

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgmt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Tech. Serv. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Fehrl

DATE: 7/13/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Feld
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Fehrl
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Lawr
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - FOI-PA (Attn: Mr. Bresson)

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

PURPOSE: To respond to the Director's inquiry on attached article by providing background information retrieved thus far concerning said article captioned "Castro Lied to Barbara Walters" appearing in the 7/7/77, edition of the "Midnight/Globe."

SYNOPSIS: Attached article based on interview of Frank Sturgis, aka Frank Fiorini, anti-Castroite, and alleges Fiorini in possession of "Secret" FBI document bearing "Number MM105-8342, dated March 24, 1964." Search of Bufiles located Miami Division report on 4/4/64, containing FD-302 re Cuban exile John V. Martino, dictated on 3/24/64, in Miami, Oswald file 105-8342. April 4, 1964, report downgraded from "Secret" to "Confidential" - paragraph by paragraph. Martino 302 is not classified and downgrading markings indicate report was processed in preparation for FOI-PA release. Sturgis has made FOI-PA request but unable to determine at this time if he or anyone else has received the Martino 302. Martino 302 may be document referred to in article as it contains some of information contained in article. The 4/4/64, Miami report was disseminated to Warren Commission and CIA in 1964. The article alleges that the document contains nine names and 14 names appear in the Martino 302. The article quotes purported excerpts from document which agree with items of information appearing in Martino 302 but which are not comparable, word for word. Information re Oswald's alleged infiltration of anti-Castro organizations in Miami have previously been labeled as false by Sturgis when interviewed by a Bureau Agent. Article and Martino 302 refer to a fight Oswald is alleged to have had in Miami and Bureau Agents previously located and interviewed alleged participant. Article and Martino 302 refer to Oswald's alleged trip to Cuba which is not verifiable through Warren Report and Bufiles to date. Past Miami Division investigation/inquiry through INS disclosed Martino may attribute information to non-existent sources. Miami Division considers Martino unreliable. Criminal Division of Department may be queried for determination as to whether or not Sturgis should be interviewed after further records searches to ascertain if he has received a copy of the Martino 302.



Enclosure

JJC:sas (5)

REC-115

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

7 9 JUL 29 1977

Memorandum to Mr. Felt

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

APPROVED: *K*

Director _____
Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____

Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____

Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
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Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS: The attached "Midnight/Globe" article is by Malcolm Abrams who states it is based on an interview of Frank Sturgis whom he describes as "once America's top spy in Cuba and more recently a Watergate burglar" and claims Sturgis is in possession of a "Secret" document bearing "Number MI105-8342, dated March 24, 1964."

A search of Bufiles discloses that Miami Division reported investigation in the Lee Harvey Oswald file under MI105-8342. A search of Bufile 105-82555, the Lee Harvey Oswald file, disclosed a 4/4/64 Miami report originally classified "Secret," but downgraded on 12/14/76, to "Confidential" on a paragraph by paragraph basis.

In this report appears a five-page 302 reflecting interview of Cuban exile John V. Martino by SA James J. O'Connor on 3/21, 23, 24/64, at Miami Beach, Florida, in Miami file 105-8342 and reflects the date dictated and transcribed as 3/24/64, which is the date set forth in the article. This 302 is not classified.

The 4/4/64 report was disseminated to the Warren Commission on 4/20/64, and to CIA on 5/4/64. As previously noted, it was downgraded from "Secret" on 12/14/76, and inquiry through the FOI-PA Branch, Records Management Division, discloses that the downgrading markings on the cover page of the 4/4/64 report indicate that it was reviewed by the Document Classification Review Unit since it was the subject of an FOI-PA request. At the present time it is not known whether, in fact, the document was released or to whom. It is noted, however, that assassination theorist, Mark Lane, has, as of 2/28/75, requested a substantial release of Lee Harvey Oswald and John F. Kennedy assassination documents. It was also ascertained that Frank Sturgis requested documents pertaining to himself on 3/23/76. Frank Sturgis is also identified as Frank Fiorini in Bufiles.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Fehl

The article further describes the document in question as containing nine names "all reliable FBI and CIA contacts on Cuban intelligence."

A review of the Martino 302 reflects the following names or persons referred to in order of mention:

- (1) John V. Martino - Cuban exile and coauthor of "I Was Castro's Prisoner."
- (2) Nathaniel Weyl - coauthor of "I Was Castro's Prisoner."
- (3) President John F. Kennedy.
- (4) Lee Harvey Oswald.
- (5) Unnamed source
- (6) Felipe Vidal Santiago - anti-Castro Cuban exile.
- (7) Frank Fiorini (aka Frank Sturgis) - anti-Castro.
- (8) Fidel Castro.
- (9) Jim Buchanan, reporter, "Pompano Beach Sun-Sentinel."
- (10) Jack Ruby.
- (11) FNU Praskin - Cuban with alleged connections to Ruby.
- (13) Iazaro Cardenas - former President of Mexico.
- (14) Jerry Buchanan - brother of Jim Buchanan and reported recruiter for Fiorini's anti-Castro organization.

