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MOTIVATION BEHIND
THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

JULY 1976

GOOD MORNING.

FILE

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, IN APRIL OF 1975 I INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY. TODAY, NEARLY ONE HUNDRED OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE CO-SPONSORING THIS RESOLUTION. MY GOOD FRIEND FROM TEXAS, CONGRESSMAN HENRY GONZALES, HAS A RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO MINE, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT BROADER IN SCOPE. OUR TWO RESOLUTIONS HAVE MORE THAN 135 CO-SPONSORS. THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO ALLOW THE FULL HOUSE TO VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION. I BELIEVE THAT A VOTE ON THE FLOOR WOULD RESULT IN ITS APPROVAL.

SINCE I FIRST INTRODUCED MY RESOLUTION, A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION. IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, IN MY TESTIMONY BEFORE THE RULES COMMITTEE, I DISCUSSED MUCH OF THE INFORMATION I HAD SEEN, EMPHASIZING THOSE POINTS WHICH HAD COME TO LIGHT RECENTLY, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHICH THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD NEVER HAD THE



OPPORTUNITY TO SEE. THE RESULT OF THAT MARCH MEETING WAS A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION.

WHILE SOME MEMBERS WERE OPENLY OPPOSED TO REOPENING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION, OTHERS WANTED TO WITHHOLD FINAL JUDGMENT ON MY RESOLUTION UNTIL THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE RELEASED THE REPORT OF ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. THE SENATE REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED AND IT COVERS MANY ASPECTS OF THE CASE, BUT ITS FINAL CONCLUSION IS THAT A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED.

THE MATERIAL WHICH I HAVE HERE TODAY IS A FASCINATING ACCOUNT OF EVENTS WHICH BEGAN SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED. IT WAS BROUGHT TO ME BECAUSE OF MY SPONSORSHIP OF THE KENNEDY RESOLUTION. LACKING THE AUTHORITY OF A COMMITTEE, I HAVE NO WAY OF VALIDATING THIS INFORMATION. I AM NOT, THEREFORE, IN A POSITION TO VOUCH FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF CHARGES WHICH THIS INFORMATION MAKES. IT DOES, HOWEVER, RAISE

A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH I BELIEVE NEED TO BE ANSWERED.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WAS BEHIND THE INTENSE INTEREST SHOWN BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS STAFF IN THE BAY OF PIGS. REPORTEDLY, IN A MEMO TO H. R. HALDEMAN, JULY 2, 1971, CONCERNING HOWARD HUNT, CHARLES COLSON WROTE, "... THAT HE (HUNT) WAS THE CIA MASTER MIND ON THE BAY OF PIGS. HE TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO THAT IF THE TRUTH WERE EVER KNOWN, KENNEDY WOULD BE DESTROYED."

A NOTE MADE BY JOHN EHRLICHMAN AFTER A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, SEPTEMBER 18, 1971, READS, "BAY OF PIGS -- ORDER TO CIA -- PRESIDENT IS TO HAVE THE FULL FILE OR ELSE. NOTHING WITHHELD. PRESIDENT WAS INVOLVED IN BAY OF PIGS. PRESIDENT MUST HAVE FULL FILE -- DEEPLY INVOLVED -- MUST KNOW ALL THE FACTS."

I FIND IT MOST INTERESTING THAT, ACCORDING TO TRANSCRIPTS OF THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES, IN THREE SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND H.R. HALDEMAN ON JULY 23, 1972, FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN, GREAT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT WHAT AN INVESTIGATION MIGHT DIVULGE CONCERNING THE BAY OF PIGS

WHICH TOOK PLACE 11 YEARS EARLIER. EXAMPLES:

PRESIDENT NIXON: " . . . IT'S LIKELY TO BLOW THE WHOLE BAY OF PIGS THING WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE . . . "

HALDEMAN: "I TOLD HELMS THE PROBLEM IS IT TRACKS BACK TO THE BAY OF PIGS . . . "

PRESIDENT NIXON: " . . . SAY, 'LOOK, THE PROBLEM IS THAT THIS WILL OPEN THE WHOLE BAY OF PIGS THING . . . '"

THERE ARE MORE EXAMPLES.

I FIND IT ALSO INTERESTING THAT RICHARD NIXON AS A PRIVATE ATTORNEY IN 1965 INTERCEDED WITH A FEDERAL JUDGE ON BEHALF OF MARIO KOHLY, THE DE FACTO PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WHO HAD APPLIED FOR SUSPENSION OR REDUCTION OF A SENTENCE IN FEDERAL COURT. A COPY OF THE NIXON LETTER IS IN THE MATERIAL ALONG WITH A COPY OF A LETTER FROM ANOTHER ATTORNEY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NIXON LAW FIRM IN WHICH THE ATTORNEY, ROBERT R. THORNTON, WRITES MRS. MARGARITA GARCIA KOHLY: "AS I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU, MR. NIXON HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO OFFER MY SERVICES IN THIS

MATTER WITHOUT CHARGE TO MR. KOHLY."

THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NIXON AND KOHLY APPARENTLY WENT BACK AT LEAST TO 1960 WHEN VICE PRESIDENT NIXON HAD A DIRECT ROLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT'S CUBAN POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS IT INVOLVED THE TRAINING OF CUBAN EXILES IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE HAVE BEEN FAR TOO MANY ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE BAY OF PIGS, CUBAN EXILES, ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT, ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO, THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, AND AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY WHICH CONNECTS SOME, IF NOT ALL, OF THEM. I WANT TO SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH CONSPIRACY INVESTIGATED FULLY.

CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION HAS ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED BY CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS. THEY INCLUDE THE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CHAIRED BY REPRESENTATIVE DON EDWARDS, THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS CHAIRED

BY REPRESENTATIVE BELLA ABZUG, THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND ITS HART-SCHWEIKER SUBCOMMITTEE. YET NO ONE IS WORKING TO PUT ALL OF THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER OR TO USE THE RESULTS OF THE WORK OF THESE BODIES IN LAUNCHING A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THIS IS MY PURPOSE. THIS IS WHY I AM MAKING PUBLIC THE INFORMATION WHICH IS BEING PROVIDED AT THIS NEWS CONFERENCE. I AM ALSO PRESENTING IT TODAY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES IN THE HOPE THAT THAT COMMITTEE WILL SEND MY RESOLUTION TO THE FLOOR, IN THE HOPE THAT THE HOUSE WILL APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, IN THE HOPE THAT IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS THAT, 13 YEARS AFTER THE FACT, WILL PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE TRUTH.

MEMORANDUM from Charles Colson to H. R. Haldeman re: Howard Hunt (July 2, 1971)

"The more I think about Howard Hunt's background, politics ~~and~~ disposition and experience, the more I think it would be worth your time to meet him. I had forgotten when I talked to you that he was the CIA mastermind on the Bay of Pigs. He told me a long time ago that if the truth were even known, Kennedy would be destroyed

NOTE by John Ehrlichman after meeting with President Nixon (September 18, 1971)

"Bay of Pigs - order to CIA - President is to have the FULL file OR ELSE. Nothing withheld. President was involved in Bay of Pigs. President must have the full file - deeply involved - must know ALL the facts."

MEMORANDUM for Nixon after Ehrlichman met with Helms for twenty minutes (October 7, 1971)

"The President wants to see all of the documents requested. He recognizes that many are sensitive and could damage the agency if used by the wrong people (even, Helms suggests, some White House staff)"

NOTES by Ehrlichman after meeting with Nixon and Helms (October 8, 1971)

"Purpose of Presidential request for documents: must be fully advised in order to know what to duck. Won't hurt agency nor attack predecessors."

TAPED TRANSCRIPT, Nixon to Haldeman (July 23, 1972)

"O K, just postpone _____ Just say _____ very bad to have this fellow Hunt, ah, he knew that. If it gets out that this is all involved, the Cuba thing would be a fiasco. It would make the CIA look bad it's going to make Hunt look bad, and it's likely to blow the whole Bay of Pigs thing which we think would be very unfortunate both for the CIA, and for the country, at this time, and American foreign policy. Just tell him to lay off. Don't you?"



41 told Helms the problem is it tracks back to the Bay of Pigs and it tracks back to some other leads run out to people who had no involvement in this, except by contacts and connection, but it gets to areas that are liable to be raised? The whole problem _____ Hunt. So at that point he kind of got the picture."

TAPED TRANSCRIPT Nixon to Haldeman later same day (July 23, 1972)

"When you get in - when you get in _____ people, say, "Look the problem is that this will open the whole Bay of Pigs thing, and the President just feels that ah without going into the details, don't - don't lie to them to the extent to say there is no involvement, but say just say this is a comedy of errors, without getting into it, the President believes that it is going to open the whole Bay of Pigs thing

FRED THOMPSON to Haldeman if the two CIA officials (Helms and Walters) responded to his question about other unrelated CIA activities being exposed. Haldeman respon

"Not in any detail, no. The only area where there was a response to that, and it was in ^{my} ~~his~~ interpretation sort of a curious response, was on the CIA problem, questi of whether there was a CIA problem with relation to the Bay of Pigs, and on that one Mr. Helms jumped very rapidly and very definsively to say, "That is of no concern at all. We don't want to get into that at all." It was a sort of different reaction than the flat and calm reaction that there had been no CIA involvement that there had been no CIA involvement in the Watergate. There was - well, it's not germaine."

HELMS tells Watergate Committee he was approached by Haldeman who:

"... made some, what to me was an incoherent reference to an investigation in Mexico or an FBI investigation, running into the Bay of Pigs. I do not know what the referenc was alleged to be, but in any event, I assured him that I had no interest in the Bay of Pigs that many years ~~xxxxxx~~ later, that everything in connection with that had been dealt with and liquidated as far as I was aware and I did not care what they ran into

connection with that."



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March 9, 1965

The Honorable Edward Weinfeld
United States District Judge
Federal Courthouse
Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Judge Weinfeld:

I am writing, at the request of his counsel, in behalf of Mario Kohly who, I understand, has been convicted of violating a statute prohibiting the unauthorized printing of foreign currency and sentenced to a one year term of imprisonment. While I have no personal knowledge of the particular circumstances of the case, I am advised that Kohly is a person of good repute and believe that the acts which led to his conviction, although unlawful, were not motivated by any desire for personal gain but rather from a dedication to his country.

As one who has followed the Cuban problem closely, I believe it is possible that, in the face of a difficult, dangerous and changing situation, the complexities of United States policy toward the Castro regime, particularly as it has affected the exiles, might well have created an atmosphere in which a person such as Kohly could honestly, though mistakenly, believe that actions such as those for which he was convicted were not contrary to the interests of the United States. The situation of the Cuban exiles in this country in the years since the communization of Cuba has been in many ways unique in our history. Their presence here cannot be dissociated from the active hostility of the Castro regime towards the United States, and the resulting antagonism on the part of the public, the press and



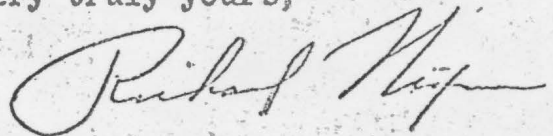
March 9, 1964

the government here towards Castro. The exiles have, in consequence, from time to time, as your Honor knows, been encouraged and aided by the United States in efforts to overthrow the Cuban Government, and such efforts, in the nature of things, have been covert and sometimes extra legal. The patriotism, courage and energy of the exiles in attempting to mount a counterrevolution have been in the past, and may in the future again be regarded as advantageous to the interests of the United States as well as those of Cuba.

