

*Lee Oswald in France*

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**DPD Disseminating Info at 3:36 PM CST 11/22/63**

*File - chronology*

From : Clayton Ogilvie <ogilvic@id.doe.gov>

Mon, Sep 10, 2012 12:59 PM

Subject : DPD Disseminating Info at 3:36 PM CST 11/22/63

To : jerrycatchall@comcast.net

*Ken Sneed*

To all:

In prior posts on the net, I have stressed the importance of the UPI and AP "A" wire, in disseminating information about the assassination to many newspaper and radio and TV outlets.

FWIW: Please note that Oswald was identified as a member of the FPCC on the UPI "A" wire at 3:46 PM, CST, in the very first UPI dispatch which mentioned him by name.

From my own photocopy of the first few hours of the UPI "A" wire, here is that dispatch.

QUOTE ON:

**Dallas, Nov. 22 (UPI)--Police today seized Lee H. Oswald, identified as chairman of a "Fair Play for Cuba Committee,"**

**as the prime suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy.** (more)

Police said Oswald, 24, was accused in the slaying of a Dallas policeman shortly after the shooting of the President.

Police Capt. Pat Gannaway said the suspect was an employee in the building where a rifle was found.

Gannaway said the suspect had visited Russia and was married to a Russian. This was not immediately confirmed. (More)

END QUOTE

DSL

Please note:

Dear David.

The Missouri forum is good news. I look forward to seeing it. With you and the other panelists, it should be a high quality discussion and hopefully can serve as a model.

As for McKnight's citation, the notion that Sullivan was asking New Orleans Office "to distance itself from Oswald" might be accurate in context. The objection, expressed by David B., that

Sullivan seems to be asking New Orleans to assemble the documentation for its belief that Oswald was acting on his own, even exaggerating his own connections.

strikes me as not quite right.

After all, it was not the New Orleans office that was offering up evidence for "its belief" that Oswald's PFCC was a farce, something its agents had never suggested at the time. The memo shows Sullivan asking New Orleans to come up with more evidence for HQs' belief in Oswald's apparent pre-assassination harmlessness.

And note that Sullivan is not even sure that the evidence supports his desire. He asks NO to get everything together showing that Oswald did not have a connection to the FPCC as he had alleged, scrupulously adding "if this is true." In other words, Sullivan wasn't sure whether Oswald had a real connection to the FPCC or not. He was only sure what he wanted: evidence that Oswald was perceived as harmless.

This, of course, was a reflection of the expressed desire of LBJ and Hoover (perceived by underlings as orders) to cut off investigation into the reality of Oswald and the FPCC. A similar dynamic was at work in the CIA at the same time when

Helms and Angleton killed John Whitten's investigation as soon as he said Oswald's Cuban connections needed to be examined.

I agree an account of how the country learned about the assassination in 1963 and 1964 would be useful. I have been looking into one small part of the story: how the country learned that Oswald was pro-Castro. A collection of UPI stories about the assassination published in Dec. 1963, suggest that the country's newspapers learned it almost exclusively as a result of phone calls from Jose Antonio Lanuza and Carlos Bringuier of the DRE on the evening of November 22.

Ed Butler talked to some reporters about the WDSU radio debate and some TV coverage featured Johann Rush's footage of Oswald's FPCC leafleting but he bulk of the details seem to have come from the DRE. The newspaper coverage, at least as disseminated by the UPI chain, was shaped by the DRE's information, as these headlines show.

"Sniper Assassinates Kennedy/Arrest Castro Sympathizer." *Rockford Morning Star*"

"Pro-Castro Gunman Charged in Assassination of Kennedy," (*Rochester Democrat-Chronicle*)

"Pro-Castroite Seized as Suspect in Killing," (*Austin American-Statesman*)

Dale Meyers has argued in a separate email to me that the DRE's phone calls were not influential on how the public learned about the assassination because Oswald had already revealed himself as an FPCC supporter and that these activities already were a matter of public record, which is sort of true. Oswald had been very public with his activities and they had made a minor impression in New Orleans.

But that argument elides the realities of newsgathering on the night of November 22. At that time, the newspaper reporters of America had only one way to learn about the details of Oswald's Cuba activism: from the DRE (and to a lesser extent Ed Butler, who also had a record of collaborating with the CIA). The UPI coverage makes clear there were no other sources for the information at that time.

Given that the DRE was wholly dependent on CIA funding via the AMSPELL budget; given that Lanuza was a CIA agent (AMHINT-8) and Bringuier was on friendly terms with employees of the New Orleans CIA office; and given that the DRE organization was guided and monitored and under discipline of George Joannides, a psychological warfare operations officer, it seems clear that CIA assets played a role in shaping the first day coverage of the assassination. The extraordinary official secrecy that still surrounds Joannides' actions in November 1963 lends credence to (but does not prove) this contention.

Some in this group will insist Oswald's contacts with a favored CIA front group were simply coincidental and that there is no evidence that Joannides or anyone else at the CIA intended or arranged for them to happen. I agree the available evidence does not exclude the possibility. But it is worth noting that the CIA has never made this argument. The Agency first told the ARRB that Joannides did not exist.; now they say, and the courts concur, that Joannides' actions a half century ago are a matter of supreme national security that cannot be made public.

Which leads to a final question: In the Road to Dallas you argued that

"The episode of Oswald's FPCC 'chapter' bear all the marks of a COINTELPRO operation carried out with the witting or unwitting help of two private organization, INCA and the DRE," adding"... In using cut-outs like the American Legion and leaks to friendly newsmen, the FBI was behaving more like the CIA in its COINTELPRO operations."

But what if the FBI in New Orleans was not running the show? (You note that proof of FBI control is lacking). What if it was the the CIA that was running a COINTELPRO-type operation against the New Orleans FPCC? DId you consider this possibility?

Best,

Jeff