

This is Jim Garrison. Today is Saturday, January 21, 1967, and in a few minutes I am going to have an interview with Carlos Quiroga. We will be recording this conversation on concealed microphones.

- Q. I am curious about this midget submarine of Ferrie's. Where did he keep it?
- A. It wasn't a submarine. I think he was upset about my statement. Anyway, you've seen those little scuba divers? They go from here to there?
- Q. Oh, it's kind of a contraption?
- A. Yes. It's a contraption.
- Q. To which a man attaches himself?
- A. No. It's more like....there is this little buoy that you sit on it and you go under the water.
- Q. It's a propelling thing.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then it wouldn't be any good for carrying arms or weapons. It would only be good for someone who wanted to attach a device to a ship and that sort of thing?
- A. Right - right. You can't ----- In fact you know if you do any - let's say any attaching at all, that would only carry enough fuel I guess at the most one hour -- at the outside.
- Q. Was it a commercial product or was it something he built?
- A. He made it himself - for ----- I don't know why. You see when I saw it - I used to go up to his house a lot. Ferrie's house. He was at work on that project - and so he made it himself. In fact, I'll tell you what - to tell you the truth
- Q. Where did Ferrie live at that time?
- A. He had to work on the airline..
- Q. I say, where did he live? I mean his house. Where?
- A. In Metairie. It was on Metairie Road - you turn right by - I don't remember the address, Mr. Garrison, but it's in Metairie.
- Q. What is - what was Ferrie's function with the Cuban Revolutionary Front? That is something that is not clear to me. What did he do that was valuable?
- A. Well - while flying? When I - I can understand now because I....I was a student then, and through Accicha I got him and he is a general to have gone in and talked

was just with Arcacha and tried to help out anywhere to conduct the invasion or to make an assault. He just tried to see if he could get enough.....to make an assault on Cuba.

Q. Did he plan to lead the assault or just to get a group to send them?

A. I think his plan was to let somebody else do it, and I was going to be the.....leader.

Q. Well, he must have made some sort of contribution because Arcacha seemed to have been with him quite often.

A. Yes. Yes. He was new.

Q. But what did Ferris do? That's what I am curious about.

A. Well, to tell you the truth, Mr. Garrison, there was....., the only thing he got for us was a couple of rifles - some rifles and some mortars. Mortars, yes. Now where the rifles came from or who bought them, I don't know. Ferris is the one who bought them with his own money, because he wanted to be active and yet he just made a flop of himself by saying "Oh I can get this and I can get that" and he never did get it. But he did finally get three rifles.

Q. But in spite of this did you have the impression that Arcacha seemed to think Ferris was of value?

A. Well, let me put it this way. The problem with Arcacha was that the Cubans here - the Cubans in New Orleans - had just left him completely. And they demanded of Arcacha "Why don't you do something?" Yet he had nobody to help him. So Ferris seems to be the guy, you know, who would - excuse the word - bullshit, and this is why he was so close to Ferris. Now, besides that he said Ferris lend him money (Arcacha) when he need it for his family-----to support his family. And this is another reason why Arcacha was with Ferris. Now, as far as money was concerned, now this only my opinion - he did nothing. But really, he did nothing to the Cuban Revolution - he did nothing to the Cuban Revolution of value. In fact, he hurt the Cuban Revolution, and I tried to tell Arcacha about Ferris for a long time because the Cubans here, on account of Ferris, didn't want to get along with Arcacha. I mean he was quite a character. You know he had - he was - I don't know - not convicted but they say he was - he committed a crime against mortars and all that. He was ah - and besides his appearance was not appealing to the Cubans. His own appearance does not appeal to the Cubans around here and -

Q. When you don't think he would be a great good railway?

A. No. He didn't appeal to anybody.

Q. But wasn't all this during the period in which he lost

A. It was after that.

Q. That was after he lost his sixline job? And yet he seemed to have money?

A. Yes. He had 100-dollar bills around all the time - and where he got this money? And I'll tell you something, Arcacha was blind because when I first met Ferris I tried to get Arcacha out of here. I tried to get Arcacha separated from him because I was - I wanted to do something and of course I wanted him to see my background and my family

And I wanted to do something, and yet the only Cuban group that was here threw Arcacha out - you don't have to worry about them because they didn't do a thing. They are not revolutionists. They didn't take any action.

Q. Is that one of the reasons why - when they threw Arcacha out - everything sort of stopped?

A. That's right. Sure.

Q. In other words would it be a correct conclusion that in spite of Arcacha being associated with Ferris, in spite of that he was at least of some value to the organization, and some things were accomplished while Arcacha was there?

A. That's right. But I'll tell you one thing---

Q. Afterwards you just got conversation?

A. That's right. I'll tell you the truth, Mr. Garrison, of course I'll defend Arcacha, but I'll say what is right, because I myself, I - the people in New Orleans know who I am, and they know that when they need somebody to work for the Cuban Revolution the first one they come to is me. At the same time, the only reason why I did not - of course I was with the other group too, but Arcacha no matter what the people said to him, all kind of things, he went through with his family to support, he was the author of the Cuban Revolution. He was doing always something for the Cuban Revolution. This other guy was doing nothing but talk, talk, talk. He has been talking for the last four years.

Q. So that in January of 1962, which is about the time that Arcacha was deposed and Ferris left the operation, from then on Arcacha had to work at another job. Is that correct?

A. Yes. That's right. I have a scrapbook with all that in it.

Q. Have you got a scrapbook about that?

A. Yes. Well, I've got a scrapbook - I got a scrapbook but Arcacha got away with it. That's my fight against the Warren Commission.

Q. What do you mean, your fight against the Warren Commission?

By you disagree with them.

