

NO 105-1095

On July 30, 1963, NO T-1, who is in a position to learn of some of the activities by anti-CASTRO and pro-CASTRO Cubans in the New Orleans area, advised that on late Wednesday night, July 24, 1963, the Border Patrol at New Orleans advised the Catholic Refugee Center that ten Cuban refugees had arrived in New Orleans from Miami. They were traveling in two automobiles and the cars had broken down on the Chef Menteur Highway. The Refugee Center arranged for them to stay at the Monterey Motel on the Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans.

NO T-1 furnished the following additional information:

T-1 stated that on July 25, 1963, RUDOLPH DAVIS, who allegedly resides in the Parkchester Apartments in New Orleans and is believed to be of Cuban nationality, remarked at the motel that "This is all a mistake." DAVIS remarked that these individuals were going to work for him at a camp and that they were going to a training camp in Guatemala following this. T-1 stated that the training camp must be within two hours drive of New Orleans since DAVIS goes to the reported site and returns the same day. According to unverified information obtained by T-1 from remarks made by DAVIS and RAUL DIAZ, an employee of the Refugee Center who resides in the St. Thomas Housing Project in New Orleans, there are reported to be eighteen men at this training site under the guidance of VICTOR PANEQUE and that with the additional ten men, it would mean there are twenty-eight men at the site. T-1 further related that from the conversation heard, it appeared that possibly some of the individuals were going to Guatemala on Tuesday, August 6, 1963, means unknown. T-1 related there was no other information available to the source at this time regarding the location of the alleged training camp.

On July 30, 1963, Mr. JAMES A. YORK, Chief Patrol Inspector, U. S. Border Patrol, New Orleans, advised that at 10:55 p.m. on July 24, 1963, they received a call from the New Orleans Police Department for assistance. Two cars containing ten Cuban refugees from Miami had broken down

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on the Chef Menteur Highway and the police needed the assistance of an interpreter. Such an interpreter was furnished and it was learned that these Cubans were penniless and that they were on their way to New Orleans to look for work. At the request of the Cuban Refugee Center, they were referred to the Monterey Motel and they had no further contact with them and did not obtain their names.

On August 14, 1963, contact was made with RAUL DIAZ, telephone number 529-3200, in the absence of Mrs. ELISE CERNIGLIA, who has been out of town on vacation for several weeks. RAUL DIAZ, who is an assistant of Mrs. CERNIGLIA, advised he has been ill for several weeks but was able to furnish the following information regarding some 11 Cubans who had come to New Orleans during the last days of July, 1963, ostensibly as a layover enroute to a training camp located in the general vicinity of New Orleans.

RAUL DIAZ advised he had been instructed either on July 28 or 29, 1963, to go out to the Motel Monterey on Highway 90 East, where there were some 10 or 11 Cubans allegedly registered. RAUL DIAZ related that he went out to the Motel Monterey as instructed and found some 11 Cubans, as well as one RICHARD DAVIS of the Parkchester Apartments in New Orleans, who was also present.

DIAZ learned that RICHARD DAVIS was attempting to get the Catholic Cuban Refugee Center, headed by Mrs. CERNIGLIA, to pay the cost of the motel bill and to furnish these Cubans with additional funds. DIAZ claims he told DAVIS that none of these Cubans would be qualified to receive Governmental assistance through the Catholic Cuban Refugee Center, as they were not registered as being located in this area.

According to DIAZ, these 11 Cubans were headed by a man named VICTOR PANEQUE, all of whom were from Miami. He understood from conversation that they had come to New Orleans for the purpose of going to a training camp in the vicinity of New Orleans to get military training.

DIAZ stated it was his further understanding that these people were to be given funds by RICHARD DAVIS, who allegedly has a summer home across the lake from New Orleans, but apparently DAVIS had used the money for some other purpose.

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Inasmuch as DIAZ fell sick on the next day and was bedridden for approximately two weeks, he had no additional information. He advised that when Mrs. CERNIGLIA returned from her vacation, she would likely have some additional information.