It appears to me that to the extent compatible with the public interest, these unique circumstances ought to be taken into account in determining the severity of the penalty to be imposed on Kohly.

I trust that your Honor will understand that my purpose in writing this letter is to aid the Court in its consideration of the defendant's application for suspension or reduction of the sentence imposed.

Very truly yours,



RMN:AGA

CC: Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq.
United States Attorney



NIXON, MUDGE, ROSE, GUTHRIE & ALEXANDER
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April 21, 1966

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Mrs. Margarita Garcia Kohly
730 Pennsylvania Avenue
Miami Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Garcia Kohly:

I have your letter of the 19th. I have also received your earlier letter, with which you enclosed a copy of Judge Murphy's decision, dated April 4, 1966, denying the applications for reduction of the sentence recently imposed on Mr. Kohly. I have also received a letter from your sister-in-law.

As I advised you I would, I attempted to talk to Judge Murphy about the case, but was advised by his staff that any applications to him should be made formally in accordance with the Rules of Criminal Procedure. My original purpose in attempting to see the Judge was of course materially changed by the fact that he had determined to consider the letters sent to him by you and by Mr. and Mrs. Kohly as applications for reduction of sentence and had denied them. In light of that fact, I was attempting to ascertain whether the Judge would entertain an additional application for reduction of sentence.

You may well imagine that the Court would not normally permit a succession of such applications after having denied the first. However, in view of the unusual circumstances in this case generally and of the informal nature of your personal applications to the Judge, it may just be possible that the Judge in his discretion would give consideration to a more formal application which we might now make and I am prepared to make such an application. However, I want to make it perfectly plain to you that Judge Murphy, having imposed the sentence and then having denied your applications after reconsidering the

April 21, 1966

matter, is unlikely to change his decision. Furthermore, it would be within his discretion even to refuse to consider a further application which we might now make.

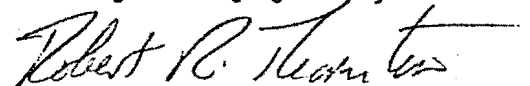
To set your mind at rest regarding the press of time in this matter, the Rules of Procedure provide that reduction of sentence may be granted within a period of 60 days after sentence is first imposed. Therefore, we are still well within the period if Judge Murphy should in his discretion determine to consider a further application.

From your letter I gather that you may be under a misapprehension as to the procedural steps which are possible. As I informed you when you were here in New York, there is no question of an appeal being taken to the Court of Appeals or to the Supreme Court in this matter. The only remedy available is the application for reduction of the sentence imposed on the bail jumping charge.

Before I undertake to make such an application as I have discussed above, I will need direct authority from Mr. Kohly himself to represent him. If he wishes that I do so, will you please inform him that I would require a letter from him to that effect. It may also be necessary for me to visit him before making the application to the Court. Therefore, I would like to know where he is and when he can be seen.

As I have already informed you, Mr. Nixon has authorized me to offer my services in this matter without charge to Mr. Kohly.

Very truly yours,



Robert R. Thornton

RRT:jg

AIR MAIL

Sequence

2.

By June 1 of 1960, a Cuban businessman by the name of Mario Garcia Kohly had organized close to 42,000 people inside Cuba who belonged to many different organizations and who, up until that time, had been completely disorganized and uncoordinated. By the end of 1960, he was considered the number one exile leader inside and outside of Cuba and had even instituted a counterfeiting program that forced Castro to change his currency in August of 1961.

In the latter part of 1960, Mario Kohly, Sr.'s underground also began receiving reports of unusual construction activity that looked like they might be missile sites. This information was passed on to both the Central Intelligence Agency and top ranking State Department officials. It is not known, but believed, that this information was never passed on to John F. Kennedy during any pre-inaugural briefing by the Eisenhower/Nixon administration prior to his physically taking office in the White House on January 20, 1961. John Kennedy was, however, briefed several days after being elected, by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell on November 18, 1960. They informed the president-elect that the Central Intelligence Agency had an invasion plan using Cuban exiles that was looked upon favourably by the National Security Council, and that a training operation in Guatemala was actually under way.

It must also be assumed that the new president was never told by the CIA whose invasion plan it was, i.e., Mario Garcia Kohly's -- the top exile leader in the U.S. -- or of a top secret deal made between the former Vice President, Richard Nixon, and Mario Garcia Kohly. The deal regarded the disposition

Sequence

3.

of Cuba once the country had been recaptured from Castro. This deal would be a major factor in shaping the motive for a conspiratorial death of the new president and possibly contributed to the resignation of Richard Nixon from the presidency in 1974. The deal involved direct involvement in conspiracy to murder, i.e., by condoning domestic assassinations conducted by or sanctioned by the CIA. It was a plot relating to the Bay of Pigs that would put the former Vice President in far more jeopardy than the Watergate breakin.

* * * * *

In mid-1960, before the U.S. election, Mario Garcia Kohly, who was to become the president de facto in exile of Cuba, had started to form what would be his United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba. He also had a working relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency.

By late summer, however, the State Department exerted its maximum political influence on the CIA hierarchy, forcing it to accept more leftist leaning leaders on the basis that the more conservative Cubans would be former Batistaites and not popular with the people. There was then formed the Cuban Revolutionary Council stemming from a front group known as the Cuban Revolutionary Movement or Front, headed by Dr. Miro Cardona, Manuel Artimes, Manuel Ray, Aureliano Sanchez Arrango, Tony Verona and a number of others. This action forced Kohly to take a back seat, which alieged Kohly. This action also put various elements of the CIA into major conflict, for when Kohly's invasion and provisional government plans were

In early 1960, slightly over ten months before a national election deciding who would be the next president of the United States, there occurred a series of events that took place during the Eisenhower/Nixon Administration that would inevitably lead to the death of John F. Kennedy in Dealy Plaza, November 22, 1963.