- A. Oh yes. I do actually. I - you know - tried to infiltrate this organization which - this is not for the authorities - that by way I came by the Jung Hotel when Johnson was here I passed these out all around the hotel. That is the statement which I sent to him personally, which I had written and he sent it right back to me.
- Q. That is interesting.
- A. (Statement incomprehensible because of outside traffic).
- Q. What is the large book you have? Is that the scrapbook?
- A. This book here?
- Q. Yes. Is that the one in which you have the exact time and date of Arcacha's departure?
- A. I don't have it here but here is a - this scrapbook is on this crusade the Picayune had.....I brought it here. It was the man that came back to this cause-----I can leave this with you if you want to.
- Q. What is it exactly?
- A. It is just letters and what not, Mr. Garrison.
- Q. Oh, I see. It's very interesting. I would like to look at it later. Let me ask you this now. What was your capacity? Were you an employee or were you in a higher position?
- A. For what? With Cuba?
- Q. Yes, with this Cuban front.
- A. I never did - I was always a volunteer. I was always a volunteer and I did not ask for any delegations. I did not want anything because, first of all I don't believe in being a delegate of any group, and use that for - use that when I go back to (inaudible).....because my thinking on the Cuban situation is to help the Cuban Revolution and then forget it. I was never a delegate, no, I was just a volunteer.
- Q. I know that, but what was your function? You must have done something to help the Cuban movement. I am trying to get the picture of the operation and you can help me do that.
- A. As far as my function with the group, that was just to help out Cuba - to drag some funds in.....(inaudible).
- Q. What was the time period during which you worked for the Cuban revolutionary effort?
- A. September 1961, which, by the way, I want to tell you something. When I left U.S.A. I came down here and I worked for the Cuban front. For the Cuban front, we started in the very beginning in September '61 and I worked with Arcacha to see that he could do for the Cuban Revolution from September '61 up to the end of December '61, or February '62, about that.

- Q. And what about after that? It just dissipated?
- A. Who?
- Q. I mean the organization.
- A. Yes - well no there were other organizations here in the city. For example, they were trying to unite themselves but the leaders couldn't get together because they all wanted to be leaders.
- Q. Were you able to play any role in helping to free Cuba after February of 1962 or did you just abandon it?
- A. Well, I could not work with a group that was just mad at Fidel and does not do anything about it. If I'm going to do something, and I like to do something effectively .....(in audible).
- Q. Do I understand you correctly that you just didn't do anything after February '62?
- A. No. Except you may have heard they had a campaign here in New Orleans.
- Q. Yes. I heard about it.
- A. By the way, nobody here in the city knew about it except one person, which was David Davis.
- Q. What was his name?
- A. Davis.
- Q. Davis? David Davis?
- A. Yes. I think that's his name. Davis.
- Q. Why did he know?
- A. Because he was the one that got the mIQ from Americans and I was very surprised when he didn't call me in because I would have been tickled to death to help out. I got the money, as I said, from Americans around this area to make an assault on Cuba, and he got this group from Miami to be trained here.
- Q. How many people were in the group from Miami?
- A. I'm not sure. I tell you I came into the picture at the end and the whole thing was a mess. I did not go up to the camp. The only reason why I was called in was Davis was in bad shape and he said they were going to kill him and besides that Davis had a temper, a bad temper, and he got in trouble with one of the guys over there because they were not getting enough food and so on. He told me that they were out to kill him. You know, they were really mad at him. He asked us to go over there and get them all straightened out because he said I have the guts for it. I thought, well, I could go over there and get them straightened out, but I thought, well, if enough of us would

join the assault. And the same day two of the guys left the camp and were here in New Orleans. I found out that they did not have enough money to go to Miami. At the same time, you remember that about the same time this happened was when the F.B.I. found all these arms and all the stuff across the lake in a house near the camp. You know about that.

Q. Was that close to the camp as far as you can recall?

A. Yes. And due to that, you see, the pressure was kind of great. In the end this guy was found to be a spy.

Q. Who was?

A. Fernando Fernandez. He was -

Q. A spy?

A. Yes. He was a spy in the camp.

Q. What did they do with him when they found that out?

A. They brought him to Miami. And the F.B.I. found out they pressured him in the house and they put him out, they let him out, and put the other guys in. But he talked. He came over to Dave's house before the F.B.I. came to the house, he came over to Dave's house and talked about the spy ring.

Q. One of the most interesting things in this to me is this camp and the training. I am curious about the supervision of the camp and the planning, for example... Training of the military requires an awful lot of planning and an awful lot of organization. Obviously the U. S. Army was not involved, not actively. But who was in charge? Was there a commandant?

A. Oh, for the Cubans? Yes a very known man. Penague.

Q. How do you spell that?

A. P-E-N-A-G-U-E. The thing about him was that he was famous. He became quite famous. You see he was very famous in Cuba. He was a Cuban. When Fidel Castro was in the Bahamas Penague was in charge of all of the underground work in Havana, and he became quite famous. He was quite known throughout the Batista regime. In fact I told Juan the other day this man's name and the reason of all the people I have been carrying in my pocket for the last four years and especially this guy's name. Penague was a real - well he has guts to do this. He's also - well he has had a tremendous experience.

