

February 14, 1971

To: Jim S., Harold W.
Subject: Jack Anderson (Plots against Castro)

Thanks for your comments on how to handle Anderson. You can see that most of your suggestions are reflected in the enclosed letter to him.

Despite the length of the letter and the number of enclosures, I have sent him the minimum of additional sensitive material. If he is competent at all he will be careful, check with us further, and not just go to ~~his~~ his sources for comment. Not knowing him at all, I put in the next-to-last paragraph as strong a warning as I thought was proper under the circumstances.

Some additional comments on my letter: my point (1) is in there mainly to balance point (2), and to keep him from buying the Odio story right away. The chance that ~~she~~ she was faking is extremely small indeed, as you know. In point (2), I don't really believe what I say in the parenthetical remark about LHO not being there. I agree with JNS that he may well have been. But Anderson should not be encouraged if he wants to prove the CIA version which he reported. I think the argument against LHO having been recruited by Fidel is persuasive.

Concerning the leads, Jim, could you start to put together what we know about Odio's associates, their organizational affiliations, etc.? There are lots of pages in the 26, and in CD 1546. Third lead; actually, I don't know any Spanish at all but that is really no problem. Next item: I avoided reference to "newly-released" material, although that is what I am talking about. Anderson is capable of irresponsible and sensational use of that material, e.g. on Vallee. On the other hand, perhaps if they talk to Harold they could be encouraged to have a proper interest in that material. Harold; if they try to contact you I hope you can at least take a little time to figure out their attitudes and pass the information on to me. I hope they take the hints and contact either you or me. The main thing is to convince him that he is likely to be the subject of a disinformation operation in this matter.

Jim; ~~you~~ you are right that CD 945 is listed as withheld but appears to be CE 2943. Kelley told Harold that nothing or next to nothing from the SS is still withheld. Harold; maybe you can find out ~~more~~ more.

Jim; do you recall more about the ONI attempt on Castro mentioned in Bud's file? I can't find it without a reference or more information. I haven't gone systematically through that file for what may be relevant.

Harold; you mention a 10/68 interview with Patrick (Hemming) where he says he was given refuge by Odio Sr. and knew Sylvia. I don't think I have or have seen this; I would like to know more. I do have an interview of Patrick by Tom Bethell (BF File, 630-2). Patrick said that right after the assassination he thought Hall might have done it, and called Logue to see if Hall was in town. (This might somehow tie in with the Hall rifle report, filed mysteriously under Watley, where there is a reference to Patrick that apparently has no connection.) Patrick said that the Odio visitors were Hall, Howard, Seymour, and Enrique Molina Rivera, whom he identified as a Castro agent, thereby suggesting that the plot to assassinate Kennedy might have had Castro origins. (I'm quoting Bethell.) Familiar idea, no?

Right now a 'second Oswald' operation makes as much sense to me as any other. Try this out: someone made sure that Odio would remember Leon Oswald. Also that his presence at the Cuban embassy would be noted by the CIA, and by some witnesses. Maybe they slipped up by getting the wrong man photographed as 'Oswald.' To digress a bit - Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte claimed to be an employee of the Nicaraguan Secret Service, said he saw Oswald getting money at the Consulate, later admitted that the story was fabricated to provoke action against Castro. The way he put it, in his later retracted confession, was of course that he made up the story. I wonder whether he was pressured into making ~~the~~ the confession or retracting it?

Harold; you also mentioned that the FBI 'confused' part of the Hall story with Masferred. I don't recall anything on this - could you refresh my memory?

I guess the next move is Anderson's. I agree with Jim that we should do as much as we can on this ourselves first. Jim; put it in writing and keep us both informed of what you come up with.

Sincerely,

Paul