



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
February 21, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63

A confidential source who has in the past furnished insufficient information to determine reliability advised that in September, 1961, he was, through an associate, Mr. Ed Butler, Executive Director of INCA (Information Council of the Americas), introduced to Sergio Arcacha Smith, the head of the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front. Source said Butler had requested he assist Smith in any way he could as Smith was working on plans to overthrow Fidel Castro in Cuba. Source stated in subsequent conversations with Smith the possibility was discussed of purchasing explosives, firearms, P-T boats and jet aircraft. Smith, source said, was especially interested in purchasing machine guns, anti-personnel mines, a SIG Swiss Solohren Rifle and automatic M-2 .30 caliber carbines. Source said Smith was discussing the possibility of obtaining medical supplies such as blood plasma, drugs, etc.

Source said he and his partner discussed Smith's proposition and during the discussions recalled some prior information that they had gained concerning an explosive cache. Source said they had learned through drag racing circles, which they were in business with in 1961 that in Houma, Louisiana, there were large stores of explosives in some old magazines. Source stated he could not recall the name of the individuals telling him about the explosives but the magazines had been pointed out to him near the drag strip which was an airplane runway on an old base. He advised as he recalls the base was called the Houma Air Base and his original information indicated the magazines contained oil company explosives.

4/10/7

ENCLOSURE

Subsequently, source said he had a number of visits with Sergio Arcacha Smith and had ultimately told Smith he could get the explosives for him for a \$25,000 fee. Source said he had also related to Smith it was his understanding plugged automatic weapons could be purchased from a firm in the North and new barrels for these weapons could be purchased from a West Coast firm. Source said he told Smith he had also determined the possibility existed that he could purchase surplus Canadian Vampire Jets at the cost of \$3,000 each.

Source said Sergio Arcacha Smith displayed numerous photographs and documents relating to the atrocities being committed by the Castro regime in Havana, Cuba and the Isle of Pines. He said Mr. Butler during this time restated his interest in assisting Smith's movement. He advised that it became apparent the plans of this group were becoming more and more complicated. He advised that ultimately he and his partners were taken to the residence of David Ferric where they were introduced by Smith to Ferric, two young Cubans and two young ex-marines. He said upon arriving at the house he was taken directly to the attic where there were maps of Cuba displayed on the walls, instructive material lying around and a number of different types of firearms sitting in a rack. He stated in the basement of this same house there were two roughly assembled two-man submarines.

Source advised Ferric was referred to as Captain David Ferric and the two ex-marines who were sitting in the attic upon their arrival behaved in an extremely unusual manner, in that they seemed to be very "blood thirsty" and sullen and one drew quite a bit of attention because he kept cocking and snapping an M-1 Grand Rifle. He said at this same initial meeting he was told Ferric was an airline pilot.

Source and his partner discussed the complicated situation in which this matter had developed and between themselves decided to furnish the information to the organization and step out of the picture accepting no profit from their activities.

Source said he told Smith the whole matter and plan was far too complicated so he would direct him, Smith and his associates to a place where they could obtain explosives but he would not participate in obtaining them.

Source advised his ex-wife, his partner, Smith, Ferrie, two Cubans, two ex-marines and an individual whose name is unknown, who had custody of a linen delivery truck traveled to the Houma Air Base, Houma, Louisiana. He said they utilized his 1956 Lincoln Supreme, one other automobile, a panel truck and a Metro type step van. He related when they arrived in the magazines on the air base, Smith posted a look out on top of the bunker and they opened the door to the magazine which appeared to be the best maintained of the three available magazines. He said they loaded the truck, the panel truck and both cars with explosives and headed back to New Orleans. He advised the magazine which was entered bore a sign depicting the contents belonged to an unrecalled oil company.

Source advised that on the return trip they tested some of the hand grenades which had been taken in a swampy area along the road, and he at this time noticed all the explosives bore manufacturing dates of 1959 or later. Source advised Smith and his compatriots had obtained from the magazine hand grenades, time bombs, explosives, thousands of rounds of .30 caliber ammunition, tracer ammunition, bazooka projectiles and rifle grenades. He said all of this ammunition bore the U. S. Army Ordnance emblem.

Source stated Smith and the others excitedly discussed plans to blow up ships in Havana Harbor, sabotage key installations and blow up the pipe line to Guantanamo Bay. He said Ferrie was to be a pilot for the organization and they had mentioned it would be approximately two weeks before the explosives would arrive in Cuba. He said he recalled about two or three weeks later news of random bombings became news from Cuba.

Source said he saw Sergio Smith on two or three occasions after the break in of the explosives magazine, the last time in 1962 and he has seen Ferrie in passing a few times since 1961. He said he recalls sometime in the

past Ferrie being charged with what he recalls as indecent acts by Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Source reiterated his involvement was stimulated by his belief and his feeling that the Cuban cause was just. He advised he received absolutely no moneys from anyone associated with the movement and no one has contacted him about the matter since the explosives were obtained.

Source described the only one of the ex-marines he could remember as name Jerry or Andy (last name unrecalled), white male, 19 - 23 years of age, 5 feet 11 inches, 135 pounds, dark, curly hair, light complexion, "nice looking", dressed marine green fatigues with white T-shirt, tattoos on both arms.

Source said he was sure that neither of the ex-marines he met was Lee Harvey Oswald.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.