

TO: JIM GARRISON

January 10, 1967

FROM: FRANK KLEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L

RE: INTERVIEW OF ARTURO FINLAY (Residence 2317 $\frac{1}{2}$ Caronelet St.; employed as insurance salesman Louisiana & Southern Life Insurance Co., 225 Baronne St., N.O. La.)

After several attempts I finally interviewed the above person on January 10, 1967. We met at the "Habana Bar" at my suggestion at approximately 7:45 P.M. After explaining to Mr. Finlay that we were merely trying to locate several persons about whom I would ask him, he readily and willingly cooperated. Mr. Finlay is an insurance salesman who was formerly an employee of the Cuban State Department (before Castro). I judge him to be past middle age and he is of a very nervous nature. He appears to be well educated. He describes himself as a "conservative" among the local Cubans. After meeting him at the bar we proceeded immediately to Walgreen's drug store on the corner of Royal and Bienville. The interview ended at approximately 11:00 P.M. above date. Due to the length of the interview and the bulk of material and the rapidity and willingness with which it was told the following is somewhat disjointed and unorganized.

I first asked if he knew the name ANTONIO ALENTADO. He said he does not recognize the name. (See Odio testimony). This name Dr. Guitar also doesn't recognize but describes the name as possibly being Mexican.

I next asked about the name GEORGE RODRIGUEZ ALVAREDA. (Odio testimony p. 372).

He says that he knows this man and that he used to work as an interior decorator with an office or residence on St. Claude Avenue. Alvareda now lives in Jefferson Parish as far as he knows. This man may be known to his daughter.

JOHNNY MARTIN (MARTINO) is unknown to him. (Odio testimony pp. 375 and 380).

FATHER MC KANN is unknown to him. (Odio testimony p. 376). JOAQUIN MARTINEZ de PINILLOS IS UNKNOWN to him. (Odio testimony p. 378). He has heard the name

EMANUEL SALVAT (Odio testimony p. 378) but he can't place where. ANNA SILVERA he has not heard of. (Odio testimony p. 379).

CARLOS QUIROGA:

He knows this man very well. It seems that at one time there was a quadripartite of buddies consisting of Quiroga, JOSE MCUSO (Finlay's son-in-law who now attends Ole Miss and who was a young lawyer in pre-Castro Cuba), and JORGE LEDO (also a young lawyer in pre-Castro Cuba who now works for the La. Welfare Dept. He was employed by the Cuban State Dept. before Castro), and CARLOS BRINGUIER. It seems that these four were all well acquainted with Sergi Arcacha-Smith, especially Bringuiier. He says that Bringuiier is a person who craves attention and is impetuous. Finlay's son-in-law was involved in a rather violent dispute with Arcacha (see below under ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ). The above four seem to have been involved in numerous disputes with Arcacha one of which was on the street in the vicinity of the Habana Bar. These young people were constantly active in forming various groups involved in the Revolutionary Front (called the "frente" generally.

SERGI ARCACHA-SMITH:

He knows this man very well, apparently. Arcacha was an employee of the Cuban State Dept. as an "agent" before Castro. "Agent" merely means he served abroad but without consular status. Arcacha was once married to an Indian and later to a Spanish woman. It seems that while he was serving abroad (not in U.S.) he pocketed about \$40,000.00 of Cuban State Dept. money which he was supposed to pay out to various employees. Arcacha constantly tried to recruit Finlay into the movement when Finlay arrived here. Arcacha at that time had an office in the Delta Bldg. Arcacha once lived in the Parkchester Apts. where it seems there was quite a colony of Cubans at one time. He later lived on Egret St. One man who was constantly in the company of Arcacha was a man with the last name of DAVID. He was also a good friend of Quiroga's. He was in the insurance business in New Orleans and when last heard of was selling encyclopedias in Texas. He was (David)^{involved} in collecting money for and setting up the secret training camp here (note Bringuier testimony) which was located near Covington, La., according to Finlay. He (Finlay) says that he does not know the present whereabouts of Arcacha but he thinks he may be able to find out for me through local contacts. Among people who know or knew Arcacha well are CARLOS DE LA VEGA, who was one of Arcacha's first contacts here and who is now employed at Oschner Found. Hosp. Also HENRIQUE BASCUAS knew Arcacha well and he is presently employed at or sells to Schwegmann's at Broad and Bienville. He can be contacted through "Mr. Humberto" who works at the store. Also LUIS FERRER who lives in Miami, Fla. Arcacha tried to solicit money from one ORLANDO PIEDRA who lived at the time in New Orleans, but now resides in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (JOSE) LOUIS RAVEL knew Arcacha well. Finlay describes Ravel as "too" nice a person who will agree with anyone and who once gave Arcacha \$100.00 toward the purchase of a submarine (for which Finlay says he teased Ravel). Also NENA BANOS knew Arcacha well (also an employee of Oschner Found. Hosp.). There was also a public relations man in the Cigali Bldg., but he doesn't recall his name. FRANK BARTES knew Arcacha well (he will be interviewed shortly as his name was also given by Dr. Guitar).