On August 14, 1963, NO T-2 advised that T-2 had understood that a group of Cubans had come to New Orleans from Miami about two weeks ago for the purpose of being trained at a camp located on the other side of the lake from New Orleans. It is his understanding that these Cubans expected to have a complete training area, as well as equipment, but that when they arrived, they learned that their quarters were a summer cottage owned by RICHARD DAVIS of New Orleans, and that the only equipment was broomsticks to be used in training in place of weapons. T-2 also understood that DAVIS allegedly had funds for these people which he had derived from some unknown source, but when the Cubans arrived in New Orleans, DAVIS had no funds to give them.

NO T-2 explained two Cubans of this group, in particular one who was allegedly from Puerto Rico, were looking for DAVIS to harm him because he had apparently deceived them. For this reason DAVIS' whereabouts during the presence of these Cubans was unknown.

It was T-2's further understanding that these 11 Cubans joined about 9 others who were already at the summer house, and that the entire 20 had returned to Miami disappointed.

On September 12, 1963, Mrs. ELISE CERNIGLIA, head of the Catholic Cuban Center in New Orleans, who had been out of town for the previous several weeks on vacation, advised on or about July 24, 1963 she had received a telephone call to the effect that some 10 Cubans had arrived in New Orleans from Miami. She explained that these 10 Cubans had been stopped by the New Orleans Police. She stated the police turned the Cubans over to the Border Patrol and when they learned they were Cuban refugees, she was contacted at the Catholic Cuban Center in New Orleans.

Mrs. CERNIGLIA stated she learned that these men had come to New Orleans allegedly through efforts of

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RICHARD DAVIS, JR. She stated she had contacted DAVIS and he said that they were his men and that he had a company in Guatemala who was going to hire them. She stated that DAVIS requested financial assistance in their lodging since they were Cuban refugees. Mrs. CERNIGLIA stated she reluctantly found them lodging at the Monterey Motel on the Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans and paid for the lodging there. She stated these men were not registered individually but had registered under the account of the Catholic Cuban Center in New Orleans.

Mrs. CERNIGLIA stated the only other pertinent information she had was that DAVIS allegedly had some type of business firm in the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans which allegedly was to hire these people. She remarked that it was her understanding that all of these Cubans returned to Florida on the following Sunday after their arrival in New Orleans.

She had no information concerning the camp where they were to train outside of New Orleans but understood it was owned by someone in the same firm in which DAVIS was a member.

Date October 2, 1963

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RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR., 1570 Westbrook Street (Parkchester Apartments), New Orleans, voluntarily furnished the following information:

He advised he was born September 9, 1934 at Manhattan, New York, but had resided in Cuba between the ages of 2 and 26. He stated he had returned to the United States on January 12, 1961 from Cuba via Miami, after which he resided in New York City until August, 1961. Since the latter date he has been residing in New Orleans. He claims he is presently a Cuban alien with Alien Registration #A-12-280-713, however he has a special litigation current to re-establish his United States citizenship by birth.

He explained that he had become friendly with a university professor by the name of JOSE IGNACIO ROSCO some time ago in Cuba and added that ROSCO had been a professor at the University of Havana. In 1959 ROSCO formed a movement against CASTRO. In 1959 DAVIS told ROSCO that he would like to become a member of his movement in Cuba but about a week later ROSCO and his organization "went underground."

DAVIS mentioned that he left Cuba in January, 1961 and went immediately to New York City, where he had become acquainted with friends of his active in the Christian Democratic Movement (CDM) (Movimiento Democratica Cristiano) (MDC). He related he acted as a coordinator between this group and the New York Police Department. He stated he is definitely anti-CASTRO.

According to DAVIS, he came to New Orleans in August, 1961. He then related that sometime early in 1963 he had made friends with persons in the lumber business in Guatemala and had formed with them the Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corporation. This is a Louisiana corporation that has a contract with the Guatemalan Government to take mahogany out of Guatemala.

Having need of some men to work in Guatemala in cutting lumber for this firm, he had contacted LAUREANO BATISTA, who happens to be connected with MDC in Miami, to see if LAUREANO had some men he might send him for work in

On 10/1/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 105-1095
 by SAs WARREN C. deBRUEYS and DONALD C. STEINMEYER /lyc Date dictated 10/2/63

this lumber company's business in Guatemala.

According to DAVIS, some 19 men were sent by LAUREANO BATISTA from Miami to New Orleans in response to DAVIS's request. Unfortunately these men, for some reason or another, came to New Orleans with the idea that they were going to be trained in New Orleans for a military operation and sent to Guatemala for additional training. He claims that when he advised of the real purpose of their travel to New Orleans, they were disappointed and some were angry with him.

