

Please note: Transcript and audio narration may differ.

Audio narration is final.

FRONTLINE

Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?

PBS airdate: November 16, 1993

RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS

Hour Two

Paddle Steamer
NARRATOR

IN APRIL 1963, LEE HARVEY
OSWALD RETURNED TO NEW
ORLEANS.

IN A CITY THAT SEETHED WITH
INTRIGUE AND PARANOIA, HE
WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THE MOST
MYSTERIOUS CHAPTER OF HIS
SHORT LIFE.

AND THE MURKY TRAIL HE LEFT
BEHIND STILL DEFIES A
COMPLETE EXPLANATION.

KURTZ (lecturing)

How many people know who the
person depicted on the screen
behind me is? Who is it?

(STUDENTS)

Lee Harvey Oswald.

Lecture hall
NARRATOR

AT SOUTHEASTERN
LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY,
PROFESSOR MICHAEL KURTZ
TEACHES A COURSE ON THE
KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

HIS STUDENTS EXPLORE THE
MAZE OF CONFUSING AND
SINISTER POLITICAL
CONNECTIONS THAT OSWALD
ENTERED IN NEW ORLEANS. [14"]

KURTZ [lecturing]

There are still unresolved
questions about this man Oswald.
Was he a lone assassin as the
Warren Commission claimed. Was
he a person who was part of
broader conspiracy as many

people have claimed. Or was he simply a patsy, set up to take the blame, while the real people got away with it, as he himself claimed?

French Quarter
NARRATOR

IF THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THEN IT WAS PROBABLY HATCHED IN NEW ORLEANS. IT WAS HERE THAT LEE OSWALD MAY HAVE CROSSED PATHS WITH MEN THAT HATED KENNEDY AND WANTED HIM ELIMINATED.

BLAKEY [661/1]

The crucial question in 1963 is the crucial question in 1993..... Was there a conspiracy? Anybody who's going to make a conspiratorial interpretation of the assassination must connect Lee Harvey Oswald to that group that they posit as the co-conspirators. If you want to posit conspiracy you must show associations. And,unfortunately, for a simple explanation, the associations cut in two directions. This is ambivalence, ambivalence, ambivalence.

KURTZ

If we knew more about this case, particularly the background of Lee Harvey Oswald focusing on the five months he spent in New Orleans during the spring and summer months of 1963 I think that perhaps we could unravel the key to the mystery of the Kennedy assassination that remains as much a mystery today as it did 30 years ago.

NARRATOR

OSWALD ARRIVED IN NEW ORLEANS ALONE. HE HAD LEFT

HIS FAMILY BEHIND IN TEXAS
WITH A FRIEND.

Reily Coffee Co

HE SOON FOUND WORK AS A
MAINTENANCE MAN BY HIDING
MUCH ABOUT HIS PAST FROM HIS
NEW EMPLOYERS AT THE REILLY
COFFEE COMPANY.

RUTH PAINE [B513]

He said that he would call when
he got a job and he did in fact call
in early May and er, talked to
Marina and ... said he'd gotten a
job, that he had a place for them
to stay. Marina was elated, very
happy as she hung up the phone
and er, picked up Juney and said
pappa .. little bit father loves us
and.... and then we loaded up the
car the next day and er, drove to
New Orleans.

Magazine St
NARRATOR

BY NOW OSWALD HAD FOUND AN
APARTMENT ON MAGAZINE
STREET. [7"]

RUTH PAINE

It - it looked all right, had some
old antique kind of furniture in it
and that part was kind of nice but
by evening it was very clear that
it was also terribly infested with
cockroaches and when they
first went into their apartment in
New Orleans I think he really
wanted her to be pleased and she
wasn't that pleased and I felt his
hurt in that...

Alba Garage
NARRATOR

AT THE COFFEE COMPANY,
OSWALD SOON GREW BORED WITH
HIS MENIAL JOB. (05)

POSNER [P.71]

Oswald hated his job as a machine
greaser at the Reily Coffee

Company and every opportunity he had he would go next door to Adrian Alba's garage. Alba had an interest that Oswald had and that was guns. Alba had National Rifle Association, Argosy, Nature and Hunting, different magazines that Oswald would sit and read and in addition Oswald tried to buy a thirty-o-six rifle from him. Another time he tried to buy a Japanese rifle. This was the bond they had.

NARRATOR

OSWALD HAD ALWAYS LIKE GUNS. BUT MARXIST POLITICS WERE STILL HIS RULING PASSION

OSWALD SOF

No sir I am not a communist

NARRATOR

IN NEW ORLEANS, OSWALD BECAME A VERY VISIBLE SPOKESMAN FOR HIS IDEALS.

OSWALD SOF.

And are you a marxist?

Well I have studied Marxist philosophy, yes sir, and also other philosophers.

But are you a marxist? I think you did admit on an earlier radio interview that you consider yourself a Marxist.

Well I would very definitely say that I am a marxist. That is correct. But that does not mean however that I am a communist.

NARRATOR

OSWALD'S POLITICAL HERO WAS STILL FIDEL CASTRO.

OSWALD W/T

Americans in general have only begun to notice Cuba since the

Cuban revolution I always felt that the Cubans were being pushed into ... the Soviet bloc by American policy. I still feel that way.

NARRATOR

OSWALD HAD NO SYMPATHY FOR THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EXILES WHO HAD FLED CASTRO'S CUBA. [9"]

OSWALD W/T [LLP P.16-17]

There are peasants who do not like the collectivisation in Cuba agriculture. some of these people for some reasons or another do not like to apply for ... visas or they feel that they cannot get them, they flee, they flee Cuba in boats, they flee anyway they can go, and I think that the opinion and the attitude of the Cuban Government to this is good riddance.)

