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DETAILS:

The following is based on request of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY as indicated in letter dated April 23, 1964, by General Counsel J. LEE RANKIN to Director J. EDGAR HOOVER.

It is to be recalled that testimony by Mr. CARLOS BRINGUIER, was taken by Staff Counsel WESLEY J. LIBELER, of the Presidential Commission, at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 8, 1964. As indicated on page 33 of the transcript of testimony by BRINGUIER - Cuban "spy" FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, then in New Orleans, Louisiana, by letter to CARLOS LECHUGA, former Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, warned him to be alert for the period prior to August 8 (1963), and, according to BRINGUIER, it was on August 5 (1963) that OSWALD attempted to infiltrate BRINGUIER's anti-CASTRO organization at New Orleans. BRINGUIER referred to copies of the Spanish language newspaper DIARIO LAS AMERICAS for dates of September 4 and 6, 1963, containing articles on FERNANDO FERNANDEZ.

DIARIO LAS AMERICAS is a daily paper printed at Miami, Florida.

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Bringuer also testified to the existence of a military training camp, in violation of both law and national policy. The FBI didn't require Bringuer's testimony for knowledge of this, for the FBI had conducted a raid. The Commission's interest was not in the camp, the raid, who was doing what there and in preparation for what, not in violations of U.S. law or possible information about the assassination. It was interested in the farce about the alleged anti-right-wing Cuban "spy", which is one way to investigate the murder of a President.

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The following is a translation of an article which appeared in the Spanish language daily, "Diario Las Americas", September 4, 1963, page 1, cols. 4-7, page 11, cols. 5-7:

SUPPOSED AGENT OF FIDEL CASTRO IS NOT DETAINED
BY THE FBI

SECRET SERVICE OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENTS TO
"DIARIO LAS AMERICAS":--ONE OF THE LEADERS OF
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT SPEAKS. ___
DETAILS OF THE CHARGES

A report by
BENJAMIN DE LA VEGA

Tuesday morning, the FBI told the "Diario Las Americas" that the Castro spy, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA, "was not being detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

This statement by the important investigative agency of the United States gives a new twist to the denunciation made public yesterday by the leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, who said that he had turned over the uncovered Communist agent to the FBI.

"MAKING INVESTIGATIONS"

In answer to other questions, the official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who received the reporter said that "the pertinent investigations are being made" concerning the charges which have been made by the Christian Democratic Movement.

When asked about the statements made to the reporter yesterday by Mr. LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA to the effect that the FBI had told him that "it was not a crime for Castro agents to spy on the groups of Cuban exiles and that it is only a crime to spy against this country and not against the exiles who are violating United States neutrality laws", the FBI official smiled briefly and said, practically without moving a single muscle of his face:

"We have no comment to make on that. These are strictly personal statements by Mr. BATISTA FALLA." The official added with emphasis: "We investigate everything

Everyone else is a "Communist agent" to the right-wing Cubans. Note the quoted FBI acknowledgement that the Cuban exiles were violating U.S. law and their apparent immunity. They were indignant that the FBI did not make up a law to suit their whim. Batista Falla, as the next page shows, has instant law to cover his desires.

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which may hurt the security of the United States. Anyone who is acting as a foreign agent is immediately investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Castro agents are fully included in these investigations. But in order to arrest any person charged with these crimes, we must have the necessary proof."

For his part, Mr. LAUREANO BATISTA FALLA, when questioned about the release of the supposed Castro spy, said:

"We gave sufficient proof to the FBI for his arrest. But among other reasons, we turned him over to that government office for fear that the Cuban exiles would make an attempt on the life of FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA."

So far the whereabouts of the confessed Castro agent are unknown, for at no time was he presented to the press as he should have been by the Christian Democratic Movement.

DIEGO VALERO SPEAKS

DIEGO VALERO, accused by FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA of being the leader of the Castro espionage network in Nassau, has stated that he cannot understand why this charge was made. As seen as VALERO, who is working for an English firm in Nassau, heard of the statements in which he was mentioned as a Castro agent, he flew to Miami to clarify his position to the investigative agencies of the United States.

DIEGO VALERO said: "I knew FERNANDEZ BARCENA some years ago, but I cannot understand why this charge against me has been made. When he came to Miami, he came to my house and I helped him in every way that I could. Last Saturday, when he was in Miami, he visited me at the hotel, and although he told me that he was disappointed in the anti-Castro fight, I had no indication that he was going to make this decision, and of course, I had no idea that he was in the service of CASTRO."

"As a matter of fact," added VALERO, "although I corresponded with him as I did with other friends, I never knew about his activities which he now claims in the interview to have told me. I repeat that I cannot understand why this charge was made, and if it were not for the time that I have had to waste in order to come to Miami to explain all this, the whole thing would make me laugh from now until the end of the week. I believe that Justice and Truth always win out, and that is why I have appealed to the United States

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How was the assassination investigated? This file shows another aspect, the philosophic approach of the FBI, the police mind at its politically most ignorant, the doctrine of the radical right that permeates it, dominates it. This report on Fernando Fernandez, who wanted to escape punishment for open violation of U.S. law, who was depressed by his own association with the anti-Castro forces and had decided they were incapable of accomplishing anything, who had been beaten with impunity by these forces, with the knowledge of the U.S.

