

SAN FRANCISCO PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIA INVOLVEMENT IN JFK ASSASSINATION CHARGED IN NEW BOOK

"CIA involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy was known to Federal investigators and withheld from the members of the Warren Commission and the country.

"The basic and erroneous Commission conclusion on conspiracy was written into the Commission Report in the dark of night, while the Report was already on the presses, by a lone lawyer, who evaded the meaning of the evidence he then misrepresented. From his own hitherto secret account, no one -- no member of the Commission, not even a typist -- saw this wrong conclusion, made in the name of members of the Commission, until after the report was published."

These are among the charges made here today by Harold Weisberg, Frederick, Maryland author, in connection with the publication of his fourth book analyzing the work and Report of the Warren Commission, "Oswald in New Orleans -- Case for Conspiracy with the CIA. The book's foreword, by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, describes the assassination as an "execution."

At a press conference today, Weisberg offered 400 pages of the Government's once-secret files in support of the charges made in "Oswald in New Orleans." These documents show the accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was connected with anti-Castro, rather than pro-Castro, forces.

Weisberg also offered a previously-secret tape recording of remarks by UCLA Law Professor Wesley J. Liebeler, the Commission lawyer in charge of its New Orleans investigation.

On May 2, 1967, at a student coffee klatch at UCLA, Liebeler admitted knowledge of a number of related things:

That the mysteriously-dead New Orleans homosexual and former airline pilot David William Ferrie was connected with the Cuban Revolutionary Council and its former New Orleans chief, Sergio Arcacha Smith;

That the Cuban Revolutionary Council used the address 517 Camp Street in New Orleans;

That it was "financed" by the CIA;

That Liebeler had read all the FBI reports and, on the basis of their content, nonetheless had not called Ferrie a witness.

Weisberg provided a series of once-secret FBI reports of November 1963, three days after the assassination, showing that officials immediately related the CIA and Arcacha with Oswald

and the assassination. These reports also refer to an unidentified Guy Banister, whose address is given as 531 Lafayette Street in New Orleans.

By photographs Weisberg showed what the FBI reports do not, that 531 Lafayette Street and 544 Camp Street are the same address, a corner building.

The Cuban Revolutionary Council, he said, was created by the CIA at the Skyways Motel in Miami, Florida, on March 18, 1961. He then identified Banister as a former FBI agent and a violent racist who was "in on all the important CIA Latin American operations."

Weisberg then produced photocopies of pages 38 and 39 of Commission Exhibit ³¹³⁸ 1320, showing that Oswald used this address, 544 Camp St., on his "pro-Castro" literature. He quoted the Report -- and Liebeler -- as pretending that the Commission could give no meaning to Oswald's use of a right wing, CIA address.

"It shows Oswald's CIA -- not pro-Castro -- connections," Weisberg concluded.

Weisberg also quoted from "Oswald in New Orleans" to show that FBI reports, which both Liebeler and the Commission had in their possession, contained Ferrie's threat to kill the President.

"They palm it off as a 'colloquial expression,'" Weisberg declared.

He further said that Arcacha is being protected by Texas Governor John Connally, himself wounded in the assassination. Connally has refused to grant extradition of Arcacha to New Orleans.

Weisberg also released Liebeler's explanation of how he handled the section of the Report dealing with the threat to kill the President. Three men visited a Mrs. Sylvia Odio and told her the President should be killed. One is a Californian recently located in Port Isabella. Another was identified as "Leon Oswald", in a close approximation of the bearded man Garrison said participated in the conspiracy plotted in Ferrie's home.

Investigation of this event, Weisberg says, was deliberately delayed until too late for the members of the Commission to consider it. The very night the presses were to roll, the FBI told the Commission -- nine and a half months after first learning of this threat to kill President Kennedy over the Bay of Pigs "fiasco" -- that it had located the men. Here, according to the Liebeler tape, he alone rewrote part of the Report and concluded only that "Leon Oswald" could not have been "Lee Oswald."

"Whether this was or was not the real Lee Harvey Oswald," Weisberg insists, "this should have been the beginning, not the end, of an investigation."

The tape of the Liebeler speech has him saying, "We drafted the section of the Report dealing with Mrs. Odio . . . and it was the night of the 20th or 21st of September when we were going over the page proofs of the Report for the last time . . . (a) courier from the FBI came in with a letter from Mr. Hoover . . . the FBI had found the men. There I am. Marvelous! . . . So I went down to (Commission Chief Counsel) Rankin (and said) . . . 'What are we going to do, Mr. Rankin?' Mr. Rankin . . . said, 'That's not the right question, Mr. Liebeler. The question is, what are you going to do?' . . . had to be done by 12 o'clock that night . . . so, I sat down and rewrote the whole section and used the same number of footnotes . . . and it went over (to the Government Printing Office) in my handwriting, which is not very clear."

Weisberg also said, "Here is proof of what I have tried to make understood from the beginning of my own investigation, that the members of the Commission are among the victims of the tragedies in the wake of the assassination. Their names were affixed to conclusions they did not write or see, conclusions I believe that, had they been fully informed, they would not have agreed to."

Weisberg's earlier works are entitled "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," "Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Coverup," and "Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date November 25, 1963

FRANK BARTES, 1608 Mason Smith Avenue, Metairie, Louisiana, delegate to the Cuban Revolutionary Council in New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that SERGO ARCACHA SMITH was formerly the delegate for the Cuban Revolutionary Council in New Orleans, Louisiana. BARTES stated that the Cuban Revolutionary Council is an anti-Castro organization.

On 11/25/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
 by SA ERNEST C. WALL, JR. /sw Date dictated 11/25/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date November 25, 1963

GUY BANISTER, Guy Banister Associates, Inc., 531 Lafayette Street, New Orleans, was telephonically contacted on November 25, 1963 and advised that SERGO ARCACHA SMITH of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, who was the head of that organization in New Orleans, Louisiana, some time ago, had told him on one occasion that he, SMITH, had an office in the building located at 544 Camp Street. Mr. BANISTER stated that he had seen a young Cuban man with SMITH on a number of occasions in the vicinity of 544 Camp Street, but could not recall the name of this young man.

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SUGGESTED REFERENCES

In this pamphlet I have not endeavored to describe in any detail the immense progress that Cuba has made under the Castro regime. For information about this aspect of the Cuban Revolution I refer the reader to the following:

Books and pamphlets

Leo Huberman and Paul M. Sweezy, *Cuba, Anatomy of a Revolution*, Monthly Review Press, New York, 1960. Cloth, \$3.50; paperback, \$1.75.

C. Wright Mills, *Listen, Yankee: The Revolution in Cuba*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1960. 50¢.

Paul A. Baran, *Reflections on the Cuban Revolution*, Monthly Review Press, New York, 1961. 35¢.

Sources for both internal developments in Cuba and the invasion of April 1961

Fair Play, bulletin of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 799 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

The Independent, 225 Lafayette Street, New York 12, N. Y.

Monthly Review, 66 Barrow Street, New York 14, N. Y.

National Guardian, 197 East 4th Street, New York 9, N. Y. (especially see dispatches from *Guardian* Editor-in-Exile, Cedric Belfrage, Havana).

New York Times, Times Square, New York, N. Y.

I. F. Stone's Weekly, 5618 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

Petition to the President of the United States and the Attorney General, by American Lawyers, and supporting Memorandum of Law concerning the Policy of the American Government relating to Cuba under the Neutrality Laws, Treaties with Cuba, and International Law, New York, 1961. (Copies may be obtained from Mr. Jesse Gordon, 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 14, N. Y. Price \$1.00 to cover cost of printing and mailing.)

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