They are as follows:

By the end of January 1960, British reconnaissance flights overflying Cuba detected unusual construction activity of a military nature, not normally associated with defense weaponry. By the end of March, aerial photographs showed sufficient information to indicate that offensive missile installations were being prepared for use against Cuba's neighbors in the western hemisphere. After this conclusion had been reached by British Intelligence, they reported the information through diplomatic channels to our State Department (see Affidavit, Exhibit 1).

Simultaneously, our own embassy in Havana had been receiving confidential reports through members of its staff, i.e., Paul Bethel (see Exhibit 2, entitled "On missiles in Cuba; conversation June 16, 1976; Miami; with Dick Russell). Bethel was Press Attache to our embassy in Havana all during the critical period from 1959 up until diplomatic relations were broken off in early 1961. During this period he kept in close touch with local Cuban friends who were also concerned with this unusual construction activity.

Sequence

4.

selected by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Agency was committed to a plan involving Kohly's U.S.-based exile organization, his underground inside Cuba, and his guerrilla army hiding in the Escambrey Mountains. In addition, the National Security Council also looked favourably on Kohly's plans which included a conservative provisional government. It is, therefore, likely that any decision made by Mr. Nixon in 1960 to placate Kohly was made by him in the belief that it was in the best national interest and that he, as the next president, would be in a position to justify any dramatic action or decision taken on his part in 1960. Therefore, in October of 1960, he met with Kohly on the golf links of the Burning Tree Club (see Affidavit, Exhibit 3; and Betrayal, Forward: Morrow, Henry Regnery Company).

Kohly confided to Robert Morrow, a CIA contract employee working with Kohly, less than a week after this meeting took place that an agreement had been reached between him and the Vice President for the elimination of all the leftist Cuban Revolutionary Front leaders in the United States in order that he (Kohly) could take over the reins of power inside Cuba once the invasion, i.e., Kohly's "Operation Lake,"* had been accomplished. He claimed the agreement was reached when he guaranteed to support the invasion with his 42,000 man Cuban underground force and to commit his guerrilla force located in the Escambrey Mountains to support the landing. Although it might not have been part of his conversation with the Vice

* "Operation Lake" was Kohly's name for an invasion originally chosen for southeastern Cuba in the area of Trinidad. Later the name was changed to "Operation Pluto" and moved to the Bay of Pigs.

Sequence

5.

President, Kohly also claimed that any Front leaders in the actual invasion would also be assassinated by his guerrilla force. This information told to Morrow was also stated in Kohly's deathbed tape statement (see Exhibit 4, entitled "Mario Kohly Deathbed Transcript") and reaffirmed by his son, Mario Kohly, Jr., in his affidavit dated 15 July 1976, (see Exhibit 5).

Shortly after this meeting, Morrow inquired of his case officer, C. Tracy Barnes, in the presence of General Charles Cabell, if Kohly had made a deal with the administration. They confirmed that an arrangement had been made for Kohly to take over Cuba once the invasion had been successful and that Kohly had made additional arrangements regarding the Front leaders, although any final disposition would be by the new president (Morrow is uncertain whether this meant of the U.S. or Cuba).

Morrow thought no more about this until the night of April 17, 1961, when he was ready to fly en route from Opa Locka to Buckingham Field on the west coast of Florida. It was at that time, as he was saying goodbye to Tracy Barnes, that Barnes made an incidental remark regarding the Front group, saying "with the exception of two members who are participating in the invasion, Cardona and his crowd are being held incommunicado at a deserted house on this very (CIA) base under armed guard and -- are they mad!" Barnes then remarked, "If they knew what the hell was going to happen to them once the boys take over the island, they'd never have left the loving arms of Fidel." Morrow's interpretation was that they would never be heard from again.

Sequence

6.

On April 19th, Tony Verona, one of the Front leaders held at Opa Locka, managed to elude the guards surrounding the house by escaping through a bathroom window. Once free, he called the White House in Washington in a rage.* Even at that time, the president must not have been informed of the deal Kohly, the CIA, and Nixon had made. Thus, he never realized that he had inadvertently saved the lives of all the Cuban Front members by withholding the air cover support for the invasion and thereby causing the invasion to fail. Withholding the air cover for the invasion did, however, irreparably alienate the right wing elements of the Cuban exile organizations.

An additional related factor that would affect the fate of the president stemmed from a decision he (Kennedy) made not to inform the American public that long range offensive missiles were still operational in Cuba after the missile crisis of October 1962. This infuriated the Central Intelligence Agency and their mercenary Cuban exile groups operating in the southeastern part of the United States. It was also the point in time when the most severe measures were being taken by the administration to suppress any exile activity against Fidel Castro, i.e., October 1962 to October 1963.**

* After receiving the information about the detention of the Front leaders at Opa Locka, President Kennedy immediately dispatched Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. and A. A. Berle to see the Cubans. After hearing their story of being held captive, Schlesinger telephoned the President and advised him to see the Cubans to placate them. Kennedy agreed and within hours they were headed toward Washington on an Air Force plane.

** What the exiles didn't know was that the President in the fall of 1963 had instructed former Ambassador William Atwood to begin making arrangements for talks with Fidel Castro in order that the two countries might start resuming talks that would eventually lead to a reestablishment of diplomatic relations and normalization of mutual interests.

Sequence

7.

By mid-1963, sensing that their days were numbered, the right wing extremists amongst the exile groups funded by the CIA acted. All speed was urged to complete a second peso counterfeiting operation so that Castro's top military aides and personnel could be bought off before any new invasion could take place. It was also imperative that the counterfeiting operation be completed and the money disbursed before a formal deal could be made between the Kennedy Administration and Fidel Castro.*

By fall of 1963, the exiles and their allies, the criminal underworld, were preparing the last desperate push to overthrow Castro, and began mounting another exile invasion to be coordinated with an internal guerrilla action.

