

Edward Lee H. Lee-Russian Period 2
Ind & Corp

WDS:mfd:6 Apr 64

MEMORANDUM

April 6, 1964

Int Cir
TO: Leon Hubert
Burt Griffin

FROM: W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Testimony of Mrs. Silvia Odio

Reference is made to Commission No. 205, pages 640-47, Commission No. 245, pages 18-26, and Commission No. 86, page 558, which contain the entire material we have to date on this problem.

Mrs. Silvia Odio, 1816A West Davis Street, Dallas, Texas states that in late September or early October 1963 two Cuban men visited her home and stated they were from "JURE." They were accompanied by an individual they introduced as "Leon Oswald." Mrs. Odio says that based upon photographs she has seen she is now certain that this man was Lee Harvey Oswald. She is not certain whether she misunderstood the introduction or whether the two Cuban men themselves had a misunderstanding that Oswald's first name was "Leon." The purpose of their visit was to ask her to write some letters to various Dallas businesses and request funds for JURE. Mrs. Odio is herself a Cuban refugee, and both her parents are held by Castro as prisoners in Cuba.

Mrs. Odio declined the request that she write letters raising funds for JURE because she feared it might result in her two parents being harmed by Castro. She later told the FBI that a few days after the meeting at her home, one of the two Cuban individuals, who called himself "Leopoldo," telephoned her and stated that both he and his companion from "JURE" were leaving town and that they were not going to have anything further to do with "Leon Oswald" since they considered Oswald to be "loco." The telephone caller went on to say that Oswald did not appear sincere, that he had told them he was an ex-Marine and could help them in the underground but that he appeared to be very cynical and seemed to think that all Cubans hated all Americans. Oswald was supposed to have said something to the effect, "I'll bet you Cubans could kill

cc: Mr. Rankin's File
Mail Room Files
Mr. Hubert
Mr. Griffin
Mr. Slawson

Kennedy for what he did to you at the Bay of Pigs."

Mrs. Odio checks out as an intelligent, stable individual.

Mrs. C. L. Connell, an acquaintance of Mrs. Odio's and a volunteer assistant to the Catholic Cuban Relief of Dallas, has stated that on November 28, 1963 Mrs. Odio told her basically the same information as outlined in the previous paragraphs and, in addition, that Lee Harvey Oswald had made several talks to small groups of Cuban refugees in Dallas in the past and that he had "captivated" the groups to whom he spoke.

Many questions are raised by Mrs. Odio's statement. The most important is obviously the identification of the two men who were supposed to have accompanied Oswald to her home. Apparently she cannot remember their names, except that one was called "Leopoldo," but she certainly ought to be able to remember who sent them to her home or otherwise how they got hold of her name. Also, it is apparent from other parts of the reports attached to this memorandum that there are certain individuals who might have been the ones seen by Mrs. Odio, and photographs of them mixed with photographs mixed with other persons might be displayed to her to test her ability to recognize them. I would also be interested to know why "Leopoldo" called Mrs. Odio back. Was it just to say that he considered Oswald "loco?" This seems unlikely. Also, Mrs. Odio has never been questioned on Mrs. Connell's statements that she [Mrs. Odio] previously said that Oswald had addressed many small groups of Cuban refugees in Dallas and that he had been such a good speaker that he "captivated" them. If Mrs. Odio stands by these statements, we should of course try to pinpoint when these meetings occurred, where they occurred, who else was present, etc.

You will note that Commission No. 86, page 558, deals with a "JURE" leader in Puerto Rico who goes by the name of "Leopoldo." Silvia Odio said that she thought the individual who called himself "Leopoldo" in her home was a JURE leader from Miami or Puerto Rico.

I think that there is a substantial chance that if Mrs. Odio backs down from her story, it will not be because she disbelieves it, but because she is frightened. It is obvious that the Cuban men who dealt with Oswald, if they exist, have not come forward to say so, and in fact, if they happen to be the ones that the FBI has already interviewed,

they already have lied about their dealings with Oswald. This means they must be frightened and, if that is the case, they could by now very easily have brought pressure or threats to bear on Mrs. Odio to keep quiet. All this means is that the utmost care should be taken in examining Mrs. Odio and the other witnesses concerned and that perhaps polygraph tests of one or more of them would be advisable.

Enclosures (3)