Q. Then he was in charge of this training?

A. Yes, he was in charge of the training.

Q. Did they live in barracks over there or in tents?

- A. Well, I never went to the camp. I wish that I had gone. They told me that there was not much training going on over there with all the swimming. The house had a swimming pool. I wish that I had gone to the place.
- Q. Well, they must have had rifle training.
- A. Oh yes, they did. One of the things too that started making things real bad was that some of the guys were practicing shooting and so forth. Cars and so forth were passing by and they could hear the noises, and I imagine the authorities were onto them, told these American people that they had had some complaints about them, and they were getting scared.
- Q. How many Cubans were being trained there?
- A. I think there were about 14 or so. There weren't many.
- Q. That so? The Cuban group? Just 14?
- A. Yes. There was just a few people, to blow up a couple of spots in Cuba. It was just a small assault.
- Q. This famous camp across the lake was just a handfull?
- A. This famous camp -
- Q. Famous in a sense. Everyone speaks of it but no one knows where it is.
- A. Right. It was not a big house.
- Q. Just 14 men?
- A. I don't know the number. I would say it would be about 14 in the assault. I tell you, when I help out I pay out of my own pocket for four of them.
- Q. For four of them?
- A. Yes. So that they could go and get a bus - a Greyhound Bus.
- Q. You couldn't wait for them to leave?
- A. Yes, they came out of the camp. Once they came out of the camp they were in Davis' house and he got scared then. So he called me up and I found out all his troubles and I go back to my house. He say "What are you going to do?" I say, "Go back to my own house. Why? I buy you the ticket for the bus line - the Greyhound. I used to buy the tickets."
- Q. Do you remember their names?
- A. No. I didn't get the names.
- Q. Do you remember where they wanted to go in Florida?
- A. Hiscot.
- Q. Did they leave because they completed their training period or did they just get tired of it?

- A. No. They left because - not because they finished out their training - it was because things were getting too bad at the camp. For example, this spy was causing them problems. And they were all afraid there was a big plot. He had already told Fidel.
- Q. Carlos, let me ask you one thing. How did you know there was a spy in the camp?
- A. Davis. Davis had told me that and he had shown me the letters.
- Q. Was that David Davis or Ricardo Davis?
- A. Ricardo Davis.
- Q. Ricardo Davis?
- A. Ricardo Davis. I'm sorry. I don't really have a really good memory for names yet. Ricardo Davis.
- Q. What was the function of Ricardo Davis?
- A. He was the -
- Q. The liaison man?
- A. He was the contact. He was in contact with these American people.
- Q. With the CIA?
- A. No.-
- Q. With what American people particularly?
- A. I don't know, Mr. Garrison. If I knew I would say. But I don't know. That was one thing that Dave did not want to mention was names.
- Q. Among Americans there are some anti-Castro groups with strong feelings - like the Minutemen and organizations like that.
- A. That is so.
- Q. Have you ever heard of the Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean?
- A. No, I haven't.
- Q. How long did that camp last over there? That is something else that is puzzling me.
- A. I don't think it lasted very long because they did..... of course I don't know what day they came in, but frankly they were training for short time. It was there a month or so.
- Q. Was that before or after Arcahu?



- A. That was after. Way after Arcacha.
- Q. The camp came after Arcacha?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. Arcacha left in early '62, and it was way after that?
- A. Yes. Yes. The camp was near the farm of Carlo deArmas across the lake.
- Q. In August 1963?
- A. The camp was going on the same time. You see this is another thing too. The camp was near deArmas' farm - it was nearby so they get scared too.
- Q. So that the 14 men or so were training there about the time of August 1963?
- A. Yes. It was a short period, but they knew how to fight. They knew how to fight. They did some training.
- Q. They wanted to attack a specific point as in the Dieppe raid?
- A. Yes. Just like the other - you know, like the other ways that Cuban movements in Miami have done.
- Q. Was this a selected group in the sense that it was a little tougher and more highly trained - or were these just 14 ordinary troops?
- A. Fourteen of any kind in the group.
- Q. Were you playing any part in the Cuban movement - the Cuban training of any sort in August of '63?
- A. No sir. No sir.
- Q. Did you ever see any of these soldiers, Cuban soldiers, board the bus?
- A. Oh yeah. I help them. I had to stand around for three hours.
- Q. The same date?
- A. Yes, the same date when they were in Davis' house. They were there-----
- Q. Where was Davis' house?
- A. In Parkchester. It was in the Parkchester Apartments.
- Q. Was it near where Arcacha lived?
- A. Yeah. Well Arcacha's was on one side and Davis' was close to Paris Avenue.
- Q. ~~Close to Paris Avenue~~ near Davis' house?

A. You know if you want I can pass by on the way home and tell you what the address was.

Q. I wish you would. That would be fine.

A. Have you been able to get in touch with Davis?

Q. No. He has moved, hasn't he?

A. Yeah.--I haven't seen him in years. I don't know what-  
ever happened.

Q. What ever happened to Arcacha?

A. I don't know. Honest, because I would have told you. I met Arcacha's family when they were here and I gave them money for food and so forth and so on to help them out.

At the time he left he hadn't told me a thing. I had two trunks of his in my father-in-law's house where I have just keep magazines and so forth, and one day he call me up after he left the Cuban Revolution. He calls me up at his house about the trunks that I keep in my livingroom and said he had space now for them. So, one day he appears, the next day he shows up at my mother-in-law's house without even telling me and luckily I was there, I was by my father-in-law's house and he says, "Oh, I came by to pick up the trunks. And I say, "Why you didn't call up and tel' me, I thought maybe you were going to call me up and let me know about it. He says "Oh, I forget all about it." I heard the next day he was gone. Well, right after that I think he was in Houston or Dallas, and I have passed the word to the Cubans if they ever see Arcacha to beat the hell out of him. I was mad about it because I was the guy who spent over \$700 for food and Arcacha was the only guy around here, as far as feeding his family, and the guy doesn't tell me he is leaving. Of course, I'll tell you what happened, why he didn't tell me was he had borrowed a car from a guy named Mills who had a garage down in Jefferson Parish, and he borrowed the car and never did return it. He took the car to Miami, and that's when he carried all the stuff (becomes inaudible).....