This attempt would be too late, however, as the administration had already set the wheels in motion to negate this last major exile attempt, and the final death knell to the exile cause for regaining their homeland would be struck. Robert Kennedy, through Henry Morgenthau, Jr., United States District Attorney for the Southern District of New York, ordered the arrest of Mario Garcia Kohly, Sr. and Morrow on charges of conspiracy to counterfeit foreign securities along with a host of other related charges (see Exhibit 6).

With this operation effectively destroyed by order of

* On October first of 1963, these counterfeit Cuban peso plates were delivered to Mario Kohly in New York. This operation called for the manufacture of approximately fifty million dollars worth of counterfeit Cuban pesos that were to be distributed among Castro's strategic military personnel and aides. The purpose being to buy their loyalty. Once the overthrow of Castro was completed and Kohly held the reins of power in Cuba, he would legalize the currency. It was a temptation that few of Castro's ill-paid followers could resist.

Sequence

8.

the administration, there would be no further action the exiles could take until the president and his brother were removed -- at least as long as the ballistic missile sites were still active in Cuba (see Exhibit 7, Interview with Dr. Portell-Vila). In effect, the exiles realized there would be no way that the Kennedy Administration could allow exile groups to regain control or even invade their country and expose the presence of the ballistic missiles.

At this point, it is highly plausible that right wing Cuban exiles saw John F. Kennedy's death and the subsequent new administration as the only way to follow through with their desire to overthrow Castro. In addition, it is quite conceivable that by assassinating John F. Kennedy and placing blame on Castro for the assassination, the exiles could create a situation whereby the new president (Lyndon B. Johnson) in response to popular sentiment in the United States might institute armed intervention against Castro.*

* There have been several reported incidents of this type of attempt on the part of the exiles, some of which are documented in "Behind Betrayal," see Exhibit 8.

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June 16, 1976; Paul Bethel"
- Exhibit 3: Affidavit: Robert D. Morrow
- Exhibit 4: Mario Kohly Deathbed Transcript
- Exhibit 5: Affidavit: Mario Kohly, Jr.
- Exhibit 6: Federal Grand Jury Indictment
- Exhibit 7: Interview with Dr. Portell-Vila
- Exhibit 8: Behind Betrayal

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY LEADING TO
THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

- January 1960 British discover strange installations being constructed in Cuba.
- March 1960 British reach conclusion offensive missile hard sites being constructed in Cuba.
- April 1960 (a) British inform U.S. State Department of missile site construction.
- (b) U.S. Press Attache to Havana Embassy, Paul Bethel, informed of missile site construction by friend.
- May 1960 (a) Mario Garcia Kohly agrees to accept help from CIA and starts forming United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba.
- (b) Kohly turns over to CIA plans for new provisional government of Cuba and invasion plans for exiles.
- July 1960 Kohly's provisional government plan received by National Security Council.
- August 1960 Kohly's provisional government plan meets with favour by National Security Council.
- September 1960 (a) Kohly's provisional government plan given to Nixon and meeting arranged between Nixon, Kohly, and CIA.
- (b) Kohly's underground reports construction sites are definitely offensive missile construction.
- October 1960 (a) Kohly meets Vice President Nixon and CIA; makes deal on invasion and provisional government.
- (b) Morrow informed by Kohly of deal with Nixon and CIA.

Chronology

2.

- November 1960 (a) Nixon loses presidential election to John F. Kennedy.
- (b) Kennedy briefed for first time on training program for Cuban exiles.
- (c) Kennedy not briefed on agreement between Kohly, Nixon, and CIA.
- January 1961 Kennedy takes over White House.
- March 1961 (a) Administration does not let CIA move on invasion plans.
- (b) Kennedy warned by Allen Dulles, it could be too late for successful invasion.
- April 1961 (a) Bay of Pigs invasion goes forward.
- (b) CIA honors Nixon deal with Kohly, holds Front leaders prisoners in Opa Locka.
- (c) Kennedy still does not know of deal between Kohly, Nixon, and CIA.
- (d) Kennedy holds off air cover.
- (e) Kohly pulls out underground and guerrilla force.
- (f) Hard proof of Cuban missile site construction provided CIA by Kohly's underground.
- May 1961 Morrow starts first peso counterfeiting operations for Kohly.
- June 1961 Kennedy rebriefed on increasing danger of Cuban missile capability.
- July 1961 (a) Kennedy warns Fidel Castro of first peso counterfeiting operation through his brother, Robert.
- (b) Start of crackdown on exile groups by Kennedy Administration while tacitly giving them support.

Chronology

3.

- August 1961 Castro changes currency, thwarting exile plans for an economic coup.
- September 1961 (a) Administration suppression of exile activities through
September 1962 increases at rapid rate.
- (b) Kennedy still does not acknowledge missile sites.
- (c) Kohly institutes new invasion plan that would utilize counterfeit pesos to buy off Castro's military.
- October 1962 (a) Missile crisis occurs; Kennedy reports missiles removed after blockade.
- (b) Underground reports missiles moved to permanent sites and are still intact.
- November 1962 Kohly reinstates new peso operation.
- December 1962 (a) Exiles frustrated by crackdown on activities.
through
August 1963 (b) Cuban exile invasion plans complete.
- September 1963 Counterfeit peso operation completed.
- October 1963 (a) Kennedy orders peso operation halted.
- (b) Kohly arrested in New York City with peso plates; Morrow arrested in Baltimore, Maryland. Both charged with counterfeiting, etc.
- (c) Right wing exiles infuriated and determine that as long as Kennedy remains alive, their chances for regaining Cuba are totally lost.
- (d) If assassination attempt successful, exiles feel blame could be placed on Castro, forcing new president to take military action.
- November 22, 1963 John F. Kennedy assassinated at 12:30 p.m. CST in Dallas, Texas.

