

Form No. 1000 (Revised)
 November 1962
 (10-0)

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ORIGIN	Field	OFFICE	New Orleans, La.	FILE NO.	CO-2-34,030
TYPE OF CASE	Protective Research	STATUS	Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION	Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE AT	New Orleans, Louisiana	PERIOD COVERED	December 1-5, 1963		Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE BY	SA Anthony K. Gerrete and SA Roger D. Counts				
<u>SYNOPSIS</u>					
<p>Extensive investigation conducted thus far has failed to establish that the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" had offices at 544 Camp Street, New Orleans. It has likewise been impossible to find anyone who recalls ever seeing Lee Harvey Oswald at this address.</p>					
<u>DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION</u>					
<p>Reference is made to report dated 12-3-63, submitted by SA A. G. Vial and covering investigation conducted during the period November 22, 1963, through December 2, 1963, by SA's A. G. Vial, Anthony K. Gerrets, and Roger D. Counts, as well as SAIC John W. Rice.</p> <p>On Pages 14 and 15 of the above-mentioned report, comment was made on the address "544 Camp Street, New Orleans, La.", which appeared on some of the literature in the possession of Lee Harvey Oswald when he was arrested by members of the New Orleans Police Department on 8-9-63 for fighting with several Cubans. Mention of the address "544 Camp Street" is also made on page 2 of my report of 12-4-63, covering investigation conducted by SAIC John W. Rice and myself during the period November 23-27, 1963.</p> <p>On 12-1-63, reporting agent interviewed Mr. Ernesto M. Rodriguez, Sr., 1205 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans - Telephone: 523-3720.</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. is 72 years of age, having ^{been} born in Havana, Cuba on 8-15-91. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he attended the Chenet Institute (no longer existent) at New Orleans, completing a high school course and specializing in English. This was about 1907. He said he subsequently attended the Soule Business College, New Orleans, graduating therefrom in September, 1909, having completed a 2-year commercial course. He said he returned to Cuba and subsequently established himself in the wholesale electrical business. He said he continued in the electrical business in Havana until</p>					
DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	REPORT MADE BY	SPECIAL AGENT	DATE	
Chief	Orig. & 2 cc's	Anthony K. Gerrete	Anthony K. Gerrete	12-9-63	
New Orleans	2 cc's	John W. Rice	John W. Rice	12-9-63	
Dallas	2 cc's				

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November, 1960, that Castro confiscated all of his assets, including his home in Havana, his country estate outside of Havana, and all of his other properties, bank accounts, etc.

Mr. Portman, Sr. stated that Sergio Aracena Smith, mentioned on Page 15 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63, was formerly the New Orleans delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, with offices at 514 Camp Street, Room 65, second floor, New Orleans, La. He said that Aracena was "fired" from his position as New Orleans delegate to the C. R. C. by the organization's main office in Miami, because specifically all Cubans in New Orleans were against Aracena and his activities - not because he was cooperating with Castro but because of his dishonesty. According to Mr. Rodriguez, Aracena was misapprehending the organization's funds. Mr. Rodriguez was of the opinion that Aracena may possibly be now in Miami but not at all certain as to this.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that Carlos Olayo, mentioned on Pages 14 and 20 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63 knew Aracena well and was with him frequently (they share connection) at 514 Camp Street. Mr. Rodriguez did not know what happened to Olayo's connection with Aracena after the latter was fired.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Aracena made frequent visits to the office of Ronny Calvo, then located at 705 Canal Street, New Orleans. He said Ronny Calvo was the principal organizer of the organization known as "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" with headquarters at the Ramey Hotel, office and not at 514 Camp Street. He said that Ronny Calvo had invited upon Aracena to join or become a part of the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" and that Aracena was connected with the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" even after he was fired as New Orleans delegate to the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," against the opinion of the Cubans.

According to Mr. Rodriguez, Sr., Carlos Olayo was not an actual member of either the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" or the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" but participated in meetings held for the purpose of promoting unity among or between the several local anti-Castro organizations such as the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" and the "STUDENTS' REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT."

