

To: District Attorney Jim Garrison

February 28, 1968

From: Bill Turner

Subject: Oswald - Florida Aspects

There seems to be an accumulating body of evidence that Oswald was engaged in the same pattern of activity in Southern Florida that he was later to use in New Orleans. If true, I think there is considerable potential for getting to the working level of the assassination plot.

During my last visit to your office, I noted a page from an undated edition of the Florida Conservative citing several sources to the effect that Oswald had been in Miami. In sum, Frank Fiorini, identified as a leader of the International Anti-Communist Brigade, was reported to have documentary proof that Oswald had been in Miami during the missile crisis in October 1962 and again in March 1963. Fiorini claimed Oswald nearly provoked a riot in Bay Front Park by passing out pro-Castro literature during the heat of the crisis. The edition says that Oswald's announced purpose was to infiltrate anti-Castro groups. According to a Cuban informant, according to a source in the D&B Miami on November 21, 1963, Oswald tried to get in the D&B but was confronted with a dossier on his pro-Castro activities. The D&B claimed that the FBI confiscated all copies of this bulletin. I note that you have made a marginal comment that Leopoldo Aguilera, Jr., an exiled Cuban leader, said in Lafayette, La., during a 1967 speech that Oswald had "tried to infiltrate a group headed by Jerry Patrick, engaged in training Cubans in guerrilla warfare."

Several comments are appropriate. Fiorini is a Minuteman and a former Batista supporter. He is radical: he made a hit-and-run raid in a cabin cruiser into Havana harbor in 1962. His purpose in publishing Fiorini's presence in Miami certainly is to pin the leftist label on Oswald. The author of the hitting article is Jim Buchanan. Undoubtedly this is the same Jim Buchanan referred to in CE 2951, an FBI report of interview of one Jerry Buchanan, a brother to Jim. Jerry Buchanan said that he recognized pictures of Oswald as being identical with a member of a group of Fair Play for Cuba proponents distributing literature in Bay Front Park in October 1962. He was present as a member of the International Anti-Communist Brigade, and recalls that the police broke up the scuffle.

Buchanan's information is independently corroborated by Loren Eugene Hall. He told me that there was a lively fight at Bay Front Park about the time of Jose Marti Day. The police cracked heads and broke it up. Hall did not mention Oswald, and said he himself was not present. The fight was reported in Miami newspapers. It is interesting to note, however, that Hall said he was in Dallas in May or June of 1963 when some of his associates said they were going to picket a man named Oswald who was passing out pro-Castro literature. Hall told this same version to Harold Weisberg, but on Weisberg's tape it seems that Hall almost stumbled and said Miami before catching himself and saying Dallas.

*Note: In L.A. Howard, who
show a picture of Oswald by
Barton, said "That's Lee
Oswald."*

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Hall also said that Leopoldo Aguilera, Jr. is probably an exile whose first name actually is Manuel. Aguilera's contention that Oswald tried to infiltrate the Patriotic Citizens is extremely interesting. Since this is the group to which Lawrence Howard and William Seymour belonged.

It is also interesting that Oswald attempted to ingratiate himself with Carlos Bringuier, the New Orleans delegate of the DRE, and that there was a similar scuffle involving Bringuier and his cohorts, Cruz and Hernandez. In this respect I call your attention to the FBI interview report which has been forwarded to your office that states in part: "Leopoldo Ramos Ducos, Supra, advised that Ana Maria Del Valle voluntarily appeared at his office on November 20, 1962. She related information that Miguel Cruz told her, 'we killed Kennedy and the next will be Ramos Ducos.'" Ramos Ducos is a former Puerto Rico Teamsters official. He links Jack Ruby to Frank Chavez, who apparently succeeded him as an official of the San Juan local. Also, it is noteworthy that Vance Blalock, a protege of Bringuier's, said that when Oswald visited Bringuier's store he mentioned having been in Florida and having contacted an anti-Castro organization there.

