

1/28/60 ... Oswald's Game ... 11-18-60

And Thorne's heavily that when he went hunting in Mexico he was shot
any thing & his fingerprints & that their game was from Thorne's good stuff
against a guy with fingers when I go under govt.

160... Oswald's Game

lightning speed and no conscious effort, one sees that the background is actually the silhouette of two people facing one another. The goblet becomes merely the white background between them. (Alma! Why didn't I see it before?) When I first read Sylvia Odio's testimony, I was a long way from understanding Oswald's thinking, and no matter how I turned it, her testimony made no sense. All the other evidence said Oswald was a supporter of the Castro revolution. Yet here he was, apparently teamed up with two counter-revolutionaries.

One day I was reading a Secret Service report describing their questioning of Marina Oswald shortly after Oswald's death, when a single sentence brought me up short. Marina had remarked that her husband "was boastful that he was a good shot and that he learned this while in the military service." That was exactly the way Leopoldo had described "Leon Oswald" to Sylvia Odio: "He's a Marine, an ex-Marine, and an expert marksman." They were talking about the same man. This is what Oswald was with Oswald's wife Odio.

There was just one other witness who spoke of Oswald as an ex-Marine who bragged about his military expertise—and that was Carlos Bringuer, the exile leader whose organization Oswald had tried to infiltrate. I began to see how similar his encounters with Bringuer and Odio were. Oswald had approached each of them as an eager guerrillas and lead raids against Cuba. With Odio, he was an ex-Marine marksman who could knock off Fidel. (Although it was Leopoldo who voiced this proposal, it was the same general line Oswald had used with Bringuer.)

There were other similarities. Oswald had offered Bringuer a contribution, hoping to draw the exiles into a violation of the law. Odio's visitors asked her to distribute a letter appealing for funds to buy arms for the war on Cuba. A letter of this kind would probably have been illegal. Infiltration and harassment—this was how Oswald had described his encounter with Bringuer. ("I infiltrated the Cuban Student Directorate and then harassed them with information I gained including having the N.O. City Attorney General call them in and put a restraining order... on some so-called bonds for invasion they were selling in the New Orleans area.")

But a third tactic was used. While Oswald was in Bringuer's store, he gave two anti-Castro teenagers specific instructions on detaching trains and blowing up the Huey P. Long Bridge. With Sylvia Odio, he allegedly proposed a still more outrageous act of violence. It had been put almost in the form of a dare: the exiles "didn't have any guts."

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The Troubling Testimony of Sylvia Odio 161

... It is so easy to do it." The age-old role of the provocateur is to encourage acts of violence that will discredit the group he has infiltrated. By goading the exiles into attacking the president, a pro-Castro provocateur might have hoped to destroy two threats to Cuba with one blow.

For a police detective, a criminal's M.O., his method of operating, is nearly as distinctive as his fingerprints. The Odio episode followed Oswald's M.O. In other words, the mysterious Odio incident was another of Oswald's attempts to infiltrate the anti-Castro underground. The intended victim of this enterprise was not Lee Harvey Oswald, but Sylvia Odio and the Cuban exiles. Oswald was plotting against the exiles, not the other way around. Unlike the explanations offered by the Warren Commission and its critics, this solution fits the rest of the evidence about Oswald. And it makes better sense after all, that Oswald went to see Odio for some reason of his own, than that he was impersonated or duped by his enemies.

Having caught a glimpse of what Oswald was up to, I still had to ask why. Why was Oswald put forward as a potential assassin of Castro, and why the talk about killing Kennedy, as well? Again, Oswald's similar approach to Carlos Bringuer provides a clue. In August Oswald was already planning to go to Cuban officials in Mexico and show them "how much he'd done to help Cuba." When he learned about the FBI raid on an exile arms cache, he saw a chance to bring the Cubans something special: valuable intelligence about the inner working of an exile training camp. But his infiltration attempt failed when Bringuer turned him down.

Then, on September 9, another headline in the Times-Picayune: "CASTRO BLASTS RAIDS ON CUBA / Says U.S. Leaders Impelled by Aid to Rebels." Castro declared:

We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe.

It would have been fairly easy to read between the lines. These terrorist plans were obviously the work of the same exile groups that were conducting the raids with U.S. support. In the past, the Cuban government had blamed the CIA. Now Castro seemed to be pointing a finger directly at Kennedy—the "cheap and crooked politician"—and warning that two could play at that game. Here was another danger to Cuba, and a new opportunity for

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Directorio A. D. I.

José Antonio Echeverría, con tus ideas en marcha

A. Fuller

Secretario General



Buenos

Secretario de Finanzas

Confiamos en que la pureza de nuestras intenciones
nos atraiga el favor de Dios, para lograr el imperio
de la justicia en nuestra Patria.

José Antonio Echeverría

I received \$10⁵⁰ (Ten dollars
and fifty cents) from the
sale of Bonds of the Cuban
Student Directorate.
New Orleans, July 5th 1963.
Carlos Bringuier
Delegate!