

September 14, 1966

Mr. Mortimer Kass
8th Floor
315 Lexington Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kass,

If in speaking to you I did not ask about one Jose Duarte, a Cuban exile and former Batista officer, I should have. I know more about him now and tell you this, in brief summary.

Duarte surfaced shortly after the RFK assassination to label Sirhan Sirhan as a pro-Castro Communist and to declare that he had had a fight with Sirhan over this. The fight was non-existent and I have every reason to believe the alleged sympathies are the same.

I now know that Duarte is connected with and here apparently sponsored by the exile organization RECA and one Dr. Fernando Penabaz, editor of "Insight on the News". The alleged identity between Sirhan and Communism is further propagandized in the July 15 issue of this publication.

All of this bears a remarkable parallel to the Bringuier incident in the JFK assassination, where suddenly there was "Dr." Carlce Bringuier, of New Orleans, to pin a "red" label on Oswald. I find that both Bringuier and Penabaz are connected with Billy James Hargis, to the knowledge of the FBI. I have the reports suppressed by the Warren Commission. Penabaz met Walker through Hargis. Hargis provided a "patriotic" introduction to a record by Bringuier. Penabaz and Bringuier both propagandized the false "Oswald red" line at the time of the JFK assassination.

One of the contributors to "Insight", I am told but cannot prove, for I have no copies of the publication (and with my having publicized the Cuban-exile connection with the JFK assassination there is little chance Penabaz would mail me anything), is Alan Courtney, who at least in 1963 had a talk show on WQAM in Miami where, according to other suppressed FBI reports I have, exactly the same line came up when he aired some American mercenaries engaged in these activities. Other contributors, I am told, are one Nguyen Cong Vian (approx) and William S. Bera. The publication comes from Miami.

I am interested in knowing anything I can about any of these people and the publication. Whenever I hear from Mr. Silverman he can, of course, have everything I have on any of them. I know you have a slight file on Bringuier. Perhaps you have more. I know he was engaged in racist activities. He has been engaged in filing spurious lawsuits against me, apparently with some help.

Both Bringuier and Pensbez are Havana-trained lawyers, both were in the Batista government, and Pensbez, according to the FBI, also had prominent American corporations among his clients.

I do not know whether this will be of interest to Mr. Foxman, from whom I have received copies of a Ramparts and an Atlas article, but I'd appreciate it if, when you ask him, you'd thank him for his kindness.

Should any of your people want an advance outside opinion of the draft of my manuscript, I had a spare copy for several days and Rabbi Morris Kosman read it. I wanted him to because the National States Right Party is active not far from here and may be in this area, which is strong for Wallace, without my knowing it.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg