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Convinced his work for Cuba was gaining the attention of national leftist leaders, Oswald was encouraged to embark on a new gambit. Having read only a week earlier about anti-Castro militants and their armed training camp, raided by federal agents across the river from New Orleans, Oswald was ready to infiltrate the "enemy." On Monday, August 5, he walked into a Cuban-owned general goods store, Casa Roca.* Behind the counter was the co-manager, Carlos Bringuier, a twenty-nine-year-old Cuban lawyer who also was the New Orleans delegate for the anti-Castro Cuban Student Directorate. Casa Roca served as the Student Directorate's unofficial headquarters, as well as a general clearinghouse for Cuban activities in New Orleans. Bringuier was explaining the Cuban fight against Castro to two fifteen-year-old Americans, Philip Geraci and Vance Blalock, when Oswald walked up to them. Geraci recalled that Oswald asked, "Is this the Cuban exiles' headquarters?"^{5**}

"He started to agree with my point of view and he showed real interest in the fight against Castro," recalled Bringuier. "He told me that he was against Castro and that he was against Communism."⁶ Then Oswald requested some literature, which Bringuier

*Also on August 5, the Soviet embassy notified Marina that her request to enter the USSR had been forwarded to Moscow for processing. And unknown to the Oswalds, that same day, the FBI interviewed his landlady, Jesse Garner. She confirmed he was in the city. At that point, the New Orleans FBI office became chiefly responsible for Oswald. Special agent Milton Kaack was assigned to the matter.

**In his address book, Oswald had three addresses listed on the same page with Carlos Bringuier's name: 117 Camp, 107 Decatur, and 1032 Canal. Harold Weisberg claimed the first address was a formal-dress shop and the second did not exist. He then juggled the numbers and determined that if Oswald had meant 107 Camp and 117 Decatur, that would lead to two anti-Castro militants. It shows the extent to which some will speculate. In fact, Weisberg searched the addresses when he helped Jim Garrison in his 1967 investigation. Instead, a review of 1963 records reveals there is no mystery or mixup. 117 Camp was the Hispanic-American Discount House, owned by two prominent Cubans (it was only a dress shop when Weisberg saw it years later). 107 Decatur was Bringuier's Casa Roca. 1032 Canal was at the corner of Canal and Ramparts, the New Orleans Discount Center, owned by a Jewish Cuban. The addresses were part of Oswald's efforts to discover the headquarters of the Cuban exiles.

Philip Geraci is not the source of all of this & he knew and tried to tell me that it was in my file not on 8/5. That above was not such a "clearing house" - (Geraci) ant. - (Bringuier) regarded Bringuier as a nut & all address in and in Decatur not about me separately

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There is hardly a less dependable source than Bringuier, that was not any kind of training camp. It was a detached home in a small Cleveland suburb off Point of View, in the general area of all the other crazy people gave him. After that, Oswald told me that he had been in the

Marine Corps and that he had training in guerilla warfare and that he was willing to train Cubans to fight against Castro," said Bringuier. "Even more, he told me that he was willing to go himself to fight against Castro."

Bringuier rejected the offer. "I had nothing to do with military operations, and the paramilitary training camp across the river had just been raided a few days earlier," Bringuier says. "My first reaction was this guy could either be an FBI agent or an agent of Castro just trying to find out what we were doing. Something about his offer to train Cubans seemed strange to me." Bringuier walked away from the counter, leaving Geraci and Blalock talking to Oswald. When they told Oswald they were interested in guerrilla warfare, he regaled them with stories of how to derail a train, blow up a bridge, and make a homemade pistol and gunpowder.

The next day Oswald returned to Casa Roca. He left his Marine Corps training manual for Bringuier as evidence of his good faith.* But Bringuier remained uninterested in Oswald and did not try to contact him. Then, three days later, on Friday, August 9, one of his Cuban friends, Celso Hernandez, ran into the store. "He was upset and angry," says Bringuier, "because when he got off the bus at Canal Street, he had seen an American with a sign that said 'Viva Fidel! Hands off Cuba!' Celso's English was terrible, so he cursed the American in Spanish and then ran to tell me."¹⁰ Bringuier grabbed a poster showing the Statute of Liberty with a knife in the back, proclaiming that "90 miles away Cuba lies in chains!" and left with Hernandez to find the American demonstrator. On the way, they stopped at a nearby restaurant and picked up another young Cuban, Miguel Cruz. "So the three of us went to Canal Street and couldn't find the guy," Bringuier says. "We went down the side streets, and no sign of him. We took a streetcar, even with our big sign, and stood up looking in every direction for that Communist, but he was nowhere."¹¹

Bringuier returned to his store. A few minutes later Miguel

*Bringuier still has the manual, and showed it to the author. It is inscribed in pen on the inside front cover: "Private Lee H. Oswald."

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had thought a fool if I showed neighbor about the FBI and the danger was removed. I have a picture of the home I visited. The man who made for living for the little of this he does not know there were three Ph.D. operations. It was not across the river. It was across the river. It was across the river. It was across the river.