

SECRET

Action

INFO

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RMAMEMBASSY (MEXICO CITY)  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC  
STATE GRNC

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SECRET  
SENT SECSTATE (1201) FLASH  
ROGER CHANNEL  
FOR SECRETARY RUSK AND ALEXIS JOHNSON

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR TELEGRAM 961. PERHAPS I SHOULD DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE BACKGROUND FOR MY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE OSWALD CASE.

1. IN READING OSWALD'S RATHER COMPLETE DOSSIER I GOT AN IMPRESSION OF A TRUCULENT, AGGRESSIVE, DEMANDING PERSON, TOO LAZY TO STICK LONG WITH EITHER SCHOOL OR JOB, WHO WAS IN REBELLION AGAINST SOCIETY AND WHO HAD IN CONSEQUENCE TURNED TO MARX AND LENIN. HE HAD LITTLE MONEY, THE OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT A WIFE AND CHILD AND AMBITION. I DID NOT GET AN IMPRESSION OF A MAN WHO WOULD KILL A PERSON HE HAD NEVER MET FOR A CAUSE, WITHOUT OFFERS FROM THE APPARTUS TO WHICH HE APPARENTLY BELONGED WHEN THERE WAS NOTHING IN IT FOR HIM. FROM THE BEGINNING I THREREFOR HAD A FEELING--SUBJECTIVE AND UNPROVEN TO BE SURE-- THAT EITHER IN MEXICO OR THE UNITED STES SOMEONE HAD GIVEN HIM AN ASSIGNMENT AND MONEY.

2. THIS FELLING WAS STRENGTHENED BY HIS ATTEMPT TO GET A TRANSIT VISA THROUGH CUBA AND, APPARENTLY, A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT VISA SO THAT HE COULD SETTLE DOWN IN ODESSA. ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS PREPARATION FOR A "GET AWAY" THE DESTINATION OF ODESSA STRUCK ME AS ODD. WHY WOULD A PENNILESS, UNEDUCATED WORKER WITH A FAMILY WHOSE LAST RUSSIAN JOB APPARENTLY EARNED HIM BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER WANT TO GO TO ODESSA? ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION WOULD BE HE EXPECTED TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY AND TO BE ABLE TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE.

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3. IT DID NOT SEEM PLAUSIBLE THAT KHRUSHCHEV IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN RECKLESS ENOUGH TO HIRE AN UNSTABLE

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PER STATE LETTER dtd 2-21-84  
#6454




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-2- 1201, NOVEMBER 28, from MEXICO CITY.

PERSON LIKE OSWALD FOR SUCH A FATEFUL UNDERTAKING. BUT CASTRO IS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD AVENGE HIMSELF IN THIS WAY. HE IS THE LATIN TYPE OF EXTREMIST WHO REACTS VISCERALLY RATHER THAN INTELLECTUALLY AND APPARENTLY WITHOUT MUCH REGARD FOR RISKS. HIS WHOLE LIFE STORY SHOWS THIS. AND THE UNPROFESSIONAL ALMOST LACKADAISICAL WAY IN WHICH THE MONEY IS ALLEGED BY ALVARADO TO HAVE BEEN PASSED TO OSWALD FITS WITH THE WAY CUBANS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ACT IF THE RUSSIANS WERE NOT GUIDING THEM. THIS SUPPOSITION WAS STRENGTHENED BY MY RECOLLECTION OF AN AP STORY WITH A HAVANA DATELINE ATTRIBUTING TO CASTRO THREATS AGAINST UNITED STATES OFFICIALS IN REPRISAL FOR ALLEGED CIA SPONSORED RAIDS ON THE CUBAN COAST.

4. 

5. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT I REQUESTED THAT THE FBI SEND A PERSON HERE IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT KNOW ABOUT SOME FACT UNKNOWN TO US HERE DEVELOPED AT THE US END OF THE INVESTIGATION WHICH WOULD GIVE US A LEAD HERE. I HAD AND HAVE NO WORRY EITHER THE  (S) OR THE LEGAL ATTACHE WERE HOLDING ANYTHING BACK FROM ME; WE HAVE BEEN MEETING TOGETHER ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY. NEITHER WAS IT BASED ON ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY; EACH IS THE BEST IN HIS FIELD THAT I HAVE WORKED WITH FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOR WAS IT BASED ON ANY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT DOING THE BEST THAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE ASSETS WE HAVE AND THE FACTS WE HAD TO GO ON. AT THE SAME TIME, I WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THIS EMBASSY ARE SOLELY MINE AND NOT THEIRS.

PAGE THREE RUESMO 30 ~~SECRET~~

6. 

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-3- 1201, NOVEMBER 28, FROM MEXICO CITY

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per state

8. WE KNOW THAT OSWALD HAD TO GO TO CUBAN CONSULATE HERE [REDACTED] FOR THE ADDRESS OF THE OBSCURE HOTEL HE WAS STAYING AT.. THIS HAS PROBATIVE VALUE TOO.

9. I DO NOT PRETEND THAT ALL OF THIS IS BY ANY MEANS PROOF THAT OSWALD WAS CASTRO'S AGENT. I UNDERSTAND HOW FATEFUL MIGHT BE THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WAS AND HOW DIFFICULT AND RISKY IT WOULD BE TO TRY TO DISENGAGE AND SEPARATE THE SOVIET UNION FROM CASTRO IF IT WERE TO BECOME ESTABLISHED FACT THAT CASTRO WAS INVOLVED. BUT I CANNOT AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION IN DEPTTEL 969 THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS OF THOSE ALVARADO SAYS ARE INVOLVED. I MUST ALSO RESPECTFULLY RECORD MY DISAGREEMENT WITH MY LATEST INSTRUCTIONS THAT WE TAKE NO FURTHER INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE THE MEXICANS TO ARREST AND INTERROGATE.

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