EXHIBIT 1

7/15/76

Anthony M. Eaton
Robert D. Morrow

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVATE

Memo


TO: Robert D. Morrow
FROM: Anthony M. Eaton
DATE: 3 June 1976
SUBJ: Cuban Missiles and Their Relevant Dates

As I told you during our recent conversations, my knowledge of the missiles (USSR) existence in Cuba began in late 1960, either September or October of that year when overflights were made from the Bahamas by the R.A.F. and pictures taken which clearly indicated IRBM implacements being set up in several locations. This information was passed by the Joint Services Committee of the SIS to the Joint Services Intelligence Bureau in Northumberland Avenue and then to the Foreign Office for passage to the U.S. State Department. I am informed by the British Embassy that the matter is one upon which there can be "No comment" and that any such information would still be covered by the Official Secrets Act under which, as a British subject, I am still liable.

At a future date, shortly after the "missiles of October," I was approached by one of the staff of "Jane's Fighting Ships" and informed that by his calculations, the ships provided by the USSR for the ostensible removal of missiles, were not loaded with missiles. His calculated results rested on the ship displacement, weight and dimensions of the missiles, and the likely ballast loading when the ships reached Cuba. These results were checked by several other authorities using news and military photographs and they also decided that few, if any, missiles were, in fact, removed.

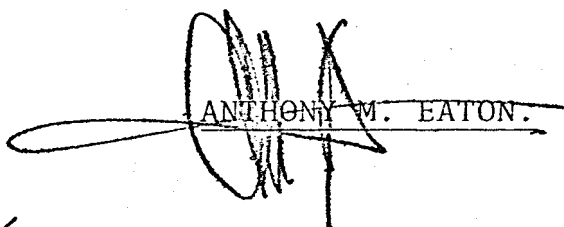
Several sources of such evidence can still be reached; but, due to the Official Secrets Act, great care will have to be exercised as no one wants to be charged under the various provisions therein.

Anthony M. Eaton



AFFIDAVIT:

I, Anthony M. Eaton, presently residing at 710, Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201., U.S.A., do hereby attest and affirm, in support of the confidential memorandum hereto attached and witnessed, that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the facts stated therein are correct and factual, and further, that I shall be prepared to provide further details, together with the reasons for such knowledge on my part to any properly constituted body in closed session bearing in mind the currently enforceable Official Secrets Act, extant in the United Kingdom. I shall hold myself at the disposal of Mr. Robert D. Morrow and any other person who he shall designate as being the proper authority to which to provide such information and shall use my best efforts to provide other persons with relevant testimony at such time as they may be required.

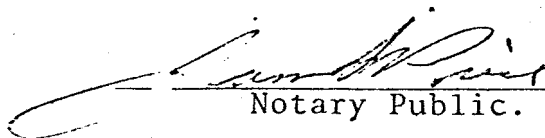

ANTHONY M. EATON.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

County of *Baltimore*, ss:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on *15th* July 1976., before me, the subscriber, a notary public of the State of Maryland, in and for the *COUNTY OF BALTIMORE* personally appeared Anthony M. Eaton and acknowledged the forgoing Affidavit and the attached, witnessed memorandum to be his act and hand.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, the day and year last mentioned above.


Notary Public.

My commission expires 7/1/78

EXHIBIT 2

PAUL BETHEL : on missiles in Cuba conversation June 16, 1976: Miami with Dick Russell

"It was my conclusion that Kennedy either used a phony missile this to defuse public outrage that the Soviets were moving into Cuba - or he was simply outsmarted by the Soviets..."

"They never showed any pictures. There were never pictures released to the press of transport to ships..."

Says how in 1960, a Cuban named George Fowler invited him to his home at Soroa, where there were some famous Cuban caves. Fowler told him something was going on there because "the military has taken over the whole area." The house was up on a hill, all kinds of construction going on, the cover being fixing it up for tourists. Bethel says it was missile sites already under construction.

"They (Kennedys) just didn't want to believe this could happen. We had reports of missiles in Tapaste (Havana province) in June and July of 1960 from Spanish intelligence."

Says that Cuba is hollow - the Escuevas de Amisted go 28 miles underground and those mountains, says Bethel, were the first penetrated by the Soviets.

"We had an internal network of sugar mills all through the island. We intercepted a lot of messages, they talked about 'perforadores de montañas' - big machines working underground. I testified to a Senate Committee in 1967 and gave that information. The State Department said they're just storing weapons underground. But do you hollow out an entire mountain to store rifles? That's crazy. That missile crisis is not over. We found some cases of new construction, for example, a storehouse was built against one mountain it was a fake. It was really an entrance into a tunnel, with trucks coming in and out, some large enough to carry two-way truck traffic...."

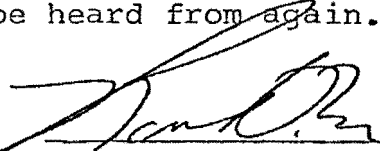


EXHIBIT 3

AFFIDAVIT:

On or about the third week of October, 1960, I was with Mario Garcia Kohly when he informed me that he had met with Vice President Nixon about a week before. He stated to me that an agreement had been reached between he (Kohly) and the Vice President for the elimination of Miro Cardona and all the leftist Cuban Revolutionary Front leaders in order that Kohly could immediately take over the reins of power in Cuba, once a successful invasion by exiles being trained by the Central Intelligence Agency had been accomplished. He stated that this agreement was made once he had pledged to have his underground inside Cuba support the invaders as well as committing his 300 to 400 man guerrilla army located in the Escambrey Mountains to attack Castro's forces if necessary to support the landing. He claimed Manuel Artimes and his followers were to be assassinated by this force once a successful landing had been completed. He also stated that the balance of the Front leaders would be held incommunicado and turned over to Kohly's exile groups for elimination once the invasion had been successful or Kohly's guerrilla army had joined the invasion forces. After this meeting between Kohly and myself, I inquired of my case officer in the presence of General Cabell if this was true and they confirmed it to be so.

On the night of April 17, 1961, en route from Opa Locka to Buckingham Field, I was told by my case officer that the Front group was being held incommunicado at Opa Locka pending the outcome of the invasion. The inference was that they would never be heard from again.