NARRATOR
Flags

OSWALD'S UNYIELDING SUPPORT OF CASTRO WAS UNLIKELY TO WIN HIM FRIENDS AMONG THE CUBAN EXILES THEN POURING INTO NEW ORLEANS.

Guerillas

MANY JOINED VIOLENT PARAMILITARY GROUPS AND WAGED A COVERT WAR ON CUBA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CIA AND THE WHITE HOUSE.

JFK SOT

(this flag in a free Havana)

Kennedy Orange Bowl
NARRATOR

with Do

BUT AFTER THE BAY OF PIGS FIASCO, THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, THE KENNEDY'S SUPPORT FOR THE EXILE'S WAR, BEGAN TO WANE.

Flame

THE HARD MEN IN THE
PARAMILITARY ANTI-CASTRO
GROUPS FELT BETRAYED. BY 1963,
THE CUBAN ENCLAVES IN NEW
ORLEANS BURNED WITH HATRED
FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Delsa stairs
DELSA

(plot and counterplot)

NARRATOR

NEW ORLEANS HOMICIDE
DETECTIVE, L.J. DELSA WAS ALSO
AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE
HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS
COMMITTEE.

DELSA

(like a humphrey bogart movie)

Sunset
NARRATOR

IN THE SPRING OF 1963, LEE
OSWALD ENTERED THIS WORLD OF
PLOT AND COUNTERPLOT.

LHO/leaflet

THAT MAY, HE WROTE TO
AMERICA'S LEADING PRO-CASTRO
GROUP, THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA
COMMITTEE. OFFERING TO START
A CHAPTER IN NEW ORLEANS.
THE COMMITTEE DISCOURAGED
HIM, BUT HE IGNORED THEIR
ADVICE.

HE BEGAN PRINTING HIS OWN
PRO-CASTRO LEALETES AND PHONY
MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

HE ASKED MARINA TO HELP HIM
HIM DISGUISE THE FACT HE WAS
THE ONLY MEMBER OF HIS
ORGANIZATION.

PRISCILLA MCMILLAN He
said it needed two signatures. It
would seem as though there were

H2

6

more members. And he told her she was to sign under the name of A.J.Hidell. She refused, but then she agreed and practiced writing A.J.Hidell several times, and then she asked him what's this name, an altered Fidel? And he out and he told her to shut up.

LEAFLETING
Canal St
NARRATOR

OSWALD BEGAN HANDING OUT
LEAFLETS ON THE STREETS OF
NEW ORLEANS

HE CONTINUED TO EXAGGERATE
THE SIZE OF HIS ONE MAN
CHAPTER.

OSWALD W/T

We have had members in this area for several months now. this week we had decided to feel out the public, what they think of our organisation, our aims, and for that purpose we have been, as you say, distributing literature on the street.

Oswald
NARRATOR

OSWALD'S PRO-CASTRO
ACTIVITIES SEEMED GENUINE
ENOUGH, BUT WHAT HAPPENED
NEXT IS A PUZZLE.

Demo

IN AUGUST, HE APPROACHED THE
LEADER OF AN ANTI-CASTRO
GROUP, NAMED CARLOS
BRINGUIER.

CARLOS BRINGUIER

When Oswald came to my store for the first time [was er, I was talking with a couple of American kids and he intervened into the conversation. He became a part of the conversation and] he was explaining how he was against

Castro and he was asking what way he could help us to fight against Castro. He was telling me that he had been in the Marine Corps, that he had experience in guerilla warfare and that he can help us in the guerilla fight against Castro.

The second time that Oswald came to my store was when he brought this guidebook from Marines. I was not in the store at that time and he left this guidebook with my brother in law and he left. He said that this was a present for me to see if this could help me out to fight Castro.

NARRATOR

THEN MANUAL SHOWED HOW TO MAKE BOMBS, BOOBY TRAPS, AND HOW TO CONDUCT SABATOGUE OPERATIONS.

Letter

SHORTLY BEFORE HE SOUGHT OUT BRINGUIER, OSWALD HAD WRITTEN TO THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, CLAIMING THAT ONE OF HIS STREET DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY SOME CUBAN EXILE "GUSANOS" IN FACT, NO SUCH INCIDENT HAD OCCURED.

Canal Street
NARRATOR

BUT IT DID A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN CARLOS BRINGUER FOUND SOMEONE HANDING OUT PRO-CASTRO LEAFLETS ON CANAL STREET.

BRINGUER

... it was the same Oswald that has been in my store a few days

before offering his service to fight against Castro and now he was with the sign Viva Fidel Hands Off Cuba.....

When he recognise me, he smile at me. He even tried to shake hands with me. I refuse to shake hand with him and I start insulting him and cursing him in English.

Police car
8mm footage
NARRATOR

not on that film.

POLICE WERE CALLED TO THE SCENE WHERE AN AMATEUR MOVIE MAKER FILMED THE ANGRY CUBANS AS THEY SURROUNDED OSWALD.

BRINGUER

At that time I get angry and I was approaching Oswald trying to punch him in the face. When he saw that I was approaching and he sensed my intention he put his arm down and he said to me okay Carlos if you want to hit me hit me. Immediately I realised that he wanted to appear as a victim, as a martyr.

NARRATOR

WHEN ONE OF THE CUBANS THREW THE PRO-CASTR LEAFLETS AND THREW THEM ON THE GROUND, THE POLICE ARRESTED OSWALD AND EIGHT CUBANS FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE.

AT THE POLICE STATION, OSWALD'S CONDUCT BECAME EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS.

WILSON

We advised [Oswald] that he was eligible for posting a bond of twenty five dollars in cash or getting a politician to er, parole

him. he said he did, did not want either, he wanted to go to jail.....

We also told him that part of the booking procedure would, to be, that he would have to be photographed and fingerprinted which he agreed to, he insisted almost that we fingerprint and photograph him.