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" was founded primarily to raise funds with which to buy arms and supplies for use by the "COMANDO REVOLUCIONARIO" and that the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" had no actual revolutionary activity of any kind against Castro. He stated that the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" was established opposed to Castro and would offer cooperation in the overthrow of Castro.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that Ronny Calvo had a quantity of pamphlets or circulars printed, which he had distributed by hand, soliciting funds for the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" and according to Mr. Rodriguez, Ronny Calvo stated that contributions were to be sent either to 514 Camp Street or to the Post Office box of Sergio Aracena.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. said that he had never seen Oswald in his life and only knew that Oswald had had a fight with Carlos Brindley and two other Cubans on Canal Street, New Orleans, for which he had been arrested on 8-9-63. He said that he had no idea why

the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" was using the address of 514 Camp Street, New Orleans, former address of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," an anti-Castro organization, whereas the "C. R. C." was pro-Castro. Mr. Rodriguez said he did not know of anyone who had belonged to the "C. R. C."

Mr. Rodriguez stated that recent newspaper articles had indicated that Oswald's former landlady at New Orleans had stated that Oswald's wife often attended meetings at 514 Camp Street, yet she could only speak Russian, giving rise to the question of how Oswald's wife could attend such meetings. (Subsequent to this interview SA Vial, New Orleans, Oswald's former landlady, stated that she had never seen Oswald's wife at 514 Camp Street, New Orleans, and that she did not know of anyone who would have looked after Mrs. Oswald's 14 year old child while she would have been attending such meetings. It was her definite belief that Mrs. Oswald did not attend any such meetings and certainly not on a frequent basis.)

On 12-1-63 interviewed Mr. Manuel Gil, 912 Egan St., New Orleans - telephone 914-1171, mentioned on Page 15 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63. Mr. Gil stated that he did not know Oswald personally and had never seen him. He said he had seen photos of Oswald on television and in newspapers since President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Gil stated that he has been a member of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" for about the past two years. He said that this organization formerly had offices at 514 Camp Street, 2nd floor, for about six months during 1961-62; that Sergio Aracena Smith had been the New Orleans delegate to the "C. R. C." He said that Luis Revel, Amesto N. Acarigua, Sr., Amesto N. Rodriguez, Jr., Sergio Aracena Smith, and himself were authorized to sign checks in behalf of the "C. R. C.", as was Carlos J. Orlandier, CPA.

Mr. Gil stated that Carlos Lombardi, publisher of the booklet entitled "The Cuban Fighting Cause" is a notorious communist or so he has heard. He also stated that the "GRUPO REVOLUCIONARIO" is a well-known Communist front and is directed from Havana.

Manuel Gil stated that he is presently employed as Production Manager by "THE PRODUCTION COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS," explaining that he makes tape recordings of broadcasts received from refugees from Communist countries, which recordings are also used in anti-Communist schools. He indicated that some of these recordings are also used in some Louisiana schools. "THE PRODUCTION COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS, INC." has offices at 650 Gretna Street, New Orleans - telephone 523-3944.

On 12-2-63 interviewed Mr. Luis Revel, 1651 Barclay St., New Orleans - telephone 282-7981 (last floor). This is actually the telephone number of Charles L. Gandy, Mr. Revel's son-in-law.

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Mr. Ravel stated that he was formerly connected with the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," 5114 Camp St., New Orleans, and had known the New Orleans delegates to this organization when Sergio Arechua Salch was "friend" from that position. Mr. Ravel said he had never seen how money would personally and could furnish no information about him. Mr. Ravel has a copy of the booklet entitled "The Crisis Against Cuba" but could furnish no information as to why the rubber stamp inscription "P O C 5114 Camp St., New Orleans, La." appeared on this booklet.

Mr. Ravel stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had its behind quite a few people, from leaflets or pamphlets at 5114 Camp Street when they moved from that address, at which time the headquarters for this organization were moved to his home at 6051 Marigny St., New Orleans.

Mr. Ravel stated that Billy Fontalona, of the Fontalona Hotel, New Orleans, had been Chairman and Sponsor of the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE."

Mr. Ravel stated that Sergio Arechua Salch had a poor reputation for honesty insofar as financial matters were concerned that Arechua was suspected of having embezzled some of the funds of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL." He said that Arechua had allegedly gone to Miami about a year or so ago after he had been fired as delegate at New Orleans by the "C R C."

