

4/14/70

Dear Paul (cc Gary only),

When I received your prelim 4/2/70 on Quiroga I believe I made a few comments. What follows is mixed devil's advocacy, conjecture, recollection that may be faulty and possibly some fact.

First, I think I drew on NO T-5 docs in O in NO. Just checked index and find citation to 17H756 where there is what I'd take to be a different NO T-5, but one interesting thing makes me wonder. The 17H NO T-5 reported LHO's July address at 4907 Magazine and the Quiroga NO T-5 went to 4907, only to find it was 4905. Coincidence? Perhaps. But take my word for it, 4905 is the side porch (referred to by the Commission as back porch), and if I didn't show you pictures of it I can, for I have them (polaroids but the numbers can be read).

There is an obvious question you haven't asked: for what purpose(s) was Quiroga an FBI informant? Certainly not for purposes of reporting on pro-Castro activities. Among the possibilities are reporting on anti-Castro activities, which should have been a legitimate FBI interest all along (smurtality act, for one thing) and may well have been ordered after 10/62. Is it reasonable to presume Q. had only then become an informant? I think not.

One thing I remember from Garrison's description of the interrogation of Quiroga is that he said he didn't recall ever seeing a man so frightened. He said he offered Q not to call him before the grand jury if he took a lie detector test and passed it. My recollection is not too certain on this, but I remember it this way.

There is no doubt that Quiroga was Arcecha's shadow (perhaps both way?), that his name was well known to Banister and I think the FBI, and it is studiously avoided in "On The Ball Wall's" reports. Coincidence? Or was he an informant in 1962 or earlier? I have earlier commented on his seeming to be well supplied with funds, though a refugee student, parents Castro's prisoner and all that. In this connection, let me recall the fiction I exposed, that it was for the protection of Q's parents that VBringuar didn't want his name used, whereas it has been both used and published in that context by the WC. The difference is B's request was of the press when the Garrison story broke.

One recognized reason for withholding is the protection of sources of information, which makes disclosure even more unusual than you suggest. But I do think the timing was such Kleindienst may have been looking for something to seem like a decent guy about or to ease his conscience over, for he sure as hell knew what was going on between him and me, esp. 3/25, if you recall the letters I've sent. Also, if and when you find other NO T-r pages, you may find other reasons.

Have I suggested possible answers to your questions prior to who LAC is? I recall but one agent whose name begins with C, Callender. For some reason, the name Cervignon keeps coming to mind. Unless it is he I do not know who LAC is, if JAS is the typist, you failed to note the added initials of dmm on p. 2. None of these initials match those of agents I came across in O in NO, which is rather interesting and again can be taken to indicate Q was related to the other side of the FBI family, the anti-C branch.

When you refer to what you are so right in saying, "keep that in mind", that bit about "furnished reliable information in the past", you raise what could be endless interesting conjectures, one of which is why anyone would tell Q about the O lit dist. A possibility is that he was known among some of the blabbermouth Latins as an informant. Failure to name to rep of Puerto Rico is not inconsistent

is it? My oldest ITM listing from the directory is of 1965, and there was then no PR office in the ITM bldg. I checked the listing for Alice, and he has several attributed to his office, but PR is not one. And I think, somewhere, perhaps in my enormous Bringuier file, I have the name of the one who told Q...There are several things making that Thompson's restaurant interesting, but it is fuzzy in my mind. It is close to the ITM, as is the 1200 block of St. Charles, where Ernesto Rodriguez had his school (and Duke May insists R is FBI).

If the FBI gave Q the "cold shoulder", what is strange, or what else would they have done if they'd known all about LHO, as I presume. Did he not ask for them when busted, etc? He might well have been told to tell the SS this to preserve his cover and the FBI's.

We can assume he may have told both the police and the FBI, or that he is using covers. Why should the police have had any interest? If he had told the Intelligence Unit, that would have been different, but telling the cops of that District was like telling them the time of day, it meant nothing, for there was nothing illegal. If they recalled the previous incident, they also knew, despite everything, that it was not LHO who caused the fracas.

I believe I had previously written that deBrueys knew better than to say this was so brief a distribution and why, Jesse Core being but one of the reasons...I have a small Quiroga and a large Bringuier file (where my Q NO report may be). You may want to go through both when you are here...And couldn't Q have told the police because he'd have liked Q busted again? For real personal, not FBI, reasons?...But these are cogent refs to the Kaack and deBrueys reports, made no less interesting by the absence of a Kaack affidavit and the FBI's withholding of some of the deB reports which came from State.