Q. When was it that Arcacha went to Miami?

A. That was in '62. He left the city and went to Miami.

Q. When did he work for Ronnie Caire?

A. He worked for Ronnie Caire right after. Ronnie Caire came and got him. Now Arcacha was assigned to the city as a delegate for the Cuban Revolutionary Front in 1961 -

Q. In 1961?

A. I don't know. In '61 I guess. April

Q. April of '61?

A. All right. He stayed here as a delegate until December of '61. Arcacha was taken out of the delegation, as a delegate, you know somewhere around December, 1961, or January, 1962. Now Ronnie Caire gave him a job right after Arcacha was taken out of the delegation of Cuba. He wasn't exiled. He went to work for Ronnie Caire. Because Ronnie Caire did not have a job, he was trying to get organized here in New Orleans one of those agencies here for tourists. So that's where he went to work.

Q. So he went to work for Caire after he left the Revolutionary Front.

A. Oh yes.

Q. How long did he work for Caire?

A. Not long.

Q. If he worked for Caire two months that would be January and February.

A. That's all. I don't know when he worked for Ronnie. You'll have to ask Ronnie. I tell you one thing. The day he left he asked Ronnie what time he start working for him.

Q. Did you ever see Arcacha since he left?

A. I have never seen him. No.

Milla was going to file a suit against Arcacha for taking his car out of here, you know, for stealing the car. I don't know whether or not he filed the suit in Jefferson Parish. Secondly, his wife was with him when he stole it. She hated this man with a passion.

Q. Is Milla still around?

A. I don't know.

Q. What was his first name?

A. I tell you where you can find out.

Q. Where?

A. The Guatemalan Consulate. His name is M I L L A. I say, if you ask me who this guy is, he used to be with Artillo DeArmas only through the government of Arnez. You remember that? The CIA was involved, directly involved in that?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, this guy flew the planes of DeArmas against Arnez.

Q. Who flew the planes?

A. This guy Milla.

Q. Did he fly it?

A. Yes. And then he got in trouble with the government over there and he came over here.

Q. What kind of pilot was he? Did he fly fighter planes?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any other revolutionaries that really were active in the Arnez affair?

A. No.

Q. What was Milla's role; did he have any role in the Cuban affair at all?

A. None at all.

Q. He was just a friend of Arcacha's.

A. Yes. He became a friend of Arcacha's because he used to go to the Consul Cafeteria quite often and Arcacha used to go there too. So they met one time and they started talking and so forth and so Arcacha became friends with him. But he had nothing at all to do with this revolution.

Q. Do you know where Arcacha lived on Egret Street?

A. Yes.

Q. Wasn't that a rather nice neighborhood to live in if you were short of money?

A. Yes. That was one of the things too that the Cuban's was saying too that he stole money from the Cuban Revolution outfit. Of course I say that this is something that I don't know because when I was with Arcacha he did not have money to live on and I had to feed him, in fact I had to pay three months for him.

Q. How long did he live on Egret Street? Before or after his departure.

A. He lived on Egret Street -- let's see, he came in '61 - he was living in Parkchester - he come to Parkchester around - I was there around November I think. No, about September - August or September he moved in Parkchester. I don't know. I know when he was living at Egret Street because I went to his house.

Q. Was that Egret Street before Parkchester?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Parkchester was kind of a step down in a sense because Egret Street is kind of a sumptuous neighborhood.

A. Well, the thing was this, Mr. Garrison; he couldn't afford - I don't ----

Q. He moved to Parkchester?

A. He couldn't afford Parkchester. The thing is this at the time the house he was living in on Egret Street he owes money when he left there, he didn't pay nothing.

Q. Let me go back to August, 1963, when they found casings near the camp. During the month or so these 14 odd men were training out there, how many other times did you see any of them?

A. Never.

Q. Just at the end when you took them to the bus?

A. Yea. When I took them to the bus. You know, when everything collapsed at the camp, and like I say they went to Davis' house and Davis called me to help some of them with the bus to Miami. You know, somebody had to do it.

Q. Is that where you met those men? At Davis' house?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was anybody else there when you met them?

A. No sir. Only his wife.

Q. Would you be in any business's office on Lafayette St.?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When was that?

A. Well, we used to go over to Guy Banister's quite often during 1961. Of course, you know, I met Guy and I used to see him down there. But I didn't know Guy like these others in '61. By the way, I want to say that Guy Banister knew quite a bit about Communists. He was very interested in the Cuban Revolution and the Communists.

Q. What about '62? You were in Banister's office in '62.

A. I went there. Yes.

Q. What about '63?

A. Banister?

Q. Yes. Was there any particular reason why you stopped going there?

A. Oh no. I used to go with Arcacha over there. Guy Banister was just a, like I say, I used to see him on the street, but as far as going to Guy Banister's house, well, one of the things was that at the end, that was in '61 or so, yes, it was '61 when this Crusade for Cuba petered out, we rented an office in the same building where Guy Banister used to be.

Q. The Newman Building?

A. Right. The Newman Building. And of course I didn't know that the rent was never paid. I thought that was coming out of the Crusade for Cuba. Now this is one of the reasons why we used to go there. You know, Guy was downstairs and he was a very nice person.

Q. The rent was still due when Ravel took over?

A. Right. Right.

Q. So that Ravel moved the headquarters out to his house after he took over from Arcacha.

A. Right.

Q. But to get back to 1963. Do you remember the summer of 1963 when they found the cache of arms? Was Arcacha still here or was he gone by then?