CARLOS QUIROGA:

Well known by Finlay. Close acquaintance of Arcacha's. Says he is a rather strong headed person but one who will know the most about Arcacha. Quiroga has a brother interred in the Isle of Pines.

ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ:

Known by Finlay well and a close friend of Arcacha's. Now has a shop in the front of the Orleans on St. Charles Ave. Used to run a Spanish language school (Berlitz) here. Finlay doesn't like him at all because several years ago Finlay's son-in-law and some of his cohorts (along with Finlay's daughter) were setting up an organization which was to be a part of the front. They held a number of meetings and Rodriguez was the nominal head. During this time Arcacha bragged that he had "tapes" of all the meetings (to which he wasn't invited even though he was at the time technically the agent or "ministro" of front activities here by virtue of Miami mandate). One night while a group of these people, including Rodriguez, Mcuso (Finlay's son-in-law) and Finlay's daughter were in a car on their way to a function at the Royal Orleans Hotel the subject of the mysterious tapes came up and Arcacha's possession of them, whereupon Rodriguez inadvertently admitted that he had made such tapes and thereupon the car was stopped and a violent argument ensued. Rodriguez later surrendered the tapes to a member of the group to show he "hadn't given them to Arcacha". About this time Arcacha's position of "ministro" was vacated and Rodriguez' father went to Miami in an effort to have his son named "ministro". Naturally the locals protested and were successful in blocking this. It is significant that during the above described meetings there was much anti-Arcacha talk. As far as the Miami "authorities" are concerned the following names appear important as some of the big "frente" people: TONI VARON, MIRO CARDONE, LUIS SANCHEZ, LUIS BODEFOL, and TOMAS GAMBA.

DAVID FERRIE:

When I asked about this name Finlay's reply was "Is that the Eastern Airlines man?" to which I replied that he had indeed worked for Eastern. He says Ferrie was close to Arcacha and that he remembers reading about Ferrie's trouble in the newspaper (which seems to have been noted by the Cuban population generally). He relates the story that on one occasion a man by the name of CHARLIE DODT came to give a talk at the Roosevelt Hotel concerning the survivors of the Bay of Pigs. ~~Arcacha~~ Finlay and another man attended the talk and while there attempted to strike up a conversation with the "PR man" (name unknown) and during the conversation which ensued the man spoke derogatorily about Arcacha the "former delegate" and Ferrie the man who had "been in the newspapers". He spoke of them more or less together.

Generally:

Finlay dosen't know TORRES or SANTANA. He dosen't recognize any of the people in our three pictures. He speaks of a GENERAL URIA as a powerful man and who lives across the river and who was a general in the army or police under Batista. He says that the best index of local Cubans is the CUBAN CATHOLIC CENTER here, which is run by (CARLOS) RAOUL DIAS, an employee of Schwegmann's.

The interview was terminated by Finlay saying he had better get on home and assuring me he would try to locate Arcacha in his own way. I told him to call me at any time if he found him, giving him my office and home numbers. I told him if ever he couldn't reach me he could call you or Ivon (at DA's office number) but to talk to no other person but we three.

Incidentally, I asked him if he had been interviewed by the F.B.I. and he said yes concerning some "frente" people but not since the assassination.

This man absolutely does not want any of the names above cited as having been given by him.

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