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GARRISON PMS BJT 790

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NEW ORLEANS (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON SAID TODAY A GROUP OF ANTI-CASTRO ADVENTURERS OPERATING AS A PRECISION GUERRILLA TEAM ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION AT ALL ABOUT THE FACT THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD DID NOT FIRE A SHOT THERE," SAID GARRISON, WHO HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION SINCE LAST OCTOBER.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE 6-FOOT-6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY OUTLINED THE ESSENTIAL FACTS OF HIS CASE, CLAIMING AGAIN THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WITHHELD THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC.

"THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED BY A FATAL BULLET THAT WAS FIRED FROM THE FRONT," GARRISON SAID. "THAT WAS NOT THE ONLY TIME HE WAS HIT FROM THE FRONT. THERE WAS A CROSSFIRE SITUATION SET UP, WHICH INVOLVED AT LEAST TWO PAIRS OF MEN IN THE FRONT--APPARENTLY TWO MEN BEHIND THE STONE WALL AND TWO BEHIND THE PICKET FENCE, WHICH IS A LITTLE BIT IN BACK OF THE STONE WALL.

"THE ROLE OF THE SECOND MAN IN EACH CASE WAS TO PICK UP THE ACTUAL CARTRIDGES, TAKEN ON THE BOUNCE, SO TO SPEAK, SO THAT THE CARTRIDGES COULD BE DISPOSED OF AS QUICKLY AS THE GUNS, WHICH WERE APPARENTLY TOSSED IN THE BACK OF CARS. THERE WERE CARS PARKED IMMEDIATELY BEHIND.

"IN ADDITION TO THOSE MEN IN FRONT, THEY HAD AT LEAST ONE MAN IN THE BACK WHO WAS SHOOTING, ALTHOUGH IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT HE WAS NOT SHOOTING FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE BOOK DEPOSITORY.

"WE HAVE LOCATED ONE OTHER PERSON WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. HE WAS ONE OF THE ADVENTURERS WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-CASTRO ACTIVITIES, WHO WAS NOT USING A GUN, BUT WHO WAS ENGAGED IN A ROW IN DEALEY PLAZA IN ORDER TO AID THOSE WHO HAD GUNS.

"YOU HAD IN EFFECT A GROUP OF MEN OPERATING AS A GUERRILLA TEAM. IT WAS A PRECISION OPERATION, AND WAS CARRIED OUT VERY COOLY AND WITH A LOT OF COORDINATION.

"IT APPEARS THEY USED FRANGIBLE BULLETS," GARRISON CONTINUED. "THEY ARE FORBIDDEN BY THE GENEVA TREATY, BUT ARE THE KIND OF BULLETS THAT ARE QUITE OFTEN USED -- OR WOULD BE USED -- FOR AN

ASSASSINATION PROJECT BY INTELLIGENCE FORCES OR FORCES EMPLOYED BY AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, BECAUSE THERE IS ASSURANCE EVEN BEFOREHAND THAT THERE WILL BE NO BULLETS, NO SLUGS REMAINING, WITH ANY OF THE LANDMARKS OF THE GUNS TO HELP AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY THE GUNS. FRANGIBLE BULLETS EXPLODE INTO LITTLE PIECES."

REFERRING TO THE BULLET FOUND AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL IN DALLAS, GARRISON SAID, "IT WAS DROPPED ON ONE OF THE COTS AT THE HOSPITAL."

THE WARREN REPORT SAID THE BULLET IN QUESTION IN ALL PROBABILITY HAD PASSED THROUGH PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND STRUCK TEXAS GOV. JOHN CONALLY. THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN.

GARRISON DESCRIBED THE MAN HE SAID KILLED KENNEDY AS "CUBAN ADVENTURERS." HE SAID ALL WERE NOT NECESSARILY CUBAN IN NATIONALITY.