A. Oh, he was gone. He was gone by then.

Q. Did you occasionally go to Banister's office by yourself?

A. No. I never.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to go into Mancuso Cafe on the corner?

A. Who?

Q. Mancuso Cafe - a little cafe.

A. In '63? No, because I used to work in Rice's office and I was completely out in 1963. I got out before then and I went to work for so I went to work for George B. Rice.

Q. How do you spell that?

A. R I C E

Q. And you were working there in 1962?

A. That was 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966.

Q. All of 1963?

A. No. I worked for Rice up 'til that time. Rice died at this time. In 1965 I went to work for Gomer Association.

Q. Where were you working during '63?

A. Acacha's office.

Q. In the summer of '63?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was the office located?

A. In the Audubon Building.

Q. Do you know a fellow by the name of Jorge Rodriguez?

A. I wouldn't know.

Q. Moses, Warren Moses?

A. Oh, with red hair?

Q. They called him Moses.

A. Jorge Rodriguez -

Q. Yes.

A. Is he an architect?

Q. He's an employee there.

A. Well, I don't know him. I know Moses, yes, because he used to be a very good friend of mine.

Q. I'm curious about one thing. We have evidence which suggests that Banister was involved in shipping arms to Cuba in some way - especially in 1962 and 1963. What do you know about that?

A. Well, I'll tell you that, if he was I don't know how, Mr. Garrison.

- Q. We also have a number of witnesses who have given us statements that during 1963 his office was constantly filled with Cubans of the type who were training across the lake.
- A. That might be because you see, I left - Mr. Garrison, I had left completely.
- Q. We also have a number of statements that tie David Ferrie in with the shipment of arms to Cuba with Banister.
- A. In 1963?
- Q. That's '61, '62 and '63. Are these witnesses all wrong?
- A. I'll tell you, I don't think Ferrie was involved at all in that.
- Q. Why do you say that?
- A. Because Ferrie was completely left out of the Cuban Revolution in 1962.
- Q. I'm not talking about the Cuban Revolution. I'm talking about shipping arms to Cuba.
- A. Sure he was shipping arms to Cuba.
- Q. In other words, you say that whoever told us that Ferrie was shipping arms was right after all.
- A. Now wait - in - You're talking about '63 - I doubt it. It might be true - that you are right, but if you got it from Cubans - if you got any information from Cubans here in New Orleans (inaudible).....whoever said this doesn't know what he is talking about. Now, I don't think Ferrie had, unless he was working with Arcacha, or unless he was working with a group I didn't know of and I would be called, I mean all of us around here would be called on to help out, and I'm not talking about shipping to Miami. But other than that I don't - like I say - I don't know. I was only called on - I'm surprised at what you're telling me because I know it was getting worse but most of the Cubans here in New Orleans are chicken-shit and they get nothing from me.
- Q. And your memory is that Arcacha left the city, as far as you know, for good, let's say, in late February of '62. Is that correct?
- A. That's right. That's right, sir.
- Q. Did you know that there was a discovery of a cache of arms bound for Cuba and Sergio Arcacha Smith and David Ferrie were involved in that cache of arms.
- A. I know that. I know that. Now let me tell you something. Can I talk to you a second. I'm the one who put the explosives in the trailer - U-Haul - to be sent to Miami, but that was not in '63.



A. In '61.

Q. This is the one involving Ferris?

A. Sure.

Q. What did he have to do with it in '61?

A. Now, I mean - can I - I don't want to get (inaudible).....

Q. You should know, so tell me about it. I'm interested in Ferris.

A. I know that, Mr. Garrison, and I -

Q. Go ahead.

A. All right, now we're going to talk.

Q. Tell me about it.

A. When I first came there was a shipment of arms - and when I say shipment of arms I mean grenades, bullets, explosives, traps. It was large, it was quite a large - I wouldn't say large, supply - you know - it was over here for a long time. Where they got it - I came in they were - these arms and ammunition and such was here. We're talking about '61 and not about '63.

Q. All right, '61 then.

A. All right, '61.

Q. That's here in the city.

A. Hmm?

Q. That's here in the city, wasn't it - here in New Orleans?

A. Oh yes. That's what I mean - in the city.

Q. Do you know the address?

A. Do I know where?

Q. Yes, where the grenades and the plastics were found.

A. Well, they changed quite a bit. They was at Ferris's house at one time and then they were over at Arcache's house and then we had to get them out. I had to help, helping out trying to get all that stuff out to Miami when the group came over here to pick it up. I'm the one who got it in the U.S. -

Q. And what happened to it finally?

A. They happened to go to the car, the Cuban car, the Christian Democratic party got there. And then they say they are no good. Besides that, of course there were some left over - some arms - they said they are good. Now they didn't want them because they didn't want them and because they had no need for them. So he took them for a while. So he was taken out of the movement.

So when Arcacha was taking up the supply here in '61 he called me up one day. I said, "Look, I got all this stuff in here. Now let Ravel take care of it." I went one day over to Ravel's house at night - and boy you talk about Garcia. All these big revolutionaries, you know, they just talk, talk, talk for a half an hour, nothing but talk.

Q. Do you know where Ferrie got hold of this stuff?

A. That's a good question. They tell me it's from their own camp around here. I don't know - you see they got these arms before I came into the group.

Q. You know, you can't buy grenades. Somebody has to steal grenades from a U. S. Army camp. You can't buy them like you can U. S. Army guns. Obviously somebody---

A. Well, you can buy all that stuff you want to.

Q. Grenades?

A. Yes.

Q. Where can you buy them?

A. You can buy them just about - for example, you can buy them from supply houses, like that.

Q. Grenades? Hand grenades?

A. Yeah, yeah, not filled up. Just the shell and you pack them.

Q. This was a rather substantial amount of arms that we're talking about. This was just not a small amount. Isn't that right?

