

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: Sept. 30, 1969

TO : Director, FBI (105-82555)

FROM : Legat, Mexico City (105-3702) (RUC)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - RUSSIA - CUBA

Return to S.K. G. Puz

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ReBulet 9/12/69 to Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, copies of which were forwarded to this office.

Enclosed herewith are two Xerox reproductions of the Mexico City file copies of [redacted] memorandum dated 12/10/65, and the memoranda from this office to the Ambassador dated 12/27/65 and 2/23/66.

Background

[redacted] calls her, is a well known figure in Mexican political, social and literary circles. She was a playwright and well known to many officials of the Embassy including the then Ambassador FULTON FREEMAN, the then Deputy Chief of Mission CLARENCE A. BOONSTRA, and many others. All of those officials expressed to me on various occasions the opinion that [redacted] is a very interesting person and a scintillating conversationalist, but that she has a vivid imagination and frequently appears to be unable to distinguish between truth and fiction. Although interesting, they all considered her as highly unreliable as a source of information except for [redacted] who apparently placed consistent credence in what [redacted] said.

When [redacted] visited this office in November 1964, she claimed that she had seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD at a party given at the home of RUBEN DURAN on September 30, October 1, or October 2, 1963, as reported in Mexico City letterhead memorandum of 12/11/64. As previously reported, [redacted] claimed that her daughter, [redacted] who accompanied her at that party, met for the [redacted] man later identified by her as [redacted]. Identification of this individual, who had [redacted]

- 4 - Bureau (Encs.-6)
 - (1 - Liaison Section)
 - 1 - Mexico City
- NLF/ako

Copy to Dallas (see each of [redacted])
by routing slip for
Info Action
date 10-14-69
by JNG:ah

EX-111-5-4255-5617

REC 85

John A. [redacted]



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merely been introduced at the party as [redacted] was made on the basis of correspondence received by her daughter from [redacted] after the party. [redacted] was insistent that her daughter had not met that young man prior to the party. When it was pointed out to her that the letter from [redacted] was dated 9/1/63 and postmarked 9/2/63, she merely commented that probably the communists have facilities for falsifying postmarks.

When [redacted] was interviewed, he was unable to fix the date of the party but he believed it was probably early in September and neither he nor the two acquaintances of his who accompanied him to the party could recall any Americans having been present.

On 12/10/65 while talking to former Foreign Service Officer [redacted] [redacted] claimed that the party where she had met OSWALD was held at the home of RUBEN DURAN "in September 1963, shortly after her return from abroad" as reported in [redacted] memorandum of 12/10/65.

In her conversation with [redacted] on 12/25/65 as reported in his memorandum of that date, [redacted] claimed that she believed the party was about September 2 or 3, 1963, "a few days before the visit of Soviet astronaut GAGARIN".*

Inasmuch as the Bureau is in possession of all of [redacted] memoranda concerning [redacted] story except his memorandum of 12/10/65 (his memoranda are dated the date of his conversations and not the date typed), copies of that memorandum are enclosed herewith for the completion of the Bureau's files. The Bureau will note that all the pertinent information contained therein is set forth in Mexico City cablegram of 12/17/65.

Observations

The following is submitted in response to the Bureau's request regarding my observations of [redacted] statements in his memorandum furnished to the Secretary of State:

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* Mexico City newspapers show that Soviet astronaut GAGARIN was in Mexico from February 8 to 23, 1963.

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(1) With regard to paragraph 3 in which he refers to his meeting with me and [redacted] then head of CIA, Mexico:

I first met [redacted] one of the officers assigned to the Political Section of the Embassy on 12/17/65, the day after I took over as Legal Attache, when [redacted] told me he had received a memorandum which he believed I should see. It was [redacted] memorandum dated 12/10/65. As originally prepared that memorandum was designated for the Ambassador, the Deputy Chief of Mission, the Political Section, Political Research (CIA), and the Central Biographic Department. He subsequently furnished this office a copy although that dissemination does not show on the Embassy file copy of his memorandum. In view of the nature of the information, [redacted] was asked to join [redacted] and me in a conference. Since the investigation of the OSWALD case had been handled by a previous Legal Attache, I remained non-committal about the allegations made by [redacted] but pointed out the Bureau's interest in that case. It was also pointed out to [redacted] that the information in his memorandum was incomplete in many respects, including the fact that [redacted] did not pinpoint the date of the alleged party but described it only as "in September 1963 shortly after her return from Europe". He stated that [redacted] was extremely reluctant to discuss the matter and doubted that she would discuss it with anyone else. He therefore volunteered to raise the subject again with her to obtain more details. He was thanked at that time for his cooperation.

