

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: May 15, 1964
Field Office File No.: NO 100-16601 Bureau File No.: 105-82555
Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Synopsis:

RUPERTO JERONIMO PENA, brother of the owner of the Habana Bar, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that about one year ago, two unknown men entered the Habana Bar. PENA states one of these persons appeared to be of Mexican nationality, and the other appeared to be a Cuban. He stated he overheard their discussion in which they spoke favorably of FIDEL CASTRO and mentioned that things were going well in Cuba under CASTRO. Because of this discussion, PENA was left with the impression that these two unknown men were pro-CASTRO and pro-communist. PENA states that on the following day he called either the FBI or Immigration and Naturalization Service (I&NS) at New Orleans and furnished information regarding the two unknown men. PENA could not be positive which agency he called, however, about four or five days later, he observed these same two unknown men in a car passing the Habana Bar, and he obtained the license of this vehicle. Thereafter, he gave the license number to CARLOS BRINGUIER and requested BRINGUIER to call the FBI. PENA stated that at this time he explained to BRINGUIER the information about their previously being in the Habana Bar and also told BRINGUIER that he had called the FBI. PENA was unable to explain why he did not know whether he had called the FBI or I&NS but was able to recall advising BRINGUIER to call the FBI, except that he had the impression he had called the FBI. PENA stated he has never observed OSWALD in the Habana Bar and had no information about OSWALD's being in the Habana Bar. PENA

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Pena, Bringuiet and the federal police had the license number of this car. It is not in their testimony, where it was not sought of them. It is nowhere in the printed evidence, nowhere in the files that I have seen. It was indispensable to any honest and complete investigation, is still important, possibly in the story of The False Oswald.

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stated that he never told CARLOS BRINGUIER that he had ever observed OSWALD in the Habana Bar or that he had ever been told by the FBI that any person was pre-CASTRO or pre-communist. EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that a person he believed identical to LEE HARVEY OSWALD came into the Habana Bar between 3:30 AM and 4:00 AM and to the best of his recollection it was in September, 1963. The individual believed to be OSWALD was accompanied by an unknown white man, and RODRIGUEZ was unable to state whether this unknown man was Mexican, Cuban, Argentine, or a national of any other Spanish-speaking country. RODRIGUEZ stated the person believed by him to be OSWALD appeared to be drunk. The unknown individual ordered a Tequila and when told the price would be \$.50 asked who the proprietor of the bar was and later commented, "He is an imperialist or a capitalist." RODRIGUEZ states that person believed to be OSWALD became sick and that the other individual ordered a lemonade for which he was charged \$.25. Immediately thereafter, this unknown person and the individual believed to be OSWALD left the Habana Bar. RODRIGUEZ states about three or four days later he observed a group of people congregating on Canal Street and observed CARLOS BRINGUIER talking to two policemen. He also observed two police cars and a white male entering one of the police cars and on the sidewalk observed some yellow-colored handbills. He states this is all he could recall about this incident on Canal Street. RODRIGUEZ stated that on the following day BRINGUIER came into the Habana Bar and mentioned he had had some difficulty with a pro-CASTRO individual distributing handbills on Canal Street. RODRIGUEZ states at that time he did not know the identity of the man whom BRINGUIER had the difficulty with but now assumes the white male he observed entering the police car was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. RODRIGUEZ states he never told BRINGUIER or anyone that the man who was in the Habana Bar with a person he believed identical with OSWALD was being sought by the FBI. RODRIGUEZ states that he had not been talked to by any FBI Agent prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY. RODRIGUEZ could not identify persons depicted in photographs of OSWALD distributing handbills in front of the International Trade Mart, New Orleans, other than OSWALD. ARMANDA JARVIS, Barmaid at the Habana Bar, advised she had no knowledge whatsoever concerning OSWALD or anyone who was allegedly in the

If the man who threw this spectacular drunk at that early-morning hour was the real Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina should certainly have known about it. The Commission took her word on almost everything else. In an honest, thorough investigation, questions like "was this really Lee Harvey Oswald" would not remain.