A. Let me ask you this, Mr. Garrison. Who told you this?

Q. This is from the federal files about a cache of arms which Ferrie and Arcacha were connected with. Quite a substantial amount.

A. Quite a substantial amount. I was the one who carried them out. It was in '61, unless they had made some others which I don't know in '62.

Q. There was another one, too. Let's talk about '61. Do you remember how many boxes of grenades? Just roughly?

A. Thirty-one. There were quite a few - I tell you, take one of those U-Heals 6 x 8's - not 6 x 8, it was a little wider than that, I think it was 8 x 10 or something - I filled up the whole works.

Q. All that was left were the plastics and explosives. So Ferrie came up with quite a lot of stuff there.

A. Where they got it, I don't know, Mr. Garrison. I know that - of course the story has been told to me - and very confidentially - I hope I - and that's again I - I'm a Cuban and I don't want to betray my country. But this stuff was stolen. Now where it was stolen, I don't know.

- Q. It would be correct, would it not, to say that Ferrie did come up with a rather substantial amount of arms in this particular case?
- A. Yes. And this is what I heard from Arcacha who - I know that the arms were here for a guaranty to equip all these people from Miami who were stopping here too to pick up these arms - these explosives which were a substantial amount of arms - and he told me that Ferrie - the story goes that Ferrie and two other guys, which I never met them, stole those. Frankly, I don't know whether Arcacha was involved in it or not, but they stole them from Algiers.
- Q. Stole them from where?
- A. From somewhere in Algiers. I don't know
- Q. You mean the Naval Base in Algiers?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was the difference between the Cuban training base in Algiers and the one north of the lake?
- A. There was no swimming pool there. I'm talking about the Naval Base.
- Q. The U. S. Naval ammunition storage base in Algiers.
- A. I imagine that's what it was, yes sir. Now is this in '61 we're talking about?
- Q. Yes. We're talking about '61. Now, Ferrie knew where these arms were going, didn't he?
- A. Sure. Well, at the time they were going to be for the Cuban Revolutionary Front. But when the Cubans had trouble with this assault, then the officers took this bad ammunition - or whatever you call it - they were here in New Orleans and they never were shipped to Miami. They were kept here for a long time.
- Q. When Ferrie got this stuff, however he got it, he knew it was going to be for the revolutionary Cubans, did he not?
- A. Oh yes. This was the purpose of taking it, if he stole it or what, I don't know. But it was for the purpose of the Cuban Revolution against Fidel Castro.
- Q. So that your earlier statement that he only came up with two rifles actually is incorrect, isn't it?
- A. Now wait a minute, Mr. Carrison. At the same time we wanted to get arms and he came up with a couple of rifles, yes.
- Q. Let me rephrase it then. It would not be correct to say, as you earlier did, that Ferrie's only contribution was to come up with two rifles. He also came up with grenades and explosives, is that correct?

- A. At the beginning of our conversation, when we first started, I didn't want to say anything about these explosives. First of all, you're a district attorney, and I'm a Cuban, who's looking toward the Cuban coast, now - now as far as - he got the ammunition, yes. But at the same time, the ammunition - all the stuff he had gotten for the Cuban Revolution had to be abandoned when they got to Miami - they didn't work. They were - they didn't work too good.
- Q. When did you get that report from Miami?
- A. After they came over here and picked it up and this commandant of the revolution came over here, or somebody came over here and they told us that the stuff that we had gave them, they said it was no good. They said it was very confusing. Now evidently they tried it at a camp to see if everything was okay.
- Q. Do you know what camp they tried it at?
- A. No, sir. I never did.
- Q. Do you know who it was in Miami that found them no good?
- A. The Christian Democratic Party. That is the one.
- Q. Do you remember who it was in the Christian Democratic Party that complained about it specifically?
- A. No. I don't remember the name but the man was the head of the group.
- Q. Did you ever see Hugh Ward?
- A. Ward?
- Q. In Banister's office?
- A. Ward?
- Q. Yes.
- A. I don't know his name. If I see his face I might remember him. He's an American, or what?
- Q. He's an American and worked for Banister.
- A. Well, I imagine, because I knew everybody.
- Q. He was also involved in the shipment of arms to Cuba.
- A. Well, now if - I don't know - I tell you, the only thing I tell you - before that was I visited in Banister's house. That I don't know, Mr. Garrison, because when I came into it working, working at Anucha's house, when I came into the picture I never knew nothing about New Orleans because I stayed at Anucha's house. Now, by the way, the office was not to be used by Fernie except when somebody needed it. That was the purpose of it, yes. But it was not to be used by somebody for something else.

- A. Well, Ferrie wanted to make an assault in Cuba and to use some kind of escape - to get into there and to get out. I didn't like that deal at all because I didn't know who and I didn't like that deal because it was no good.
- Q. Did you say it was a one-man assault plan and nothing else?
- A. Yes. That's all. Blow up, you know. I didn't know he was planning that all the time. I was blind - I was blind to this man and everything else, really. I wanted to do something badly and I wish I had it to do, you know.
- Q. Why would Ferrie care about making an assault on Havana? Why would he be concerned?
- A. I don't know.....(inaudible).....
- Q. Wasn't Ricardo Davis active in getting those 14 men from Miami for their training?
- A. Well, now, he was the contact man for the Americans and also with the Cuban Revolutionary Front because Fernando Fernandez when he left New Orleans they took him to Miami.
- Q. Do you remember when Ricardo Davis came to New Orleans?
- A. Well, the first time in '61, but he didn't trust us. He was very contrary.
- Q. How long did he stay here?
- A. Oh, he got in trouble financially - not in trouble - when I say trouble, he -
- Q. He had money problems?
- A. He had money problems, yes. At least wife problems.
- Q. Did he do anything for a living here?
- A. Yes, he worked for a finance company. One time he used to work for an insurance company, I think. Yeah.
- Q. Insurance company or finance company?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know the finance company?
- A. No, sir, I don't.
- Q. Public finance?
- A. I don't know. It was somewhere in town, but I don't know.
- Q. In the 1200 block?
- A. A grey building?
- Q. Public finance at the old Black Bear Place?

