

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date November 25, 1963

CARLOS BRINGUIER, operator of Casa Roca Store, 107 Decatur Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that he is active in anti-CASTRO Cuban groups in New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated that on August 5, 1963, he met LEE OSWALD when he came in the Casa Roca Store and volunteered to assist in anti-CASTRO Cuban matters. The next day he returned and left a U. S. Marine Manual at the store, but he did not meet him.

On August 9, 1963, BRINGUIER stated he observed OSWALD passing out pro-CASTRO leaflets on Canal Street and he attempted to talk to him and this conversation subsequently resulted in a fist fight which resulted in his arrest and two other anti-CASTRO Cuban friends of his as well as LEE OSWALD. He advised that OSWALD appeared at Municipal Court and entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10.00. He stated that when he appeared in Municipal Court, he took a seat among the Negro people who were present in court and was not represented by an attorney and offered no defense. Subsequent to this arrest, BRINGUIER stated that he arranged for a debate on local radio station WDSU in which they debated the effects of CASTRO's activities in Cuba.

BRINGUIER advised that he knew of no associates of OSWALD with the possible exception of a PHILIP GERACI, III, who resides in Metairie, Louisiana. He described this person as a youth about 16 years of age who came to his store a few minutes before OSWALD appeared for the first time on August 5, 1963, and offered his services to the Cubans who were anti-CASTRO, and during the time he was in the store, he gained an impression that he might be an associate of OSWALD. The only reasons he says he is possibly an associate is because they were both in the store at the same time.

Another individual that might be an associate of OSWALD because he is connected with the New Orleans Committee for Peaceful Alternatives is a DONALD SAVERY, who lives on Alta Street in Metairie. He stated he met this individual when pro-Castros were having a rally in Jackson Square, but he did not see OSWALD at this rally.

On 11/25/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY
SA CLAUDE L. SCHLAGER /cjo Date dictated 11/25/63

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On 11/25/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
 by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY
SA CLAUDE L. SCHLAGER /cjo Date dictated 11/25/63

Date 11/27/631

CARLOS BRINGUIER, Cuban Student Directorate, Operator of the Casa Roca Clothing Store, 107 Decatur Street, advised that on August 5, 1963, OSWALD came into his store and gave him a Marine guide book, stating he was an ex-Marine who could fight against CASTRO and if needed, could help train guerrillas. He put his hand in his pocket as if to contribute money to the Cuban Student Directorate, but BRINGUIER stopped him and told him he could not accept contributions and that he was the only member of the Directorate in New Orleans. OSWALD told him not to lie about it, that "we" can infiltrate you, at which time BRINGUIER became suspicious of OSWALD and would talk no more with him.

He stated he again saw OSWALD on August 9, 1963, when OSWALD was arrested after OSWALD tried to distribute Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) handbills on Canal Street. BRINGUIER again saw OSWALD at OSWALD's trial in Municipal Court August 12, 1963, and then saw him at 6:00 PM, August 21, 1963, at the debate in which OSWALD participated over radio station WDSU in New Orleans.

BRINGUIER claims he has no information regarding anyone named HIDEELL, JACK RUBY, JACK RUBENSTEIN, nor any other information regarding FPCC, New Orleans. He stated that the two anti-CASTRO Cubans arrested on August 9, 1963, in the altercation with OSWALD had only that contact with OSWALD.

BRINGUIER stated that he had learned from talking with ORESTES PENA, Proprietor of the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, that OSWALD was apparently in the Bar some time between the 15th and 30th of August, 1963, with a Mexican individual, name not known. This Mexican was later seen in the Bar with another Mexican. He also said that from talking with PENA, OSWALD may have frequented the restaurant on the corner of Iberville and Decatur Streets.