...he seemed to want to er, let everyone know that, who he was and what he was doing.....

....he could have avoided it very, very simply by saying: Hey here's my \$25, let me go home..

NARRATOR
Mugshot

WHAT KIND OF DOUBLE GAME WAS OSWALD PLAYING? ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE HAS CONTINUED TO RAISE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT OSWALD'S TRUE ATTITUDE TOWARD CUBA AND WHOSE SIDE HE WAS REALLY ON.

L.J.DELSA [P14]

the leaflets that Oswald hands er, er, hands out at the er, ITN building and on Canal Street is er, pro-Castro leaflets Hands Off Cuba, telling the government to leave it alone, let it stay communist, let Castro alone and that er, the return addresses that are stamped on it is 544 Camp Street....].

BLAKEY [P.33]

in that same building erm, there is a private detective agency by a man named Guy Bannister.....And Guy Bannister erm, is in - certainly not pro-Castro, he's an ex- FBI agent from New York erm,

who is a erm, a violently erm,
anti-Castro

Delphine still

BUT ACCORDING TO ONE OF
BANISTER'S SECRETARIES,
DELPINE ROBERTS, LEE OSWALD
WORKED
WITH GUY BANISTER IN 1963,
WHO GAVE HIM AN OFFICE IN THE
CAMP STREET BUILDING TO
MOUNT HIS PRO-CASTRO
CAMPAIGN.

MARY BRENEGEL

.... When the news accounts from
Dallas were showing Oswald that
Delphine said to me, well you
know he was in this office, you
saw him and I told her that not to
my knowledge, I didnt know that
I had seen him. To me he would
just have been another face in the
crowd, and she was just calling my
attention to the news in Dallas
tjhat this man had been in our
office

NARRATOR

JOE NEWBOROUGH IS A PRIVATE
DETECTIVE WHO WORKED WITH
GUY BANISTER IN NEW ORLEANS.

NEWBOROUGH

****CHECK EXACT SYNC*****
(This is where camps street was
this is where Oswald had an
office)

NARRATOR

NEWBOROUGH THINKS THE CAMP
STREET ADDRESS ON OSWALD'S
LEAFLET PROVES NOTHING.
BECAUSE BANISTER'S OFFICE WAS
ON LAYFAYETTE STREET AROUND
THE CORNER.

NEWBOROUGH [P.12]
Set-up sequence

Absolutely you could not find
yourself in Bannister's office if

you went through the entrance of 544 Camp. It went strictly to the second floor of the building, there was no stairwell down. You had to exit the second floor to the sidewalk, walk around the corner and go into Banister's office.

Q: So they had separate entrances?

A: Totally separate entrances and probably 60 steps apart.

Camp Street
NARRATOR

BUT NEW WITNESSES TO AN
OSWALD/BANISTER CONNECTION
CONTINUE TO COME FORWARD,
INCLUDING PROFESSOR MICHAEL
KURTZ.

KURTZ

I saw them once in the Mancuso's restaurant on the ground floor of the infamous 544 Camp Street building....this is some time during the summer of 1963 I went across the street to get a cup of coffee and which I did and there were Bannister and Oswald sitting together at a table chatting with each other. It was strange company for the Lee Harvey Oswald portrayed by the Warren Commission as a Marxist, a Leninist, a pro-Castro individual to be seen in the company of an extreme right wing individual like Guy Bannister.

NARRATOR
Airplane/Alpha -66

GUY BANNISTER WAS ACTIVELY
INVOLVED IN THE SECRET
TRAINING OF CUBAN EXILES

ONE OF BANISTER'S COMRADES
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CASTRO

WAS A FORMER AIRLINE PILOT,
NAMED DAVID FERRIE. [15"]

SUMMERS 9003

false

he was a brilliant flyer, he'd flown
in and out of the bay of pigs,
taking guerillas in, and extracting
them after the operation/

He was heard to say sometime
after the bay of pigs that
President Kennedy had betrayed
the nation in his conduct of that
operation, and he said on one
occasion that the President ought
to be shot and later some people
sould come to believe that he
meant it.

CAP

IN THE 1950'S, DAVID FERRIE
COMMMADED A SQUADRON IN
THE CIVIL AIR PATROL, BUT WAS
SUSPENDED FOR INDOCTRINATING
THE YOUNG CADETS WITH HIS
ANTI- COMMUNIST VIEWS. IN
THE 50'S LEE OSWALD WAS IN
THE C.A.P. AND SEVERAL
FELLOW CADETS SAID DAVID
FERRIE WAS ONE OF OSWALD'S
INSTRUCTORS. [24"]

Summers 9009

There are some clues to suggest
that Ferrie and Oswald's paths
crossed again in the summer of
1963/most persuasive of all were
/ a policeman, a registrar of voters
and some civil rights activists who
said a car arrived one day in the
little town of Clinton, outside New
Orleans, and three white men
were in it, one of them was
Oswald, who most oddly, got out of
the car--the only white face to
line up in a long line of blacks
waiting to register to vote/ and
they said/one of Oswald's

FERRIE MUG SHOT
NARRATOR

companions was a man who looked exactly like David Ferrie. Ferrie at the time looked pretty odd he suffered from alopecia, and he wore a wig, and indeed, false eyebrows. Not the sort of guy you forget in a hurry.

IF DAVID FERRIE WAS WITH OSWALD IN 1963, IT COULD BE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE FERRIE, AS WELL AS GUY BANISTER, WAS CONNECTED TO ONE OF THE MAJOR FIGURES IN ORGANIZED CRIME.

BLAKEY

We took very seriously the possibility that organized crime had a hand in the Kennedy assassination. The FBI had an illegal electronic surveillance on the major figures of organized crime. We did a survey of that surveillance. What we did find and shockingly is repeated conversations by these people that indicated the depth of their hatred for Kennedy and actual discussions of he ought to be killed, he ought to be wacked.