The arrival of the police after LHO disappeared is meaningless, for it does not reflect the length of the picketing, we do not know how long it had gone on before Q learned or how long it took him to tell them. If it is possible deB took Q's word for it, I think not, because Jesse also phoned him as soon as he simmered down. I recall his surprise that deB was so without interest, as he made it appear to Jesse. Very un-FBI like. This is in a memo I sent you from NO.

If you reread LOH62 you may agree it is possible to draw other conclusions than that Martello forgot about this. First of all, Liebeler asked him what he was "involved" in, and if he did nothing he wasn't involved, and besides, he took this to mean his involvement with Oswald...One possible assumption here is that M knew Q was an FBI stoolie and saw no point in duplicating. However, it is also important to understand that he was then not in intelligence and is not mental giant anyway.

Q telling the SS that the Stupidity told him to "infiltrate" Oswald may have been the truth and it may also have been that Q suggested to B, whose ego and "understanding" are such he might thereafter have regarded it as his own brilliance. And, whether or not B did, others could have suggested it (not necessary for any conclusions). This was just that kind of situation. And don't forget that, even if the record is deficient on the point, Q did take Butler there, didn't he? I have a Garner report saying a Latin I take to have been Q bringing an Anglo.

I presume with you the pamphlet was the Lemont, and with the 544 address. When you are here let us talk of your writing Bringuier. It is a good idea and, done properly, might work.

Ref to car is interesting. One of the things it made me wonder about is whether this was photographed and there thus was need to identify the car that might have been in the picture. Child's play to photograph all the comings and goings

at that address from inside a car. This LAG branch of the family could have known the other was doing it, or other relatives, etc.

I think the report is false in saying Q went to O to get stuff for "the authorities". I think it is cover stuff. But isn't it interesting that when the FBI could have planted a man inside the alleged LHO group, their own man, they had no interest? I suggest this is important.

Let us assume Oswald did tell Quiroga "Don't hit me". What was he then really saying? What he told Bringuier in saying don't train guerrillas from that dated book. He was rubbing it in. Why should he have assumed Q might hit him, on sight? Because he didn't know him? How close this is to the words he addressed to B, "Okay, Carlos; Hit me." But what does seem strange is the LHO was home so soon, unless there is a time lag not indicated (as there could well have been, no time being indicated). For your information, from the entrance to that yard to that side porch, the front being a different address, is about 50 feet. The front is 4907.

Samoza: I think the general was then a N.O. visitor.

All in all, extremely interesting, holding forth many fascinating possibilities. As you continue with this, I'd appreciate it if you would not only send me what you develop as you do but also set aside a duplicate set and keep it until you have gone as far as you can, for if I get it ahead of time I may forget and file it separately. At the end, a complete file, with all the letters, may be of great interest, esp. when I go after other withheld docs, like those on Ferrie.

In connection with other interests, note your noting Q said LHO had helpers. Or do I misunderstand your emphasis? Anyway, about two months ago I wrote you noting that B knew there were two with LHO at the ITM and W could have been his source.

In all of this, let us not overlook the possibility that B could have had a number, maybe without even knowing it.

HW

Copies to: HW, GRS, MEF, SM, JNS

I think you all have my letter of 1/5 to the Archives, requesting disclosure of these two pages, and the enclosed notes based on the index and Bringuier's book. The Archives, of course, referred me to the FBI, and I wrote Rolapp on 1/24. I got a letter dated 3/25 from Kleindienst (1), enclosing a copy of the pages and adding that they "do in fact report an interview with Mr. Carlos Quiroga concerning Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald." I am quite surprised, since the legal basis I cite for releasing this material - that it had been disclosed in substance in the published documents of the Commission - is at best arguable. Perhaps this improvement in their treatment of my request - compared to that for the 544 Camp pamphlet from the FBI's files, which took many months to get - is a result of the changes in personnel; more likely it was caused by the threat of a suit like Harold's. They were certainly not required to confirm that the unnamed source was in fact Quiroga.

It is hard to see how these pages could have justifiably been withheld under any of the guidelines in the first place.

I will have CD 75 checked for a page listing informants (such as 17H769). If there is one, and T-5 is not listed, that makes Quiroga a person who has "furnished reliable information in the past." Keep that in mind! It is not clear what good and innocent reason there was for not using his name in the report.

Who is "LAC"? Presumably a Special Agent, but not familiar to me from CD 75.

The major oddity in this version of Quiroga's story is his claim that on 8/16/63 he notified "the police" of the leaflet distribution. He told the SS three days later that he had notified the FBI on that occasion, "and the FBI had given him the cold shoulder." (CE 3119, p. 21) I have noted (my memo of 5/7/68) that the Kaack report (CE 826) does not mention the 8/16 incident, and that the DeBrueys report does not cite a source for its description of that incident. Quiroga said that the police arrived after the persons (sic) passing out the handbills had gone. DeBrueys reported that Oswald and his companion remained in front of the ITM for only a few minutes and departed. Did DeBrueys perhaps take Quiroga's word for it?

