# Oswald Depicted as CIA Agent, Sources Here Say

## Trend in Investigation Is Reported

Sources close to District Attorney Jim Garrison's presidential assassination probe have reportedly tagged accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald differently than the Warren Commission—making him not a Communist but a United States anti-Castro undercover agent.

The trend in the investigation was said to stem from indications of deep involvement of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency as related to certain principals being checked by the district attorney.

The Warren Commission named Oswald as the lone assassin of Kennedy, who was shot in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, and depicted Oswald as a confused, Communist-oriented young man driven by a deep need for public recognition.

**COVER SUSPECTED**

Oswald's activities on behalf of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee here in the summer of 1963 are believed by the district attorney's office to have been no more than a cover for his real job of working closely with militant anti-Communist Cuban groups, informants say.

A native New Orleanian, Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy's slaying.

The Warren Commission reported Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, less than a month after getting a hardship discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps in Japan. (For his defection to Russia, he was later dishonorably discharged.)

Sources in the district attorney's office say Oswald may have been trained as an intelligence agent at Japan's Atsugi Air Force Base, a known CIA instruction camp, making his Russian trip open to speculation as to its reasons.

In Washington Friday the CIA did not comment directly on any of these reports but cited testimony in which its top officials told the Warren Commission the agency had no connection with Oswald.

John A. McCone, then director of the intelligence agency, said of Oswald: "The agency never contacted him, interviewed him, talked with him, or received or solicited any reports or information from him or communicated with him in any manner."

McCone said that "Lee Harvey Oswald was never associated or connected directly or indirectly, in any way whatsoever, with the agency."

**LINK CITED**

Sources with the district attorney cited a link between Oswald's New Orleans operations and those of two avowedly anti-Communist organizations, all of which used the same Camp st. building as headquarters.

One such group was the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front, headed by Sergio Arcacha Smith, now of Dallas, sought by Garrison in the probe.

The other was Guy Banister Associates, led by Guy Banister, a onetime Federal Bureau of Investigation official and assistant superintendent of New Orleans police.

Arcacha's office was closed in 1962, almost a year before Oswald lived in New Orleans for the last time. But Banister was still operating his detective agency in the same building when Oswald printed the 544 Camp st. address on Fair Play for Cuba handbills he distributed in the New Orleans area.

**TWO ENTRANCES**

The building at the corner of Camp and Lafayette has two entrances. The address used by Oswald for the Camp st. location was the same which Arcacha used. Banister's was 531 Lafayette.

In late 1962 the Crusade to Free Cuba, another anti-Castro organization to which Arcacha reportedly belonged, used the Camp address to receive mail contributions.

The district attorney's office is said to have questioned witnesses who reported seeing Oswald, Banister, Arcacha and the late David W. Ferrie together in the building. Ferrie, a former airline pilot whom Garrison called after his death "one of history's most important men," died at his apartment Feb. 22, five days after the district attorney probe became public.

Banister, who died of a heart attack in the summer of 1964, is being called a key liaison man for U.S. government-sponsored anti-Communist activities in Latin America. The States-Item said a source told it he saw from 50 to 100 boxes of war munitions in Banister's office early in 1961.

Ferrie recounted his role as a CIA commando to a young friend early in 1961, before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion when more than 1,600 CIA-trained Cuban invaders were taken prisoners.

**BOAST ALLEGED**

The young man said Ferrie boasted of his role as an espionage agent and said he was wounded in the abdomen by a knife of a Castro militiamen during a hit-and-run attack on the Cuban coast early in 1961. An autopsy report on Ferrie reportedly shows a 12- to 14-inch scar across his abodmen.

Garrison charged that Ferrie, Oswald and 54-year-old Clay L. Shaw, retired managing director of the International Trade Mart, plotted the death of Kennedy during a conference at Ferrie's Louisiana ave. pkwy. apartment.

While Oswald was handing out Fair Play for Cuba leaflets in front of the Trade Mart during the summer of 1963, an anti-Castro group led by Ferrie was demonstrating on Canal st. a few blocks away.

There is no indication of what part, if any, Garrison may believe Shaw played in anti-Communist activities here. Shaw's attorneys have denied reports published in Italy that Shaw was linked with operations there supported by the CIA.

But they said Shaw was a director of the World Trade Center Corp., which had CIA ties attributed to it by Paese Sera, an influential left-wing afternoon newspaper in Rome.

**BERTRAND INVOLVED**

Garrison insists that Shaw is the mysterious Clay Bertrand who telephoned Jefferson Parish attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr. right after Kennedy's death and tried to employ him to defend Oswald.

Andrews, who told the story of Bertrand's call to the Warren Commission in 1963, was indicted for perjury after testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury that he could not make a definite connection between Bertrand and Shaw. Shaw denied any tie with Bertrand.

However, a Washington correspondent for the New York Times reported March 3 — two days after Shaw's arrest — an unnamed Justice Department spokesman said his agency was convinced "that Mr. Bertrand and Mr. Shaw were the same man."

The correspondent, Robert E. Semple Jr., was reported as saying he was given the information the same day U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said Shaw was investigated in 1963 and cleared of any complicity in Kennedy's assassination.

**BASIS ASKED**

Semple said he went immediately to the National Archives, where documents relating to the presidential slaying are stored, and could find no reference to Shaw in Warren Commission papers. He returned to the Justice Department and asked the basis of Clark's statement.

It was then, he said, he was told that the Justice Department was convinced Shaw was Bertrand and "that was the basis for Mr. Clark's assertion this morning."

Garrison's probing in the CIA-sponsored, anti-Castro Cuban direction was said prompted in part by reports that Cuban groups here were angry with Kennedy because he "closed the door" on government military aid to them in the summer of 1963.

Two groups — one described as "covert" and the other "overt" — were being trained here by the CIA for operations against Castro as late as June of 1963. One of them, said to have been led by Ferrie, was instructed in guerrilla warfare at a camp in St. Tammany Parish near Lacombe.

July 31 a team of FBI agents raided a cabin close to the reported training site and confiscated a ton of war munitions, including 100-pound bomb casings, powder, blasting caps and primer cord.

An FBI source was quoted as tracing the supplies to a Philadelphia origin, but no arrests were made.

Immediately after the Lacombe raid, the so-called "overt" Cuban troop was disbanded and returned to Miami. The "covert" group disappeared.

The day after the Lacombe raid, Secretary of State Dean Rusk was conferring with then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on a proposed nuclear disarmament treaty.

Anti-Red Cubans were said to be disturbed over the growing rapprochement with the Communists.

—Times-Picayune Photo by Terry Friedman.

**LEAVING THE Bun Restaurant at Bourbon and St. Louis Friday night are Neno Nolte (center), after being arrested in connection with charges of burglary, theft and possession and possession of burglar tools; Det. Milton Meyer (left), and Det. C. J. Ardeneaux, both of the Jefferson Parish sheriff's office. Nolte, 50, 120 Stewart, Little Farms, was later booked in Jefferson and also booked in the Orleans Parish central lockup with being a fugutive.**

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