Marcello
NARRATOR

NO MOBSTER HATED THE KENNEDYS MORE THAN CARLOS MARCELLO. THE MAFIA CHIEFTAN OF NEW ORLEANS, A PRIME TARGET OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S WAR ON ORGANIZED CRIME. IN 1961, ROBERT KENNEDY HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED MARCELLO'S ARREST AND DEPORTATION. THE BOSS OF NEW ORLEANS WAS HUMILIATED.
[18"]

BLAKEY

Carlos Marcello talks about erm, getting - he speaks in Sicilian, getting the stone out of my shoe, and talking about getting a nut out to kill, not erm, Bobby Kennedy, who was his nemesis, but John Kennedy, who was the - the man behind erm, the nemesis.

NARRATOR
Marcello/Ferrie

not do

MARCELLO RETURNED TO NEW ORLEANS TO FIGHT THE DEPORTATION ORDER. HIS ATTORNEYS HIRED BOTH GUY BANISTER AND DAVID FERRIE AS INVESTIGATORS IN THE CASE. FOR ROBERT BLAKEY, WHO BELIEVES THE MAFIA WAS INVOLVED IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, THIS IS THE CRITICAL LINK.

BLAKEY [P.37]

no showing of how

When you find David Ferrie, who is an investigator for Carlos Marcello, being a boyhood friend to Lee Harvey Oswald and with that summer, and with Carlos Marcello at that very point in time, you have an immediate connection between a man who had the motive, opportunity and means to kill Kennedy and the man who killed Kennedy

POSNER

I think what many conspiracy critics do is they try to take the chain, the connections, too far back. They say Oswald knew Ferrie and Ferrie did some investigative work for Marcello.

Marcello hated Kennedy and therefore it must have been Marcello deciding to kill Kennedy down to Ferrie and Banister who

gave the order to Oswald and he went off and did it. It's wonderful speculation. There is just no evidence to back it up.

CAP
NARRATOR

GERALD POSNER DISPUTES ALL THE SIGHTINGS OF OSWALD AND FERRIE ...IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL AND IN 1963, POINTING OUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY HARD DOUCMENTARY EVIDENCE LINKING THE TWO MEN.

[8"]

POSNER [P.74]

given to him

I discovered documents from the Civil Air Patrol that show that David Ferrie was suspended from the CAP in 1954 and was not reinstated until 1958. The documents show on the record that he was not even there in 1955 supposedly when Oswald was a member.

NARRATOR

BUT FRONTLINE HAS UNCOVERED THE FIRST HARD EVIDENCE THAT PLACES OSWALD AND FERRIE TOGETHER.--- THIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1955 AT A C.A.P. BARBECUE..

JOHN CIRAVOLO AND TONY AZENHOFFER WERE IN THE C.A.P. WITH LEE OSWALD.

*****CHECK ACTUAL SYNC*****

CIRAVOLO & AZENHOF

This is several cadets, including.... [Oswald on the end in the white t-shirt, myself standing in front of him and over here in the white t-shirt and the helmet is Dave Ferry]. I don't recognise any of the

other adults or can't name any of the other cadets.

On the end here in the white t-shirt that's Lee Harvey Oswald, this is myself over here with the adults and the white t-shirt and the helmet that's Dave Ferry. I don't recognize any of the other adults or can't name any of the cadets.

There's a few of their faces that that stick out and say yeah I know this guy but it's been so long I can't put any names on them, except because of all the publicity you can recognise Ferry, you can recognise Oswald.

They were both in the CAP at the same time. They were both wearing CAP uniforms.

NARRATOR

AFTER THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, DAVID FERRIE DENIED THAT HE EVER KNEW LEE OSWALD.

MARTENS [P.23]

I never heard David Ferrie mention Lee Harvey Oswald. I never met him. I would certainly remember if I ever did...

NARRATOR

LAYTON MARTENS WAS ALSO A C.A.P. CADÉT. HE STAYED FRIENDLY WITH FERRIE, UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1967.

MARTENS

It does appear as though David Ferrie is in the picture and on the other end of the picture is a person who looks like Lee Harvey Oswald.... It would indicate there is the possibility of an association, but if and to what extent it's



SUMMERS

another question. Of course, we've all been photographed with people and we could be presented with photographs later and asked well do you know this person, obviously you must because you were photographed with them. Well no it's just a photograph and I don't know that person. It's just someone who happened to be in that picture. But it's interesting.

The shame of this thing is that the whole question of Oswald's activity in New Orleans was never properly investigated by officialdom in the beginning. Guy Banister, the former FBI agent at 544 Camp Street was never asked by anybody, about Lee Harvey Oswald. David Ferry was questioned but the investigation was dropped very quickly, and the names of neither Ferrie nor Banister are in the Warren Report--simply doesn't mention either of them.

NARRATOR
New Orleans

IF OSWALD DID HAVE A SECRET CONNECTION TO FERRIE AND BANISTER IN 1963, THE NATURE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP REMAINS UNCLEAR.

Oswald leafleting

AND THAT EVIDENCE MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE REST OF WHAT IS KNOWN OF HIS TIME IN NEW ORLEANS, WHERE OSWALD CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE FOR CASTRO

EPSTEIN [P.23]

I think if you take Oswald at the simplest level, what he's trying to do is enhance his credentials as a supporter of Castro. One of the ways he's trying to do this is to actually work for Castro. Another way, he's trying to find out information that would be of use to Castro and the normal way you find out information is you join the enemy.

NARRATOR

THAT SUMMER, OSWALD WROTE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN NEW ORLEANS, STRESSING HIS CREDENTIALS AS A MARXIST, AN ORGANISER AND STREET AGITATOR.