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agencies and I have placed myself at their disposal, so that they can make all the investigations which they deem pertinent."

THE CHARGE

By ADOLFO G. MERINO

MIAMI, Sept. 3 (UPI)--The Federal Bureau of Investigation today questioned a "confessed spy" for Communist Cuba who says that the subversive and espionage activities for all America are directed by the Cuban ambassadors in the United Nations and in Brazil.

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, young exiled journalist, made a complete "confession" of his presumed espionage activities in a recording which he gave to the Christian Democratic Movement, directed by LAUREANO BATISTA (no relation to the ex-dictator FULGENCIO BATISTA).

In the recorded statement, FERNANDEZ says that the so-called forces of National Liberation which are operating in Venezuela "receive arms from Mexico and Cuba, and that the transfer is made on the high seas."

He adds that the network of subversion and espionage extends from the United States as far as the Bahamas and the distant South American "Southern Cone", and that the leaders of the network are "Ambassador CARLOS LECHUGA, formerly in Mexico and now head of the Cuban delegation in the United Nations, and the newly-appointed Ambassador to Brazil, RAUL ROA KOURI, son of the Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations." He indicated that the strategic "Southern Cone" also has as its leader a journalist, "JOSE RODRIGUEZ MENDEZ, Cultural Attache to the Cuban Embassy in Brazil", and that in the Bahamas "lives the immediate superior of the Miami network, named DIEGO VALERO."

A specific task entrusted to FERNANDEZ, according to his statement, is that of investigating the activities of the Cuban exiles in Central America. His chief objective was to follow the activities of MANUEL ARTIME, one of the leaders of the unsuccessful invasion of the Bay of Pigs, who is connected with the so-called "Central American Plan".

The Christian Democratic Movement in exile presented a letter which it says was sent by FERNANDEZ prior to his arrest, to the then Cuban Ambassador in Mexico, LECHUGA, which says:

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government while he was being beaten - this file is under "Internal Security", with "Russia" and "Cuba" added. The FBI interviews Ruperto Pena, brother of Orest, owner of the Habana Bar, and Ruperto disputes and disproves the imaginings of Carlos Bringuier, and Ruperto's interrogation also is listed under "Internal Security", again with "Russia" and "Cuba" added. Orest Pena, who informed the FBI of those he considered pro-Castro, whose anti-Castroism is memorialized on the front pages of the New Orleans papers, but who objected to what the FBI was
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"I happen to have infiltrated a commande group which is preparing to undertake a big operation against Cuba. I have detailed information about the military plan. The attack is imminent and is leaving from Central America..."

FERNANDEZ said that he signed his confidential correspondence with the pseudonym of HENRY PRIETO, and he warned that "from now until August 8, it is vital to remain alert."

He said that he arrived in the United States on January 11, 1961, but he began to work specifically in the Network of Espionage and Subversion about a year ago. The recruiting was done in Kansas City, Missouri.

In Mexico, he added, LECHUGA's lieutenants were a Venezuelan named HENDEL CRUZAL, who takes care of getting supplies for the Communist terrorist group called Front of National Liberation." The other is OSVALDO ANAYA, a Mexican."

He said that "from Mexico, arms and money are sent to the Venezuelan terrorists. The arms are transported in Cuban fishing pboats to some point on the high seas, where contacts are made with Venezuelan boats and those of other nationalities, which introduce them clandestinely into that country."

He said that FIDEL CASTRO's watchword for the Venezuelan terrorists is "a rifle under each jacket. CASTRO's direct agent in Venezuela is a Cuban named CANALES."

He stated that the Cuban embassies in "Mexico and Brazil are assigned, among other things, the task of issuing false passports and identification documents. Money is distributed from these centers. The Network penetrates deeply into the "Southern Cone", where journalist JOSE RODRIGUEZ MENDEZ, Cultural Attaché to the Embassy in Brazil", directs all the activities of subversion and espionage."

The Miami Office of the FBI refused to give any information on the questioning of FERNANDEZ.

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doing and who told me that in return he was threatened by the FBI, who swore under oath that Bringuiet hates the United States and challenged the Commission to give them both lie-detector tests, is also under "Internal Security", "Cuba" added. But Bringuiet, darling of the radical right whose beliefs and propaganda he mouths, who misinformed the FBI - he is not. The FBI's 12/11/63 report on him follows, immediately before the report on Orest, where the reader can see this for himself, as he can with the long series of reports about and on interrogations of Bringuiet printed earlier. Not one of these bears the notation, "Internal Security", with or without "Russia" or "Cuba". Nor are those whitewashing "reports" on the "investigation" of the Cuban training camp that follow designated "Internal Security",

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