

5/22/71

PH, JNS File:Training Camps

What is particularly interesting about the Miami Intel Unit 9/5/63 interview with Fernando Fernandez is that there was either an incredibly delayed reaction or all that business about him blowing the cover of the camp was even more poorly contrived than I had ever suspected. As I have written earlier, Davis told me that he had been tipped to get his men out the night of 7/31/63, as I remember it.

Now all of that Bringuier contrivance is that it was Fernandez' exposure that led him to believe that LHO might be trying to penetrate, etc. And that hinges on an 8/1 date.

I know that B and Oswald met earlier, much earlier, probably June-and thereafter.

But it just does not make sense if the story was that they had trapped FF they waited a month to work him over.

Moreover, Davis told me that FF sort of worked around his house more than anything else.

If this has significance, it is in re Bringuier's fable, again raising the question, why?

HW

(4)

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

DATE: 5 September 1963

FILE:

SUBJECT: FERNANDO FERNANDEZ

FROM: C. H. Sapp, Det. Sgt.
Intelligence Unit

REFERENCES:

ENCLOSURES:

At 9:30 A.M. Wednesday 4 September 1963, this R/O was called to Colonel D.D. Pomerleau's office and introduced to a Cuban male who identified himself as being FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, with his present home address being The Monroe Hotel- N.E. 2nd Ave., room 14.

Fernandez was brought to the Intelligence Unit's office where he was interviewed by this R/O and Detective G. Zencz. This interview was tape-recorded with the permission of Fernandez.

Fernandez was informed that the Miami Police Department was not interested in whether or not he had been engaged in spying activities, but we were only interested in whether or not a violation of State or local laws had occurred in his case. Mr. Fernandez stated that he had been a member of the CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT- 1732 N.W. 7th Street, for the past several months and that he had resided at their headquarters at this address. On Sunday, 1 September 1963, Fernandez states that he was awakened by three other members of the CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT with a gun pointed at his head. These three members told him that he was under arrest for being a Castro spy and at that time Fernandez hands were bound and a gag placed in his mouth. This was at approximately at 8:30 A.M. At approximately 11:00 A.M. a meeting of several members of the group was held with Dr. LAURELIANO BATISTA, President of the Christian Democratic Movement presiding over the meeting. At this time Fernandez stated that the gag was taken out of his mouth and that he was interrogated by Dr. Batista and other members of the Movement. At this time Fernandez denied any connection with the Castro Government and even though a gun was pointed at his head he did not make any statements concerning himself. This meeting terminated approximately 1:00 P.M. Fernandez stated that his hands were again bound and the gag placed in his mouth and a guard presided over him to prevent his escape. At 3:00 P.M. (a second tribunal) was held again with Dr. Batista presiding. At this time Fernandez was told that he had two alternatives; 1- That he could talk, "tell the truth concerning his activities" and admit that he was a Communist spy and no physical harm would come to him. He would only be turned over to the F.B.I; and 2- If he insisted that he was innocent, he would be taken to the Everglades and eliminated. Fernandez states that after an hour

or more of intimidation, with a rope being tied around his neck and tightened and a pistol being put to his temple, with threats of death, and the knowledge of death being inevitable if he did not make an alleged confession, he made a confession. Fernandez claims this confession was pure fabrication on his part; and this alleged confession was placed on a tape-recorder. After this confession was given, Fernandez was driven to the F.B.I. building on the Blvd. and turned over to Federal Agents. This was approximately at 7:00 P.M. or 10¹/₂ hours after he had first been put in detention.

During the close of the statement made by Fernandez to this R/O he named several people that had been involved in one way or another with this incident. These people were called into the Intelligent Unit Office and interrogated by this R/O and Detective Zenoz, and these statements were also recorded. The following information was gained:

1st Witness- MIGUEL CARBOLLIDO, who resides at 1732 N.W. 7th St. This witness stated that he was one of the three persons that had placed Fernandez under arrest on the morning of 1 September, 1963, and that it was true that a gun had been held on this subject. This gun was not loaded. He stated further that he was the person that bound the hands of Fernandez and later on was the person that put the rope around Fernandez's neck. He stated the reason these things were done was to intimidate Fernandez into admitting that he was a Castro spy.

2nd Witness- JOSE CONILL- Home address- 1763 N.W. 7th Street. This person stated that he too was present at the time of the arrest and that he had witnessed the tying of Fernandez's hands and that he had seen the use of the gun to intimidate Fernandez and that he had seen the rope around his neck. This witness further states that it would have been impossible for Fernandez to have left the premises from the time Fernandez was placed under arrest until the time that he was turned over to the F.B.I. and also that he fully condoned the actions that were taken by the other members of the group.

Sergio HERNANDEZ and witness VICTOR PANEQUE and MANOLO DE CANAL were also questioned, but the information gained from them was not as substantial as from the first two witnesses.

Dr. Batista stated that he will appear in the Intelligent Unit Office during the morning hours of this date and will be happy to answer any questions concerning this case. Investigation continuing.