

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

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FROM: BRANIGAN, W. A.
TO: SULLIVAN, W. C.
TITLE:

DATE: 03/01/1967

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SUBJECT: JG, INVEST, FERRIE, DAVID, ANTI CASTRO ACTIVITIES

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RESTRICTIONS:

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

COMMENTS:

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

Mr. W. C. Sullivan ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 Classified by 2240
 Exempt from GDS, Category III
 Mr. Date of Declassification Indefinite 7/6/77
 ovc

- 3-1-67
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. R. Jensen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenthall

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
 NOVEMBER 22, 1963
 DALLAS, TEXAS

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
 DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
 RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION
 IN THIS DOCUMENT.

~~SECRET~~

EXCEPT FOR BRANIGAN Pgs. 1, 3
 JBT 5-28-93 RDD/ICSR 6-11-93

Re memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Tolson dated 2-28-67, setting forth results of a conversation Mr. DeLoach had with Merriman Smith, senior White House correspondent, on 2-28-67. The Director instructed that Mr. DeLoach's memorandum be reviewed by the Domestic Intelligence Division to ascertain if Mr. Smith obtained any information from New Orleans District Attorney Garrison not already reflected in FBI files. U

SYNOPSIS:

Lee Harvey Oswald

Garrison alleged David William Ferrie member of a group of anti-Castro Cubans who were located in 1961 and 1962 at Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana. [On 2-23-61 we were confidentially advised by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that CIA was planning to initiate a training operation at Camp Belle Chase,] which was located [a short distance south of New Orleans.] CIA indicated [this base] would be utilized for training Cuban exiles. We, of course, did not investigate CIA's activities [at Camp Belle Chase, Louisiana.] Nothing in Bureau files to indicate David William Ferrie connected with this [training camp]

We also received information in July 1963 that a number of Cuban refugees had been brought from Miami, Florida, to New Orleans, to attend a training camp in the New Orleans area. Our inquiries disclosed these individuals reportedly were being recruited to work in the lumber camps in Guatemala and that they became disenchanted and returned to Miami. No indication David William Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald had any contact or connection with this group. Results of our inquiries of this group at that time was disseminated to the Warren Commission. On 11-25-63 David William Ferrie advised that from approximately November, 1960, until August, 1961, he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was in contact with Sergio Arcacha Smith, its New Orleans head. Ferrie reported he had not had any connection with this organization or any other anti-Castro organization since August, 1961. U

62-109060

105-82555 (Oswald) ~~SECRET~~ SYNOPSIS CONTINUED - OVER

RBL:kmg:cls (10)

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1st NR 5552

Current Class. Markings are per CIA letter 9/23/88
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ORIGINAL FILED IN
 6-11-93
 Classified by 9803 RDD/ICSR
 Declassify on OADR
 Pt. JFK

4634

Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
62-109060

SECRET

DETAILS:

Mr. Merriman Smith, senior White House correspondent, reported Garrison alleges David William Ferrie was associated with a group of anti-Castro Cubans which trained at Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, during the period 1961-1962. On February 23, 1961, CIA confidentially informed this Bureau that in connection with a sensitive CIA project directed against Cuba, one phase of which involved the training of Cuban exiles, CIA would initiate a training operation at Camp Belle Chase, located a short distance south of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain. CIA advised that this camp had been a deactivated Naval base but would be reopened by CIA

CIA further advised it would be training from 15 to 40 Cubans at a time for a period of about five weeks. We, of course, did not investigate CIA's activities at Camp Belle Chase, Louisiana, and our files contain no information that David William Ferrie had any connection with this CIA operation.

In July, 1963, we received information from several sources that a number of Cuban refugees had come to New Orleans from Miami, Florida, through the efforts of Rudolph Davis, reportedly to attend a training camp after which they would be sent to a training camp in Guatemala. Sources reported this group became disenchanted and returned to Miami shortly after their arrival. U

We interviewed Rudolph Davis in this matter and he indicated he acted as a coordinator between the Movimiento Democratica Cristiano (MDC), an anti-Castro organization, and the New York City Police Department in 1961 and that he was the delegate for this anti-Castro organization in New Orleans. He stated he came to New Orleans in August, 1961, and in early 1963 made friends with persons in the lumber business in Guatemala with whom he formed the Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corporation. Davis said he brought approximately 19 men to New Orleans to train for lumber cutting work in Guatemala. He added that when the men learned they were to work in a lumber industry and were not recruited for military operations against Cuba, they became disenchanted and returned to Miami. Our files contain no information indicating that David William Ferrie or Lee Harvey Oswald had any contact or connection with Davis or the anti-Castro organization which Davis represented. U

- 3 -

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