(2) Regarding paragraph 5 in which [redacted] stated "he got no reaction from [redacted] regarding his memorandum of 12/25/65":

In view of the expressed interest of the Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission who had received copies of memoranda of 12/10 and 12/25/65 in the factualness of [redacted] story, they were advised by memoranda from this office dated 12/27/65 and 2/23/66, copies of which are enclosed, that in view of the fact that [redacted] allegations had previously been checked out without substantiation, no further action was being taken concerning her recent repetition of those allegations. Those memoranda were based on Buairtel 12/22/65 and Bulet 2/15/66. Both

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memoranda were sent on a circulation basis to [redacted] superior, the Counselor for Political Affairs, who also had received a copy of [redacted] memoranda. It can only be concluded that the Counselor for Political Affairs did not route this office's memorandum of 2/23/66 to [redacted] or that [redacted] does not recall it.

(3) Regarding paragraph 6 concerning [redacted] interview with me relative to [redacted] again having changed the date of the alleged party to the end of September:

I never interviewed [redacted] alone. The first time I saw him was in the presence of [redacted]. When he visited my office I called the Agent to whom the case had been assigned to come in and sit in on the interview. I did not tell him that [redacted] had given the late September date "accurately" when she had come to the Embassy and made her first report. I did tell him that her newly revised date was the same time that she had given when she came to the Embassy in November 1964 to tell her story. The investigation conducted at that time, as reflected in Mexico City letterhead memorandum of 12/11/64, showed that the late September date was not accurate. Neither did I tell him that someone else who was at the party had stated that there were no Americans there. Frankly, although I had reviewed the file after this matter first came up in December 1965, I did not memorize all of the details and I did not recall this fact which I did not become aware of until my current review in connection with [redacted] recent allegations. Neither did I tell him that I considered the case "closed". I would not have considered it to be of concern to him whether the case was closed or not. I did tell him in response to his inquiry, that it would not be necessary for him to pursue this matter any further with [redacted] since we had heard her story before and it had been checked out without being substantiated and I therefore considered her story to be a closed issue.

(4) Regarding paragraph 9 in which [redacted] referred to Mr. ALLEN WHITE's alleged statement that the Federal Security Police' interrogation of the DURANs was unsatisfactory and comment, "This transcript may be the source of Mr. FERRIS' belief that [redacted] story had been checked out and found to be untrue":

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This statement is uninformed speculation. I know nothing about Mr. WHITE's evaluation of the interrogation of the DURANS which so far as I know, had nothing to do with the story about the alleged party subsequently related by [REDACTED]. My "belief" was based on the investigation conducted by this office as reported in Mexico City letter and letterhead memorandum of 12/11/64, and the Bureau's concurring evaluation as set forth in Bureau airtel 12/22/65 and Bulet of 2/15/66.

(5) With regard to paragraph 10 in which [REDACTED] commented that "whereas the FBI has discounted [REDACTED] allegations, the CIA is still considerably disturbed by them":

I am aware of no foundations for this observation that CIA is "still considerably disturbed" by [REDACTED] story. [REDACTED] gave absolutely no indication of such reactions to me, but on the contrary indicated that he was well aware of [REDACTED] unreliability.

With regard to [REDACTED] claim that CIA may not have pressed further investigation for several reasons including "considering the sensitive overlap and subtle competition between two intelligence collection agencies, it had to yield to the FBI's jurisdiction":

This can only be described as a product of [REDACTED] imagination. During the period in question, relations between this office and CIA in Mexico were maintained on a friendly, mutually cooperative basis with respect for the authority and responsibilities of the two parent agencies. The principal function of CIA in Mexico in connection with the investigation of the OSWALD case was in checking out allegations concerning possible Cuban aspects through their established sources and confidential coverage. The remaining points covered by [REDACTED] under items 2, 3 and 4, paragraph 10, are extraneous to [REDACTED] story and appear to have been included gratuitously in his memorandum to the Secretary of State.

(6) With regard to [REDACTED] terminal comment in paragraph 13 that the records should show that a representative of a major American publication has at least some knowledge of [REDACTED] story:

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This office has no information indicating such to be a fact or that either [redacted] had given the story to such an individual or that [redacted] herself, in spite of her repeated protestations that she should not be revealed as the source of this information, had passed the story on to such an individual.

Comments

proof
The significance is not known as to why the State Department disseminated [redacted] memorandum under the subject [redacted] instead of under the LEE HARVEY OSWALD investigation as [redacted] captioned his memorandum.

