

New Documents

This recently released document, which got national attention, makes clear that Fidel Castro questioned the motives of the man representing himself as Lee Harvey Oswald to the Cuban consulate in Mexico City, and found the official ballistic version of the JFK assassination less than credible. It also implies that Castro was not involved in Kennedy's murder.



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
300 Maryland Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

RECEIVED BY ST. LOUIS OFFICE
JUL 1 1964

Through a confidential source which has furnished reliable information in the past, we have been advised of some statements made by Fidel Castro, Cuban Prime Minister, concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

In connection with these statements of Castro, your attention is called to the speech made by Castro on November 27, 1963, in Havana, Cuba, during which Castro made similar statements concerning this matter. The pertinent portions of this speech are set out in the report of Special Agent James J. O'Connor dated May 9, 1964, at Miami, Florida, beginning on page 80.

In order to our source, Castro recently is reported to have said, "Our people in Mexico gave us the data in a full report of how he (Oswald) acted when he came to Mexico to their embassy (uncertain whether he means Cuban or Russian Embassy)." Castro further related, "First of all, nobody ever goes that way for a visa. Second, it costs money to go that way, and when it was returned to his embassy, demanded the visa to kill Kennedy for this." In Castro is alleged to have observed and noted, "That is your government doing to such the other 'unassassinated' and speculated, 'it took about three people.'"

The source has advised that Castro's speculation was based on facts which Castro and his men allegedly saw under similar conditions with a similar rifle and telescopic

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

alight. Castro is said to have expressed the conviction that Oswald could not have fired three times in succession and hit the target with the telescopic sight in the available time, that he would have needed two other men in order for the three shots to have been fired in the time interval. This source commented that on the basis of Castro's remarks, it was clear that his beliefs were based on theory as a result of Cuban experiments and not on any firsthand information in Castro's information. In this connection, it should be noted that the FBI Laboratory firearms experts made tests and determined that three shots could be fired with the kind of rifle and sights used by Oswald in the time to six seconds which were available. The Laboratory noted, however, that the firing did not begin until after the firing of the first shot.

It will be noted that the information furnished by our source at this time as having come from Castro is consistent with and substantiates the same as that which appears in Castro's speech of November 27, 1963, and which is referred to above.

This additional material is set forth for the Commission's information and no further action is contemplated by this Bureau concerning it.

Sincerely yours,

~~TOP SECRET~~