Political Explorers League continues in existence in the Seattle area and is under the guidance and leadership of MARY SUTHERLAND.



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Seattle, Washington
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Title ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
 JOHN F. KENNEDY

Character

Reference Letterhead memorandum dated
 and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.