

SF 89-58
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FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

A characterization of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) is contained in the appendix hereto.

On December 4, 1963, Inspector THOMAS FITZPATRICK, San Francisco Police Department, Intelligence Detail, advised that on December 3, 1963, he received the following information from an informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past. The informant advised Inspector FITZPATRICK that the following letter had been sent out by TOM SANDERS, Berkeley, California, who is a member of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and Secretary of the FPCC in the San Francisco area.

"Dear

"This is a copy of the letter I received from the FPCC national director:

"11/26

"Sorry about the breakdown in communications but circumstances at this moment are quite beyond my control and quite unfortunate.

"The enclosed release is not getting adequate attention and interest seems to lie in resolving the right and scapegoating the left. All evidence at my disposal now indicate careful, calculated and cleverly deceptive 'investigation' to make FP scapegoat!

"Very adverse circumstances prevent attendance at office or home now. (I make regular contact with our attorney.)

"I do not believe myself safe from anything right now and ask all to bear witness that I will not do anything which will bring harm to myself. I do not feel even vaguely suicidal, I am being extremely cautious about any kind of accident, and I am prepared for passive legal surrender to any authorities should this become necessary!

SF 89-58
GJN/lr

"And for concern of all who have been associated may I say for their assurance that I remain firm in my will to honor their welfare and accept the consequences of this action.

"I expect everyone else to maintain their integrity and social responsibility as well.

"Concerning the issue of the murdered man accused of assassination my offic___ statement is:

"The National Office has never issued a Charter in that area or in either state; we do not now and never had a Chapter there with any Charter from our organization and no such person was ever an officer or representative of this organization.

"We receive many communications and cannot recall any one individual who may or may not have written us, but we are positive that we have no organization in that area.

"Without consideration of checking our files I can say without qualification that our organization has not in the past and does not now have membership lists. We have only a mailing list in our possession and this includes many unsolicited names including U. S. Government officials we felt should benefit from our informational releases. Any curious person seeking information we possess could be on that list and the entire list has never been any more than that. Anyone who may have joined our Committee in the past had a membership card made out and no or record of this has been kept. The card is sent to that person and it is known only to them because of complete absence of any records.

"Also, anyone can write in at any time and become a subscriber or member in whatever name and address they send in with their contribution. We have never made any distinction and could not know any more about it.

"Further information on this issue is contained in our release.

"I'm sure we all regret this unfortunate accident of history which is now burdening us with all its repercussions in our society. I know this is the final blow to our honest efforts of the past, but know too that we still must carry this burden somewhat longer than most of us might care to at the moment. The choice is out of our hands now but I know we shall bear this finally in good standing and conscientiously.

"V. T. Lee" - Co. 2-35, 700

"NATIONAL OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

"National Director of the Fair Play for Cuba Com., V. T. LEE, decried as unseemly and dangerous the attempts by some of the news media to imply that this Committee is even indirectly connected with the tragic assassination which has stunned the entire civilized community.

"'We have already stated to the news media our sincere sympathy to Mrs. KENNEDY and have unequivocally deplore the tragic act that was committed,' said LEE. 'In addition,' he added, 'we informed the world that this Committee was never represented by the accused, LEE H. OSWALD, whether guilty or innocent.

"'This has been a year of shocking deaths. Have we as a people so abandoned our humanity that we do not understand the urgent need to end the terrible pursuit of violence and vengeance?' asked LEE. 'Have we so little conscience that the brutal slaying of MEDGAR EVERS, the horrible destruction of the Birmingham children, the senseless assassination of the President followed by the sudden murder of the accused will only result in calumny and vindictive political persecution?

"'The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has always peacefully and legally only sought the body and spirit of peace and friendship. We have always shunned and opposed aggression although we have often been victims of violence as we tried to express ourselves.

"'We appeal today that we not become another victim in the terrible wilderness of hatred and political intrigue which besets a cold war world so frighteningly near destruction. We implore Americans not to let the events of these last days be used to compound the tragedy with injustice to thier countrymen for purposes which would only heighten the dangerous situation of man against men and nation against nation.

SF 89-58
GJN/lr

"Let this finally be the hour of understanding, integrity, justice and peaceful resolution, and put forever behind us aggression and suppression and oppression," concluded LEE."

The SWP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.