

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 29, 1966

STATEMENT OF: JOSEPH A. OSTER, WM, age 38 FILE
RESIDING AT: 809 Audubon
TELEPHONE NO. 525-4205

S T A T E M E N T

In about 1956, Guy Banister and I went in business together in the private investigating firm known as Guy Banister and Associates, Inc. At that time, we were in the Balter Building on St. Charles Street in New Orleans. During the course of time I was in business with Banister, I met Jack Martin and others.

Subsequently, I left Banister and formed my own corporation in 1958. It was known as Southern Research Company, Inc. now Joseph A. Oster and Associates, Inc.

During the time I was in business with Banister, I had occasion to visit his home on Argonne Blvd. At that time, Banister had to my knowledge a number of rifles and also a 357 Magnum. I can vaguely remember that he had a .30 caliber bolt action rifle also a shotgun, also, an over and under. I don't know what caliber. The .30 caliber bolt action had a telescopic sight. I know Banister carried a 357 magnum with gold initials (I think the initials were WGB). What happened to these guns, I don't know.

During the course of my friendship with Banister, from the middle of '62 to the end of '63, I met Joe Newbrough, Bill Ninski, Delphene Roberts and Jack Martin, I was also introduced to Dave Ferrie and two Cuban exiles. I don't remember their names. One I know was employed in the Audubon Building for an engineering firm on the 5th floor. He was tall, thin, dark hair, (Jorge Ramirez - engineer for Warren Moses - 524-1277), and I vaguely remember he was a draftsman or some kind of engineer. He was approximately 30 to 32 years old. At the time I met them, they were driving an old Ford. The other Cuban was short, stocky, moustache and appeared to be highly educated. He was about 45 years old. When Banister introduced me to them, he told me they were Cuban exiles and had been run out of Cuba by Castro. He also told me they were the heads of some kind of exile movement here in New Orleans, and they were trying to get some kind of program started.

I remember one time Banister was telling me about some automobile parts and heavy equipment being sent to Cuba in violation of a State Department band against the export of equipment to Cuba. He was investigating it for somebody. This comes in somewhere, I don't remember exactly where. He told me he had pictures of this stuff and mentioned the name of the wharf where it was. He also told me he could take me and show me other equipment that was going to Cuba. I remember he told me that he had pictures of this equipment but I don't remember if he told me Newbrough did take them or was going to take them. He called and asked me about a camera, but I didn't have the kind he wanted. So; the next time I saw him, Newbrough was in the office along with Martin, Dave Ferrie, and Dave Lewis. Delphene Roberts was the secretary. Bill Ninski was in the other room. This was on Lafayette Street. We went around to the restaurant and Newbrough told me he had taken some pictures for Banister. What they were, I don't know. I think Newbrough or Martin mentioned jeeps to me.

Subsequently, I ran into one of the Cubans I was introduced to in Banister's Office in my own office building, and I would see him coming in and out of the elevator, and I asked him if he had seen Banister and he said, "No, I'm not fooling with that anymore." I haven't seen this Cuban for about four months now. This particular unknown Cuban was watching Oswald pass out these pamphlets in front of Maison Blanche, Kress, and the Audubon Building.

I remember also that Anna Burglass was also in and out of Banister's office during this same period.

JOSEPH A. OSTER