

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Continuation No. 1140

Copy to:

Report of: JAMES J. O'CONNOR

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Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis: Cuban newspaper REVOLUCION reviewed for period 10/1/63 to 12/31/63 without locating cartoon of FIDEL CASTRO and President KENNEDY, which Dr. FERNANDO PENABAZ, Cuban exile attorney, had stated depicted the death of President KENNEDY about a week before the assassination. Dr. PENABAZ contacted on 6/5/64, and advised he had not actually seen such a cartoon, but had been told about it by Dr. JORGE GARCIA MONTES. On 6/7/64, Dr. GARCIA MONTES, former Prime Minister of Cuba, stated he had not seen any such cartoon as described by Dr. PENABAZ, but on the other hand had given Dr. PENABAZ a photograph of a crowd in Havana, Cuba, carrying a mock coffin of President KENNEDY. This photo appeared in the 1/7/62 issue of Cuban magazine BOHEMIA, and was taken during the celebration of the third anniversary of CASTRO's regime. Dr. GARCIA MONTES furnished a copy of a speech made by him on 4/25/64 in which he described influence of FIDEL CASTRO on LEE HARVEY OSWALD. An employee of U.S. Information Agency, Miami, and a confidential source close to Cuban situation, state they have no recollection of any cartoon such as that mentioned by Dr. PENABAZ.

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this photograph had appeared in the January 7, 1962 issue of the Cuban magazine BOHEMIA. The photograph depicted a huge crowd which had assembled in Havana on January 2, 1962 for a display of Cuban military might and a speech by FIDEL CASTRO on the occasion of the celebration of the third anniversary of CASTRO's regime. Dr. GARCIA displayed a copy of the BOHEMIA magazine in question.

He pointed out on page 69 thereof, a photograph depicting part of the large crowd gathered for the celebration. This part of the crowd was holding up a mock coffin on which was printed, in English, the words:

"Mr. KENNEDY lies here, Cuban revolution killed him."

A caption under the picture in the magazine, as translated from Spanish, reads:

"The popular repudiation of the aggressive policy of imperialism assumes a most picturesque form: KENNEDY (in the casket) lies here liquidated by the Cuban revolution."

Dr. GARCIA furnished a copy of the photograph in the magazine. He said he had made copies of this photograph available to the Cuban exile group, Unidad Revolucionaria (Revolutionary Unity), for its anti-CASTRO propaganda.

Dr. GARCIA also furnished a typewritten copy of a speech he said he made before the Louisiana Press Association at Shreveport, Louisiana, on April 25, 1964,

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in which he set forth his observations on the influence of the FIDEL CASTRO regime on LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He pointed out that pages 11 to 16 of his speech copy (numbered in the upper right corners), deal with his views upon the assassination. The speech is as follows:

SPEECH DELIVERED BY
DR. MONTES GARCIA
BEFORE THE LOUISIANA PRESS ASSOCIATION
APRIL 25, 1964

Members of the Louisiana Press Association:

I consider this opportunity to speak before your Convention a great honor. Ironically, after living five years in Florida, it is this Association that has given me the chance to speak about the tragedy of my country.

Honors are always appreciated, but more so in the circumstances in which I find myself: a political exile and a man without a country.

I have been a friend of the United States all my life. One reason is that I was born in this country. During the second war for independence, my family had to leave Cuba and I was born in the city of New York in 1897. But the main reason why I am a friend of the United States is that I learned it from my father, who was always grateful for the help and support that you gave Cuba to gain its independence from Spain.

Now, my friends, I am asking you, the members of the press that mould public opinion, to help us again recover our independence. The situation now is much worse than it was in 1898. Then we were fighting Spain which, after all, is the country of our ancestors and our culture is Spanish. The excesses and the crimes of the cruel Captain General Weyler were nothing

compared to what Cuba is suffering today. Thousands of people have been shot, practically without trial, 50,000 political prisoners suffer from hunger and all sorts of indignities in Cuban jails, and a foreign country, alien to all that is Cuban, rules my country through its Communist satrap, Fidel Castro, to whom Russia has given all the weapons necessary to keep the Cuban people in slavery, and a state police organization that Cubans cannot, by themselves, destroy.