Quiroga told both the FBI and the SS that he had reported his visit to Lt. Martello. (Martello forgot about that, if it ever happened, in his testimony - see 10H62.) He told the SS that Bringuier had ordered him to infiltrate the FPCC after the 8/9/63 arrest, but the FBI version suggests that this was done on Quiroga's own initiative after the 8/16 incident.

Bringuier told the SS that Quiroga "had gone to Oswald's home on several occasions." (CE 3119, p. 14) Quiroga reported only one contact. I wonder what Garrison got out of him?

Who was the "Representative of Puerto Rico?" Is there an interview of him?

I wonder if the "booklet on Cuba" which Quiroga got from Oswald and gave Bringuier is the Lamont pamphlet with the 544 Camp address? We could ask Bringuier, I guess.

Last sentence of FBI report: any reason to ask about Quiroga's car?

Quiroga was interviewed by SS SAIC Rice before 11/30/63. (CE 3119, p. 21 mentions this.) I don't think I have any report of that interview.

Comment: remember that Quiroga was the key link between Oswald and Ferrie, Arcacha, &c. in Garrison's "case" (I think). If he was a fairly regular FBI informant at the time he visited Oswald, no wonder he didn't end up as a witness before the Commission.

P. 706

CD 75

P. 705

NO 89-69:jms/cmm
2
LAC

OSWALD, in speaking about Latin American countries, said there was one government that should be gotten rid of, and that was the Government of Somalia.

NO T-5, on conclusion of his talk with OSWALD, informed Lieutenant FRANCIS MARTELLO, First District, New Orleans Police Department, regarding his contact with OSWALD and told him he would be willing to fill out the application and report any information obtained to MARTELLO in an effort to do away with the FPCC in New Orleans. He said he received no encouragement from MARTELLO and took no further action.

NO T-5 had no further contact with OSWALD and does not know of anyone named HIDEEL, JACK LEON RUBEY, or JACK RUBENSTEIN, and knows nothing further about any FPCC in New Orleans.

NO T-5 advised that when he went to see OSWALD he drove his 1958 red and white Chevrolet sedan and parked it in front of 4907 Magazine Street.

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NO 89-69:jms
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LAC

Confidential Informant NO T-5 furnished the following on November 27, 1963:

He is acquainted with CARLOS BRINGUIER, Cuban Student Directorate, New Orleans, and was aware of the arrest of BRINGUIER and two other Cubans along with LEE HARVEY OSWALD on August 9, 1963, when OSWALD passed out Fair Play for Cuba (FPCC) handbills on Canal Street. Approximately a week later (August 16, 1963), he was seated in Thompson's Restaurant when the Representative of Puerto Rico, who has his office in the International Trade Mart, showed him an FPCC handbill, telling him these handbills were being passed out in front of the International Trade Mart. NO T-5 notified the police, but the police arrived too late, and the persons passing out the handbills had gone.

In order to obtain information regarding the FPCC to turn over to authorities, he drove to the address listed on the handbill for OSWALD and located the residence 4907 Magazine Street. In order to locate the actual apartment of OSWALD, he had to make inquiry at 4907 Magazine Street and learned the apartment location of 4905 Magazine. As he started to enter the yard, OSWALD stood some distance from him and said, "Don't hit me. If you're coming as a friend, come in." OSWALD had been sitting on his front porch and was talking in another language to someone inside. He told OSWALD he had picked up a leaflet at the International Trade Mart, that he was a Cuban who had been in the country for a long time, and was interested in learning about the FPCC. NO T-5 told OSWALD that he knew about the Cubans being arrested with OSWALD, and that he did not think it was right that those persons should have been freed when OSWALD was held.

OSWALD informed him that the Cubans in the United States were all criminals and sarcastically said, "We have fine laws here." He said that FIDEL CASTRO was not a dictator, and that if the United States would invade Cuba, he would fight with CASTRO against the United States. He stated further that the press in the United States is against them (not identifying "them"), that they were in the minority today but one day would be the majority, and then all of the press would be with them. OSWALD claimed to be a student of languages at Tulane University and to be the delegate for the FPCC in New Orleans.

NO T-5 informed him that he was interested in the organization but would like to read some literature before deciding. NO T-5 was given by OSWALD a booklet on Cuba and a blank application to join the FPCC in New Orleans. These are in the possession of CARLOS BRINGUIER.

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