

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: May 15, 1964

Field Office File No.: NO 100-16601 Bureau File No.: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Synopsis:

RUPERTO JERONIMO PENA, brother of the owner of the Habana Bar, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that about one year ago, two unknown men entered the Habana Bar. PENA states one of these persons appeared to be of Mexican nationality, and the other appeared to be a Cuban. He stated he overheard their discussion in which they spoke favorably of FIDEL CASTRO and mentioned that things were going well in Cuba under CASTRO. Because of this discussion, PENA was left with the impression that these two unknown men were pro-CASTRO and pro-communist. PENA states that on the following day he called either the FBI or Immigration and Naturalization Service (I&NS) at New Orleans and furnished information regarding the two unknown men. PENA could not be positive which agency he called, however, about four or five days later, he observed these same two unknown men in a car passing the Habana Bar, and he obtained the license of this vehicle. Thereafter, he gave the license number to CARLOS BRINGUIER and requested BRINGUIER to call the FBI. PENA stated that at this time he explained to BRINGUIER the information about their previously being in the Habana Bar and also told BRINGUIER that he had called the FBI. PENA was unable to explain why he did not know whether he had called the FBI or I&NS but was able to recall advising BRINGUIER to call the FBI, except that he had the impression he had called the FBI. PENA stated he has never observed OSWALD in the Habana Bar and had no information about OSWALD's being in the Habana Bar. PENA

105-82555 Section 158

stated that he never told CARLOS BRINGUIER that he had ever observed OSWALD in the Habana Bar or that he had ever been told by the FBI that any person was pro-CASTRO or pro-communist. EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that a person he believed identical to LEE HARVLY OSWALD came into the Habana Bar between 3:30 AM and 4:00 AM and to the best of his recollection it was in September, 1963. The individual believed to be OSWALD was accompanied by an unknown white man, and RODRIGUEZ was unable to state whether this unknown man was Mexican, Cuban, Argentine, or a national of any other Spanish-speaking country. RODRIGUEZ stated the person believed by him to be OSWALD appeared to be drunk. The unknown individual ordered a Tequila and when told the price would be \$.50 asked who the proprietor of the bar was and later commented, "He is an imperialist or a capitalist." RODRIGUEZ states that person believed to be OSWALD became sick and that the other individual ordered a lemonade for which he was charged \$.25. Immediately thereafter, this unknown person and the individual believed to be OSWALD left the Habana Bar. RODRIGUEZ states about three or four days later he observed a group of people congregating on Canal Street and observed CARLOS BRINGUIER talking to two policemen. He also observed two police cars and a white male entering one of the police cars and on the sidewalk observed some yellow-colored handbills. He states this is all he could recall about this incident on Canal Street. RODRIGUEZ stated that on the following day BRINGUIER came into the Habana Bar and mentioned he had had some difficulty with a pro-CASTRO individual distributing handbills on Canal Street. RODRIGUEZ states at that time he did not know the identity of the man whom BRINGUIER had the difficulty with but now assumes the white male he observed entering the police car was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. RODRIGUEZ states he never told BRINGUIER or anyone that the man who was in the Habana Bar with a person he believed identical with OSWALD was being sought by the FBI. RODRIGUEZ states that he had not been talked to by any FBI Agent prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY. RODRIGUEZ could not identify persons depicted in photographs of OSWALD distributing handbills in front of the International Trade Mart, New Orleans, other than OSWALD. ARMANDA JARVIS, Barmaid at the Habana Bar, advised she had no knowledge whatsoever concerning OSWALD or anyone who was allegedly in the

NO 100-16601:jas

presence of OSWALD. Mrs. CARLOS BRINGUIER states that her husband is on a speaking tour away from the City of New Orleans, which tour will terminate on May 31, 1964, after which her husband will return to New Orleans. During the latter part of July, 1963, information was received that approximately ten Cuban refugees had arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the purpose of attending a training camp after which they would be trained at a training camp in Guatemala. A source reported that these refugees were disappointed after their arrival because they did not have training weapons and this group allegedly returned to Miami shortly after their arrival in New Orleans.

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DETAILS:

At New Orleans, Louisiana

On May 1, 1964, it was determined through contact with Delta Airlines, New Orleans International Airport, Moisant Field, that ORESTES PENA had departed at approximately 12:15 PM on May 1, 1964 on a trip to Europe, and that PENA was scheduled to return to New Orleans on May 30, 1964.