



## ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU

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### BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON LORAN EUGENE HALL

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Loran Eugene Hall (aka Skip Hall and Lorenzo Pascillo) was born on January 4, 1930 in Newton, Kansas. His criminal record includes: an arrest for writing bad checks in 1956 in Wichita, Kansas; being jailed in 1959 by the Cuban government for "plotting revolutionary activities" (see below); an arrest, in 1961, again in Wichita, this time for shoplifting; and an arrest on October 16, 1963 in Dallas, Texas for possession of dangerous drugs (see below).

#### SOLDIER OF FORTUNE-

Hall was a mercenary/soldier of fortune who in the late 1950's fought as a Captain in Castro's revolutionary army (New York Times, April 22, 1959; July 4 & 9, 1959). (Note: Hall served in Castro's army, the 26th of July Movement, under Camillo Cienfuegos, who later got Hall out of jail in July, 1959 after a 6 month stint.) By 1959 Hall turned against Castro and became involved in a scheme to overthrow Nicaraguan dictator Somoza. This attempted armed expedition was apparently designed to make it appear that Castro was exporting his revolution, and thus provoke Castro's downfall. The plot was ultimately stopped by the Cubans and many of the principals were jailed, including Loran Hall and John Wilson Hudson. (Others involved were: Col. Gomez, Leslie Norman Bradley, Paul Hughes, Efren R. Pichardo, and Joseph Bardor.) Also in prison at this time was Santos Trafficante, Jr. On July 8, 1959, Castro deported three Americans. Trafficante, Hall, and Henry Savaadra, a former employee of the Capri Hotel in Havana, which was reportedly run by a syndicate including Trafficante and

Charlie "the Blade" Tourine [recently subpoenaed by the Dade County Fla. authorities investigating the murder of Johnny Rosselli].

A potential area of importance is the relationship between Loran Hall and Trafficante from their deportation in 1959 until 1963.

In 1961 Hall moved to California where he set up his personal base of operations for his anti-Castro activities. However, in 1962-63, he was associated with elements of the No Name Key group of CIA agents and anti-Castro guerillas in southern Fla. [Santos Trafficante, Jr. was asked about this group in March before the House Select Committee.] It is known that Trafficante made contacts with some of the No Name Key group members and may have funded some of its operations.

Twice during the fall of 1963 Hall visited Dallas, first to raise funds for the extremist exile organizations (reportedly for Frank Sturgis' International Anti-Communist Brigade) [William Turner, Power on the Right, Berkeley: Ramparts Press, 1971, p. 106.], and a second time with a trailer full of arms for Cuban exiles in Miami [CD 1553.9].

#### LESTER LOGUE MEETING-

Hall acknowledged in a 1968 interview with Harold Weisberg that he had been in Lester Logue's Dallas office on Oct. 17, 1963 when an offer of \$50,000 was made to shoot President Kennedy. He told Weisberg that he didn't think Logue would have been for it. Later he adds, "and anyway I say this. Lester Logue had nothing to do with it [JFK's death]." [Weisberg interview p. 57.]

In a 9/1/68 National Enquirer article, Hall does not name Logue, but states that "radical right-wingers", including ex-mil-

itary officers made the offer. [This is in sharp contrast to Hall's statements on Dec. 29, 1967 in a channel 7- 11:00 News program in Los Angeles, when he told a reporter the "liberals" had a hand in killing JFK, because Kennedy was moving towards "the center".]

In the Enquirer piece, Hall said that he was in Dallas to "discuss funds" and pick up supplies for his group, La Sombra, which was formed to host raids from Fla. to Cuba, as well as smuggle arms and ammunition to guerilla groups.

On Oct. 16, 1963, Hall was stopped in his car in Dallas, allegedly for having a concealed license plate and was subsequently booked for possession of dangerous drugs (pep pills found in the glove compartment). Hall maintains that it was a fake charge designed to place on the record his presence in Dallas. There have been allegations that Lester Logue put up the \$5,000 bond to get Hall out of jail the following day.

#### THE SYLVIA ODIO AFFAIR-

Mrs. Sylvia Odio, born in Havana in 1937, was a well-educated member of the Cuban upper class. In 1960 she fled Cuba to the U.S. According to the Warren Commission: "It appears that both her parents are political prisoners of the Castro regime. Mrs. Odio is a member of the Cuban Revolutionary Junta (JURE), an anti-Castro organization."

It has been reported that in late Sept. 1963 two Cubans or Mexicans and one American believed to <sup>be</sup> Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Dallas home of Sylvia Odio. In checking out this story, the FBI interviewed Loran Hall on Sept. 16, 1964. At that time Hall reportedly told the FBI that he had been accompanied at Mrs. Odio's

home by Lawrence Howard and William Seymour (who apparently had a resemblance to Oswald). However, four days later on Sept. 20th, Hall retracted his earlier statement and said that he was accompanied by Seymour and Howard in Dallas on separate occasions and had no specific recollection of having visited Mrs. Odio. Subsequently, on Oct. 1, 1964, Mrs. Odio was interviewed about the incident and was shown photographs of Hall, Howard and Seymour. She could not identify any of them as having been among the three men who visited her home.