Of the 14 persons listed above it is not possible to accurately determine which may meet the criteria for "nine names" or "contacts" as set forth in the article.

The article also provides what purports to be an excerpt from the document in question as follows:

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Fehl

"Mr. _____ believe that Oswald had travelled from Mexico to Oriente Province, Cuban, prior to November, 1963, then returning to the United States.

"Reportedly Oswald used an airstrip located on the estate of former Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

"The trip by Oswald to Oriente Province was reportedly for the purpose of making contact with Paul Castro, the brother of Fidel Castro.

This information came from Cubans in the Miami area."

The Martino 302 reflects the following in this regard:

"He (Martino) stated the same source, who he previously refused to identify, had informed him of the travel by Oswald to Cuba. He said this travel was made as of the end of September, 1963, by flying from an airstrip on a farm of former Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas in Yucatan, Mexico, to Cuba. He stated he did not question his source as to how he was sure of this travel by Oswald, but believed the source had probably obtained it from a girl friend of Oswald in Mexico."

The article states that Sturgis was interviewed by the FBI after the John F. Kennedy assassination and was asked if Lee Harvey Oswald had been active in the Miami area, to which he responded that he had heard that "Oswald was in Miami attempting to infiltrate anti-Castro organizations as a spy for Castro."

Bufiles reflect Sturgis was interviewed by SA O'Connor on 1/14/64, at Miami in Miami file 105-8342 concerning an article written by Jim Buchanan for the "Sun-Sentinel." Referring to Buchanan, Sturgis said:

"That from time to time he furnishes information concerning the Cuban situation to Buchanan, and Buchanan sometimes changes the information in order to effect anti-Castro propaganda."

In the same 302 Sturgis further advised:

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Memorandum to Mr. Fohl

"With specific reference to the statement appearing in the "Sun-Sentinel" of December 4, 1963, to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald attempted to infiltrate several organizations in Miami, including the Anti-Communist International Brigade, Fiorini stated this was false. He said that it also followed that the statement in the "Sun-Sentinel," quoting Fiorini as saying the AIB turned down Oswald's application because they could not find out anything about his background, was also false."

The article, apparently quoting Sturgis, states, "at one particular time this associate of mine got in a fight with Oswald in Miami."

The Martino 302 states . . . (Jim) "Buchanan, during a telephone call, told him that Buchanan's brother, Jerry Buchanan, had a fistfight with Lee Harvey Oswald at Miami, Florida, about a year prior to the assassination."

Jerry Buchanan was interviewed by Bureau Agents at Fairhope, Alabama, on 3/26/64, at which time he stated as follows:

"After the assassination of President Kennedy in November, 1963, and the attending publicity given to Lee Harvey Oswald, Buchanan recognized Oswald from his photograph as having been one of the members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee engaged in the fight in the Bay Front Park in October, 1962. He also recalled that Oswald had been in Miami, Florida, again in March, 1963, distributing pro-Castro literature . . .

. . . Buchanan could furnish no specific information concerning associates of Oswald or his activity in Miami other than saying that Oswald had distributed pro-Castro literature which was the cause of the fight referred to above." The results of the Jerry Buchanan interview were furnished to the Warren Commission on 4/20/64.

Other information contained in the article concerning Oswald's alleged trip to Cuba and contact with Raul Castro is not verifiable in the Warren Commission Report and Bufiles to date.

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Memorandum to Mr.

It is further noted that Bufiles reflect in J. E. O'Connell memo to Mr. Gebhardt, 2/19/75, captioned "Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States Request from David W. Belin, Executive Director of the Commission," which deals in part with an allegation that Oswald was present in Miami as alleged by Frank Sturgis, the following conclusion was set forth, "other investigation was negative regarding any activity or presence of Oswald in Miami."

It is also to be noted that Bufiles reflect that repeated efforts were made by the Miami office to encourage Martino to reveal his source of information referred to in the Martino 302 dictated on March 24, 1964. Eventually on 5/11/64, Martino identified his source as Oscar Ortiz an anti-Castroite.

Miami Division conducted inquiry through INS, Miami, and ascertained that agency possessed no record concerning Ortiz. Furthermore, INS advised that its past dealings with Martino indicated that Martino had no substantiation for other allegations made to INS, but attributed his information to a non existent source (Bufile 105-82555-3995).

In Miami airtel to Director, 6/1/64, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, IS-R-Cuba," Miami states "Miami considers Martino to be unreliable. It is further believed that Martino would probably welcome a subpoena before the President's Commission, as it would add to his stature and furnish him additional notoriety on which to capitalize in his lecture engagements, which he gives on Communism in Cuba. It is felt, however, that he would be equally evasive with the President's Commission as he was with the Miami Office, and there is no evidence to indicate he could furnish the Commission with anything but untraceable hearsay and speculation."

Will determine through National Archives and/or FOI-PA Section whether Frank Sturgis received a copy of the Martino FD-302. Based upon these findings, consideration will be given to requesting Departmental authority to interview Frank Sturgis regarding his possession of said document.