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DA Will Seek to Show Oswald In CIA Undercover Role Here Pro-Castro Involvement Called Sham

By ROSS YOCKEY and HOKE MAY
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The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp.)
Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot
investigation will seek to show that accused presi-
dential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was not a Com-
munist but an undercover agent who aided the
cause of anti-Castro Cubans here.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 5-5-67

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEX.

Character: 11-22-63

or AFO

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

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The revelation came from informed sources today as additional evidence pointed increasingly toward a deep involvement of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency activities among certain principals in the DA's continuing inquiry.

Garrison's investigation is said to have taken a definite trend toward what are believed to be indications that persons employed by the CIA were responsible for Kennedy's death.

SOURCES close to the Garrison probe painted a picture of Oswald which was diametrically opposed to the one sketched by the Warren Commission.

The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone assassin of Kennedy, who was shot to death at Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. It showed him as a confused, Communist-oriented young man who was driven to kill Kennedy by a deep need for public recognition.

If Garrison's reported conclusions are proved correct, however, the Warren Commission would be refuted, not only by the existence of a plot but by Oswald's active participation in CIA-sponsored anti-Communist activities.

His activities in behalf of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee here during the summer of 1963 are believed by the DA's office to have been no more than a cover for his real job as an operative who worked closely with militant anti-Communist Cuban groups.

OSWALD, WHO was shot to death by Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy's slaying, was a New Orleans native who returned here early in 1963.

The Warren Commission reported that Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, less than a month after receiving a hardship discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps in Japan. (Later, he was dishonorably discharged because of the defection.)

Informed sources said Oswald may have been trained as an intelligence agent at Japan's Atsugi Air Force Base, a known CIA instruction camp.

His trip to Russia and the reasons surrounding it reportedly have been thrown open to serious question by the Garrison investigation.

The investigation of Oswald's operations in New Orleans are said to center on the fact that he used the address of a Camp st. building which also housed the offices of two avowedly anti-Communist organizations.

One was the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front, headed by Sergio Arcacha Smith, a current fugitive from Garrison's investigation. The other was Guy Banister Associates, led by the stormy onetime Federal Bureau of Investigation official and assistant superintendent of New Orleans police.

ARCACHA'S office was closed officially in 1962, almost

a year before Oswald lived in New Orleans for the last time. Banister was still operating his detective agency in the same building when Oswald printed the Camp st. address on Fair Play for Cuba handbills he distributed in the New Orleans area.

The weathered granite building stands at the corner of Camp and Lafayette with entrances on both streets. Arcacha and Oswald both listed their addresses as 544 Camp. Banister's was 531 Lafayette.

In late 1962, still another anti-Castro organization, the Crusade to Free Cuba of which Arcacha reportedly was a member, used the address to receive mail contributions.

The DA's office is said to have questioned witnesses who reported seeing Oswald, Banister, Arcacha and the late David W. Ferrie together in the building. Ferrie was a strange, hairless former airline pilot whom Garrison has called "one of history's most important men." He was found dead at his apartment Feb. 22—five days after the Garrison investigation became public.

A CLOSE friend and adviser of Banister's told the States-Item the veteran FBI agent was a key liaison man for U.S. government-sponsored anti-Communist activities in Latin America.

"Guy participated in every important anti-Communist South and Central American revolution which came along while he had the office on Lafayette st.," the source reported.

Banister, who died of a heart attack in the summer of 1964, is believed to have worked in cooperation with a U.S. military intelligence office here. Another source said he saw from 50 to 100 boxes of war munitions in Banister's office early in 1961.

FERRIE recounted his role as a CIA commando to a young friend early in 1961, before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion when more than 1,600 CIA-trained Cuban invaders were taken prisoner.

The young man said Ferrie boasted of his role as an espionage agent and added that he had been wounded in the abdomen by the knife of a Castro militiaman during a hit and run attack on the Cuban coast in early 1961.

Garrison's office reportedly has autopsy photographs of Ferrie showing a 12- to 14-inch scar across the pilot's abdomen.

Ferrie is one of three men Garrison has charged plotted the death of Kennedy during a conference at Ferrie's Louisiana ave. pkwy. apartment here two months before the President was killed. The other two are Oswald and 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw, retired managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart.

WHILE OSWALD was handing out Fair Play for Cuba leaflets in front of the Trade Mart during the summer of 1963, an anti-Castro group led by Ferrie was demonstrating on Canal st. a few blocks away.

There is no indication of what part, if any, Garrison may believe Shaw played in anti-Communist activities here. Shaw's attorneys have denied reports published in Italy that Shaw was linked with operations supported by the CIA there.

They have admitted, however, that Shaw was a director of the World Trade Center Corp., which had CIA ties attributed to it by Paese Sera, an influential left wing afternoon newspaper in Rome.

