



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas  
December 30, 1963

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

RE: CLARENCE ANTHONY CAVIGNAC;  
DENVER LEE CHEEK

On November 23, 1963, ~~Clarence Anthony Cavignac~~ 4935 Werner Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that during the day of November 22, 1963, he had numerous conversations with various individuals including a long-distance telephone conversation with Denver Chief, true name Denver Cheek, who had telephoned him from Bakersville, California, for directions about picking up a load of fruit which Cheek was to drive from California to New Orleans for the J. Segari and Company, where Cavignac is employed. Cavignac advised he recalled that in addition to having advised Cheek that Cheek was to load fruit from Mendelson Zeller Company, Fresno, California, and from United Packing Company, Fresno, California, that he had asked Cheek if Cheek had heard the news about the President being shot in Dallas, Texas. Cavignac advised that Cheek had replied that he had just heard about the President being shot when he, Cheek, had stopped the truck just prior to calling Cavignac. Cavignac advised that Cheek's call had been at about 2:00 P. M., November 22, 1963, in accordance with previously agreed upon instructions as to when the call was to be made.

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Cavignac denied that during his conversation with Cheek that any reference had been made by him or by Cheek as to someone having done a job on the President or reference to someone else having done a job on the President, or verbage about either of them having someone else do the job on the President instead of one of them, Cavignac or Cheek.

Cavignac advised that he would readily admit that he had not been a fan of President Kennedy but certainly had not wished him dead and had not in any way been connected with events relating to the President's death.

Cavignac advised that Cheek was due to arrive in New Orleans at the J. Segari and Company, 150 Poydras Street, sometime Monday or Tuesday, November 25th or 26th, 1963. Cavignac stated Cheek operated his own truck but believed that Cheek had a partner whose name he did not know but believed any markings on the truck were in Cheek's partner's name or a firm name. Cavignac advised he did not know the exact address, but knew that Cheek resided in Amarillo, Texas.

Cavignac stated he had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald until Oswald's name was brought to his attention through radio and television broadcasts in connection with Oswald's arrest in Dallas, Texas. Cavignac stated he had no knowledge that he knew or had any association with Oswald or any of Oswald's associates in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area.

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Cavignac advised he did not belong to any organizations and denied ever having had any connection with a group or organization known as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, a characterization of which is attached.

The following background and descriptive data was furnished by Cavignac concerning himself:

Name	Clarence Anthony Cavignac
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	36
Date of Birth	October 11, 1927
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana
Residences	4935 Werner Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana (1958 to present); 2429 North Claiborne, New Orleans, Louisiana (1955 to 1958); 2456 North Claiborne, New Orleans, Louisiana (1950 to 1955)
Hair	Light-brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair
Height	5' 10"
Weight	165
Employment	J. Segari and Company, 150 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana (1950 to present);

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Employment  
(cont'd)

Leonard Krower Whole-  
sale Jewelry, 111  
Exchange Place, New  
Orleans, Louisiana  
(1948 to 1950)

Military Service

U. S. Navy, honorably  
discharged in 1945

Arrest Record

Arrested 1948 or 1949 by  
New Orleans, Louisiana,  
Police Department in  
connection with a speed-  
ing violation; fined  
and released.

On November 26, 1963, Clarence Anthony Cavignac, 4935 Werner Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, was interviewed at his place of business, J. Segari Company, 150 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cavignac stated he wished to again deny that he had ever had a conversation with anyone during which he or the person to whom he was talking had used verbage which could be interpreted to mean that he or the other person wished harm or was involved in any manner with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On being asked if he recalled conversation with Denver Lee Cheek on November 22, 1963, relating to a recording thermometer, Cavignac advised he did recall that he had given instructions to Cheek to have a recording thermometer installed in the load of fruit that Cheek was to bring from California to New Orleans. Cavignac stated he recalled that he had told Cheek where to have the recording thermometer installed and Cheek had replied

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that he would have to get someone else to do the job.

Cavignac stated he had been nervous at the time he was previously interviewed and had also been somewhat shaken by news of the President's assassination and had simply forgotten the portion of his conversation with Cheek on November 22, 1963, as related to the recording thermometer which had contained verbage to the effect of getting the job done and reference to getting someone else to do the job.

On November 26, 1963, Denver Lee Cheek, current residence 1942 Pamona Street, Bloomington, California, previous residence, 2709 Oak Street, Amarillo, Texas, was interviewed at J. Segari Company, 150 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised he had not had opportunity to talk to Clarence Anthony Cavignac on November 26, 1963, and was not aware of any interest in the conversation which he had had with Clarence Anthony Cavignac on November 22, 1963.

Cheek stated that at approximately noon, California time, November 22, 1963, he had placed a long-distance call to Cavignac at J. Segari Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, from Victorville, California. Cheek advised that their conversation had principally concerned instructions to him, Cheek, as to the picking up of a load of fruit which he was to deliver from California to New Orleans.

Cheek advised when he had stopped to place the call to Cavignac, he had been told of the news flash stating that President John F. Kennedy had been

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shot. Cheek advised he recalled that one of the first things mentioned by both himself and Cavignac was the news about the President having been shot.

Cheek denied that any conversation has transpired between himself and Cavignac which contained verbage to the effect that a job had been done on President Kennedy, getting someone else to do the job on President Kennedy or any conversation that could in any way be interpreted to involve himself or Cavignac in the assassination of President Kennedy. Cheek further stated he was sure that no verbage was used by either of them which in any way could be interpreted to sound as if either himself or Cavignac meant harm to President Kennedy.

Cheek advised that on further consideration he recalled most of their conversation which had lasted less than three minutes and he was of the opinion that someone overhearing part of the conversation or hearing maybe only one end of the conversation had been entirely wrong in their interpretation of the conversation. Cheek stated he did recall that he and Cavignac had used verbage relating to getting a job done and also in one instance, to getting someone else to do the job, but such verbage had to do with the installing of a recording thermometer in the new refrigerator trailer which he had.

Cheek explained in order to record the temperature of the load inside the trailer that a

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recording thermometer was placed inside the trailer and this would show the record of the temperatures inside the trailer throughout the entire trip. Cheek stated that in recalling the conversation he had been told by Cavignac to get the thermometer installed by a certain party and he had replied that he was or had gotten someone else to do the job. Cheek stated it appeared to him that someone had heard part of the conversation as related to the news about the death of President Kennedy and had then connected the part of the conversation as related to the recording thermometer to the earlier part of the conversation.

Cheek advised that he had been shocked by the news about President Kennedy's death and although there had been times when he had not been in agreement with President Kennedy's policies he had not wished the President any harm.

Cheek advised that he is a driver for H. C. Gross, Amarillo, Texas, and desired to cooperate in any manner possible.

## FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening in Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTOS-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby, influence FPCC policy. However, during the past year this source observed there has been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that today their influence is negligible.

On May 30, 1963, a second source advised that the National Headquarters of the FPCC is located in Room 329 at 799 Broadway, New York City. According to this source, the position of National Office Director was created in the Fall of 1962 and was filled by VINCENT "Ted" LEE, who now formulates FPCC policy. This source observed LEE has followed a course of entertaining and accepting the cooperation of many other organizations including the CP and the SWP when he has felt it would be to his personal benefit as well as the FPCC's. However, LEE has indicated to this source he has no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. LEE feels the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations, but not support the Cuban revolution per se.

The CP and the SWP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.