DAVIS claims that these people were dressed in khaki military-type clothing and it was necessary to buy them regular clothes. He then explained that his corporation is made up of the following officers:

JOSEPH MILLA, President (a Guatemalan);

GUS de LaBarre, Vice President;

RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR., Vice President;

FRANK de LaBarre, Secretary and Attorney for this company.

DAVIS stated that GUS and FRANK de LaBarre contributed to the food and clothing of these men and sent them across the lake from New Orleans for housing and any training they could give them in connection with their lumber cutting work in Guatemala. He stated that the home where they stayed in St. Tammany Parish is located in Lacombe, Louisiana, about a mile from Highway 190 West on a secondary road.

DAVIS stated that during the last days of July the FBI had seized some dynamite and other explosives stored in a Lacombe, Louisiana residence which material, according to the newspaper, was to be used against Cuba. He stated this action disturbed these Cuban refugees and

was probably partially responsible for the decision to return to Miami. Since they had come to New Orleans with the idea of receiving military training and additional military training in Guatemala, they were not willing to proceed to Guatemala to be employed in mahogany lumber cutting. For this reason their passage on Greyhound Bus was paid for by the Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corporation, New Orleans, Louisiana. DAVIS states this is the extent of the information he has concerning this matter and he attests he had no intention of giving these people any military training or using them in any military adventure against Cuba.

DAVIS stated he did not know any of these refugees personally but could recall the names of the following:

VICTOR PANEQUE;
LEODOVINO INTERIAN;
FERNANDO FERNANDEZ;
Man named FORNES.

Set forth below is a physical description and background information concerning RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR. as furnished by him:

Name	RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, JR.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Birth data	September 9, 1934 at Manhattan, New York (120 East 23rd Street)
Parents	RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, SR., father (Cuban) LORRAINE ELIZABETH BLAIR, mother (U. S. citizen born in New Jersey)
Residence of parents	Apartment 5, Peniston and St. Charles, New Orleans, Louisiana
Height	5'11"
Weight	177 pounds
Hair	Dark brown
Complexion	Medium
Marital Status	Married
Present employment	General agent, Western Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, Minnesota 2001 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

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**Prior
employment**

November, 1962 through January, 1963 - In business for self selling Green Stamps, San Juan, Puerto Rico;
March, 1962 through November, 1962 - Agent for Occidental Life Insurance Company, 3308 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans;
September, 1961 through February, 1962 - Agent for New Orleans Life Insurance Company of the South, Maritime Building, New Orleans;
Approximately June to July, 1961 - New York Life Insurance Company, Brooklyn Branch, New York;
February, 1961 for approximately 6 months - Sugar broker with Keiser and Company, 120 Wall Street, New York City.

In addition to the above, DAVIS stated he is the delegate in New Orleans for MDC but has not done anything specific as a delegate other than having three meetings with small groups for the purpose of developing some activity in New Orleans such as the collection of clothing and money; however, this did not materialize.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/17/63

1 Mr. CARLOS BRINGUIER, 107 Decatur Street, telephonically contacted the New Orleans Office and advised that about August 2, 1963, two Cubans who had been in a training camp somewhere across the lake, location unknown, came into his store and wanted to go back to Miami. BRINGUIER stated that he arranged bus transportation for them, and that these two Cubans told him that an individual in the camp, FERNANDO FERNANDEZ BARCENA, was a CASTRO spy.

BRINGUIER said he later learned that some letters written by BARCENA had been intercepted, one of which was to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. BRINGUIER said that he believes that BARCENA was questioned by Agents in Miami, and that there was something about the activity of BARCENA in the "Miami Herald."

Mr. BRINGUIER advised that the above was being called to the FBI's attention at this time, since LEE HARVEY OSWALD had appeared at BRINGUIER's store on August 5, 1963, and offered to train guerillas.

BRINGUIER said he knew of no connection that OSWALD had with any Cubans, and that OSWALD made no mention of any Cuban training camp and gave no indication of knowing about a training camp or of being acquainted with any Cubans.

On 12/11/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601

by SA JOHN T. REYNOLDS : jas Date dictated 12/16/63

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