

Apartment 207,
4326 Holland,
Dallas,
Texas 75219

Phone: 214-526-6202

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Dear Sylvia,

Hi! I had hoped to be in touch with you before Christmas, when Jerry Policoff promised to magically and freely link us by phone, but nothing materialised. As you may have heard from Mary Ferrell, I am working on a big overview book of the JFK assassination, much as you and I discussed, and not least because you told me to go ahead and do it. I may never forgive you for that advise! The deadline is March 1, and currently despair looms daily. However, I wonder whether you could stir your bones to do me a favour in New York. It seems to me important, and you with your analytical mind will see why. Occasionally there are things in all stories like this that fret and fret, and when all else seems to crumble remain on their own-justification for going on with the search. I believe one such may have been near to under our noses for ages. It arose from thinking I do about the clear traces of disinformation after the assassination, in which various rightwingers and anti-Castro men tried to lay the blame on Fidel Castro, fabricating Oswald links with Havana etc. This of course could have arisen as the natural response of such people, who tried to take advantage of the situation ^{afterwards} although they were lily innocent of any part in the actual crime. However, any evidence of laying such stories before the assassination would seem to me much more exciting, even evidence of conspiracy perhaps.

The evidence I am wondering about is the interview with Fidel, sent by AP from Havana on September 9 1963, in which the AP correspondent Daniel Harker quoted Fidel as saying: "US leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe." Of course in those days nobody in America knew of the

CIA/Mafia plots against Castro, but Castro seems to have done. The suggestion today, voiced by some, is that Castro was warning Kennedy and his people that he might indulge in a preemptive strike unless the death plots ceased. Some say that is exactly what he did. Castro has repeatedly denied any such thing, and, in the sense that such "threats" are untypical of his rhetoric or conversations at any period, I would tend to believe him. Even if he did say it, I do not believe it was more than rhetoric, and there is no evidence suggesting Cuban involvement. On the other hand there is much evidence, which we are familiar with, that the Cuba element - including the Oswald "Fair Play For Cuba" thing - was all a front. A year ago I looked for ~~Harker~~ ^{the AP interviewer,} while working on my film documentary, and Kathy Kinsella at first failed to locate him. I finally spoke to him, from London, on the eve of the programme, and was amazed to find myself talking to not an good old anglo as befits the name, but the most Latin Americano character you can imagine. Although the conversation was only enough to get him to confirm that Castro did say what was reported, I came away worried. And have only recently resolved these suspicions, and the feeling that something should be done about them. In short, I would like to know more about Harker - who as I recall said he originally came from some Latin country (?Peru). What are his political attitudes, what were they then, what sort of political pieces was he writing in the '63 period etc? If there is even a sniff that he was anti-Castro, or agency-linked in the way that Kantor's ^{"journalist"} man in Miami Hendrix was, then I would feel very suspicious indeed. And if Fidel was being laced into fake remarks in the weeks before the assassination, making him appear to have threatened JFK, then that is very sinister indeed. I am sure I have explained enough. Can you bear to call him (212-262-6050 as of last January), sound him out, and conceivably meet him for a drink. He still works for AP, it seems, and I doubt if you would find it an enormous problem. You might also give a call to ^{some} ~~journalist~~ ^{Harker} in the same area, and see what they make of him. In fact, given that obviously if ~~he~~ ^{he} was party to disinformation he ain't about to say so, this last course - a poke into his reputation - might be better.

Sylvia, I know you're busy, but I do not know anybody else who could handle this in New York. And I do think it could be important, especially in line with the mass of material I have on other disinformation, too long to include here. Can you do? - give me call anyway?

Granma - Castro newspaper
mentioned SMI in story
on HSCA

Gabriel Molina

Loa Boccardi
262-4000