

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Castro allegedly indicated Oswald had been in Cuba. Enclosed are two copies of a translation of this speech, pertinent portions of which have been included in the enclosed Miami report. A review of this speech fails to indicate any slip of the tongue as alleged. It is noted, however, that page 33, last paragraph, of the enclosed Miami report relating to Castro's speech contains a statement wherein Castro refers to Oswald's visit to the "Cuban Embassy" in Mexico following which he corrected himself indicating he meant the "Cuban Consulate." This could possibly be the basis for the slip of the tongue referred to by Herminio Portell-Vila.

Two copies of a memorandum dated May 15, 1964, setting forth the results of an interview with Herminio Portell-Vila, writer of the article containing the above-mentioned allegation, are also enclosed. You were previously furnished a memorandum dated February 18, 1964, containing additional data obtained from Portell-Vila concerning this matter.

It is noted that Portell-Vila has stated his articles are primarily interpretive analysis, speculation and conjecture based on a review of public source data.

The enclosed memorandum of May 15, 1964, states that according to Portell-Vila, he gave the original of a message received from an unknown source in Cuba pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald's alleged relations in Moscow, Russia, with two Cuban Ambassadors to Mrs. Mariada Arensberg, Secretary of the Cuban Freedom Committee in Washington, D. C. Portell-Vila believed she passed the message on to an unknown Government agency.

On May 22, 1964, a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) advised he recalls receiving such a communication; however, at the time it was received the name Oswald was believed to relate to Osvaldo Dorticos, President of Cuba, rather than Lee Harvey Oswald. Further inquiries are being conducted in this regard.

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Interviews with Orestes Pena and Carlos Bringuier have not yet been conducted due to their unavailability. Pena reportedly is traveling in Europe as indicated in the memorandum dated May 1, 1964, at New Orleans concerning Orestes Pena, two copies of which are enclosed. Carlos Bringuier has been away from New Orleans on an extended speaking tour. Both Pena and Bringuier, however, are due to return to the New Orleans area by May 30, 1964, at which time they will be promptly interviewed and you will be furnished the results.

With regard to your inquiry as to whether this Bureau has conducted a thorough investigation into the question of possible contacts between Lee Harvey Oswald and any representative of or known sympathizer with the Castro government of Cuba, you may be assured that this Bureau has thoroughly explored this question. To date, however, no information has been developed indicating Oswald was controlled, directed or employed by any individual so identified.

We will continue to furnish you with communications in duplicate containing the results of our investigations.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

Enclosures (13)