According to David Kroman, Richard Nagell says that Oswald was picked up and brought into a group by seven Cubans in Florida in December 1962. At first, this seems improbable, since Oswald was employed at Jagers-Chiles-Stovall in Dallas from October 12, 1962 to April 6, 1963. CE 1850 reflects that Oswald worked steadily there and could only have gone to Florida on weekends. The alternatives are that Nagell is in error on his dates or the "Oswald" in Florida apparently was seen twice in Florida, it could well have been that he went there immediately before and immediately after his employment at J-C-S. It might be pertinent to note that Donald Norton places him in Monterrey, Mexico on CIA business the latter part of September 1962.

Fred Newcombe, who has been doing some interesting photographic analysis in Los Angeles, has compared a photograph of a Cuban in fatigues who was being trained by Patrick's Raiders with the photograph of the Cuban being led into the police car at Dealey Plaza (and who appears in the Altgen photograph standing on the corner of Elm and Houston in front of the Dal-Tex Building). He says it is possible they are one and the same, but this will never be conclusive due to the vagueness of the photograph taken in Florida. Howard was shown the photograph but did not recognize the man.

According to Jim Rose, William Cuthbert Brady was seen often around the Tampa Airport, at the far side of the field from where the commercial terminal is. Rose thinks he was operating as a CIA bag man out of Montreal (Canadian Pacific flies direct from Montreal to Tampa). Kimble and Montreal. And there is a secret file entitled "Report that Lee Harvey Oswald in Montreal summer 1963." David Perrie reportedly flew out of Tampa in his anti-Castro activity.

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Some time ago Jim Rose mentioned a Tom Dunkin of Atlanta, Georgia. He has a sensitive file and numerous photographs of anti-Castro Florida groups. Dunkin, who may have used the Atlanta Journal as cover, has phone number 758-8850. Rose recalled Dunkin in Miami at the DuPont Plaza Hotel with a very powerful, large Latin man who had considerable menace about him. Rose thinks that Dunkin may have had CIA affiliation, that the Latin certainly did. However, he thinks Dunkin is a reasonable man and might be approached.

Coincidentally, both Howard and Hall have acknowledged knowing Dunkin. Howard told Rose the other day that the large Latin had recently been in contact with him, although he did not give his name. He said the man contacted him about another invasion of Haiti. If you will recall, some 70 men were arrested in January 1967; they supposedly were poised for an invasion of Haiti as a springboard to Cuba. The group was Rolando Masferrer's. He just was sentenced to 4 years on the rap. But it looks like that roundup was a diversion and another well-financed one is in the wind. Howard told Rose that he does not believe Masferrer was involved in the assassination ("He's too smart for that") but that certain persons in the ring around him could well have been.

As you will recall, Howard, Hall and Seymour brought up a Kikki Masferrer, a dentist living in Miami but reportedly in Dallas at the time of the Odio visitation. He is a brother to Rolando.

Rose also states that Sergio Arcacha Smith was in Ybor City, part of Tampa, frequently.

Rose says that one Matthew T. Kenny, Jr., a UPI man in the Miami Herald Building who lives in Coral Gables, is the CIA Latin watcher. He has files, photographs, works with the anti-Castro groups and could be approached.

This memo has been somewhat discursive, but I wanted to make the point that it is entirely possible that Oswald was indeed taken into one of the Cuban groups in Florida. I think there is a fertile field for investigation there and I would like to see Jim and the others try to exploit the numerous contacts, including contacts that he has in the area.

There is an interesting footnote. Prior to your investigation becoming public knowledge, I received an anonymous letter from Detroit from a person obviously a Latin who had lived in Miami in the early sixties. The writer mentioned the bitterness of the Batista exile "militarists" towards Castro, and said: "the second man with Oswald was a Cuban refugee officer who used to be in the Cuban Army under Batista. This is what I overheard when I was in Miami City several years ago. No, Oswald was not alone...The Cuban officer took Oswald, used cheap rifle and gave him the best one which the Cuban used on Kennedy, yes, exchange of rifles...Oswald was promised \$\$\$ but he didn't get any. There is where Jack Ruby's entrance...Big money was promised by the oil magnets of Texas to some one..." The letter is very consistent with what Nagell has said.