IN THIS RESUME HE WROTE THAT HE HAD "INFILTRATED" CARLOS BRINGUER'S ORGANISATION.

Courthouse

WHEN OSWALD AND THE CUBANS APPEARED IN COURT FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE OVER THE LEAFLETING INCIDENT, BRINGUIER WAS DETERMINED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE YOUNG AMERICAN. [10"]

BRINGUER [P.5.]

A friend of mine went to Oswald's house and he was telling Oswald that he was for Castro, then they start talking over there and in the mean time er, Oswald's child came out and Marina came after that and they start talking in Russian. That is when we learned that Oswald was speaking Russian. My friend ask Oswald if that was Russian where he had learned Russian. Oswald's answer was that he was attending ... university taking Russia studies.

Q: A lie.

A: And that is a lie. He was liar, he lie a lot in his life.

INCA VOICE OVER

These are officials of INCA, the Information Council of the Americas,

NARRATOR

OSWALD, WHO HAD CONCEALED HIS DEFECTION TO RUSSIA, WAS EARNING THE ATTENTION OF PROFESSIONAL ANTI-COMMUNISTS.

INCA VOICE OVER

Ed Butler, who conceived and initiated the organisation. As executive vice president, he is in charge of the INCA program and engages in direct personal conflict with communism.

WHEN ED BUTLER AND CARLOS BRINGUIER WERE INVITED TO DEBATE OSWAD ON A LOCAL RADIO SHOW, BUTLER DID SOME BACKGROUND RESEARCH

BUTLER [P.5] We found out, after I had accepted er, the interview about Oswald's defection to Russia.

BUTLER [756]

Where did the information come from?

A: The information came from the House UnAmerican Activities Committee files. They sent me the material, I requested it and they sent it.

Q: And where did they get it from?

A: They got it from the newspapers, the open press. That's basically what they sent me. Clippings that Oswald had defected to Russia and so forth.

WDSU STUDIOS
NARRATOR

ON AUGUST 21, BUTLER AND BRINGUIER MET OSWALD AT THE STUDIOS OF WDSU RADIO.

BRINGUER

Before the debate we were talking over there for about 15 minutes and and he saw my guidebook, the guide book for marines that he had left for me, he said to me 'Carlos, please don't use that guide book because it's obsolete, you're going to get killed.'

WDSU ANNOUNCER

And now back to "Conversations Carte Blanche". Here again, Bill Slatter...

AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THE DEBATE WAS RE-ENACTED ON FILM, USING THE ORIGINAL SOUND RECORDING OF OSWALD'S VOICE.

RADIO DEBATE
BILL SLATTER

Could you straighten out that point. Are you or have you been a communist?

NARRATOR
Tapes whirl

OSWALD SEEMED UNAWARE THAT HIS OPPONENTS KNEW ALL ABOUT HIS DEFECTION TO RUSSIA. HE WAS ABOUT TO BE AMBUSHED.

BILL SLATTER (?)

Mr Butler brought some newspaper clippings to my attention...

BILL SLATTER

Mr Oswald, are these correct?

OSWALD

That is er correct, yes.

BILL STUCKEY

You did live in Russia for three years?

OSWALD

That is, correct. When I think those...the fact that I did live for a time in the Soviet Union gives me excellent qualifications to er repudiate charges that Cuba and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee is communist controlled.

BUTLER

I think he was surprised, but again he handled it, if you listen to the debate, very cooly...it impeached his credibility, and yet he managed to turn it to his advantage which is I think shows some aplomb, certainly a lot more than most people give him credit for.

BRINGUIER

I would like to know...is it "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" or Fair Play for Russia Committee"?

OSWALD

That is of course very provocative and a question that I don't think it requires an answer.

BUTLER

Oh, I see. Would you say then that the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" is not a communist-run organisation?

OSWALD

We have been investigated from several points of view, that is points of view of taxes, allegiance, subversion (?), and so forth.(?) have, as I say, absolutely zero.

BRINGUER

He was angry that it has been discovered that he had tried to defect to the Soviet Union and he had been exposed in the debate and that I could still see his face becoming red and redder and redder.

BILL SLATTER

Gentlemen, I have to interrupt. Our time's almost up on "Conversations Carte Blanche".... Thank you very much and good evening.

BUTLER [756]

The last thing that I remember was Oswald taking out a notebook, glancing up at me and fixing me with a gaze of hatred and asking for my name and address and phone number and writing it down in the notebook. Snapping it shut, looking up and giving me that Oswald sneer. I went one way and he went the other.

NARRATOR

THE DEBATE ENDED OSWALD'S CAMPAIGN FOR CASTRO ON THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS., AND HE WITHDREW FROM THE PUBLIC STAGE.

RADIO

LIBRARY

BY NOW HE HAD BEEN FIRED FROM THE REILLY COFFEE COMPANY, THE THIRD JOB HE'D LOST IN A YEAR.

AND HE BEGAN SPENDING EVEN MORE TIME AT HIS LOCAL LIBRARY. [18"]

THAT SUMMER, HE CHECKED OUT BOOKS ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF HUEY LONG, MAO TSE TUNG'S REVOLUTION AND JOHN F. KENNEDY. OSWALD STILL DISAGREED WITH KENNEDY ON CUBA, BUT HE SEEMED TO LIKE THE PRESIDENT.

MCMILLAN

But insofar as he spoke about Kennedy it was to praise him, and he suffered as she did, in the summer of 1963 over the death of the Kennedy's baby. Both he and Marina took this very personally, and they thought if the best doctors couldn't save the Kennedy's baby, then the baby they were expecting might not be born alive either.