On 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
 by SA JOHN T. REYNOLDS :jrs Date dictated 11/27/63

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/4/64

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In accordance with arrangements made on June 3, 1964, CARLOS BRINGUIER appeared at the New Orleans Office and furnished the following information in response to inquiry:

CARLOS BRINGUIER advised that he presently resides at 501 Adele Street, Apartment F, in New Orleans. BRINGUIER related that the first person connected with the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, with whom he talked after the assassination of President KENNEDY was ORESTES PENA, the owner of the Habana Bar. According to BRINGUIER, his conversation with PENA took place on the day after the assassination of President KENNEDY or on some day prior to November 27, 1963. ORESTES PENA related to BRINGUIER that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. BRINGUIER states that ORESTES PENA did not furnish either the exact date or the approximate date when OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar. PENA related to BRINGUIER that OSWALD was with another person who "looked" Latin. PENA mentioned to BRINGUIER that OSWALD had ordered a lemonade from EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, the bartender at the Habana Bar, and that OSWALD argued about the price of the lemonade with EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ. It was BRINGUIER's recollection that ORESTES PENA had stated that OSWALD said the owner of the bar had been a "Cuban capitalistic." BRINGUIER said that PENA also mentioned that after OSWALD ordered the lemonade, he became sick and began vomiting, then went outside on the sidewalk, where he continued to vomit.

BRINGUIER stated that he was not sure but believed it was ORESTES PENA who told him that OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar approximately on the same date when BRINGUIER had trouble with OSWALD on the street in New Orleans. BRINGUIER specifically stated that the date on which he had an altercation with OSWALD on Canal Street was August 9, 1963.

According to BRINGUIER, his recollection is that it was either ORESTES PENA or EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ who had told him that the man who was with OSWALD in the Habana

On 6/4/64 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
 by SAs STEPHEN M. CALLENDER
and WARREN C. DEBERRY /lyc Date dictated 6/4/64

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Bar had admitted to being a Mexican.

According to BRINGUIER, he, BRINGUIER, had occasion, shortly after his conversation with ORESTES, to talk to EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ and EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ furnished him the same information regarding OSWALD's alleged visit to the Habana Bar as did ORESTES PENA.

Either on the same date or on the day following his conversation with EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, RUPERTO PENA, brother of ORESTES PENA, came into CARLOS BRINGUIER's store located at 107 Decatur Street in New Orleans. BRINGUIER states the conversation eventually had to do with the assassination of President KENNEDY and the question of LEE HARVEY OSWALD having previously been in the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER related that RUPERTO said that the man who accompanied OSWALD to the Habana Bar in the past, or possibly he could have said that the Mexican who was with OSWALD in the Habana Bar, was identical with one of the two men whom RUPERTO PENA had seen pass in an automobile in front of the Habana Bar and about both of whom RUPERTO PENA had previously talked to BRINGUIER. According to BRINGUIER, these two men were the persons who had been in the Habana Bar previously and whom PENA said were either pro-communist or pro-CASTRO.

BRINGUIER stated that as an explanation for this last statement attributed to RUPERTO PENA, he should mention that sometime between August 15 and August 30, 1963, RUPERTO PENA came to his store and asked him to call the FBI. BRINGUIER recalls that at that time RUPERTO either said he had seen "two Latins," or possibly had said "two Mexicans," pass in a car in front of the Habana Bar. It was BRINGUIER's statement that RUPERTO had explained that the FBI had asked RUPERTO to call the FBI if he saw those two persons again. BRINGUIER said he had understood RUPERTO PENA to say that the FBI had been in the Habana Bar previously looking for these two people. However, BRINGUIER admitted it is possible he may have misunderstood RUPERTO PENA in that regard.

In response to RUPERTO PENA's request, BRINGUIER said he called the FBI by telephone and spoke to someone at the FBI office.

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BRINGUIER said that the party who answered the telephone was informed that the caller was calling on behalf of the owner of the Habana Bar on Decatur Street. BRINGUIER also explained in this telephone call that the person who had asked him to call did not speak English but that this person had said the FBI should be contacted if the two men in question were seen again. BRINGUIER said he related to the party who answered the telephone at the FBI that RUPERTO PENA had just told him he had seen the same two men pass in a car in front of the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER recalls he explained that he had no idea what the matter was all about, but did relate that RUPERTO PENA had said these two men were either pro-CASTRO or pro-communist.