"THERE WAS A MIXTURE OF INDIVIDUALS, BUT THE POINT IS THEY WERE ALL ANTI-CASTRO ORIENTED AND HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN ANTI-CASTRO TRAINING." THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW THE ASSASSINS ESCAPED AFTER THE KILLING, BUT "WE KNOW THEY LEFT THE SCENE IN CARS...AND HEADED IN ALL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS."

"IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE CIA KNEW WHO THEY WERE, GARRISON SAID, "BECAUSE THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CIA EMPLOYEES."

HE SAID, "NO LEGITIMATE CUBAN ORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED."

GARRISON WOULD NOT COMMENT ON WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE ALLEGED ASSASSINS ARE STILL ALIVE. HE SAID THEIR WHEREABOUTS ARE BEING CONCEALED BY THE CIA.

"THEY ARE MAKING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PREVENT A TRAIL," HE SAID OF THE CIA.

HE SAID THE ORGANIZATION COULD SLOW DOWN, BUT NOT STOP, HIS INVESTIGATION.

OF THE REPORTED WOUNDING OF GORDON NOVEL SUNDAY BY A SNIPER IN NASHVILLE, TENN. GARRISON SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR A REPORT THAT NOVEL HAD HEADED FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

"WHEN NOVEL FIRST FLED (FROM NEW ORLEANS) HE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR MCLEAN, VA., WHICH IS THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SUBURB. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING BECAUSE GORDON NOVEL WAS A FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE IN THE EARLY 60S."

GARRISON CALLED NOVEL "A HOUSEGUEST OF THE CIA" WHO WAS IN THE POSITION OF "A CANARY VISITING A CAT WHO HE THINKS IS A FRIEND OF HIS."

NOVEL, 29, A FORMER NEW ORLEANS BAR OWNER, IS WANTED BY GARRISON AS A MATERIAL WITNESS, AND IS FIGHTING EXTRADITION FROM OHIO.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE CIA PLANNED THE KENNEDY MURDER, OR KNEW OF IT BEFOREHAND. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT AT THE WORKING LEVEL THERE WERE INDIVIDUALS -- WHO ARE STILL NOT CLEAR -- THAT WHO HAD AN AWARENESS OF IT. BUT AS FAR AS THE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING, THEY WERE NOT, IN OUR REGARD, CIA MEN AS OF THE DAY OF THE ASSASSINATION."

GARRISON SAID THE CIA REFUSED TO GIVE HIM A PICTURE HE HAD SUBPOENAED, SHOWING OSWALD AND A CUBAN COMPANION LEAVING THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO IN 1963. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID THE CIA TOLD HIM THE PICTURE NEVER EXISTED. HE CONTENDS THE SECRET ESPIONAGE AGENCY IS LYING.

SPEAKING OF ARRESTS IN HIS PROBE, HE SAID, "WE COULD MAKE ANOTHER ONE RIGHT NOW, OR IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, BUT WE WILL DELAY IT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE."

HE EXPLAINED THAT INTENSE COVERAGE BY NEWSMEN MADE HIS OFFICE VIRTUALLY INOPERABLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN ARREST.

GARRISON CALLED "PURELY CO-INCIDENTAL" THE FACT THAT SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE IMPLICATED IN HIS INVESTIGATION ARE ALLEGED HOMOSEXUALS. HE SAID THE ISSUE WAS NOT REALLY RELEVANT TO THE CASE.

"THE MAJOR THEME OF THE CASE -- AND I CAN SAY THIS KNOWING THERE'S NO SHADOW OF A DOUBT ABOUT IT -- IS THE CUBAN ADVENTURE, AND THE REACTIONS OF MEN INVOLVED IN THE CUBAN ADVENTURE; THE DETENTE WHICH PRESIDENT KENNEDY ANNOUNCED AND FORMULATED IN THE EARLY FALL OF 1962 AND WHICH HE ENFORCED IN THE MOST FORCEFUL TERMS IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1963, THUS AROUSING A VEHEMENT REACTION FROM A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO AN ADVENTURE IN CUBA."

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