Garrison insists that Shaw is the mysterious Clay Bertrand who telephoned Jefferson Parish attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr. immediately after Kennedy's death and tried to employ him to defend Oswald.

ANDREWS, who told the story of Bertrand's call to the Warren Commission in 1963, was indicted for perjury after testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury that he was unable to make any definite connection between Bertrand and Shaw. Shaw denies any tie with Bertrand.

However, a Washington correspondent for the New York Times reported March 3—two days following Shaw's arrest—that an unnamed Justice Department spokesman said his agency was convinced "that Mr. Bertrand and Mr. Shaw were the same man."

The correspondent, Robert E. Semple Jr., told the States-Item he was given the information on the same day U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Shaw had been investigated in 1963 and cleared of any complicity in Kennedy's assassination.

Semple said he went immediately to the National Archives where documents relating to the presidential slaying are stored. When he could find no reference to Shaw in Warren Commission papers, Semple said, he returned to the Justice Department and asked the basis for Clark's statement.

IT WAS then, he said, he was told that the Justice Department was convinced Shaw was Bertrand and "that was the basis for Mr. Clark's assertions this morning."

The Garrison investigation's brightening spotlight on CIA-sponsored anti-Castro Cubans was prompted in part by reports that Cuban groups here were angry with Kennedy because he "closed the door" on government military aid to them in the summer of 1963.

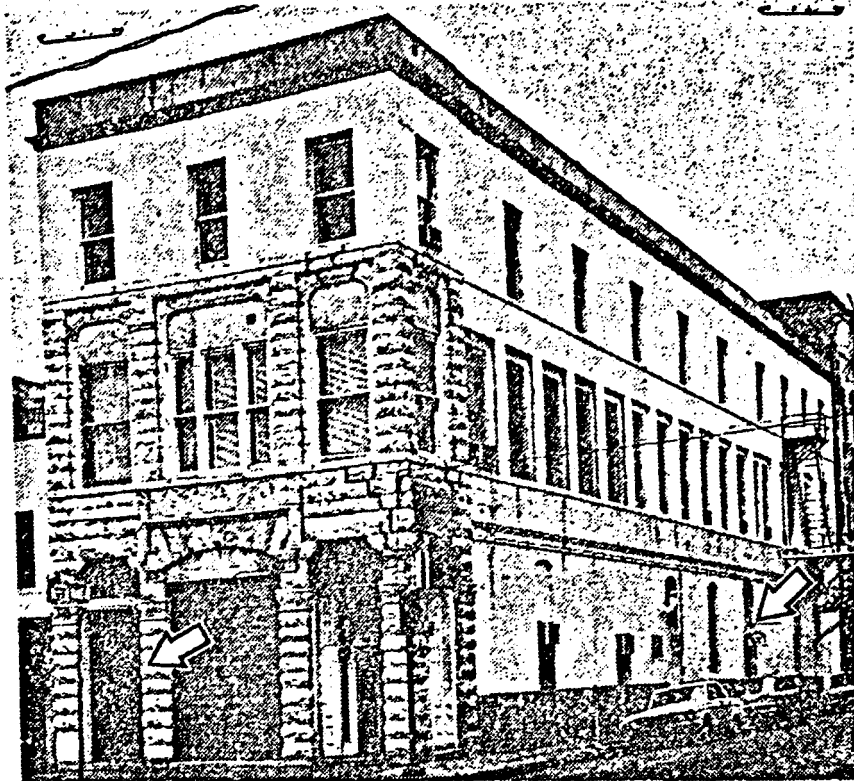
Two groups—one described as "covert," the other "overt"—were being trained here by the CIA for operations against Castro as late as June of 1963. One of them, said to have been led by Ferrie, was instructed in guerrilla warfare at a camp in St. Tammany Parish near Lacombe.

On July 31, a team of FBI agents raided a cabin close to the reported training site and confiscated a ton of war munitions, which included 100-pound bomb casings, powder, blasting caps and primer cord.

AN FBI source said the munitions had been traced to a Philadelphia origin, but no arrests have been made.

Immediately after the Lacombe raid, the so-called "overt" Cuban troop was disbanded and returned to Miami. The "covert" group disappeared.

On the day following the Lacombe raid, Secretary of State Dean Rusk was conferring with then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on a proposed nuclear disarmament treaty. Anti-communist Cubans here reportedly were disturbed over what appeared to be a growing rapprochement with the Reds.



—States-Item photo.

THIS WEATHERED GRANITE building at the corner of Camp and Lafayette sts. was spotlighted today by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation. It was both the headquarters of right wing anti-Castro activities and the address Lee Harvey Oswald used on pamphlets he distributed here for the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The arrow at right points to entrance at 531 Lafayette, the arrow at left to 544 Camp.