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his help—not as a guerrilla leader this time, but as a marksman who could assassinate Fidel. He would try to infiltrate as a volunteer, as with an even bigger trophy: inside information about the plots to kill he had before. the exile leaders involved in these "terrorist plans," he might come up Oswald to prove himself. He had already made one attempt to pene-trate the enemy underground. Now, if he could just make contact with provocation. He'd attempt to goad the exiles into retaliating against Cuba's leaders. Once again he would seek out an exile group and offer Cennedy. While he was at it, ne'd plant another little seed of

warning. In other words, the Odio incident was Oswald's reaction to Castro's

out this scheme. Why did they go to Sylvia Odio, in particular? An ered more about Odio's father from some of the large number of stand why Oswald and the others went all the way to Dallas to carry Warren Report suggested. They had been indirectly involved in out that Odio's parents weren't ordinary political prisoners, as the The authors, George O'Toole and Paul Hoch, had apparently discovarticle in the Saturday Evening Post that year provided an answer. spectacular plot to assassinate Castro in 1961. Warren Commission records that were declassified in 1976. It turns Although I was fairly convinced of this by 1976, I still didn't under-

the country. nounced the breaking up of this plot at a public meeting in Havana in October 1961. At the time, the Odio daughters were already out of tracked down and arrested, as were the Odios. Castro himself anto a farm that was owned by Sylvia Odio's parents. Gonzales was police. Veciana and his mother escaped to Miami, while Gonzales fied plan could be carried out, however, word of it reached the Cuban planned to fire a bazooka to kill Castro and other officials. Before their rented an apartment near the presidential palace from which they members of the anti-Castro underground. Veciana's mother had The plot was the work of Antonio Veciana and Reinaldo Gonzales,

10hu Was And I said, 'No, I am sorry to say I am not working in the under to the underground. Notice the chain of association in their approach to her. They talked first about the details of her father's activities in apparently concluded (however mistakenly) that Amador Odio's elabout the American. He said, 'You are working in the underground. Cuisa. Then, "after they mentioned my father they started talking dest daughter might be interested in introducing a volunteer hit man Having somehow learned of her father's background, her visitors

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underlying logic seemed to be: We know about your father's connection the same thing, then stood silently, evaluating the situation. The who was very much interested in the Cuban cause." Oswald told her name is Leon Oswald.'... And they introduced him as an American ground.' And he said, 'We wanted you to meet this American. His with a terrorist plot to kill Castro. We believe you have contacts with Oswald that evening. them in, she might well have heard the rest of their proposal about the underground. Here is an American you can use. Had Odio invited

would know, and tell them, the name of the right person to see-the and an exile leader in Miami. something could be done" and arranged a meeting between Martin sion that in June 1963 she had spoken with a Uruguayan named touch with the anti-Castro underground. Mrs. Odio told the Commisthat Odio may have had a reputation for being able to put people in leader behind these new assassination plots. And, in fact, it appears leader. As she later said, she had "jumped at the opportunity that hand weapons if she could put him in touch with an appropriate Johnny Martin who claimed he could provide the exiles with second-What did they want from Mrs. Odio? Apparently, they hoped she Have no with hower antraction ! 1 CINHU Humn

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speaker at an anti-Castro meeting in Dallas had mentioned that he the Catholic refugee relief agency or even by consulting the phone living in that city. Odio said she could have been located by calling find her. She testified that shortly before the Oswald incident, a knew her father in Cuba and that Amador Odio's daughters were Mrs. Odio believed it would not have been difficult for anyone to alline .

"WW and . New Orleans anti-Castro exile, Ernesto Rodriguez, has recently claimed that Oswald had also visited him to offer his services as a a tightly knit community in which news got around easily and secrets were hard to keep. Oswald may have found Mrs. Odio the same way he apparently found Bringuier-simply by asking around. Another book. Bringuier. Thus, it appears that Oswald made more forays into the guerrilla warfare specialist, and that it was he who sent Oswald to see Angelo was likely the Latin American of similar appearance that evidence suggests they were not anti-Castro activists, as they claimed known. We know enough only to speculate about their roles. The anti-Castro camp than anyone realized, or wanted to admit. Overall, one gets the impression that Cubans in this country formed The real names of the two Latin Americans will probably never be

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mond while to a present? Oswald was seen with in New Orleans. Both men evidently lied when

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15 of Pines?"---sounds almost like a jeer. It seems more reasonable that asset to his cause. But his telephone conversation with Odio followed Oswald's line with Bringuier so closely that this seems doubtful. And cross purposes. Leopoldo's parting shot about Amador Odio-"Is he still in the Isle rules out the idea that one or both or these men were anti-Castroites made there in August as a Fair Play for Cuba activist. None of this no friends of his.) And if they were from New Orleans, as they said these three were birds of a feather than that they were working at they would almost certainly have known of the splash Oswald had Odio's father, now living in the United States, still insists they were they said they were members of JURE and friends of Odio's father been an anti-Castro militant who truly believed Oswald would be an who had infiltrated Oswald's one-man operation. Leopoldo may have (The other leaders of JURE said they had never heard of them, and

