

# Cuban-Oswald-Communist Connection Draws Luce Into Senate Investigation

## Word from Washington

By Betty Beale



Clare Luce is trying to find some of the young Cubans who stole into Cuba after the nuclear missile showdown on a boat she helped finance.

Clare Luce recounted a fascinating tale of Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cubans during dinner in her aqua-colored Watergate apartment the other evening.

Former ambassador Luce was recently asked by

the subcommittee investigating the Warren Commission report, to persuade some Cuban friends of hers to testify.

It seems Luce was one of the U.S. citizens who helped finance a fact-finding fleet of motorboats after the Bay of Pigs. Three young Cubans who manned the boat she helped finance secretly visited Cuba and came out with information which was passed on to the White House. After the nuclear missile showdown such efforts were halted.

Two years later, on the night of President Kennedy's assassination, Luce received a midnight telephone call from one of the three Cubans, a young student lawyer, who said that after the missile showdown the FBI had told the Cubans in Miami to break up all resistance groups and disperse. So he and the other two crew members moved to New Orleans where they started another "Free Cuba" group. They had been there a year and a half when who should make contact with them but Lee Harvey Oswald.

Oswald bragged to them about having been in Russia, said he was an ex-Marine, could shoot anybody and would be happy to shoot Castro. He had no money, he was living with his wife in New Orleans and it looked like he was presenting himself as a hired gun.

The Cubans thought he was a kook, so they tailed him to a Fair Play for Cuba Communist cell where he handed out the same line.

Then suddenly Oswald had money and began making trips to Mexico. The Cubans continued

should do with the tape recordings and photos she told him to take them to the FBI and tell them everything. Then she forgot all about it until New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison made headlines by charging that the assassination was a conspiracy. Wondering if the Warren Commission had gotten all the facts, she located the young Cuban in Miami to find out what happened when they went to the FBI.

He told her, "We turned over copies of everything. We were then told to keep our traps shut and that we would be deported if we said anything publicly." He said one of the crew went to Guatemala, one was murdered, their information never appeared in the Warren Commission report and he was married now and didn't want "to get involved in it ever again."

When Sen. Schweiker called Clare Luce last month, she telephoned another Cuban friend to see if he could locate and persuade the young man to testify behind closed doors. Replied the older Cuban, if the testimony was behind 13 closed doors it would still become public.

their penetration of the Communist cell, made tape recordings of some of Oswald's meetings and took photographs of him distributing handbills for the Fair Play unit.

Then President Kennedy was shot.

"The young Cuban who called me," continued Luce, "said that there was a Cuban Communist assassination team working somewhere — in Dallas, New Orleans, or wherever, don't remember — and that Oswald was their hired gun. He said Oswald had tried to report the Communist plans to the FBI sometime before the assassination but because he was out for the dough the FBI didn't believe him. I suppose they must hear from a thousand such 'crackpots' a week."

When the young man asked Mrs. Luce what he

"Americans think they're playing games," he told her. "They don't know they are involved in a life-and-death business. No, I won't tell you where he can be found. The people working for a free Cuba would lose their lives. A lot of them have already. They are not interested in making political headlines for politicians. You think the Bay of Pigs, the nuclear missiles, the assassination of the President was the end of the story? I tell you it is just the beginning. What you Americans don't understand is, there are trained Communist terrorist, assassination, kidnaping, bombing and sabotage teams all over the country and the world."



Mr. Donald Rumsfeld (right), wife of the Secretary of Defense-designate, will continue to work parttime at the dress shop owned by her friend Val Cook (left).