

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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- Asst. Dir. _____
- 1. AD Adm. _____
- 2. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 9/3/76

FROM : B. H. Cooke

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Cooke
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted]

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS
11/22/63

PURPOSE: To furnish results of investigation previously conducted and to advise of investigation currently underway regarding the allegation that Jack Ruby traveled to Cuba prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

SYNOPSIS: - "New York Daily News" article of 8/29/76, alleges FBI did not look into reported trip by Jack Ruby to Cuba in 1962 or 1963. Director Kelley asked, "What about this?" Ruby's alleged travel to Cuba in 1962 or 1963 was thoroughly investigated in 1964 and the results were furnished to the Warren Commission in May of 1964. Recent statements by convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis that Ruby met with Castro prior to the assassination are currently being investigated.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i> | Ext. Affairs _____ | Laboratory _____ |
| Assoc. Dir. _____ | Fin. & Pers. _____ | Legal Coun. _____ |
| Dep. AD Adm. _____ | Gen. Inv. _____ | Plan. & Eval. _____ |
| Dep. AD Inv. _____ | Ident. _____ | Rec. Mgnt. _____ |
| Asst. Dir.: _____ | Inspection _____ | Spec. Inv. _____ |
| Adm. Serv. _____ | Intell. _____ | Training _____ |

DETAILS: The "New York Daily News" in its 8/29/76, edition, page 31, carried an article titled "Report FBI Didn't Look Into a Ruby-Cuba Link." A copy of the article is attached. The article reports that the FBI received information that Jack Ruby made a special trip to Cuba before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy but failed to verify this report or determine whether Ruby was involved in a plot to kill the President. The article also says that Frank Sturgis, a convicted Watergate burglar and former Central Intelligence Agency contact Agent recently told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Ruby flew to Cuba in 1963 and conferred with Fidel Castro about the possibility of assassinating Kennedy. Mr. Kelley

Enclosure

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RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

asked, "What about this?" in relation to the article.

The Bureau, immediately after the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby conducted a thorough investigation into Ruby's background to determine if there was any evidence to connect Ruby to Oswald or any evidence that either Oswald or Ruby was a part of a conspiracy. This investigation included checking the possibility that Ruby went to Cuba. It was well established, and Ruby readily admitted, that he was in Havana in the Summer of 1959 as the guest of Louis McWillie, a gambler and close friend. No evidence was uncovered, however, to indicate Ruby was in Cuba after 1959 or that he met with Castro at anytime.

Miami, in reports of SA James J. O'Connor dated 4/4/64 and 4/21/64 specifically addressed allegations relating to the Carlos Valdes-Fauli letter which is mentioned in the attached article. Valdes was interviewed in Miami by SA James J. O'Connor on 1/27/64, at which time he furnished a part of a letter from his sister-in-law, Graziella Rubio, age 45, of Marianao, Cuba. The applicable part of the letter was translated from Spanish and read as follows: "Ruby, the assassin of Oswald was in Havana a year ago. He is a friend and a client of an individual named Praskin, who owns or manages a souvenir shop located on Prado between Animas and Trocadero streets in front of the Sevilla Hotel."

Valdes said his sister-in-law was unemployed and lived with an aged stepfather and the information she furnished was probably hearsay. He said her home is a considerable distance from Havana and she would have no way of knowing of activities taking place in Havana.

Investigation by Miami and other offices identified the probable original source of the information regarding Ruby's visit to Havana as a handbill distributed by a clandestine anti-Castro organization (DRE) in Cuba. Neither the handbill nor the letter gave any specifics of Ruby's alleged Cuban activities. Extensive investigation in the United States failed to develop any evidence to corroborate Ruby's alleged trip to Cuba. On the other hand, investigation was successful in locating evidence of several other trips made by Ruby to

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Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
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various points in the United States and in accounting for much if not most of his daily activities during the year preceding the assassination.

The two Miami reports of SA O'Connor previously referred to, were furnished to the President's Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President Kennedy (Warren Commission), on 4/20/64 and 5/13/64, respectively.

In July of 1976, the "New York Daily News," "Dallas Times Herald," "United Press International" and other news outlets carried stories similar to the portion of the attached article that deals with Frank Sturgis. Sturgis, true name Frank Fiorini, was quoted as saying that Ruby met with Castro in Havana during the Summer of 1963, and discussed the possibility of assassinating President Kennedy. A review of our files indicates that Sturgis was interviewed in Miami on 11/27/63, 1/14/64 and 4/7/64, regarding his knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald. These interviews resulted from newspaper articles quoting Sturgis as saying Oswald had Cuban Government connections. When confronted in 1963, and 1964, for his specific knowledge about Oswald, he admitted his comments were guesses, speculations and rumor based upon information about Oswald that was carried in the press. Although there is no indication Sturgis was specifically questioned about Ruby during the 1963 and 1964 interviews, he certainly had ample opportunity to furnish any information regarding Ruby at that time if he, in fact, had such information. Leads were set out by airtel dated 8/5/76 directing Miami to reinterview Sturgis regarding any knowledge he has that Ruby went to Cuba in 1962 or 1963.