You will forgive me, I am sure, for saying these words. I could not speak before the press of the State of Louisiana, so close to our struggles for independence, without asking for your help to free my country from the yoke of Communism. But although that is what is really in my heart, I have not come to tell you what Castro and Communism have done to Cuba and the Cubans. I am aware that I am addressing a segment of the American press, and that I should talk about what you are naturally interested in: the damages to the United States inflicted by Castro and Communism.

Whatever Castro has done, has been done by a Communistic government, and is therefore the result of having a Communistic regime in Cuba. So, it seems to me, and I hope to you too, that a few words about the nature of Communism and its aims are in order.

Many years ago Lenin said: "We will first take Eastern Europe; afterwards the masses of Asia. Then we will surround the United States, which will remain the last bastion of Capitalism. We will not have to attack; the United States will fall into our hands like an overripe fruit." 44 years have elapsed since Lenin said this. During these years Soviet Russia took Eastern Europe, thanks to the Yalta and Potsdam agreements; Asia turned to Communism due to the Chinese revolution, aided and abetted by the United States and by the Korea and Geneva armistices. Now the Communists are trying to surround the United States in its own continent. The tactic to be followed to achieve this objective was formulated by Major Sergei Yuvarov in an article in Red Start that was reprinted by the Cuban magazine Bohemia in March 17, 1957 issue.

In said article, Major Yuvarov mentioned three strategic zones: The Colombia-Panama zone which commands the Panama Canal; the zone of the Central American isthmus from which the canal can be easily attacked, and the third, that he called the Antil-lion belt. He pointed out the possibility of using Cuba as a base of operations, mind you, in the year 1957. Precisely the year in which Castro started his revolution in Cuba.

Could it be possible to fight the Communistic strategy of world dominion with the tactic of pacific co-existence? The joint Cuban-Soviet declaration of May 23, 1963, says: (Quote)

"The atmosphere of pacific coexistence contributes to the increase of the influence of the Communist parties and to widen the fighting front for Socialism." And it goes on to say: (Quote) "The practice of pacific coexistence does not mean at all the end or the weakening of the political or ideological struggle against Imperialism."

In 1931 Dimitri Manuilsky, the leader of the Communist International, said: (Quote) "The war between Communism and Capitalism is inevitable. Naturally, today we are not strong enough to attack. Our policy is to put bourgeois America to sleep, launching the most spectacular peace movement ever seen."

In the book, Basis of Marxist Philosophy, written by Konstantinov, published by the Academy of Science of Russia, which is a textbook in all Communist universities, including, of course, the University of Havana, he says: "The contradictions between Socialism and Capitalism are antogonic contradictions, impossible to reconcile and could only end with the elimination of one of them." This, my friends, is the enemy you are facing only 90 miles from the shores of Florida, in the island of Cuba. That cuts all the maritime communications between the United States and the south, and particularly those of the Gulf of Mexico and the State of Louisiana.

The first damage inflicted by Castro's regime on the United States is economic. It is, of course, the least important because

your is a very rich country, but it is big enough to handle.

We begin with properties of United States citizens in Cuba valued at Eight Hundred Million Dollars confiscated by Castro. Then losses of property of the United States Government valued at Twenty-Five Million Dollars.

This requires an explanation. The Nickaro plant, located in Oriente Province, was the property of the United States Government and was confiscated by Castro's regime. And let me add that Cuba holds the biggest nickel reserves in the world which are now lost to the United States Government and are being used by Soviet Russia. I do not have to tell you the strategic value of nickel today.

The third item is the loss in Cuban trade. Although you may have heard that Cuba was an underdeveloped country, the balance favored the United States at the rate of \$125-Million a year for the ten years prior to 1959.

The next item is increase of the price of sugar paid by the citizens of the United States. The price of that commodity has gone way up due to the failure of the sugar crop in Cuba; it comes to around \$600-Million in two years.

Add now the cost of the military mobilization of October 1962. I cannot quote any figure, but it must have run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Then add the cost of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The figure generally mentioned by those in the know is \$40-Million.

