

2/9/71

Dear Paul,

Unless you want to keep it, please return the Publishers' Weekly pre-pub review of FRAMEUP. I can never have enough of such things.

I expect someone in about an hour, so there is little point in my getting back to the legal work. I'll answer your 2/7 mailing in order of what seems to be important so that if I am interrupted I can get that mailed this p.m.

I forget where I file things so if we refer to this again, please remind me it is in my Plotá against Castro file. Here I agree with what you are doing and your approach. Also your reasoning and your dos and don'ts. But I'll not have time to take the time for thinking you ask, which would be better. He is close to FBI, remember, and they leak to him regularly. When Pearson was alive, they played both sides. Don't address LHO angle except to say it is incredible, if you have to refer to it, and then that the simplest explanation is that eh and the weapon were incapable and nobody would have trusted him for such a task, and say the rest is complicated, while persuasive, taking more time than you think he has. Best to avoid, for he'll take FBI line.

Without checking my files, I think Veciana also founder Alpha 66. Records on the one Gonzalez exist with three different spellings of the first name. Cofound 66. Generally speaking, they are welcome to almost everything I have. But Odio must be protected, as is easy today since she has a new name. Can't take time to check your memo, sorry. Agee, no mention at all Quiroga. If they ask, they also understand need protecting confidentiality.

Your (2), other attempts: I have a CIA man, genuine, on tape on one. No, I think that tape disappeared in JG's office. But I have sharp recollection and he was in a position to know, having been in the Castro govt and a Bay Pigs vet. That is the bazooka one.

(4) Make no reference to Flammonde. What he didn't steal JG gave him. Sylvia, without limit.

Suggest telling them in general about Hall and Howard as you have it, perhaps also referring to WWII and O in NO, and telling them of my interviews, etc, to which I'll give them access. There is a typed version of the Hall one I've never read and I think parts of the Howard. But what may be more relevant is that of 10/68 with Memming, who claims he was given refuge by OdioSr and knew Sylvia. Also refer him to father's letter. I can give them a fascinating story on Odio-Dallas, etc. Remember, the FBI Wconfused" part of the Hall story with Masferrer, whose record on this is public.

H

To: Harold W., Jim S.

February 7, 1971

Subject: Jack Anderson columns on anti-Castro assassination attempts; R. Gonzales

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Anderson, and Whitten's reply. (He sent the complete columns of 1/18 and 1/19/71, if you need them.)

I would like your comments ~~xxxx~~ and opinions on whether and how I should proceed. I need to hear from you both soon, but please think this over for a day or so and don't just give me your initial reaction. Anderson is hardly my favorite columnist but he would seem to be in a good position to do some solid investigation. We have been sitting on this item for some time now and I don't see any other way of making good use of it.

Several things suggest to me that the Anderson columns were more or less given to him, and not the result of digging by them. He asks me for names and other information on the various assassination attempts; this information can be found rather easily from the NY Times and such sources. Also, they wrote that "among those privy to the CIA conspiracy, there is still a nagging suspicion ... that Castro became aware of the U.S. plot ~~against~~ upon his life and somehow recruited Oswald to retaliate against President Kennedy." This suggests that Anderson's sources had some desire to push this interpretation; Anderson seems to believe that the "fanatic" Oswald was the assassin.

I would reply to Whitten along the following lines:

(1) Information about Reinol Gonzales' attempt on Castro: send the USN&WR article. Also, refer to the press reports quoted in items 2,4,5,7,9, and 12 of my notes. (Harold: these notes, entitled "Matters possibly connecting Odio with Anti-Castro groups plotting to kill Castro", were sent to you with my letter of June 13, 1970.)

Note: I do not want to send Anderson the third page of these notes, which relates to the possible Odio-Quiroga link. I hinted at this in the letter to Anderson, but I don't want to tell him any more.

(2) Other assassination attempts: items 3,6, and 8 of my notes; also refer to information in the NY Times and the Hoover Institute files.

(3) Gonzales-Odio link - send copy of CE 3148, pp. 838-9 (Item 1 in my notes)

(4) The Odio visit story - send the relevant pages from the WR, also the discussion in Sylvia's book and (perhaps) that in Flammonde's. Indicate that I have a large number of relevant WC pages. Summarize the situation as follows:

- \* Odio's story has stood up quite well, despite attempts to attack her credibility. Thus, some visit like that she reported probably took place. No apparent interest of Odio's was served by making up the part about Oswald.
- \* Hall and Howard were engaged in anti-Castro activities in Dallas, noted at the time by the FBI. They may well have visited Odio; they have both admitted and denied it. They may have been accompanied by Seymour or "Quarito." They were certainly traveling in CIA circles.

(5) Leads-

- \* LA Free Press has recent reports on the activity on one Reinol Gonzales, age 18. (Bombings, etc.) Quite possibly the ~~xxxx~~ son. Articles in LA anti-Castro papers cited; should be checked for background on R.G. "Sr."
- \* Hoover Institute files (I have not checked the ones that my relate to RG)
- \* Hall and Howard - talkative, but not reliable. (Harold - should I not mention that you have been successful in getting information from them in the past?)
- \* Odio's Dallas and other anti-Castro associates. Many named in FBI reports.

I would emphasize that the RG link has apparently not been noted publicly and all efforts should be made to exhaust the possible leads ~~f~~ before anything more is said.

Jim: I assume you do not want your name used in any of this - i.e. you do not want me to give you credit for the original discovery.

Let me know what you think.

Paul

PLH

OM

157A

1735 Highland Place, Apt. 25  
Berkeley, Ca. 94709  
January 18, 1971

Mr. Jack Anderson  
c/o Washington Post  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have some information that may be of interest to you in connection with the subject of your column today.

You wrote about six CIA-sponsored attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro. Do you know if the CIA was involved in the assassination attempt in the autumn of 1961 which involved Antonio Veciana and Reinol Gonzalez? (See U.S. News & World Report, 10/29/62, page 40.) There is an indirect but definite link between these men and Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

One of the principals in the anti-Castro attempt was captured while hiding at a farm outside Havana. The owners of the farm were given long prison terms. Their daughter was living in Dallas in 1963, and was in contact with a number of anti-Castro activists. She reported that in September of that year, she was visited on anti-Castro business by three men, one of whom was introduced as "Leon Oswald". This person, who greatly resembled Lee Harvey Oswald, was alleged to advocate the assassination of President Kennedy. Some of the three visitors may have been identified by the Warren Commission, which concluded that the incident did not involve Oswald (and, presumably, was not relevant to the assassination.) However, that either Oswald or a deliberate impostor was involved seems to be quite possible.

This raises the question of how closely this woman and her associates were involved with the assassination plots against Castro. (Incidentally, the woman apparently was acquainted with an anti-Castro Cuban who had some substantial contact with Oswald and was an FBI informant.) Your column of March 3, 1967 reported that the Kennedy assassination may have resulted from an anti-Castro attempt that backfired. I find the possibility of a connection here quite intriguing.

The statements I have made are quite well established by the records of the Warren Commission and press reports. Several investigative leads have suggested themselves, but I am in no position to follow them up. If you are interested I would be glad to provide further details. If some of the pieces fall together, you might have a good story.