By way of explanation, CARLOS BRINGUIER remarked it was entirely possible that the emotional excitement created by President KENNEDY's assassination may have caused RUPERTO PENA to feel he had some knowledge of the persons possibly involved and may have declared unthinkingly that the man who was with OSWALD in the Habana Bar was identical with one of the two men concerning whom BRINGUIER called the FBI at RUPERTO PENA's request between August 15 and 30, 1963. BRINGUIER admitted he did not know why RUPERTO PENA had made such a statement but persists that RUPERTO PENA did make such a statement to him after the assassination of President KENNEDY and prior to November 27, 1963.

BRINGUIER said he knows it was sometime between August 15 and 30, 1963, when RUPERTO PENA asked him to call the FBI about the two men he had seen in front of the bar because RUPERTO told him after the assassination of President KENNEDY that it was between those dates that he had asked BRINGUIER to call the FBI. RUPERTO allegedly told BRINGUIER after the assassination that he knew the dates were correct because RUPERTO recalled he was in charge of the Habana Bar while his brother, ORESTES PENA, was on vacation and that this incident occurred during such period. BRINGUIER said that ORESTES PENA allegedly was out of the United States and was believed to have been in Brazil during the period August 15 through August 30, 1963.

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BRINGUIER advised that in his deposition to an investigator of the Warren Commission, he gave the name of the brother of the owner of the Habana Bar as RUPERTO PENA. He stated that that statement was correct. However, he did want to clarify that RUPERTO PENA was not the one who had said he saw OSWALD in the Habana Bar. BRINGUIER said he meant to say that the person who saw OSWALD in the Habana Bar and the person who served OSWALD lemonade was EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ, the bartender in the Habana Bar.

BRINGUIER said he also wished to clarify another point. He explained that after the assassination of President KENNEDY, he did not call the FBI office to advise them that OSWALD allegedly had been in the Habana Bar prior to the assassination but did furnish this information to the U. S. Secret Service office in New Orleans.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/4/64

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CARLOS BRINGUIER furnished a copy of a letter written in the Spanish language, a translation of which is set forth below. He mentioned that this is the letter he referred to on April 8, 1964 at New Orleans, Louisiana, in a deposition to Mr. WESLEY LIEBLER of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. In his deposition, he mentioned that he had reported to the Secret Service in New Orleans that OSWALD had been in the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street, sometime prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY. While giving his deposition, he referred to the below-quoted letter as a reminder of the fact that he had given such information to Secret Service regarding a man who had worked at Pap's Supermarket.

The following is a translation of a copy of BRINGUIER's letter by SA WARREN C. deBRUEYS of the New Orleans Office:

"New Orleans, November 27, 1963

"Mr. Jose Antonio Lanuza
American Matters
Student Revolutionary Directorate
Miami, Florida

"Dear Jose Antonio:

"I am enclosing a page of the Times Picayune newspaper in which there is a picture of the 'Guidebook for Marines.' I am also attaching a photostat of part of a printed matter that I delivered on the night of August 21 instant to the Times Picayune, New Orleans States-Item, UPI, WDSU-Radio, WWL-TV, who unfortunately did not publish same at that time and I tell you, unfortunately, because you will observe that this Delegate requested at that time that American citizens write their Congressmen in order that a complete investigation be opened on Lee H. Oswald, a confessed Marxist; perhaps if that had been published, John F. Kennedy would still be alive today.

On 6/4/64 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16801
by SAs WARREN C. deBRUEYS
AND STEPHEN M. CALLENDER /lyc Date dictated 6/4/64

"Up to the present time I have not been able to obtain a photostat of the pamphlet bearing the name 'A. J. Hidell' but I will continue trying to acquire one.