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someone behind the scenes telling Oswald what to do? But let's pull back for a moment to get a broader view. Was there

out everything else we know about him. FBI? Maybe, though it's difficult to imagine that Hoover's boys would CIA, apparently, since the CIA already had plenty of contacts with reason to order Oswald to get inside the exile underground? Not the picture Lee Oswald working for the FBI or the CIA, unless we crop that group-the CIA was, in fact, running the war against Cuba. The Castro's opponents should murder the president. Besides, it's hard to have wanted one of their operatives to go around suggesting that Let's make that question more specific: Who would have had a

ment grossly inadequate-and it attached a fine-print footnote: report called the CIA investigation of the question of Cuban involve that the Cuban government was not involved in the assassination, its There is another possibility. Although the House Assassinations Committee concluded, "on the basis of the evidence available to it,"

intelligence. The committee showed photographs supplied by the CIA to Odio who stated they did not appear to be the visitors in question. CIA had developed since 1963 the ability to identify from physical visitors, and it determined that they may have been members of Cuban In fact, at the committee's request, the CLA attempted to identify Odio's descriptions possible intelligence agents who may have been involved With respect to the incident at the home of Sylvia Odio in Dallas, the The committee came to the conclusion that had she been shown photo

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graphs in 1963, when the event was clearer in her mind, she might have gence and who might have been able to identify the Odio visitors. did not make use of a defector from Cuba who had worked in intellibeen able to make an identification. It is also regrettable that the CIA

no further with them than he did with the Russians although Oswald wanted to work for the Cubans, he apparently got affair had an improvised, amateurish flavor. As we'll see later on, hoped to get out of Mrs. Odio they must have hoped to get right away, before she could check their authenticity with her father. The whole poldo and Angelo were Cuban intelligence agents. Anything this trio An extraordinary footnote. And yet, it's hard to believe that Leo-

Cuba, and he wanted to make a name for himself as a Castro sup-porter and revolutionary. He was operating in the uncertain present, with specific short-range goals in mind. Oswald was on his way to Committee, speaking generally, "I knew him personally and he didn't like to take orders." There's no reason to assume that Oswald was much as he had done when he went to Russia with his military Cuba, he hoped, and he evidently wanted to come bearing giftshad a motive of his own-or, rather, two motives. He wanted to help following orders when he went to see Bringuier or Odio, because he information. "As far as taking orders," Marina told the House Assassinations

as a leader: the guerrilla warfare expert, the expert marksman. He was used was typical of Oswald in some manner. It was like him to pose dent was Oswald's idea. Looked at more closely, each of the tactics since he had already made a verbal threat against Eisenhower. W sounds like Oswald, who often showed a tendency to be legalistic. tactic-trying to draw the exiles into a violation of the law-also kill, and after you got out you might be a good gangster. The second And finally, the threat against a president's life was also in character, had once complained that all the Marine Corps did was teach you to putting his military training to ironic use—as an enlisted man, Oswald The simplest and most reasonable conclusion is that the Odio inci 3

period of time preparing for it?" She answered, "I would say yes," and of Oswald's personality on it. Consider another remark of Marina's. a few minutes later circled back to the same question: "Going back when he got ready to do something he felt was important he spent a his defection by learning Russian: "Was that a trait of his . . . that She was asked if she thought her husband would have prepared for But it wasn't just the tactics. The entire incident had the imprint

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to say that Lee was always preparing for something, he not always prepared himself [sic], but he was quite calculating in that respect, and sometimes quite clever. He would masquerade somehow." George de conspiracists that Oswald was working for the anti-Castro side in Mohrenschildt, too, saw this trait of his. Concerning the theory of the

New Orleans, he wrote:

I cannot visualize Lee being in cahoots with these Cuban refugees in New Orleans ... but he might have played his own game, meeting some of them, checking just for the hell of it what their motivations were. The amazing and attractive side of Lee's personality was that he liked

to play with his own life, he was an actor in real life. A very curious On the other hand, I can very easily visualize Lee joining a pro-Castro

individual.

bly an event he had long forgotten. In Fort Worth sixteen years confederates. As the ringleader, she told one of them what to sayearlier, Marguerite had also stood outside a rival's door with two perhaps, a model for it from his childhood, although this was proba-A. Ekdahl. As Robert said, his brother's "imagination and love of The Odio incident was characteristic of Oswald. There was even, "--- to trap her wandering husband, Edwin

intrigue" were a lot like his mother's.

provides on Lee Harvey Oswald's thinking just two months before Dallas. Up until then, there was little indication that Oswald felt any animosity toward John Kennedy. In fact, he seemed to favor him over the other politicians on the scene. In August he had publicly blamed tried to penetrate the plots Castro spoke about, he suggested that Kennedy should be killed. The September 9 warning evidently had an But sixteen days after Castro's warning appeared, Oswald not only the CIA and State Department for America's policy toward Cuba. effect: Oswald now believed that Castro was in danger and that the The compelling aspect of Sylvia Odio's testimony is the window it

Cuban leader held Kennedy responsible. Oswald's thinking by reading Odio's testimony in light of his past evidence into a reconstruction of the events in question. It is then up ments in a trial, each attorney will attempt to weave the available behavior. The method I've used is an old one. During closing argu-This conclusion is admittedly based on inferences-I have deduced

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to the jury to decide whose account is more likely to be true. I have presented the Odio incident within a narrative of Oswald's other activities, showing how the pieces mesh. Although I don't claim to

have conclusive proof, I do maintain that my interpretation is more it was an extraordinary case of mistaken identity, or a plot to frame credible than the alternative theories. Only two other explanations of this incident have been given-that

a Marxist by presenting him as an anti-Castro hit man. Neither view can be totally disproved. But neither encompasses the other evidence about Oswald nearly as well as the solution I've proposed. I found new support for my argument in 1977, when I learned that

revealed this threat was not an unknown named "Leopoldo," but just a few days after he left Sylvia Odio's doorstep. The man who Lee Harvey Oswald had made a second threat against Kennedy's life

Fidel Castro himself.