Add to this the cost of help given to Cuban refugees in the United States: \$75-Million a year; and the ransom paid for the prisoners of the Bay of Pigs: \$53-Million; and, finally, \$200-Million of merchandise sold to Cuba during the first year of Castro's regime that has not been paid for.

You have probably heard that Cuba's cost to Russia is One Million Dollars a day. Those who say so do not remember that Russia bought Cuban sugar last year at 4.6 and 6 cents a pound and that the price was over 9¢ a pound for 1963 and is still over 7¢ a pound.

But even so, figure the losses suffered by the United States and they average over \$900-Million a year... almost three times as much as Cuba is supposed to cost to Russia.

And if you wish, you may add the \$10-Billion for the Alliance for Progress program. You may remember that it was Castro who, in Buenos Aires in 1959, asked for ten billions from the United States to help Latin America. Then we all laughed at Castro's boutade, until President Kennedy came out with precisely ten billions for the Alianza program. By the way, so much money down the drain as long as Castro's regime remains in Cuba.

But what we have been considering so far is only money, and I must remind you of what Iago said to Othello: "'Twas mine,

'twas his, and has been a slave to thousands."

But something more important has been lost to the United States due to the presence of Castro's regime in Cuba: prestige.

The attacks on the prestige of the United States by Fidel Castro began during his revolution in the Sierra Maestra. We must remember his constant tirades against Yankee imperialism and the kidnapping of American citizens, and worse, the kidnapping of U.S. sailors from the Guantanamo Base. Never before had anybody in America dared do such a thing.

When he reached Havana, after victory, Castro's first act was to expell the U.S. Military Mission which he called useless and incapable.

Then came the so-called agrarian reform that practically confiscated all the sugar mills including, of course, those owned by American citizens. Later, all American assets in Cuba were confiscated, including, as we have already seen, properties of the United States Government. This was followed by a cataract of insults to the United States and its Government. He called United States Senators "drunkards," President Eisenhower, "an idiot," the United States, "the featherless and lousy eagle," and insolently dared face this country in his statement of August 24, 1960, in which he said: (Quote) "We are in the trenches against imperialism, rapacious and exploiter; against the bloody and voracious imperialism that has lost a few claws in Cuba."

The most violent speech ever delivered against the United States in the United Nations was Castro's speech of September 1960.

His aim was, of course, to destroy the prestige of this country in Latin America where he knew that nobody can understand how a powerful nation may keep quiet under such provocation, and where courage is admired.

His purpose was clearly reflected in the newspaper "Revolucion," the official organ of Castro's regime, in an editorial of January 2, 1960.

Now, for more than a century, the United States has been at work to keep European countries out of the American continent. It started with the Monroe Doctrine and was followed by the Pan-American conferences of Chapultapec, Mexico, in 1945; Rio de Janeiro in 1947; Bogotá in 1948 where the charter of the OAS was approved. The Communists staged the bloody "Bogotazo" with the object of making the conference fail, but to no avail. Incidentally, Castro was one of the Communist agitators there.

Finally, in 1954, facing the threat of Communism in Guatemala, the OAS approved the Declaration of Caracas. It states: (Quote) "The dominion or control of the political institutions of any American state by the international Communist movement represents a menace to the sovereignty and independence of the

American states that places in jeopardy the peace of America." Thus was Communism outlawed in America, and the sanctions had already been provided in Rio and Bogotá. And do not forget that armed intervention was one of them.

Then Russia landed troops in Cuba, and nothing happened, and the Monroe Doctrine was dead. When Castro landed troops in Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Santo Domingo, and nothing happened, the Declaration of Caracas and the Treaties of Rio and Bogotá were also dead, and so was the Pan American system, to all practical purposes.

As a result, the leadership of the United States in the American continent slipped from its hands. Communism advanced and threatened to take over in Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, and Santo Domingo. Ironically, it was only due to military coups, so bitterly opposed by the State Department, that those countries were saved and Communism stopped.