MCMILLAN [3A, P.13]

One evening Marina came home about dusk, and she saw Lee on the screened in porch of their apartment in New Orleans and he was perched on his knee with his rifle on his shoulder and he was aiming it. She was extremely surprised at this. She hated to see him with the rifle again and he continued to dry fire the rifle and aim it for about three weeks.

NARRATOR

MARINA SAYS LEE TOLD HER HE WANTED TO GO FIGHT FOR

CASTRO, AND HE BEGAN
HATCHING A SCHEME TO HIJACK
A PLANE TO HAVANA.

MCMILLAN [3A P.17]

He would sit in the front row of the airplane cabin and at a certain point he would put a gun in the back of the pilot of the aircraft. She would stand up and keep the entire passenger contingent at bay with a pistol and would speak to them and she would speak to the crowd and tell them to be quiet. Marina laughed at him and said "Well, but I don't speak English. How am I going to explain to them?" Eventually she laughed him out of the skyjacking plan and he came home one day and said "Mamma, I found a legal way. I'll go to Mexico"

NARRATOR
skyline/bus

ON SEPTEMBER 25, OSWALD
DISAPPEARED FROM NEW
ORLEANS. WHERE HE WAS
THAT NIGHT IS STILL ONE OF
THE INTRIGUING MYSTERIES
OF HIS LIFE. THERE IS
TESTIMONY THAT BETWEEN 7
AND 10 PM, HE MADE A
CALL TO A LEADER OF THE
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY IN
HOUSTON.

BUS SEQUENCE

THE WARREN COMMISSION
BELIEVED OSWALD TOOK A BUS
FROM NEW ORLEANS TO HOUSTON.
BUT THERE ARE NO RECORDS TO
CONFIRM THAT CONCLUSION.

MEANWHILE , MORE THAN 200
MILES AWAY IN DALLAS, THREE

MEN , TWO LATINS AND AN AMERICAN, SHOWED UP UNEXPECTEDLY

Odios still

only 1 had three & only 2 were then there

AT THE DOORSTEP OF THREE YOUNG CUBAN EXILES WHOSE FATHER HEADED AN ANTI-CATSTRO ORGANIZATION.

Odios set-up

SYLVIA AND ANNIE ODIO AGREED TO THIS RARE INTERVIEW WITH FRONTLINE.

ANNIE ODIO [P.3-4]

One night I opened the door for three men that came to see one of my sisters. I opened the door, they were in a small hallway with bright lights overhead

SYLVIA ODIO [cont.]

.....the taller man introduced the other two men. Leopoldo, he said that was his name. Erm, he introduced the American who was in the middle as Leon Oswald, and he introduced the one that seemed Mexican and spoke with a Mexican accent as Angelo.

And are you quite clear about it that when those men visited your apartment the American was introduced as Oswald?

The American was introduced as Leon Oswald. That will always be in my mind very clearly.

night shots
NARRATOR

ACCORDING TO THE ODIO SISTERS, LEON OSWALD SAID NOTHING, AS LEOPOLD AND ANGELO ASKED FOR HELP RAISING MONEY THE ANTI-CASTRO CAUSE.

SUSPICIOUS, THE ODIO SISTERS DECLINED, AND A HALF HOUR

LATER, THE THREE MEN DROVE
AWAY INTO THE NIGHT.

SYLVIA ODIO [P.5-6]

I think it was two days after that er, Leopoldo, who had clearly a Cuban accent, called me on the phone and erm, he erm, tried to be very friendly on the phone with me and was trying to sell me the idea er, of the American. Er, the first thing that he asked was - was what did you think of the American? And actually I had not formed any opinion of the American at the time. He said, 'well, you know, he is erm, we don't know what to make of him, he's kind of loco. Er, he's been telling us er, the Cubans should have murder or should have assassinated er, President Kennedy right after the Bay of Pigs and they didn't have any guts er, to do it. They should do it. And er, it was a very easy thing to do at the 'time.

Posner set-up

NARRATOR
BUT AUTHOR GERALD POSNER
BELIEVES SYLVIA ODIO IS
MISTAKEN ABOUT THE DATE THE
THREE MEN APPEARED AT HER
DOOR[12"]

POSNER [P.83]

It's physically impossible for Lee Harvey Oswald to have been at the Odio residence on the days that she describes. She says that he was either there on the 26th or 27th of September, a Thursday or Friday, maybe at the very earliest the 25th.

SYLVIA ODIO [P.6]

The reason that I remember so - so clearly was because that same night or I think either that night

or the night after was I wrote my father, and I also erm, told a friend of mine who was my father confessor, about the visit.

Fr. Macahan

ODIO TALKED TO FATHER WALTER MACAHAN AFTER THE PHONE CALL FROM LEOPOLDO.

FATHER MACAHANN

I think I can pin a date to this conversation with Sylvia. It was the day in which er, I spoke to her about her attending er, a charity event at which Janet Leigh was going to appear in Dallas.

NARRATOR

IF FATHER MACAHANN IS CORRECT ABOUT JANET LEIGH, THEN THE THREE MEN MUST HAVE VISITED THE ODIOS TWO DAYS EARLIER ON SEPTEMBER 25-- THE ONLY NIGHT OSWALD COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN IN DALLAS.

SYLVIA

... they were trying to sell me the American because they spoke that he was a marksman, that he had been an ex-marine, and that he was er, someone who could be used and who could be an asset to any organisation.

NARRATOR
Evil alley

LEOPOLD AND ANGELO HAVE NEVER BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND THE MEANING OF THIS INCIDENT REMAINS ELUSIVE...IF OSWALD WAS THERE..WAS HE INFILTRATING ANOTHER ANTI-CASTRO GROUP, OR WAS SOMEONE SETTING HIM UP TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION?

Mexico Bus

LEE OSWALD IS NEXT SEEN THE FOLLOWING DAY, ALONE ON BUS HEADING SOUTH FROM HOUSTON TO MEXICO CITY.

