

LA 89-75

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JOSE M. DEERTJEN, 2968 Sussex Lane, Los Angeles, California, self-identified as the Delegate of the anti-Castro Cuban organization "Cuban Student Directorate" (Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil, Headquarters address: P. O. B. #805, Miami 1, Florida) (DRE) in Los Angeles, advised SAs ROBERT H. KARL and WILLIAM J. MC CAULEY on November 27, 1963 that according to Page 3 of "The Cuban Report", English language publication, dated November 25, 1963 at Miami:

"The Cuban Student Directorate submits the following data on the background and activities of the prime suspect of the assassination of the President of the United States, JOHN F. KENNEDY. LEE HARVEY OSWALD... stayed in Russia until 1962, when he requested and obtained permission from the United States Embassy to return to the United States. Back in the United States, he lived in Fort Worth, Texas, and from there went to New Orleans to organize a delegation of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. On August 21, 1963, OSWALD and the Cuban Student Directorate delegate in New Orleans, CARLOS BRINGUIER, held a debate through the WDSU Radio Station of that city on account of a public disturbance occurred in Canal Street a few days before. On August 9, the delegate of the Cuban Student Directorate was walking through the streets when he saw an American spreading CASTRO's propaganda and holding a sign that read, 'Hands off Cuba' and 'Send food and medicines to Cuba, not comandos'. Three days before, the same man had visited the store where the offices of the Cuban Student Directorate are located. He asked for propaganda and offered his cooperation as a trainer in military tactics, as he had once been in the Marine Corps. Because our delegate, CARLOS BRINGUIER, found him suspicious, he did not give OSWALD a definite answer. Days after, he again visited our offices where this time he left a book entitled, 'Guide Book for Marines', with his name and army serial number written inside. When our delegate found OSWALD spreading on the streets Marxist propaganda published by the Fair Play for

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Romanticized versions of the government's own "leaks" were fed back by the FBI and accumulated in the Commission's files. From coast-to-coast among refugee-Cuban groups, Bringuiere became a hero, often based on reports attributed to him. "The evidence of Oswald's attempt to infiltrate" the DRE did not exist and had nothing to do with the fine levied against him. He arranged that by pleading guilty when he was innocent. Bringuiere, who testified under oath that he had caused the

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Cuba Committee, they started an argument that ended up with the arrest of OSWALD, CARLOS BRINGUIER, and his two companions MIGUEL CRUS and CELSO HERNANDEZ. They were taken to the police headquarters and released on a bail bond of \$25 cash. The trial was held on August 12.

"When evidence on OSWALD's attempt to infiltrate in our organization was presented, the judge charged him with a \$10 fine for public disturbance and for attempting against the dignity of the City of New Orleans. CARLOS BRINGUIER was declared innocent.

"On account of this event, a debate on WDSU Radio Station was scheduled. The debators were LEE H. OSWALD, CARLOS BRINGUIER and ED BUTLER, from the Information Council of the Americas. BILL STURKEY, acting as moderator, introduced OSWALD as the Chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans and explained that the main offices of said organization were in New York. We have tape recording of the debate and other information that we will furnish to those who request it..."

DEETJEN pointed out that on Pages 1 and 2 of "The Cuban Report", FIDEL CASTRO is quoted as having announced on "Sunday" that: "We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. U. S. leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe".

DEETJEN added that a Spanish version of the above information is going to be read by himself to an expected audience of 100 Cuban refugees at a DRE-sponsored meeting in the Parish Hall of Our Lady Help of Christians, 512 South 20th Avenue, Los Angeles, on November 27, 1963.

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disturbance, pleaded innocent. This conviction and the altercation achieved the attention Oswald needed for the additional publicity he got, in which he fixed in the public mind and the newspapers the idea that he was head of the non-existent New Orleans chapter of the FPCC. It is the publicity from this affair, made possible by Bringuiier, that established his "cover" for Oswald. File 6, pp. 445-6.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CD 1203a

Date 6/4/64

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In accordance with arrangements made on June 3, 1964, CARLOS BRINGUIER appeared at the New Orleans Office and furnished the following information in response to inquiry:

CARLOS BRINGUIER advised that he presently resides at 501 Adele Street, Apartment F, in New Orleans. BRINGUIER related that the first person connected with the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, with whom he talked after the assassination of President KENNEDY was ORESTES PENA, the owner of the Habana Bar. According to BRINGUIER, his conversation with PENA took place on the day after the assassination of President KENNEDY or on some day prior to November 27, 1963. ORESTES PENA related to BRINGUIER that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. BRINGUIER states that ORESTES PENA did not furnish either the exact date or the approximate date when OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar. PENA related to BRINGUIER that OSWALD was with another person who "looked" Latin. PENA mentioned to BRINGUIER that OSWALD had ordered a lemonade from EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, the bartender at the Habana Bar, and that OSWALD argued about the price of the lemonade with EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ. It was BRINGUIER's recollection that ORESTES PENA had stated that OSWALD said the owner of the bar had been a "Cuban capitalistic." BRINGUIER said that PENA also mentioned that after OSWALD ordered the lemonade, he became sick and began vomiting, then went outside on the sidewalk, where he continued to vomit.