When the rest of the world saw what was happening in America, at the very doorstep of the United States; when they saw that this country launched the Bay of Pigs invasion only to abandon the gallant fighters at the last minute, then two things happened simultaneously: friends of the United States - and France was an example - asked themselves: "If the United States does not get rid of Castro, 90 miles from its shores, for fear of war, will it come to our rescue if we are attacked?"

On the other hand, United States enemies and the so-called

neutralist nations, decided that the United States was an easy target for blackmail. Then there followed Laos, the Berlin Wall, confiscation of American properties in Argentina and Brazil, kidnapping of American citizens in Bolivia, looting of the American Embassy in Cambodia, rioting against the United States in Panama, Zanzibar, Cyprus, and practically everywhere.

The lesson is crystal-clear: A great and powerful nation, a very rich nation, is never loved no matter what it does or what it gives away. Leaders must be respected. Turning the other cheek makes matters only worse.

I think you will agree with me that never has the prestige of the United States been so low. This process was started with Castro's revolution in Cuba, and this situation will not improve as long as he is in power.

This is the way Castro explained the situation in his own peculiar way of expression: "The imperialists have shaken their fingers, their hands, their feet, their heads, their bodies, and notwithstanding all their efforts, a revolutionary government does not fall down. It was not like old times when Uncle Sam shook a finger and a government would fall down."

And that was, my friends, exactly what everybody believed in Cuba before Castro, so great was then the prestige of the United States.

The third damage inflicted by Castro's regime on the United States was the danger of nuclear war in October 1962; at least, the United States Government thought there was such a danger and mobilized accordingly.

When Khrushchev, emboldened by the weakness of the United States Government brought the missiles to Cuba, the Kennedy administration, with a gun pointed at the heart of America, finally reacted. It could have used the opportunity to remove the Russian troops from Cuba, but at least the missiles and the big bombers were removed, or so we are told, because the on-sight inspection was never allowed by Castro.

So, when you hear, as I have often heard, that Castro is a problem for the Cubans and that we must solve it, remember that the United States Government has said emphatically that there was an imminent danger of nuclear war in October 1962, and that was only possible because the Castro regime ruled Cuba. With a friendly government in Cuba, such as our government was, that would have been impossible.

And we come to the last damage inflicted on the United States by the Castro regime, and the most dramatic: the assassination of the President of the United States.

I want to emphasize that I do not mean to say that Castro actually ordered Oswald to murder President Kennedy. What I do say is that a man who was a devoted Fidelista and imbued with

his ideas was impelled to do it.

Even the hypothesis that Castro plotted the murder of President Kennedy is not absurd or impossible. For one thing, Castro is a murderer. He started in life at the University of Havana murdering Fernandez Caral, a university policeman. He shot Leonel Gomez, a student, who escaped with his life miraculously, and he was one of the conspirators in the murder of a student leader, Manolo Castro.

Then, Castro was the one that could have profited by the crime. Certainly not Soviet Russia. Relations between this country and Russia never have been better since the Second World War. But Castro was alarmed at the rapprochement of the two countries and fearful that Russia might sacrifice him to better said relations.

On September 28, the Reuters Agency, reporting on Castro's speech of that day, said: (Quote) "Dr. Castro is believed to suspect that the Soviet Union may be prepared to settle Cuba's fate directly with the United States."

On September 12, Pravda published an article warning Castro: (Quote) "The establishment of normal relations between the United States and Cuba would be in the interest of both states, and would promote peace and international security."

Castro answered in his speech of September 28th. I quote: "While tensions are relaxing in other parts of the world, while

tensions decrease in other parts of the world, Yankee imperialists try to tighten the Cuban blockade."

And then he stresses the contrast between the policy of relaxation of Russia and his own: (Quote) "Cuba has its own line which corresponds to the concrete conditions in which the Cuban revolution comes forth, and to the specific conditions of the spot in the world where it comes forth, the vicinity to Yankee imperialism and the brotherhood with a continent exploited by imperialism."

This is a declaration of independence with respect to the Russian policy of peaceful coexistence.

And, finally, he adds: (Quote) "This is the time of the peoples... when the peoples all over the continent shake the yoke of the empires and dig the graves of the exploiters... we are veterans in this struggle and know how to handle them."