ON THE BUS WERE TWO YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WOMEN.

PAM MUMFORD

And it was on that bus that we encountered Lee Oswald.

PATRICIA WINSTON

...he introduced himself as Lee... Well, erm, we got on the bus in the evening, and soon after we got on the bus he, er, he got up and came down to the back of the bus to talk to us. I guess he wanted to help us, er, heard us speaking English, and wanted to - to talk to us. Erm, and so we talked about our travels, and, er, he - he told us that, erm, he'd been to Japan, that was the closest he'd been to Australia, and, er, that he'd been to Russia. And, erm, he went then and got his passport, and showed us the Russian stamp on his passport.

Mexico city

IN MEXICO CITY, AS HE HAD IN HELSINKI FOUR YEARS EARLIER, OSWALD WOULD TRY TO ENGINEER ANOTHER DEFECTION ... THIS TIME TO CUBA.

Hotel Comercio

NARRATOR
NOT FAR FROM THE BUS STATION, HE CHECKED INTO THE HOTEL COMMERCIO.

HE TOOK A CHEAP ROOM ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.

HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM A
FILE ON HIS PRO-CASTRO
ACTIVITY IN NEW ORLEANS...

.IT CONTAINED LETTERS FROM
THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA
COMMITTEE, NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES... HIS HANDWRITTEN
BIOGRAPHY, AND THE PAMPHLETS
AND PHONY MEMBERSHIP CARDS
HE HAD PRINTED..

THE DAY HE ARRIVED IN MEXICO
CITY, OSWALD LEFT THE HOTEL
AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE
CUBAN CONSULATE, WHERE HE
WAS MET BY A MEXICAN
EMPLOYEE NAMED SYLVIA
DURAN.

DURAN

Well, it was er, near lunch hour
and he came and he asked for an
application for going to Cuba.I
remember that he make a kind of
impact on me, because he was
travelling with all his papers that
er, demonstratethat he was a
friend of the Cuban revolution....
and he showed me his card
belonging to the - to the Fair Play
for Cuba.

NARRATOR

DURAN TOLD OSWALD HE
COULD GET INTO CUBA ONLY ON
A TEMPORARY VISA, AND
ONLY IF HE WERE IN TRANSIT
TO RUSSIA.

SO OSWALD
WALKED TWO BLOCKS TO THE
SOVIET DIPLOMATIC
COMPOUND. THROUGHOUT THAT
SUMMER, THE OSWALDS HAD
BEEN TRYING TO BE RE-ADMITTED
TO THE SOVIET UNION. LEE HAD

TOLD MARINA HE WOULD TRAVEL
THROUGH CUBA AND THEN MEET
HER IN RUSSIA

AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, HE MET
WITH THREE "CONSULAR"
OFFICIALS. THEY WERE, IN FACT,
ALL KGB OFFICERS. IN THEIR
FIRST INTERVIEW, THEY CLAIMED
IT WAS JUST HAPPENSTANCE
THAT THEY WERE PRESENT WHEN
OSWALD SHOWED UP.

NECHIPORENKO - KGB X 3 [5]

...our common opinion was
that the man had a very unstable
nervous system was extremely
excited by something... the reasons
for this were not known to us of
course .. and that his extremely
excited condition changed even
during his visit to a condition of
well depression after extreme
excitement.

KOSTIKOV

During our talk Oswald was feeling
in his pockets taking out all sorts
of papers and at one of such
moments he took out of this ...
pocket a gun and put it in front of
him. Since I sat opposite him, I
took the gun and passed it over to
Pavel's table. Then Pavel started
asking him why he carried the
gun and about the FBI. He can tell
himself about all this.....

These questions were put by
Pavel Antonovich, who asked him:
"Why did you come to us with a
gun? What do you need a gun
for?" "I am afraid of the FBI, I am

being persecuted, so I want to have a gun to protect myself for personal safety". That was his answer.

NARRATOR:

OSWALD WAS TOLD IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO GET A RUSSIAN VISA. BUT WITHOUT A SOVIET VISA, HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO GO TO CUBA. BACK AT THE CUBAN CONSULATE, OSWALD TOOK THE NEWS BADLY.

DURAN

Well, then I explain and he got in that moment he couldn't believe what I was saying and he said, 'but that's impossible. I have to go to Cuba right now, because I don't- I only had a permission of three or four days in Mexico City so I have to go.

DURAN [P.8]

I became er, frightened, I bec - I was becoming in fact a little bit afraid, no. And so I called the consul, Ascue' and he started reasoning with him..... I thought that in a moment now he will be crying, because his face, he was very excited, he was very red and - and his eyes is like with the - well, with - bright, shining, like he - he was in tears so. And er, he didn't want to understand.

NARRATOR

DURAN SAYS OSWALD LOST HIS TEMPER WITH CONSUL ASCUE

SYLVIA DURAN he became more and more excited, if it's possible, Oswald, no. Then Ascue says, 'listen, get out. Get out.' But he was always already excited. 'Get out.' And he went to the door but it was locked. He opened and said,

'get out, and if I see you again, if you come again, I'm going to kick you out.

NARRATOR
Goon squad

AS OSWALD LEFT THE CUBAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES, HE WAS BEING WATCHED. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY CUBAN INTELLIGENCE, SHOW THE CIA OPERATIVES AT WORK.

FROM A HOUSE ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE CUBAN CONSULATE THE CIA MAINTAINED A CONTINUOUS PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE. HERE A TELEPHOTO LENS CAN BE SEEN POKING THROUGH THE BLINDS.

HELMS

It's my recollection that at the time of Oswald's presence in Mexico City there was something wrong with some of the cameras that we were using. We were trying to fix it, but the fact remains that there are no photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald taken while he was in Mexico City at that time and I can't explain one hundred per cent why not.

