

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO Mr. W. C. Sullivan

~~Confidential~~

DATE: 3-1-67

FROM Mr. W. A. Branigan

SEE REVERSE  
SIDE FOR  
CLASSIFICATION  
ACTION

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. R. Jensen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963  
DALLAS, TEXAS

CLASSIFIED BY 2040  
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

Re memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Tolson dated 2-28-67, setting forth results of a conversation Mr. DeLoach had with [redacted] on 2-28-67.

The Director instructed that Mr. DeLoach's memorandum be reviewed by the Domestic Intelligence Division to ascertain if [redacted] obtained any information from New Orleans District Attorney Garrison not already reflected in FBI files.

SYNOPSIS:

Garrison alleged David William Ferrie member of a group of anti-Castro Cubans who were located in 1961 and 1962 at Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana.

[redacted] Nothing in Bureau files to indicate David William Ferrie connected with this [redacted]

We also received information in July, 1963, a number of Cuban refugees had been brought from Miami, Florida, to New Orleans, to attend a training camp in the New Orleans area. Our inquiries disclosed these individuals reportedly were being recruited to work in the lumber camps in Guatemala and that they became disenchanted and returned to Miami. No indication David William Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald had any contact or connection with this group. Results of our inquiries of this group at that time was disseminated to the Warren Commission. On 11-25-63 David William Ferrie advised that from approximately November, 1960, until August, 1961, he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was in contact with Sergio Argacha Smith, its New Orleans head. Ferrie reported he had not had any connection with this organization or any other anti-Castro organization since August, 1961.

62-109060  
1 of 195-22555 (Oswald)  
RE: [redacted] (10)

62-109060-8  
MAR 8 1967  
SYNOPSIS CONTINUED - OVER

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Current Class. Markings are Per CIA Act of 9/23/88.  
1/11/88 #6454-33  
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Garrison's claim that Oswald lived with Ferrie for approximately one month before leaving New Orleans to go to Dallas, Texas, is false. Our interviews of Marina Oswald reflect Oswald lived with her at 4905 Magazine Street up until late September, when Oswald left to go to Mexico. Neighbors of the Oswalds corroborate Marina's statements.

Garrison's claim that Oswald did not fire at President Kennedy and that a black-haired, heavy set individual shooting from the overpass in front of the Presidential Motorcade was the individual who fired the fatal shot at the President not substantiated by evidence developed. We located and interviewed 15 people who were on the overpass when the Presidential party was approaching and none of these individuals observed anything suspicious or anyone shooting at the Motorcade from the overpass. Autopsy of President Kennedy performed by highly competent medical authorities disclosed wound in back of President Kennedy's head was an entrance wound and was fired from a rifle to the rear of the Presidential Motorcade.

Garrison alleges the conspirators in the plot consisted of Sergio Arcacha Smith, David William Ferrie, Carlos Quiroga, David Lewis, William Guy Banister, Jack S. Martin and one Mrs. Kloepfer, as well as a number of Cubans, including Batteau and Guzman. Smith and Quiroga are Cuban refugees who have previously been reported to us as individuals believed by Garrison to be involved in the assassination plot. David William Ferrie is the individual Garrison claims was also involved in the plot. Ferrie died 2-22-67 of natural causes. Martin and Lewis have previously been reported as individuals who are furnishing information to Garrison regarding the assassination plot. We did not know Garrison considered Lewis and Martin as conspirators in the plot. Mr. Banister is deceased. He was contacted immediately following the assassination, but gave no indication of knowing Lee Harvey Oswald or any details regarding the assassination. Mrs. Kloepfer, probably identical to Mrs. Warner Kloepfer, a prominent Quaker in New Orleans who paid a social visit to the Oswalds in September, 1963, at the request of Mrs. Ruth Paine, the individual with whom Marina Oswald was residing at the time of the assassination. We possess no information Mrs. Kloepfer involved in assassination plot. Our files contain no information identifiable with Batteau and Guzman.

Archbishop Stanley's association with Jack Martin and David Ferrie previously reported to us. By memorandum Branigan to Sullivan 2-27-67 in captioned matter we reported receipt of information from Stanley that Jack Martin told Stanley David Ferrie and Martin involved in assassination plot. Stanley

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informed a Special Agent of our Louisville Office that he had furnished this information to the Chief of Police, New Orleans, "about a month ago." It was suggested in our memorandum that Stanley may have furnished his information to New Orleans police authorities some time ago and that it was such information that touched off Garrison's investigation of the assassination and led to his known contacts with Jack Martin. The fact that Garrison volunteered information to [redacted] involving Stanley, Martin and Ferrie gives further credence that it may have been Stanley that touched off Garrison's investigation.

Garrison claims Carlos Quiroga will be his best witness and knows all facts with respect to the assassination plot. We do not know why Garrison feels Quiroga is his best witness.