BRINGUIER stated that he was not sure but believed it was ORESTES PENA who told him that OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar approximately on the same date when BRINGUIER had trouble with OSWALD on the street in New Orleans. BRINGUIER specifically stated that the date on which he had an altercation with OSWALD on Canal Street was August 9, 1963.

According to BRINGUIER, his recollection is that it was either ORESTES PENA or EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ who had told him that the man who was with OSWALD in the Habana

On 6/4/64 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601  
 by SAs STEPHEN M. CALLENDER  
and WARREN C. deBRUEYS /lyc Date dictated 6/4/64

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Bar had admitted to being a Mexican.

According to BRINGUIER, he, BRINGUIER, had occasion, shortly after his conversation with ORESTES, to talk to EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ and EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ furnished him the same information regarding OSWALD's alleged visit to the Habana Bar as did ORESTES PENA.

Either on the same date or on the day following his conversation with EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, RUPERTO PENA, brother of ORESTES PENA, came into CARLOS BRINGUIER's store located at 107 Decatur Street in New Orleans. BRINGUIER states the conversation eventually had to do with the assassination of President KENNEDY and the question of LEE HARVEY OSWALD having previously been in the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER related that RUPERTO said that the man who accompanied OSWALD to the Habana Bar in the past, or possibly he could have said that the Mexican who was with OSWALD in the Habana Bar, was identical with one of the two men whom RUPERTO PENA had seen pass in an automobile in front of the Habana Bar and about both of whom RUPERTO PENA had previously talked to BRINGUIER. According to BRINGUIER, these two men were the persons who had been in the Habana Bar previously and whom PENA said were either pro-communist or pro-CASTRO.

BRINGUIER stated that as an explanation for this last statement attributed to RUPERTO PENA, he should mention that sometime between August 15 and August 30, 1963, RUPERTO PENA came to his store and asked him to call the FBI. BRINGUIER recalls that at that time RUPERTO either said he had seen "two Latins," or possibly had said "two Mexicans," pass in a car in front of the Habana Bar. It was BRINGUIER's statement that RUPERTO had explained that the FBI had asked RUPERTO to call the FBI if he saw those two persons again. BRINGUIER said he had understood RUPERTO PENA to say that the FBI had been in the Habana Bar previously looking for these two people. However, BRINGUIER admitted it is possible he may have misunderstood RUPERTO PENA in that regard.

In response to RUPERTO PENA's request, BRINGUIER said he called the FBI by telephone and spoke to someone at the FBI office.

Conspicuously missing in all of this is the identification of the car. At least the license number was recorded. It does not appear in any of the documents. It was not sought in the testimony. The probable reason is not oversight but that the number was a firm link. Nobody in the government wanted it available. It can still be produced, and it should be.

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BRINGUIER said that the party who answered the telephone was informed that the caller was calling on behalf of the owner of the Habana Bar on Decatur Street. BRINGUIER also explained in this telephone call that the person who had asked him to call did not speak English but that this person had said the FBI should be contacted if the two men in question were seen again. BRINGUIER said he related to the party who answered the telephone at the FBI that RUPERTO PENA had just told him he had seen the same two men pass in a car in front of the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER recalls he explained that he had no idea what the matter was all about, but did relate that RUPERTO PENA had said these two men were either pro-CASTRO or pro-communist.

By way of explanation, CARLOS BRINGUIER remarked it was entirely possible that the emotional excitement created by President KENNEDY's assassination may have caused RUPERTO PENA to feel he had some knowledge of the persons possibly involved and may have declared unthinkingly that the man who was with OSWALD in the Habana Bar was identical with one of the two men concerning whom BRINGUIER called the FBI at RUPERTO PENA's request between August 15 and 30, 1963. BRINGUIER admitted he did not know why RUPERTO PENA had made such a statement but persists that RUPERTO PENA did make such a statement to him after the assassination of President KENNEDY and prior to November 27, 1963.

BRINGUIER said he knows it was sometime between August 15 and 30, 1963, when RUPERTO PENA asked him to call the FBI about the two men he had seen in front of the bar because RUPERTO told him after the assassination of President KENNEDY that it was between those dates that he had asked BRINGUIER to call the FBI. RUPERTO allegedly told BRINGUIER after the assassination that he knew the dates were correct because RUPERTO recalled he was in charge of the Habana Bar while his brother, ORESTES PENA, was on vacation and that this incident occurred during such period. BRINGUIER said that ORESTES PENA allegedly was out of the United States and was believed to have been in Brazil during the period August 15 through August 30, 1963.

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BRINGUIER advised that in his deposition to an investigator of the Warren Commission, he gave the name of the brother of the owner of the Habana Bar as RUPERTO PENA. He stated that that statement was correct. However, he did want to clarify that RUPERTO PENA was not the one who had said he saw OSWALD in the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER said he meant to say that the person who saw OSWALD in the Habana Bar and the person who served OSWALD lemonade was EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, the bartender in the Habana Bar.

BRINGUIER said he also wished to clarify another point. He explained that after the assassination of President KENNEDY, he did not call the FBI office to advise them that OSWALD allegedly had been in the Habana Bar prior to the assassination but did furnish this information to the U. S. Secret Service office in New Orleans.

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