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presence of OSWALD. Mrs. CARLOS BRINGUIER states that her husband is on a speaking tour away from the City of New Orleans, which tour will terminate on May 31, 1964, after which her husband will return to New Orleans. During the latter part of July, 1963, information was received that approximately ten Cuban refugees had arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the purpose of attending a training camp after which they would be trained at a training camp in Guatemala. A source reported that these refugees were disappointed after their arrival because they did not have training weapons and this group allegedly returned to Miami shortly after their arrival in New Orleans.

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DETAILS:

At New Orleans, Louisiana

On May 1, 1964, it was determined through contact with Delta Airlines, New Orleans International Airport, Moisant Field, that ORESTES PENA had departed at approximately 12:15 PM on May 1, 1964 on a trip to Europe, and that PENA was scheduled to return to New Orleans on May 30, 1964.

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Date May 13, 1964

RUPERTO JERONIMO PENA, also known as RUPERTO JERONIMO PENA - ALFONSO, operator of the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, furnished the following information in response to inquiries:

RUPERTO PENA advised that about a year or so ago two men bearing the following descriptions entered the Habana Bar about 8 or 9 o'clock one evening and they were heard to discuss matters pertaining to Cuba which left RUPERTO PENA with the definite impression that they were pro-CASTRO and pro-Communist:

One of the above two is described by RUPERTO PENA as a white male, age approximately 25, 5'7", 130 pounds, light brown complexion, black medium-long straight hair combed straight back who appeared to be of Mexican nationality and who also appeared to have a college education. RUPERTO PENA recalls he was wearing a sport coat but could not recall other details of his dress.

The other person was a Cuban, age 30, 150 pounds, 5'9", medium build, tan complexion, appeared to be a Cuban by his speech and also wore a sport coat, other details of his attire not being recalled by RUPERTO PENA.

RUPERTO PENA advised that he does not know the names of the above two persons or any other information about them but is quite certain that they were not seamen. He said he had not seen either of these two persons prior to the occasion he has described above. He did recall that they spoke favorably of FIDEL CASTRO and he recalls they mentioned that things were going well in Cuba under FIDEL CASTRO.

According to RUPERTO PENA he called either the FBI or Immigration and Naturalization Service at New Orleans on the following day to advise Federal authorities of the above incident. He relates he mentioned to the person to whom he spoke in Spanish that it was his opinion the above two persons were pro-CASTRO and pro-Communist. RUPERTO

On 5/11/64 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
 by SA WARREN C. DEBRUEYS and SA RICHARD E. LOGAN :gas Date dictated 5/13/64

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Both of the agents who conducted this interview are fluent in Spanish. Conspicuously, the FBI does not report whether the call was to it. Nothing like keeping secrets from the Commission charged with investigating the murder of a President.

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PENA explained that he could ^{not} be positive if he called the FBI office or the Immigration office. He states that there are various phone numbers near the telephone including FBI, local police and Border Patrol and he selected one of those numbers and was under the impression he had called the FBI or Immigration regarding the above matter. He has no information concerning the residences of the above two persons nor any other additional information except as follows:

He then mentioned that about four or five days after the two above described persons were in the Habana Bar he observed them drive by on the street in front of the Habana Bar. He is able to recall that they were driving in either a Ford or Chevrolet, color not recalled and that the one who appeared to be a Cuban was driving and the other was seated along side of him. This car appeared suddenly in front of the bar but RUPERTO PENA was able to run outside on the street and obtain the license number of this car. He does not recall nor did he know at the time that he took the number whether the car carried Louisiana plates or the plates of some other state. He advised that immediately after he jotted down the number of that car he took the number to CARLOS BRINGUIER a Cuban who operates a store next door to the Habana Bar. According to RUPERTO PENA he explained to BRINGUIER that two men who had been in the Habana Bar several days previously and whose conversation indicated they were pro-CASTRO and pro-Communist in PENA's opinion, had just passed in front of the Habana Bar in a car. He also explained to BRINGUIER that he had previously called the FBI to tell them about the past appearance of the two persons described above in the Habana Bar and that he had related to the FBI the other details concerning the conversation of these two men and the fact that he, RUPERTO PENA, had told the FBI that he thought they were pro-Communist and pro-CASTRO. RUPERTO PENA explained that he requested BRINGUIER to call the FBI since BRINGUIER spoke English and he, RUPERTO PENA, does not speak English. He was not present when BRINGUIER called the FBI. RUPERTO PENA was unable to explain why he claims that