- A. No, that's not the one. I don't know, it's a gray building. Close to the August Perez Building.
- Q. How long did he work there, Carlos? Do you know?
- A. I don't know. You see, I wasn't close to Davis either except, from the camp I knew him and so on and so forth, but he kept that - but to tell you the truth but he kept that project to himself. And I am really surprised that he kept that to himself he had so many projects.
- Q. Now Ricardo Davis necessarily had to have some liaison with the training camp north of the lake, didn't he?
- A. Ricardo Davis was the man, you can say the contact man with the Cubans at the camp and the Americans.
- Q. And do you remember when Ricardo Davis left New Orleans?
- A. I don't know. It was '62 or '63 when he - I don't know when he left because I never saw him after that because you see what happened was his wife many times called up myself for food and I took food to her house. She was in awfully bad shape and you know Davis was gone. He worked and he made money but he spent it on other people, you know, on other girls. His wife was - a couple times they told me his wife was in bad shape. You know, no food in the house and so I went over there and gave her some money to buy some food, because, you know, she was a very nice girl and it was a misfortune.
- Q. Do you know what the relationship of Ricardo Davis was with David Ferrie?
- A. I don't know if there was any. If there was, I don't know.
- Q. With Guy Banister?
- A. I don't know of any relationship of Davis with Guy Banister. I don't have the slightest idea of that, Mr. Garrison. Talking about Guy Banister in '63, I don't know of any at all. He may have had some, I don't know. Who the Cubans were in '63 who were in his office, I don't know any of them.
- Q. Do you know if Ricardo knew Lee Harvey Oswald?
- A. I don't know. I would not think so.
- Q. Who were the other people who might have had any contact with Oswald? Do you know?
- A. That's, well, I mean to tell you, let me put it this way. Oddly enough, Carlos and I had been friends for a long time; in fact, from the days back in Cuba, and Oswald had tried to join Carlos Briogaiar's organization at the same time the camp was going on across the lake. He went over there because of the Marines and tried - and asked Carlo - he said he had some friends from the Marine Corps, and so on and so forth, and thought he could help out with the Cuban Revolution. Now this was the same time the camp was going on across the lake.

Well, then Carlos thought he was pro-Communist. So I told Carlo, I said, "Look, he tried to join our organization, so let us join his organization, because I'm the one who's the peace officer to join the organization. His organization. I would have joined the organization if the - well, I talked to a couple of people in this department here to see if I could have some government okay. As far as joining the organization, I didn't want to because I don't join any movements unless I'm okayed by the government. Because if I had joined this organization without any consultation with the government, I would be in a mess.

Q. Just how many people did he have in his organization? Do you recall?

A. He told me, but you see, I just went there one time and I got the pamphlet and the form to fill out and I became worried then. I became worried about the organization and I wasn't too pleased about it, and it was right after that, the same day, the same afternoon I seen him at, and he told me to wait a while and of course the whole thing came true.

Q. Mr. Quiroga, would you be surprised if I told you that Oswald was not a Communist at all?

A. I would be very, very, very surprised.....(inaudible). I would like to make it very confidential, and if I may I would not like it divulged in any way because my father is in Cuba and may be shot, and this, the same thing I told you, I told the F.B.I. and the Secret Service (my father is in Cuba and would probably be shot, and would die) If my father learns of this and is about to be shot, you know contact our Cuban Consulate in such - nobody knows my name - my name has not been given to any man since I made a statement, public statement, to anyone, in any papers and - well, I made many statements to the papers.

Q. The one difference between the federal organizations which you named, Mr. Quiroga, and our office is that we have gathered a good deal more evidence than they have. Considerably more evidence. And one of the things that we have learned is that Oswald was not a Communist at all. Would it surprise you if I told you that Oswald was not anti-Castro?

A. He had to be anti-Castro, because look when a man dies for Cuba - now I went to Oswald's house and the first thing he did when I walked into that apartment (inaudible).....I went to Cuba in 1960 when the American invaders for - my wife and I got married in 1960 and the Cuban and American revolution was still on and one of my reasons for going to Cuba was...well, I was there in 1960, first of all, to see my father who's in this revolution and it might be the last time I ever see my father. Secondly, I went because of my honeymoon. I could not spend the money here. I had quite a bit of money in Cuba left over and I wanted to use all of it. I didn't want Fidel Castro to take my money, so I went over there and spent the money.

Q. Just when was that?

A. 1960. That was the last time I went over there.

Q. You say that it would surprise you if I told you that Oswald was not anti-Castro?

A. He had to be a Communist. He talked to me for an hour, or a half hour. In that half hour, I'm not lying to you, what I have in this book is what he believe in; for example, he told me that he would kill American soldiers if they land in Cuba; that the whole thing actually, the whole thing was something the United States (inaudible).....The whole thing (inaudible) .....Secondly, why don't we invade Nicaragua and get rid of Simosa. Sure, Simosa's unpopular there. He told me that. In fact I followed the whole thing. In fact I told him why don't we study how to start getting the American people out (inaudible).....In fact, I was really for it all the way. In fact I agreed with everything he told me about the crime of the missiles, and all that stuff. I told him out, I told him myself, you must be one of his men. And one of the reasons why I could have had a chance to really make him let me join his organization because at the time Cubans which have been here for a long time had been those who were for Fidel Castro's revolution - not revolution - Cubans came over there because they like Fidel. Here's a guy who is all by himself. I may have an accent but I speak English good and so I told him that I was here and he could check my background all he wanted because I had been here for a long time. And so at the time, in '63, the people who Castro came over to see in the United States who were here for maybe 20 or 25 years and they still had the revolution. What is they still liked the socialistic revolution.