[redacted]

This may have led Garrison to believe he had a "scoop" and that he had uncovered a contact by Oswald with an anti-Castro member that was not known to either the FBI or the Warren Commission.

[redacted] states Garrison places great faith in a deep-sea diver, Sidney Manning. A check of Bureau files contain no information identifiable with Manning and his name has not come up before in our investigation of the assassination.

OBSERVATIONS:

Heretofore, the information we were receiving through various sources and through press accounts indicated that Garrison's case was based upon information he was receiving from Jack S. Martin. We still believe that Garrison's whole investigation was initiated on the basis of Martin's allegations. The report that Garrison is now claiming to be able to produce five or six individuals who can state that Oswald was residing with David Ferrie strongly suggests that Garrison is well aware that Martin and David Lewis [redacted] not the type of individuals he can count on in selling his investigation to the American public. Garrison, in desperation, may be attempting to manufacture witnesses, [redacted] who because of pressure put on them by Garrison will state that they met Oswald in Ferrie's apartment or elsewhere.

ACTION:

For the Director's information.

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DETAILS:

[REDACTED]  
reported Garrison alleges David William Ferrie was associated with a group of anti-Castro Cubans which trained at Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, during the period 1961-1962. [S]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] our files contain no information that David William Ferrie had any connection [REDACTED]

(S) b2 per FBI

In July, 1963, we received information from several sources that a number of Cuban refugees had come to New Orleans from Miami, Florida, through the efforts of Rudolph Davis, reportedly to attend a training camp after which they would be sent to a training camp in Guatemala. Sources reported this group became disenchanted and returned to Miami shortly after their arrival.

We interviewed Rudolph Davis in this matter and he indicated he acted as a coordinator between the Movimiento Democratica Cristiano (MDC), an anti-Castro organization, and the New York City Police Department in 1961 and that he was the delegate for this anti-Castro organization in New Orleans. He stated he came to New Orleans in August, 1961, and in early 1963 made friends with persons in the lumber business in Guatemala with whom he formed the Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corporation. Davis said he brought approximately 19 men to New Orleans to train for lumber cutting work in Guatemala. He added that when the men learned they were to work in a lumber industry and were not recruited for military operations against Cuba, they became disenchanted and returned to Miami. Our files contain no information indicating that David William Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald had any contact or connection with Davis or the anti-Castro organization which Davis represented.

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Data concerning Davis and the group he brought to New Orleans in July, 1963, was disseminated to the Warren Commission during our investigation of the assassination.

On November 25, 1963, we interviewed David William Ferrie upon receipt of allegations from Jack S. Martin that Ferrie may have been involved with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination plot. During the course of our interview, Ferrie advised that from approximately November, 1960, until August, 1961, he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ferrie described this organization as an anti-Castro group and claimed that he had actively engaged in collecting food, money and medicine for this organization. Ferrie recalls Sergio Arcacha Smith as the head of this organization in New Orleans. Ferrie reported he had not had any connection with the Cuban Revolutionary Front or any other anti-Castro organization since August, 1961, although he continued to have social contacts with Sergio Smith. Ferrie also claimed he had no recollection of any organization in New Orleans named the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and never had any connection with any individual representing an organization by that name.

Garrison claims that Lee Harvey Oswald lived with David William Ferrie for approximately one month before leaving New Orleans to go to Dallas, Texas. Garrison claims that he has five or six individuals who are willing to testify to the fact that they had seen Oswald living in Ferrie's apartment.

Oswald resided in New Orleans from approximately April 25, 1963, to September 25, 1963, when he departed New Orleans en route to Mexico City. During our intensive investigation of Oswald's activities immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy, we developed no information indicating that Oswald lived with David William Ferrie or knew Ferrie. Marina Oswald, Oswald's wife, was questioned a number of times concerning Oswald's activities during the time they lived in New Orleans. She has reported that there was only one occasion when Lee Harvey Oswald spent the night away from their residence at 4905 Magazine Street, New Orleans. On this particular evening, the Oswalds and a relative drove to Mobile, Alabama, where Oswald spoke before a Jesuit school audience regarding his observations in Russia. This activity has been corroborated through other sources.

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In addition, a number of neighbors of the Oswalds in the vicinity of 4905 Magazine Street were interviewed and furnished information that Oswald did reside at 4905 Magazine Street until September 25, 1963, when the Oswalds moved from New Orleans. Oswald was unemployed in New Orleans from July 19, 1963, through September 25, 1963, when he left New Orleans. Marina Oswald has stated Oswald spent most of his time during that period sitting around the house and reading. A neighbor of the Oswalds who was also unemployed at this time said he saw Oswald at least once every day from mid-July, 1963, up until September 25, 1963, when Oswald moved from New Orleans. Another neighbor recalls seeing Oswald around the house most of the time during the period of his unemployment and this neighbor reported that when Oswald did leave his residence during the day, he would return shortly thereafter.