ROBERT D. MORROW

District of Columbia, ss:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the District aforesaid, personally appeared ROBERT D. MORROW, who acknowledged the foregoing statement to be true to the best of his knowledge, recollection, and belief.

WITNESS my hand and Notorial Seal this 19th day of July, 1976.



NOTARY PUBLIC

EXHIBIT 4

EXCERPT OF STATEMENT MADE BY MARIO KOHLY, JULY 1975.

Summary

The tape you are about to hear is the last statement made by Mario Garcia Kohly, Sr. It is one side of a half hour tape that he made just four weeks prior to his death. On it you will hear Kohly state that the understanding he had with the Central Intelligence Agency was that Miro Cardona, Tony Verona, Manuel Artimes, and the rest of the Cuban Revolutionary Front group that was being held incommunicado down in Miami would be eliminated after a successful invasion at the Bay of Pigs. He made this deal with then Vice President Nixon who was the CIA Action Officer in the White House and whom the Bay of Pigs was originally developed under.

For this agreement that Kohly would take over the island after a successful invasion, Kohly pledged his 42,000 man underground internal Cuban organization as well as his 300 to 400 man guerrilla army which was fully armed and ready to go in the Escambrey Mountains and which was to join up with the Bay of Pigs invaders. In addition, he was to supply all the necessary information his underground had gained on the missile installations then being installed in Cuba. When the Front group realized they were being held incommunicado at Opa Locka, one of the members, Tony Verona, climbed through a bathroom window and called Washington and the Administration.

Kohly states in this last statement of his that Castro was responsible for the death of John F. Kennedy. This statement is designed to completely smokescreen the fact that the Cuban exiles had a participation in the assassination. This will come out at a later date, but it is not relative to the fact that the

Kohly

2.

CIA was deliberately condoning the assassination of as many as five people which they held prisoner in Miami on April 17, 1961.

Kohly Transcript

On the other tape I started to give an account of how I learned that the treacherous action had been played upon us by President Kennedy in stopping the air support after the boys had already started for Cuba. There was no way of advising them because there was radio silence at all times. The true account of how I learned is this.

I was working at Marshall Diggs office at ten o'clock at night preparing some reports to be transmitted to Cuba which we had made arrangements with my son in Miami to transmit messages from myself here to him and from him to the underground in Cuba. We did this through portable radios -- he's quite a radio expert. And I ran out of cigars -- out of smokes -- while I was in Marshall Diggs office that night. Just before returning home, I stopped by the Mayflower to buy some. I went in there to the cigar stand and who did I run into but ex-Senator Owen Brewster of Maine who had been introduced to me sometime previously by Marshall Diggs and we had become pretty good friends. Brewster had been trying to get me on the phone, but I had refused to answer the phone just figuring it was my wife calling me to get home early or some of my girl friends and not my wife.

Then, Brewster was very angry and said, "Why don't you answer your phone? I've got a most important message for you. I've been trying to get you all evening."

Kohly

3.

So after due apologies and so forth, I asked what the message is.

He said, "Mario, quick, have you any way of contacting the underground in Cuba?"

He knew that I was working very closely with them and I said, "Yes. I have ways of contacting them."

He said, "Look. Tell them right away that the air support has been called off. Kennedy has double crossed the Cuban exiles."

I was shocked also to a point of immobility for a second. Then I excused myself, thanked him, and went to the phone and called my son up long distance from the office of Marshall Diggs and told him that the message must go through to Cuba at once, saying 'do not cooperate in operations unless you see the eagle flying.' The boys would know what that was because it was a pre-arranged signal in case of any such events. We had taken every precaution. I had been somewhat suspicious of the Kennedy Administration's sincerity, while at all times under the CIA's operations most of the time. So I had made contingency plans to communicate to the underground in case we did get double crossed. Thus, in effect, the message was sent and the lives of better than 42,000 men were saved who would have cooperated with the invasion and who would have been slaughtered -- which apparently was exactly what was intended to happen. So the Cuban people are eternally grateful to Owen Brewster (of late) as well as myself for having given them the advance information which saved the lives of the Cuban underground.

My part in the Cuban invasion plans were limited to some

Kohly

4.

extent. I had arranged to recruit or to enlist better than 300 boys who on a set signal once we took over the island would meet with me and arrange for the overthrow of the CIA inspired council with Miro Cardona and the rest of them. If this had been successful they would have been eliminated almost at once and I would have come into Cuba and taken over.

This can be confirmed through Mr. Sourwine in the U.S. Senate who called me one day to meet with one of the troopers or rather a group of troopers who had come out of the Bay of Pigs alive and to come back to the States and it was this trooper who very discretely divulged our plans to Owen Brewster and stated that each one of them was wearing a yellow handkerchief around their collar to show who was who and to know each other so that at the proper time they could communicate. Yellow was chosen because it fitted in with the uniforms and would not attract attention as they were current army handkerchiefs or bandanas, whatever you wish to call them.

Comment

The excerpt you have just heard was from the last statement made by Mario Garcia Kohly, president de facto in exile of Cuba and leader of the United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba, less than four weeks before his death on August 5, 1975. The original of this tape is in the safety deposit box of the law firm of Adelberg, Adelberg & Rudow, 10 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

EXHIBIT 5

AFFIDAVIT:

IN OCTOBER 1960, IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MY FATHER IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND MYSELF IN MIAMI BETWEEN TWO PREDESIGNATED PAY TELEPHONES, I WAS TOLD THAT VICE PRESIDENT NIXON HAD AGREED TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE LEFTIST APPROVED CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY FRONT LEADERS AT A TIME WHEN THE ISLAND WOULD BE INVADED BY THE EXILE GROUPS TRAINED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. THIS PROMISE WAS MADE IF MY FATHER WOULD GUARANTEE THE USE OF HIS UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION INSIDE CUBA AND HIS 300-400 MAN ARMED GUERRILA FORCE IN THE ESCAMBREY MOUNTAINS.