Q. Would it surprise you if I told you that all these things Oswald said were merely a cover? That he was not a Communist and not anti-Castro at all?

A. It sure would surprise me (inaudible).....

Q. Would it surprise you if I told you that Oswald visited the training camp across the lake? Would that surprise you?

A. Yes, sir. It would surprise me.

Q. Suppose I told you that we had statements of witnesses placing Arcacha here in the summer of '63? Would that be a surprise?

A. I'll say one thing - if he was here in '63 I would hear it or he would call me or if he come back, for example, and I'm not here he would speak with the Chief of the Bureau of Investigation of the Cuban Society.

Q. How do you spell his name?

A. P-R-I-C-E-D-R-E-I.



Q. What was his first name?

A. Orlando.

Q. And does he still live here?

A. No. He's from Miami. In fact that's why I wrote a letter about seeing where Arcacha could be found.

Q. In other words, he was very close to Arcacha?

A. Who?

Q. Piedra.

A. No, he was not close to Arcacha but he had heard from somewhere else, perhaps from Houston, that Arcacha was in Houston; that at one time he came from Houston and told us Arcacha was there.

Q. But you would be surprised if I told you that Arcacha was in New Orleans in the summer of '63?

A. Yes. Because I tell you I never heard of it and if, for example, Piedra had called me up or the Cubans had seen him in New Orleans, or the Cubans had seen him in the office - they were very close to him - and I never heard of it.

Q. Would you be surprised if I told you that we have several witnesses of unquestionable veracity and integrity who have given us statements that they have seen Lee Oswald with Arcacha in the summer of '63?

A. Lee Oswald?

Q. Lee Oswald.

A. Lee Oswald and Arcacha? I never seen them together.

Q. Does that surprise you?

A. Sure it surprises me.

Q. Suppose I told you we have witnesses who have seen Oswald with Ferric?

A. Now that would surprise me. Now that would surprise me.

Q. Would it surprise you if I told you we have witnesses who have seen you with Lee Oswald?

A. Yes. At Oswald's home. Yes.

Q. No. At other times, too.

A. You can't believe that.

Q. We have a disagreement then between you and these witnesses.

Q. ~~And you have these witnesses (incredible)....~~

- Q. Have you ever been to the Mancuso Cafe with Arcacha? That's the little corner cafe on Lafayette and Camp, if you recall.
- A. I used to go there all the time in '61 and '62.
- Q. Do you recall being there with Arcacha and Lee Oswald?
- A. Oh no. I don't recall. There were reports, there were reports that - now this is - let's go back and let's get started and get something out now that you have said something like that. Oswald was in Russia during that time.
- Q. You mean in 1961?
- A. Yes.
- Q. We're talking about '63.
- A. In 1963 I never went to Guy Banister's house.
- Q. How about 1963 in Mancuso's Cafe?
- A. In 1963? I don't know. You'll have to show me the pictures... (inaudible)
- Q. Do you ever recall introducing Lee Oswald to someone as Lee Harvey?
- A. Let's see. When was the last time (inaudible).....
- Q. Do you ever recall introducing Lee Oswald to anybody? Introducing him as Lee Harvey, which was the name he was using at that time?
- A. Lee Harvey? No sir. The first time and the only time I met Oswald was at his house when I went to join his organization. That is the only time - unless my memory doesn't - which, I tell you, he saw me at his house when I first got here, when he called me on the (inaudible) .....was the first time I saw him.
- Q. You don't think it's possible you were with him on some other occasions and just happened to forget it.
- A. Well, I'll tell you one thing, just show me pictures of that..... (inaudible)..... That's impossible, sir, because the first time I ever saw Oswald was in his house and I was never go there since. When I left the Cuban Revolution in '62, that was it. Now whoever gave you all of this stuff - you can ask my wife, you can call her up if you want to --
- Q. What has your wife got to tell us?
- A. Well, when I got out in '62 I got out of the revolution for good. I got fed up with it too. (inaudible)..... As I say, you can quote me here if you want, or probably come to, you know what you want to do now, I was - I never been out, I never been out in Guy Banister's office - in '63 I never went to Guy Banister's office - never did

in my life in '63 and I doubt seriously whether I went in '62 because actually in '62 I said to the Cubans I am not going to Banister's office in '63. And I tell you one thing; they got to prove it too because I never been to Guy Banister's office in '63 at all. Never. I was never there in '63 at all (incredible).....

- Q. We have some witnesses who must be wrong.
- A. You better check on that, because I tell you, I went into Guy Banister's office many, many times. I used to see Guy and I would take the Canal Streetcar, I would take the Canal Streetcar with him. And I would also see the Cubans, I would also see the Cubans who worked with Arcacha. But in '63 I never went back to Guy Banister's office.
- Q. Will you take a lie detector test on these questions which have arisen here?
- A. Yes, I will. You better believe I'll take a lie detector test.
- Q. Then there is no point in going any farther until some of these conflicts are cleared up. We will arrange for the test and notify you.
- A. Positively.

The interview ended here. Several days later, Quirzoga was contacted by Louis Ives with regard to taking a lie detector test and refused. He refused to take the test. He will be asked again at a later date to take the lie detector test.

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