On September 7th, at the Embassy of Brazil in Havana, he said: (Quote) "The leaders of the United States should think that if they are aiding in terrorist plans to eliminate the Cuban leaders, they themselves cannot be safe."

In September, Oswald traveled to Mexico for the ostensible purpose of getting a transit visa from Cuba. He stayed a week in that city and had a very long conference with the Cuban ambassador.

And, of course, the advantage of the assassination of President Kennedy could have been to interrupt the rapprochement between Washington and Moscow.

But again I repeat: I do not say that Castro induced Oswald to murder President Kennedy. What I do say is that the peculiar brand of Castro's Communist ideology was responsible for the murder of the President of the United States.

Oswald was a confessed Communist. Even in handcuffs, he raises his fists in the Communist way. (Show the picture).

He was a devoted sympathizer of Castro. In April of 1963 he distributed Castro propaganda in New Orleans. In July he rented an office for the distribution of that propaganda; he tried to infiltrate the Cuban Revolutionary Directorate, an anti-Castro organization, by offering his services in New Orleans as a military instructor. The 9th of August he was distributing Castro propaganda in that city; a scuffle arose and he was fined \$10.00. In the same city, the 17th, on the occasion of a radio interview with K. Stucky, he made statements in favor of the Castro regime. On the 21st, he took part in a 4-man panel at WDSV as a sympathizer of Castro.

So there is no doubt that Oswald was a devoted Fidelista and that he was serving Castro in every way he could.

What was Oswald hearing from Castro before November, 1963?

(Quote) "The behavior of President Kennedy was that of a pirate. In fact, never had a president of the United States degraded so much the dignity of the office." (January 3, 1963).

"The rulers of the United States have shown their souls of gangsters and pirates." (January 15, 1963).

On July 26, 1963, he says, "The imperialists are hypocrites and President Kennedy is a ruffian."

On June 4, 1963, he says, "What is needed is the cessation of the policy of subversion, of sabotage, of violation of the air space."

In October, 1963, he calls the policy of the United States towards Cuba "cynical and hypocritical."

On January 7, 1962, the Cuban magazine Bohemia printed this photograph. (Show photograph). For those who cannot read it from where they are sitting, the legend on the casket reads: "Here lies President Kennedy. The Cuban revolution killed him."

Oswald, as a fervid Castroite, must have known of Castro's speech of September 28 in which his fear of being sacrificed to a Russian-American rapprochement was clearly expressed. Oswald must have reached the conclusion that the President of the United States was the worst enemy of the Cuban revolution and the main danger to its survival and triumph. The next step was to murder the President.

You may think that all this is only my personal opinion. But there is a fact we cannot get away from: President Kennedy was murdered by a devoted Fidelista, who was even willing to spy for him. If Castro had not been helped by the United States Government to win power, or if his regime had been suppressed at the Bay of Pigs, or before, the President of the United States would be alive today.

I hope you will agree with me that the presence of Castro and his Communistic regime in Cuba is a very serious threat for the United States. I hope you will agree with me that, for the preservation of this country, the cancer must be extirpated. In the past, the United States has faced grave dangers and has always found the wisdom and the courage to deal with them. Communism, my friends, presents the gravest danger you ever faced, but in its glorious past the United States of America will find, with the help of God, the strength to save itself and Christian civilization.

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It is noted that former Ambassador to Cuba (1957-59) EARL E. T. SMITH, in his book "The Fourth Floor," states on page 180:

"JORGE GARCIA MONTES held the office of Prime Minister longer than any other Prime Minister in Cuba. In the opinion of the Embassy, he was a man of integrity and reliability. His opinions and his information were later borne out to be correct and reliable.

On June 8, 1964 the same confidential source, former Cuban police official, previously mentioned, furnished a copy of the magazine BOHEMIA dated January 7, 1962. He stated the many photographs, including that of the crowd holding the mock coffin which appears on page 69, were all apparently taken at the anniversary celebration of the CASTRO revolution in Havana on January 2, 1962. He said the text of the article is the speech made by FIDEL CASTRO at this celebration and contains no reference to the group holding the coffin.