"Here are some loose things I have heard mentioned: The police here were looking for a certain 'Clay Bertrand' who is a pervert. They say Ruby also is a pervert. One of these individuals that was distributing handbills with Oswald has a face that appears to me to indicate that he is also a pervert. (If we follow that logic we would also have to think that Raul is the one that is behind all this 'joke'.) I advised Secret Service that one of those who was distributing handbills with Oswald was working in Pap's Supermarket located on Mirabeau Avenue and who, last year, had attended Delgado Trade School. He mentioned that his name might possibly be Charles and that he regularly got out of the bus at Paris Avenue and Filmore Street. I am given to understand that this was correct but I have learned nothing more. I have given them other information, for example, that Oswald was, on one occasion after his difficulty with me, in the Habana Bar, which is just two doors from my store. Oswald asked for a lemonade and when they collected for it he said that surely the owner had to be a Cuban capitalist. On that occasion Oswald was accompanied by a Mexican. After that the Mexican returned with another Mexican to the Habana Bar. The FBI was making inquiries for them and left word that if they saw them again, to call there. A few days later the brother of the owner of the Habana Bar appeared and asked me to call the FBI because he had seen the two Mexicans in an automobile and he had noted the license number but not the state. I called the FBI on that occasion and gave them the information by telephone. This occurred between August 15 and August 30, 1963 approximately. A certain person surmises (but this is just a presumption) that the tourist delegate of the Mexican Government here should know something, pointing out that this individual is a Mexican and the one who had been in the Habana Bar was a Mexican; also the delegate travels to Mexico and from there to Havana (the motive is not known) and added to all this the delegate is a pervert. Speculating on these things one learns that the delegate is a friend of a Cuban (also a pervert) who is called Luis E. Jimenez. This

Jimenez is also a friend of another Cuban known as Leonardo Silva. This Silva was chief of something in the Zapata Swamp under the orders of Che (Translator's note - Che is undoubtedly Che Guevara of the Cuban Regime) until after the Bay of Pigs (Invasion). He speaks some Russian and some weeks ago told me he had been thinking about taking a trip to Mexico. As you will note, the majority of these things are suppositions and speculations.

"Well, Jose Antonio give my regards to all and receive an embrace from your friend,

"Carlos Bringuier
New Orleans"

Mr. BRINGUIER related that he made available contents of the above-translated letter with the provision that sections of the letter referring to individuals that he has suspected as being "perverts" would not be divulged to any public sources and that that section be limited for the use of the Warren Commission and the FBI only. He explained further that he did not want any of his speculative statements to be revealed publicly but had no objection to the contents of the first two paragraphs and the part regarding the person referred to as CHARLES being revealed to public sources.

Mr. BRINGUIER was able to describe the Mexican tourist delegate in New Orleans as a white male, in his late 30's, approximately 5'9" tall, 164 pounds, with light-colored hair, who dresses neatly. BRINGUIER explained he has talked to the Mexican tourist delegate in New Orleans on various occasions during the last four months or so and states that on one occasion, the Mexican tourist delegate mentioned that he had been to Cuba. He does not know whether the Mexican tourist delegate told him this a month or four months ago nor does he know when the Mexican tourist delegate was in Cuba, that is to say, whether it was recently or quite some time ago.

BRINGUIER did recall that in one of his conversations with the Mexican tourist delegate, the latter did

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say that he could go to Mexico inasmuch as Mexico and Cuba maintain friendly relations, one with the other. BRINGUIER also recalls the Mexican tourist delegate mentioned on one occasion that he could get people out of Cuba. BRINGUIER then recalled there was a rumor that LEONARDO SILVA, referred to in the above-translated letter, was allegedly planning to go with the Mexican tourist delegate to Mexico some time ago so that the Mexican tourist delegate could go to Cuba to get LEONARDO SILVA's sister out of Cuba. BRINGUIER does not know if there was any truth to the rumor but states he does know that LEONARDO SILVA and the Mexican tourist delegate are back in New Orleans from an alleged trip to Mexico and LEONARDO SILVA's sister is still in Cuba.

BRINGUIER remarked that ORLANDO PIEDRA, who was formerly head of the Federal Police in Cuba under the Regime of FULGENCIO BATISTA, has told BRINGUIER that he feels quite certain that the Mexican tourist delegate is "OK". BRINGUIER states this meant that in ORLANDO PIEDRA's opinion, the Mexican tourist delegate is not pro-CASTRO.

Oswald, Lee H. Post-Russian Period 2-3

U. S. Secret Service

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

Chief

December 3, 1963

J. J. Rice
SAIC Rice - New Orleans

Lee Harvey Oswald - Assassination of President Kennedy

This will confirm telephone call from Deputy Chief Paul J. Paterni on November 29, 1963, instructing that complete investigation be made in New Orleans covering Lee Harvey Oswald's employment, education, background, associates, bank accounts, etc., also addresses.

Deputy Chief Paterni was informed at that time that a local attorney, Dean Andrews, who had been contacted by Oswald on several occasions in about June, 1963, had received a telephone call on November 23, 1963, by a man giving the name of Clay Bertrand, who inquired as to whether or not he would be willing to defend Oswald in the murder and assassination cases. Clay Bertrand has not been located to date.

This will also confirm telephone call from Deputy Chief Paterni on December 2, 1963, who requested that we obtain a tape recording of a debate involving Oswald broadcast over a local radio station, information of the existence of the tape having been received from the mother-in-law of Arnesto Rodriguez, who operates a Spanish language school in New Orleans. Chief Paterni was informed that we had already secured the tape from Carlos Bringuier, anti-Castro Cuban, and that Arnesto Rodriguez was in the process of furnishing us with a copy of transcription of the tape, from which copies would be made immediately. Chief Paterni requested that the tape and copy of transcription be sent to SAIC Bouck, PRS, by the Captain of the earliest flight from New Orleans to Washington, D. C., this date.

This will also confirm my telephone call to SAIC Bouck, PRS, at approximately 5:00 PM on December 2, 1963, advising that the tape and copy of transcription would be sent to Dulles Airport by Eastern Airlines Flight No. 526, departing New Orleans 6:40 PM and arriving at 9:58 PM. SAIC Bouck advised that the material would be picked up at Dulles Airport.

The debate was broadcast over WDSU Radio, New Orleans, 8/21/63, and involved Oswald, Carlos Bringuier, an anti-Castro Cuban refugee, Mr. Ed Butler, of the Information Council of The Americas, and Bill Stuckey, reporter on the States-Item Newspaper, New Orleans.

cc - Dallas

CR 87 444

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/17/63

Mr. DAVID CHANDLER, Reporter for the New Orleans States-Item Daily Newspaper, published in New Orleans, advised that he knows of no journalist in the city of New Orleans by the name of DAVID CRAWFORD and that he feels that if the name of DAVID CRAWFORD appeared in the possession of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, it was actually CHANDLER, that it had referred to.

Mr. CHANDLER stated that a couple of days after OSWALD was arrested on August 9, 1963, in New Orleans, OSWALD came into the newspaper office and spoke to Mr. CHANDLER, telling him that one CARL BRINGIUER, who owns a store at 107 Decatur Street, New Orleans, was training guerrillas for future fighting in Cuba. He also told Mr. CHANDLER that BRINGIUER was attempting to sell bonds to support BRINGIUER's organization but had not acquired the necessary city permit to do so.

OSWALD told Mr. CHANDLER that he would like the newspaper to do a story on his arrest and on him personally. Mr. CHANDLER advised OSWALD that it was unlikely that the newspaper would do any story on him or the "Fair Play for Cuba" committee which OSWALD claimed to represent because they were not in sympathy with him or his ideas. Mr. CHANDLER said OSWALD replied that he sort of thought they might not want to do the story but OSWALD also said that anyone had a right to their individual thoughts and expressions. At this point, Mr. CHANDLER said the interview between him and OSWALD was terminated.

Mr. CHANDLER said that the above is the only contact he had with LEE HARVEY OSWALD

On 12/17/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-14501

by SA RICHARD E. LOGAN /ask Date dictated 12/17/63

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