On 12-2-63 reporting agent received a telephone call from Mr. Amos Rodriguez, Sr. He pointed out that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had moved from 5114 Camp Street, New Orleans, better than 18 years ago, whereas it appeared that the activities of the "PLAN PLAN FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" were apparently occurring during July and August, 1963.

On 12-2-63 reporting agent also received a telephone call from Mr. Luis Ravel. He stated that he had received some records and determined that he took over as delegate for the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" in New Orleans, in February, 1962, and a group like that the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" were from 5114 Camp Street to his home. He said only about a month or so. Mr. Ravel stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" is still in existence, the present delegate being Mr. Frank Harris, Metairie, La. Telephone: 835-3662, who maintains the organizational files at 4009 Maple St., New Orleans. Mr. Ravel also stated that Carlos Esquivel had also been a member of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" but is now a delegate for the "STUDENTS REVOLUTIONARY LEAGUE" at New Orleans.

During interviews with Luis Ravel, he informed me that he had left New Orleans about a year or so ago and went to Venezuela to take part in the anti-Castro movement in that country that he overstated his strength by working too hard in such activities and under the strain of a psychiatrist and to have divorced himself from any anti-Castro activities whatsoever because of his health.

On 12-2-63 called at the office of the Hotel, Motel, and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local 1665, located at 5114 Camp St., New Orleans, where I interviewed Mr. Robert Davis, Deputy Secretary-Treasurer, and Mr. Nelson Roberts, Union Secretary, with negative results. They stated that they had never seen Joe Harvey Oswald and knew nothing of the

"PLAN PLAN FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" ever being at this address.

On 12-2-63 called at the office of Amalgamated Association of Street Vendors and other casual Employees of New Orleans, 411-413 Division 1717, with offices on the second floor at 5114 Camp St., New Orleans, interviewing Mr. George B. Gray, President. Mr. Gray stated that he has been in New Orleans for about three years; that he does not recall ever seeing Joe Harvey Oswald in the Hotel Building located at 5114 Camp Street or elsewhere in New Orleans; further, that he had never heard of the "PLAN PLAN FOR CUBA COMMITTEE."

At approximately 2:00 P. M. on 12-2-63 reporting agent telephoned Henry Gaud, Attorney-at-Law Agency Proprietor, with offices at his home located at 016 Decade, The Garden, New Orleans. Mr. Gaud stated that Sergio Arechua Salch had at one time been a delegate to the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" at New Orleans. He said that funds collected by the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" were deposited in the Thibody National Bank, New Orleans; that the drive to raise funds was not too successful and the crusade gradually "folded up." He said he knew nothing of Joe Harvey Oswald ever having any connection with the address at 5114 Camp Street, New Orleans.

On 12-2-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. William A. Kortelesow, President, Metairie Hotel, New Orleans. He stated that he had been persuaded by a number of his friends to join the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" and that he was chosen as General Chairman of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" at New Orleans. Mr. Kortelesow stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" was organized to raise funds in support of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," that it was soon realized that all of the funds raised by the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" as managers, telegrams and radio publicity, etc., etc. He stated that interest in the "CIRCULAR TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" soon faded and the organization "folded up." Mr. Kortelesow could furnish no information re Joe Harvey Oswald.

On the afternoon of 12-2-63 contacted Mr. Sam Hanson, 1117 Kilmer St., New Orleans, owner of the woman building located at 5114 Camp St., New Orleans, who had come to the office for interview. During the interview Mr. Hanson stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had occupied office space in Room 66 of the Hanson Building from October, 1961, through February, 1962; that the office occupied by them rented for \$50.00 per month; that the "C R C" failed to pay their rent monthly and owed him about \$250.00 in back rent when they moved. He stated that on 4-3-63 Mr. Carlos J. Orlander, Certified Public Accountant, Audubon Park, New Orleans, who acted as accountant for the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" on a voluntary basis, drew him a check for \$100.00 for part payment of the rent owed by the "C R C" and that he received no further payments from them. Mr. Hanson stated that Sergio Arechua Salch and Carlos Orlander were connected with the "C R C."

Mr. Hanson stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" left a lot of literature in their office when they moved from the Hanson Building; that when they failed to return for it he had it disposed of by burning it; that he has the Salvation Army or some such organization. Mr. Hanson was shown a photograph of Joe Harvey Oswald but stated that he could not recall ever seeing Oswald anywhere.