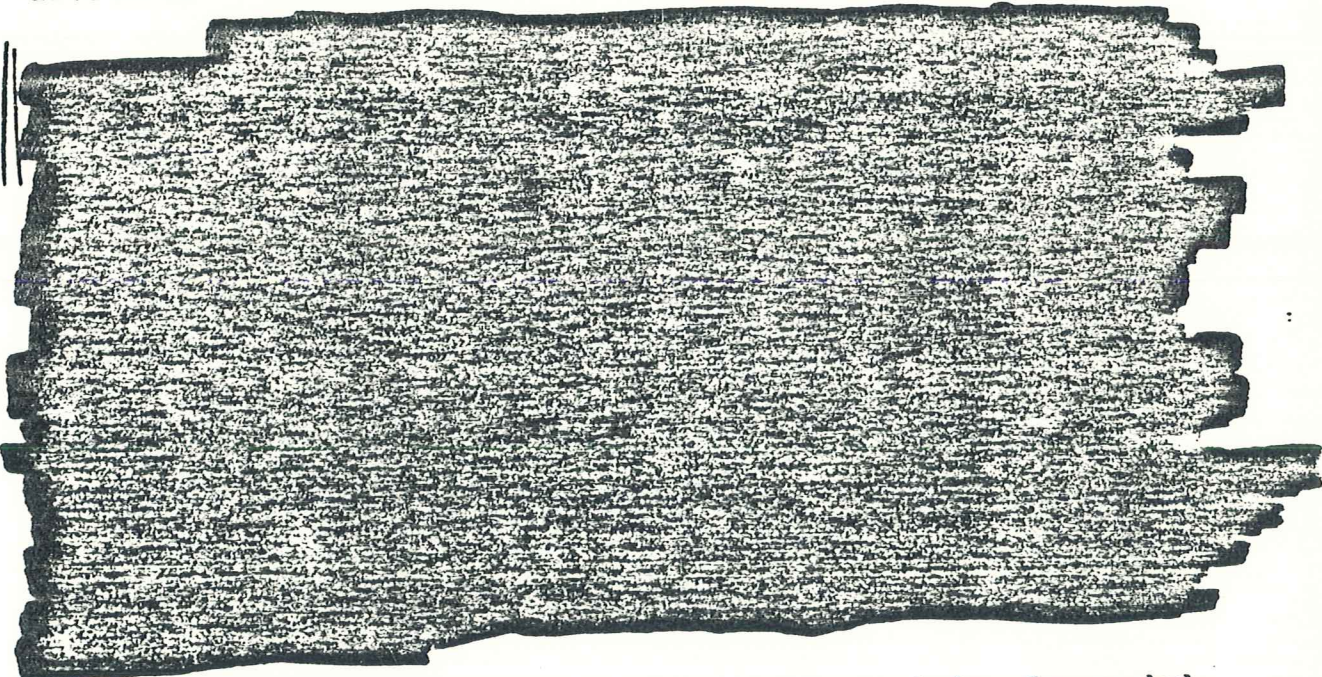
change
It appears that [redacted] has undergone a change in attitude since his departure from Mexico which is difficult to understand. This may possibly be a reaction to his separation from Foreign Service. According to Embassy sources, [redacted] is believed to have been "selected out", a phrase used when an officer is "retired" after having been in one grade for the maximum period of time and is not considered qualified for promotion to a higher grade. This involuntary separation from the Foreign Service may account for his present attitude which otherwise is difficult to comprehend.

During the time after I took over as Legal Attache on 12/16/65 until his departure from Mexico in 1967, I and other personnel of this office had very limited contact with [redacted]. He was one of various officers assigned to the Political Section and although he was ostensibly friendly, his assignment had little in common with the work of this office and therefore our relations, both official and personal, were closer with other officers in the Political Section. The only official contact I had with him was in connection with instant matter. Although at that time he exhibited somewhat of a "detective complex" in desiring to probe into the story recounted by [redacted] he at no time demonstrated a desire to take over the OSWALD investigation from the authorized authorities.

[redacted] current attitude as set out in his letter and memorandum to the Secretary of State dated 7/25/69 is obvious from his statement, "Since I was the Embassy officer in Mexico

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who acquired this intelligence information, I feel a responsibility for seeing it through to its final evaluation." It appears, therefore, that [REDACTED] has now decided that he and not the FBI or the Department of Justice is the one to decide how the story given by [REDACTED] is to be evaluated. The concept that every person who passes on to another government agency information relating to matters within the jurisdiction of that agency has the responsibility and authority to review and evaluate the action taken by that agency is, of course, untenable.



An additional copy of this letter is being forwarded for use in the event the Bureau desires to forward a copy to Dallas which received a copy of referenced letter.