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PS

# Oswald Was Paid Gunman For Castro, Visitor Says

## Businessman Learned From Underground

By KAY PITTMAN  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Lee Harvey Oswald was paid by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy, John Martino, an American businessman who was imprisoned in Cuba for 40 months, said today.

Martino, who says he now works with the Cuban underground, was in Memphis on his way to a speaking engagement in Forrest City, Ark. He will speak in Memphis at 8 tomorrow night at the Christian Youth Auditorium, 385 Poplar, before the Speakers for America group.

### Details Given

Martino says his Cuban underground sources tell him that Kennedy was embarked on a plan to get rid of Castro. There was to be another invasion and uprising in Cuba, before the elections, and the Organization of American States—in on the plan—was to go into Cuba and stop the fighting. The OAS would then control the country until an election could be set up. Castro knew all this.

"When Castro was in Brazil an attempt was made on his life. He said then, in the Brazilian embassy, that 'John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were not the only heads of state that could have someone executed'."

He added, "We know that Oswald was in Mexico. We know that he left from a clandestine airport in Yucatan for Cuba and was there the week of Oct. 4. We know also that since the death of Kennedy the work on an invasion has virtually stopped."

### Invasion View

Martino believes that an invasion against Cuba would be foolish. "It would be too high a price to pay in American lives. It would take 20 or 30 invasions to defeat Castro. He has an Army of 100,000 Cubans, not counting the Russians. He also has a big Air Force with fast enough MIGs to make a nuclear strike on Miami before we could shoot them down.

"The only solution would be a total blockade by the Organization of American States. This would cut off his petroleum supply and he couldn't last without this."

On July 23, 1959, Martino and his 13-year-old son left Miami for Cuba on a business-pleasure trip. Martino, who worked in electronics, and his son were arrested and thrown in prison a few hours after they arrived. The Cubans accused Martino of being a gun-runner. They let his son go after five days.

He is author of the book, "I Was a Prisoner of Castro."

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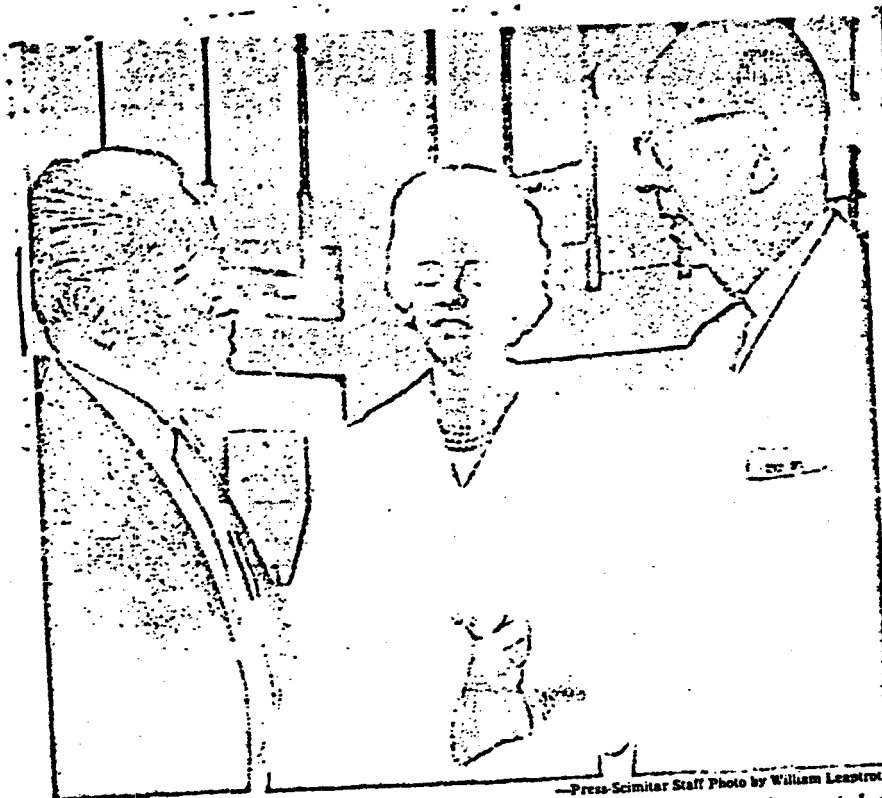
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—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo by William Leastroff

**CASTIDO'S PRISONER** for 40 months, John Martino of Miami (left) is greeted at Memphis Municipal Airport by C. M. Whitaker and Mrs. W. M. Chambers. Whitaker is chairman of Speakers for America and Mrs. Chambers is a member.