

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: May 2, 1967

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

Handwritten notes and signatures:
DENY
D.J. Brennan
Sullivan

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that Bureau liaison contact the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and clarify CIA's association with Sergio Arcacha Smith, alleged by New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison to be a key figure in his investigation of the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

BACKGROUND OF SMITH

Sergio Arcacha Smith was born in Cuba in 1923. He attended college in Havana and is a graduate from the Columbia University Law School in New York City. He served in the Cuban Diplomatic Service and was last so employed as Consul in Bombay, India, in 1954. On November 11, 1960, he was designated as the delegate in New Orleans of the Frente Revolucionaria Democratico (FRD), an anti-Castro organization which was established in June, 1960, from an alliance of United States anticommunist Cuban revolutionary organizations. Smith formerly was in contact with our New Orleans Office on several occasions during 1960-62 to report activities of his organization.

GARRISON'S INTEREST IN SMITH

We have received information from several sources that Garrison believes Smith was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. Smith is now residing in Dallas, Texas, and Garrison is attempting to have Smith returned to New Orleans for questioning. Recently, Garrison charged Smith as being involved with Gordon D. Novel in the burglary of an ammunition bunker at Houma, Louisiana.

CIA CHECK

In view of Smith's involvement in anti-Castro activities in New Orleans, we contacted CIA on March 2, 1967, to determine if Smith was utilized as a source by CIA. _____ of CIA

62-109068
56 MAY 22 1967

REC-71 5206
Handwritten signatures and initials: L. J. Brennan

CONTINUED - OVER

Blacked out redaction area

Handwritten notes:
D.J. Brennan
W.C. Sullivan
SJP/mab
5/3/67

SECRET

51
Handwritten initials and numbers:
b3
Title 50
USC, Section
4039 REC-1
B.C.

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

informed Bureau liaison that CIA has not had any operational interest in Smith, nor has CIA had any operational interest in David William Ferrie or Gordon D. Novel.

NEWS MEDIA INTEREST

The New Orleans "States-Item" for April 25, 1967, carried an article entitled "Mounting Evidence Links CIA to 'plot probe.'" The article alleges that Gordon Novel told friends and intimates that he was a CIA operative and was involved with Smith in removing munitions from a bunker in Houma, Louisiana, under the instructions of CIA. In view of such allegation, we again contacted CIA on April 25, 1967, and CIA again stated that Novel and Smith have never been of operational interest to CIA.

DEPARTMENTAL FILE CHECK

On April 28, 1967, Assistant Attorney General Mr. J. Walt Yeagley wrote a memorandum to the Attorney General, a copy of which was made available to this Bureau for our information. In this memorandum, Mr. Yeagley noted that this Bureau had previously sent a letter to the Department reporting information that Sergio Arcacha Smith allegedly recruited a number of individuals as fighters for the Frente Revolucionaria Democrático (FRD). Mr. Yeagley reported he had made inquiry of CIA on May 15, 1961, regarding Smith and the FRD and that CIA informed the Department that the FRD was engaged in recruiting Cuban counterrevolutionaries throughout the United States and that after recruitment, most of the recruits were sent outside the United States for training.

CIA also informed the Department that Smith was a bona fide FRD representative in New Orleans.

CIA further informed the Department that when the FRD dissolved in the Fall of 1961, Smith became the New Orleans delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in Miami. He was reportedly fired or discharged from his duties with this organization in February, 1962, on the basis of unspecified "dishonesty." He then moved to Houston, Texas, and later to Dallas, Texas.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the information set out above, it is recommended that Bureau liaison contact appropriate officials at CIA and clarify CIA's exact relationship with Sergio Arcacha Smith.

Rel

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

63
File 503
USC
Section
1039
CIA