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Garrison informed [redacted] that Oswald definitely did fire at the Presidential Motorcade in Dallas and that one of his shots hit Governor Connally. He additionally alleged that Oswald did not fire at President Kennedy. Garrison reportedly strongly claims that a black-haired, heavy set individual shooting from the overpass in front of the Motorcade was the individual who fired the fatal shot at President Kennedy. During our intensive investigation of the assassination, we received numerous allegations that there was an individual on the overpass who shot at the Presidential car. We located and interviewed 15 persons, including two police officers, who were on the overpass when the Presidential Party was approaching the overpass. All of these people have advised that they did not observe anyone shooting at the Motorcade from the overpass, nor did they observe anything suspicious and saw no one with a rifle. That the fatal bullet struck President Kennedy in the back of the head and not from the front in the direction of the overpass is further clearly and directly shown by statements of the autopsy doctors to the effect that the wound in the back of President Kennedy's head was an entrance wound.

Garrison alleged to [redacted] that the conspirators in the assassination plot consisted of Sergio Arcacha Smith, David William Ferrie, Carlos Quiroga, David Lewis, William Guy Banister, Jack S. Martin (true name Edward Stewart Suggs), and one Mrs. Kloepher, as well as a number of Cubans, including Batteau and Guzman. Garrison also implicated a New Orleans

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lawyer believed by [REDACTED] to be [REDACTED] whose name is Lon.

Most of the names mentioned by Garrison have previously come to our attention as individuals in contact with or of interest to Garrison in connection with his investigation.

Set forth below is a concise summary concerning each of these individuals as contained in our files:

Sergio Arcacha Smith: Smith was born in Cuba in 1923 and served in the Cuban Diplomatic Service prior to the period when Fidel Castro became head of the Cuban Government. In November, 1960, he was designated as the delegate in New Orleans of the Frente Revolucionaria Democratico, an anti-Castro organization.

David William Ferrie: Ferrie is the individual who died of natural causes February 22, 1967, and has been the subject of considerable speculation in the press.

Carlos Quiroga: Quiroga is a Cuban refugee who resides in New Orleans, Louisiana. [REDACTED]

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David Lewis: Lewis is a baggage handler at a bus station in New Orleans. He is the individual who has told the press he gave the names of five individuals to New Orleans District Attorney Garrison as being involved in the assassination.

William Guy Banister: Mr. Banister is a former Special Agent of the FBI who retired on December 31, 1954. Following his retirement, he was active in numerous ventures in New Orleans and did have contact with anti-Castro Cuban personalities. Mr. Banister died of natural causes on June 6, 1964, in New Orleans.

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Jack S. Martin: Martin is the individual who appears to be behind many of the allegations linking David William Ferrie to Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination.

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Mrs. Kloepfer: Mrs. Kloepfer probably is identical to Mrs. Warner Kloepfer. She is a prominent Quaker in New Orleans and was acquainted with Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife. Our investigation previously disclosed that Ruth Paine with whom Marina Oswald resided immediately prior to the assassination arranged for Mrs. Kloepfer to visit the Oswalds to see if she could be of help to them. The Kloepfers are prominent individuals in New Orleans, and our files indicate that Dr. Kloepfer was active in an organization in 1963 which sought better understanding among people of different races and different faiths.

A check of our files discloses no information identifiable with Batteau and Guzman or a New Orleans attorney by the name of Lon.

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The information volunteered by Garrison to [REDACTED] concerning the association of Martin and Ferrie with Archbishop Stanley of Louisville is known to this Bureau. In memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 2/27/67 in captioned matter, information was set forth which Stanley volunteered to a Special Agent of the Louisville Office concerning his acquaintanceship with Martin and Ferrie.

[REDACTED] statement that the New Orleans coroner is receiving great pressure from Garrison to change his opinion of the cause of Ferrie's death from "natural causes - cerebral hemorrhage" to suicide is true. We have previously been told by the coroner's office that this is true but that the coroner was not going to change his opinion. The coroner subsequently released his report concerning Ferrie's death showing that Ferrie's death was due to natural causes.

[REDACTED] reported that Garrison claims Carlos Quiroga will be his best witness and knows all facts with respect to the assassination plot. The significance of Quiroga's role in this matter is not known.

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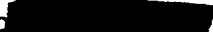
It may be that Garrison believes he has a "scoop"

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Garrison claimed to  that he places great faith in a deep-sea diver whose name is Sidney Manning. The significance of this statement by Garrison is not known. Manning's name has not previously come to our attention in the matter and there is no record identifiable with him in Bureau files.

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