It is important to note that the FBI transmitted the contents of the Sept. 16th interview with Hall to the Warren Commission after it had already received a retraction from Hall on Sept. 20th. The Hall story was used by the Warren Commission in refuting Mrs. Odio's firm belief that Oswald had visited her home (at a time when the Commission believed he was riding a bus en route to Mexico City). Furthermore, an FBI report dated Oct. 2, 1964 (which includes all the above information as well as the results of an interview William Seymour, where he denies he was in Dallas in Sept. '63 and maintains that he had no contact with Sylvia Odio) is contained in CD 1553. This report was transmitted to the disbanded Warren Commission well before the release of the Hearings and Exhibits at the end of Nov. '64. The document was not included among the Exhibits.

[References to the Odio Affair-- Sylvia Meagher, Accessories After the Fact, Vintage Books, 1976, p. 376-387.]

#### THE RIFLE INCIDENT-

CD 1179 (pp. 295-98, The Watley Report) relates how Loran Hall redeemed a rifle he had pawned in Los Angeles with a check issued

by the American Committee to Free Cuba (referred to as the Committee to Free Cuba in the report). The American Committee to Free Cuba is a Los Angeles group close to the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade of radio preacher Billy James Hargis [Robert Sam Anson, They've Killed the President!, Bantom Books, 1975, pp. 196-198]. The FBI's reponse to, and reporting of, this incident is most peculiar.

The Watley Report relates how Dick Watley (an anti-Castro guerilla trainer) sent Loran Hall and G.P. Hemming to see Richard Hatchcock (referred to in this report as "Hathcock") in early 1963. (Watley had known Hatchcock for several years.) Hatchcock was a private detctive whose company was the Allied International Detec-tives, of Los Angeles. His partner at this firm was Roy Barton Payne.

Hall and Hemming, who stated that they were broke, had come to pawn a set of golf clubs and a 30-06 Johnson Semi-automatic rifle with a Bushnell Variable Powered Scope. Hatchcock loaned them \$50 on each item. Then on Sept. 18, 1963 Hall returned with a check from the ACFC and retrieved the rifle. CD 1179 notes that Hall came in and "got a high-powered rifle which looked identical to the one shown on television on Nov. 23, 1963 as being used in the assassination of President Kennedy."

"Shortly after" Sept. 18, 1963 Hemming called Hatchcock from Fla. inquiring about the rifle. When told Hatchcock had given it to Hall Hemming became "irritated to some extent." To further document this part of the incident there exists a Miami Police Intelligence Report, dated Nov. 1, 1963 which reports an allegation from

Hemming (the subject of the report) that Loran Hall stole two of his rifles from his Miami apartment on Oct. 31, 1963. In addition, Hemming alleged that "recently in California, Hall also stole a Johnson 30-06 from the subject (Hemming)."

In his 1968 interview with Harold Weisberg (p. 52) Hall referred to this rifle matter: "I do know that Gerry was mad at me because I took his Johnson ~~with~~ a telescopic sight that he had threatened to come down and shoot me and all this jazz."

The last paragraph of the Watley Report states: "No further investigation was conducted as it is obvious that the rifle mentioned above was not used in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy." It is not clear why the FBI dropped this pawned rifle quickly (after checking it out in 1963), and reported it to the Warren Commission inadequately and only after a long delay. (This "Watley Report" is buried in a large CD full of miscellaneous allegations and its title, referring to Dick Watley has little to do with the story.)

#### HALL'S PAST STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS (POST-1963)-

On May 2, 1968 (after being subpoenaed by New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison on Dec. 26, 1967) Hall called a news conference in L.A. and announced that his memory had been "jogged". He was now willing to go to New Orleans and appear as a material witness for Garrison. At the Garrison trial Hall implicated Edgar Eugene Bradley as a conspirator in the JFK assassination. [Peter Noyes, Legacy of Doubt, Pinnacle Books, N.Y., 1973, pp. 162-177.]

Regarding Hall's past statements as to who killed JFK: at first he stated that he believed the liberals had a hand in killing JFK, because Kennedy was moving towards the center [statement made on

Dec. 29, 1967, 11:00 News, Channel 7 Los Angeles]. Later, Hall changed his mind about the liberal establishment being involved because "so many facts had been brought to my attention". [L.A. Free Press, May 24, '68]. He stated then and again in Sept. '68 that he felt the assassination was precipitated by "radical right-wingers and fascists".