NARRATOR

BUT THE RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED REPORT ON OSWALD'S MEXICO CITY TRIP WRITTEN BY THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE TELLS A DIFFERENT STORY.

SUMMERS

*****check sync****

We now have evidence from CIA officers saying there was such photographs...one describes them,

one a profile shot of Oswald ,
another shot from the rear

NARRATOR

AND THE CIA STATION CHIEF IN
MEXICO CITY, THE LATE WIN
SCOTT, IN HIS RECENTLY
DECLASSIFIED MEMOIRS, ALSO
SAID THE CIA TOOK PICTURES OF
OSWALD.

Actor's voice "These visits and
conversations are not hearsay: for
persons watching these embassies
photographed Oswald as he
entered and left each one and
clocked the time spent on each
visit.

HELMS

That's fine for Wynn Scott to say,
but he has no evidence to
demonstrate it and he couldn't
produce the photograph, so what
is he talking about?

NARRATOR

CIA WIRETAPS AND BUGS ALSO
RECORDED SEVERAL OF OSWALD'S
CONVERSATIONS INSIDE THE
EMBASSIES. THE CIA HAS
ALWAYS MAINTAINED THOSE
TAPES WERE ROUTINELY ERASED
BEFORE THE KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION.

HELMS.

It was just in the normal course of
business that after the tapes had
been transcribed and the material
put on paper, then the tapes were
routinely erased and used again.

NARRATOR

BUT AGAIN, THIS CLAIM IS
CONTADICTED. A HIGH RANKING
CIA OFFICER IN THE MEXICO CITY
EMBASSY TOLD FRONTLINE THE
OSWALD TAPES EXISTED MONTHS
AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ,
WHEN THEY WERE PLAYED FOR

TWO WARRREN COMISSION
LAWYERS .

SLAWSON SYNC
1615

My best recollection is that they offered to us to listen, they said to us, it was Win Scott "would you like to listen to the tapes of this particular one I can't remember whether it was wiretaps or a bug, and Bill and I thought about it a minute and said what are they like, and they played a little bit of it for us.

NARRATION

SALWSON SAYS THE TAPE WAS OF POOR QUALITY AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY OSWALD'S VOICE..

RE: tapes poor quality,

SLAWSON

There were many bugs and wiretaps. so it could be that the one we were offered the opportunity to listen to was the only one that had not been destroyed. But even that, one not being destroyed, would mean that Mr. Helms statement is incorrect

SUMMERS

Where, then, are the tapes? And the question that arises here is, why is the CIA reluctant for us to see the photographs and reluctant for us to see the tapes, to hear the tapes of Oswald's voice? While they refuse to come clean, clearly there's going to be a suspicion that the tapes or the photographs don't show what one would expect them to.

NARRATOR

THE CIA DID RELEASE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THIS MAN TO THE FBI ON THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT.

THEY SAID IT WAS OSWALD
ENTERING THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

THE AGENCY QUICKLY REALIZED
ITS MISTAKE , BUT THE ABSCENCE
OF ANY PHOTOS OF THE REAL
OSWALD HAS FUELED
SPECULATION.

BLAKEY

The suspicion was that Oswald
didn't make the Mexico City trip at
all. That there was an imposter
attempting to frame him in Mexico
City. Had that been established it
would indicate a sophisticated
effort to frame Oswald. (And that
would implicate American
intelligence)

*****CHECK END OF SYNC*****

NARRATOR

BUT THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE
THAT THE REAL OSWALD WAS IN
MEXICO CITY

AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY., ALL
THREE KGB OFFICERS TOLD
FRONTLINE , THE MAN THEY MET
WAS THE REAL LEE HARVEY
OSWALD, NOT THE MAN IN THE
PHOTGRAPH THE CIA RELEASED.

KOSTIKOV

No. This is an absolutely different
person. The Oswald who had
visited our Embassy and whose
photographs I saw in many
Mexican and American
newspapers and on TV was
utterly different.

DURAN

The day after the assassination in
the Mexican newspapers were a
photo of Oswald and I said to my

husband, I'm sure that this is the man who went to us for a visa. So I went to the embassy and I look up the applications and I saw his application and it was the same one.

BLAKEY [666/1]

we obtained from the Cuban officials the visa application with his photograph on it and his signature. We verified that it was Oswald's signature. Oswald, therefore, was in Mexico City.

NARRATOR
Hotel

AND RECORDS AT THE HOTEL COMMERCIO SHOW THE REAL OSWALD WAS HERE TOO.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE REGISTER IS HIS.

OSWALD STAYED IN MEXICO CITY FOUR DAYS. BUT IN THE END, BOTH THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS REJECTED HIM.

ALL HIS PLANS TO FIGHT FOR CASTRO AND RETURN TO RUSSIA, HAD COME TO NOTHING. HE HAD NOWHERE TO GO BUT BACK TO AMERICA.

Dawn

IN THE EARLY HOURS OF AN OCTOBER MORNING, OSWALD BOARDED A BUS HEADING NORTH

A FELLOW PASSENGER REMEMBERS HIM SITTING ALONE, HIS HEAD LEANING AGAINST THE WINDOW.

(POSSIBLE NARRATION)
HE SPOKE TO NO ONE AND SEEMED LOST IN HIS THOUGHT, HIS MIND

SEEMED FIXED, SAID THE MAN,
EVEN OBSESSED ON AN IDEA.

MESA [177/1]

Taciturn, thoughtful, quiet, and I
never saw him speak to anyone.
He seemed to be somehow, well
maybe I could even say obsessed
on a - fixed on a certain idea.

NARRATOR

ON OCTOBER 2, OSWALD CROSSED
THE US BORDER....BOUND FOR
DALLAS.

END OF 2ND HOUR