

SOUGHT RETURN TO CUBA

Oswald's Image Peaceful, Gentle

The life and activities of Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans have taken on new significance with probe by District Attorney Jim Garrison into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This is the fourth of five articles.

By NEIL SANDERS

Lee Harvey Oswald told a New Orleans policeman in August, 1963, that Russia does not have true communism—that there are “fat, stinking politicians over there just like we have over here.”

Oswald had been jailed on Aug. 9, 1963, as a result of an altercation with an anti-Communist Cuban leader, Carlos Bringuier.

He was interviewed while in custody by Lt. Francis Martello of the New Orleans Police Department. Martello is now a major.

OSWALD GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT he “seemed to favor President John F. Kennedy more than he did Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev,” Martello recalled.

The officer observed that Oswald had “remained absolutely peaceful and gentle” in the face of provocation by the anti-Red Cubans during the disturbance. Asked if he thought Oswald would have been capable of assassinating the President, Martello replied:

“Well, as far as being capable of the act, I guess everybody is . . . but as far as ever dreaming or thinking that Oswald would do what it is alleged he has done, I would bet my head on a chopping block that he wouldn't do it.”

Oswald was arrested after President Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. He was shot to death two days later, but the Warren Commission concluded that he killed the President, acting alone.

On Aug 16, Oswald again handed out literature supporting Cuban dictator Fidel Castro in front of the International Trade Mart. It was his previous similar activity that led to his ruckus with Bringuier.

At that time, Clay L. Shaw, now under indictment for allegedly conspiring with Oswald and a third man to kill the President, was the Mart's managing director. He maintains he never knew Oswald.

THE NEXT DAY, OSWALD STATED HIS political views for about five minutes on a radio program called “Latin Listening Post.”

Five days later, he appeared on a radio program broadcast by the same station and debated with Bringuier and Edward Butler, executive director of the Information Council of the Americas.

Bill Stuckey, who arranged the debate, told the commis-

sion:

“I think we finished him (Oswald) on that program . . . because we had publicly linked the Fair Play for Cuba Committee with a fellow who had lived in Russia for three years and who was an admitted Marxist.

“The interesting thing, or rather the danger involved, was the fact that Oswald seemed like such a nice, bright boy and was extremely believable before this. We thought the fellow could probably get quite a few members if he was really indeed serious about getting members. We figured after this broadcast . . . why, that was no longer possible.”

ACTUALLY, THE WARREN REPORT SAYS, Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba Committee was a figment of his imagination. It explains:

“The imaginary president of the nonexistent chapter was named A. J. Hidell, the name that Oswald used when he purchased the assassination weapon. Marina Oswald (his wife) said she signed that name, apparently chosen because it rhymed with “Fidel,” to her husband's membership card in the New Orleans chapter.

“She testified he threatened to beat her if she did not do so.

“The chapter had never been chartered by the national FPCC organization. It appears to have been a solitary operation on Oswald's part in spite of his misstatements to New Orleans police that it had 35 members . . .”

It appears that Oswald had for some time been considering leaving the United States again. He applied for a new passport here on June 24 and later told his wife he wanted to go to the Soviet Union with her. She said he was extremely upset and actually wept when he told her that.

Marina wrote a letter in July to the Soviet embassy in Washington stating that “my husband expresses a sincere wish to return together with me to the USSR.” She said she had written the embassy earlier at Oswald's insistence, requesting permission for only herself and June to return.

BUT UNKNOWN TO HIS WIFE, OSWALD apparently enclosed a note with the July letter stating: “As for my return entrance visa, please consider it separately (sic.)”

The Warren Report concludes Oswald may not have intended to go to the Soviet Union directly, if at all. It appears that he really wanted to go to Cuba.

His wife said: “I only know that his basic desire was to get to Cuba by any means, and that all the rest of it was window dressing for that purpose.”