Mr. Herman stated that when the "OFFICE RE-ORGANIZATION COUNCIL" created the Herman Building they failed to remove the signs of their office, adding that they had had several sets of keys to the office which they had given to the people who had been in the office had worked. He had occasion to visit the Herman Building on 11/15/63 and on that day he recalled that he was talking over the office, however, Mr. Herman told him that the "OFFICE RE-ORGANIZATION COUNCIL" he said he asked this officer what he was going to do with the office and that the "OFFICE RE-ORGANIZATION COUNCIL" no longer had office space in the Herman Building and that he would have to leave. He said there were no indications that the officer previously. Mr. Herman described this individual as: White; male; 22/24; 5-9 1/2; fair complexion; light brown or blond hair; spoke with a Spanish accent.

Mr. Herman stated that when last seen, Sergio Aracena Smith claimed to be selling life insurance. The name SERGIO ARACENA is listed in the 1962 New Orleans city directory with address as 1525 Duclacais St. His wife's name is shown as "Marlene L." and his occupation is shown as "Salesman." The above address is located in a housing development known as "Franklin Street Apartments."

Mr. Herman stated during this interview that one Jack S. Verlin, who lived at the corner of Esplanade Ave. and V. Prialor St., had brought Sergio Aracena Smith, a white male, to him and recommended him to him as a prospective tenant. He said that he had in fact brought then to Mayor Victor C. Hing, New Orleans, and had helped him to get a license or permit to operate in New Orleans. He said that on one occasion a burglar appeared to have a short wave radio transmitter which he was trying to repair.

Mr. Herman stated that he has not rented any offices to new tenants in the Herman Building, 514 Camp Street, since about September, 1962. He could furnish no information as to why the rubber stamp impression of P. C. G. Sill Camp St. NEW ORLEANS, LA, appeared in the booklet "The Crime Against Cuba" which had been removed from Oswald when he was arrested at New Orleans on 8-9-63.

Mr. Herman stated that someone phoned him about three months ago and wanted to rent offices for night meetings and wanted to make an appointment to meet him. He said nothing transpired as a result of this telephone call. He also stated that about four or five months ago another fellow (white male) about 37/38; 5-11; medium build; light olive complexion; dark eyes; dark brown hair) came to see him about renting an office which he wanted to use for night classes in Spanish. He said this office rented for \$250.00 per month and the subject paid him \$300.00 rental and came back the same week to see him. He said this person never told him he had not recruited sufficient students and that he no longer needed the space. He told Mr. Herman to keep the \$300.00 which he had paid him as rental.

During the late afternoon of 12-2-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. Ronny Calre, 616 Dardaine St., New Orleans, where he resides and where he also operates an accounting agency. Mr. Calre stated that he would recall Oswald applying for a job with his agency while he had offices at 701-5 Canal Blvd., corner Camp and Canal Sts., New Orleans. He said this was several months ago and about the time Oswald had a radio debate over Radio Station WDSU, New Orleans, in August, 1963. He said this was the only time

he had seen Oswald and for that reason he could not be positive in identifying Oswald's photograph that he was the man he had in mind. Mr. Calre could furnish no information re Oswald using 514 Camp Street as an address.

During the interview with Mr. Ronny Calre, he stated that Sergio Aracena may be connected on a flyer act charge; that Aracena Alispedy drove a car from New Orleans to Miami.

On 12-5-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. Robert E. Perolle, Director of Finance, City of New Orleans, also Mr. Joseph Ori-sh, Secretary to the Director of Finance, to determine whether the "FARM PLAN FOR CUBA COMMITTEES" had applied for a permit from the City of New Orleans to operate in New Orleans. It was found that this organization was not of record with the Director of Finance.

On 12-6-63 SAIC Rice inquired of FBI Special Agent Paul Alker, New Orleans, as to the results of any investigation which they may have conducted in an attempt to contact Leo Harvey Oswald and the "FARM PLAN FOR CUBA COMMITTEES" with the address 514 Camp Street, New Orleans. SA Alker advised that they had checked this angle out thoroughly but with negative results.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The overall investigation with reference to Leo Harvey Oswald is being continued at New Orleans and in the event any information is developed which would place him at 514 Camp St., New Orleans, it will be the subject of another report.

END/PJ