ARNESTO RODRIGUEZ, JR., interviewed at his School of Modern Languages, 1208 St. Charles, 12/15/67. 12/17/67

Hpke May told me in advance that if Arnesto did not haveme wired for the FBI before I arrived, he'd be on the phone to them as soon as I left.

Although it isinconsistent with the Warren Commission FBI or SS r reports aluding to his father's interest in having the son made delegate of the CRC vice Arcacha and Jose Cusco's story (of which I recall other sources) that Arnesto gave Arcacha tapes he had made of anti-Arcacha meetings, Arnesto profesed a great dislike of Arcacha. Hesays he hasn't seen Asince 1962 anddoubts A would return to New Orleans. The reason:money.

He saw Ricardo Davis and Quiroga and radio equioment at Arcacha's office (this is the way he described it, as Cusco also did-not as the office of the CRC).

Rene is the name of a Cuban going through New Orleans seeking war materials. He is a lawyer who had had military training in Cuba. He spoke little English.

In the first week of August 1963or the lastof July, he was visited by man he says he later learned was Oswald. At this time Arnesto was busy moving his school from the other side of St. Charles St He said he detected no serious interest on he part of his man in learning Spanish. He denies the story of the FBI reports that he had Oswald'svoice on tape, attributed to his mother, and says his mother had died before that time. He says the tape he did have was one of the Oswald "debate" that he had translated into Spanish for propaganda purposes.

Arnesto said he asked the man to return in two weeks.He didn't. His mother died 6/61. His brother was taken prisoner at the Bay of Pigs. He seems, in hisown mind as well as in his words, to separate himself fromCubans not American citizens and professes less interest than they in exile affairs.

He said the N.O. CIAman Blanco had a nervous breakdown et the end of 1962.

While acknowledging that he did consider taking space at 544 Camp Street, he says he gave no deposit on it. His alleged reasonmwas to have a ddfferent space for the free courses in English he says he gave refugees.He also says the building was a dump and that his interest was not in the CRC space but an auditorium. This is entirely inconsistent with the amount of space he said he'd have needed.

In response to my questions about a man Lovin thought was Araacha who had come to him seeking help in locating war materials, Arnesto says this was not Arcacha but one Antonio, whose lastnamebegins with "V", who represented Alpha 66.The former manager of El Tropical of Havana also came to N.O. on such missions. He says he doesn't recall thename.

Of Jose Cusco, Arnesto sayshe wants to return to Cuba as a Seantor. Going back to 1959-60, he says there was at the Trade Mart, a circle of homosexuals that included Shaw, Will Cuthbert Brady, a man who, in my scrawl looks like "Borden", one Hampton, Mario Bermudez, and Marcel Gomez. He says these were also tpgether in International House and the Cordell Hull Foundation. Bermudez, he says, went toSpain on an ostensible visit and decided toremain there.

He has seen Ferrie recalling a Mexican restaurant, Manuel's, in Jefferson. I shall have to check the tape, which Louis has, to get any other possible details. He saw Ferrie (possibly with Arcacha), more than once at the Meal a Minute

To him Frank Bartes is discrete. He says Bartes gave Castro $1,000,000 some time prior to the nationalization of railroads (Bartes owned one, North shore, according to Alberto Bowler), got some of his wealth out and didn't hold onto it inxhis business ventures in the United States, to which he came after he fled Cuba.

He says Bartes has a brother who owns part interest in the Gaylord department store.

He told me a story he said had been denied to the FBI, that one Allen Young had seen Ruby and Oswald in the Bourbon House.

Wilfredo Mas lived in ~~Miami~~ Claiborne Towers, moved to Ft. Luaderdale, had lumber interests, had money and was attached to the Cuban ????? at 1682 NW 22 Place, Miami. Davis was here in N.O. one-two months ago, incognito. He has gotten heavier. He was then ~~in~~ trying (unsuccessfully) to interest a magazine in paying him for a conducted pictufe-taking tour at Houma.

my impression of Arnesto is consistent with Hoke May's advance opinions. I think he knows much more than he was willing to say. I had to leave without going further. I then wondered if an official interest would have a beneficial influence on his powers of recall and willingness to cooperate.