JUST PRIOR TO THE INVASION IN APRIL 1961, MY FATHER AGAIN NOTIFIED ME BY TELEPHONE TO EXPECT NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY REGARDING THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY FRONT JOINING THE UNITED ORGANIZATIONS AS AN INTEGRAL PART AND THAT THE INVASION WAS TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND TO CONTACT COLONEL PEPE PINERO AND COLONEL SANCHEZ MOSQUERA (WHO LATER BECAME AN AGENT FOR THE CIA) AND TO TELL THEM THEY WERE NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THIS ACTION AND INSTRUCTED ME TO EXPLAIN WHY, I.E., THEY WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATELY UPON THE SUCCESSFUL TAKEOVER OF CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT BY MY FATHER. I WAS

AFFIDAVIT
MARIO GARCIA KOHLY, JR.
PAGE TWO

ALSO TOLD THAT MANUEL ARTIMES AND AURELIANO SANCHEZ ARRANGO WERE TO BE SHOT AS SOON AS THEY HAD WORD THAT MIRO CARDONA AND THE REST OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY FRONT GROUP BEING HELD IN COMMUNICATO AT OPA LOCKA HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. WHEN KENNEDY CALLED OFF THE AIR COVER FOR THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION, THESE PLANS WERE ABORTED. LIKewise, WHEN SENATOR OWNE BREWSTER INFORMED MY FATHER THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AIR COVER, I WAS INSTRUCTED TO IMMEDIATELY PULL THE UNDERGROUND AND ARMED FORCE FROM TAKING ANY SUPPORTIVE ACTION.


MARIO GARCIA KOHLY, JR.

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF ARLINGTON, SS:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON 15TH DAY OF JULY, 1976, BEFORE ME, THE SUBSCRIBER, A NOTARY PUBLIC OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, PERSONALLY APPEARED MARIO GARCIA KOHLY, JR. AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT TO BE HIS ACT AND HAND.

WITNESS MY HAND AND NOTORIAL SEAL, THE DAY AND YEAR LAST MENTIONED ABOVE.

My commission expires on
May 27, 1978.

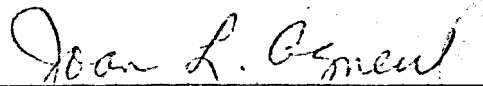

NOTARY PUBLIC

EXHIBIT 6

CJF:htl
34643

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
FILED

DEC. 2, 1963

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

S.D. OF N.Y.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

C. No. 26494-100

INDICTMENT

-v-

63 Cr. 188

WILLIAM GROSS, a/k/a BILL EVANS,
MARIO GARCIA KOHLY,
CECILY MORROW and
ROBERT D. MORROW,

Defendants.

The Grand Jury charges:

1. From on or about the 1st day of June, 1963, up to and including the date of the filing of this indictment, in the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM GROSS, a/k/a BILL EVANS, MARIO GARCIA KOHLY, CECILY MORROW and ROBERT D. MORROW, the defendants, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together and with each other and with divers other persons whose names are to the Grand Jury unknown, to commit offenses against the United States, to wit, to violate Sections 478, 479, 480 and 481, Title 18, United States Code.

2. It was a part of the said conspiracy that the defendants, without lawful authority, would print, photograph, make and execute engravings, photographs, prints and impressions in the likeness of genuine notes, obligations and securities, and parts thereof, of a foreign government, to wit, the Republic of Cuba.

① Filed 20 January 1964 Indictment



3. It was further a part of the said conspiracy that the defendants, with intent to defraud, would print and make a quantity of counterfeited 50 pesos Republic of Cuba notes.

4. It was further a part of the said conspiracy that the defendants, with intent to defraud, would pass and utter in payment and negotiation, the said counterfeited notes in Miami, Florida, New York, New York, and other places to the Grand Jury unknown.

OVERT ACTS

In pursuance of the said conspiracy and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York:

1. On or about the 19th day of September, 1963, the defendants WILLIAM GROSH, a/k/a BILL EVANS, MARIO GARCIA KOHLY and ROBERT D. MORROW, had a conversation in the vicinity of Broadway and Wall Street, Borough of Manhattan, New York City.

2. On or about the 30th day of September, 1963, the defendant MARIO GARCIA KOHLY went to the Hotel Dixie, Borough of Manhattan, New York City.

3. On or about the 1st day of October, 1963, the defendant MARIO GARCIA KOHLY went to the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Borough of Manhattan, New York City.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 371)



SECOND COUNT

The Grand Jury further charges:

On or about the 1st day of October, 1963, in the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM CROSH, a/k/a BILL EVANS, MARIO GARCIA KOHLX, CECILY MORROW and ROBERT D. MORROW, the defendants, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly, and without lawful authority did control, hold and possess plates and parts thereof from which may be printed counterfeit notes, obligations and securities, in whole and in part, of a foreign government, to wit, counterfeit 50 pesos Republic of Cuba notes.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 481 and 2)

HILBERT RAUSCHER
FORSMAN

ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU
ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU
United States Attorney



EXHIBIT 7

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
of
HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA

Born at Cárdenas, CUBA

EDUCATION: University of Havana, LL. D., 1927, Ph. D., Graduate School of Philosophy, 1934. LL. D., University of Cuzco, Peru

Guggenheim Fellow, 1931-1933, and 1935

Chubb-Fellow, Yale University, 1957

Rockefeller Foundation Grantee, 1960-1961

Professor of History of the Americas, Graduate School of Philosophy University of Havana, 1939-1960

Professor of Military History, Cuban National War College, 1946-19

Professor of American Diplomatic History, Black Mountain College, Carolina, 1935-1939

Visiting Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., 1960- to teach "Contemporary Revolutionary Movements in Latin America

Lecturer at Harris Foundation Institute, University of Chicago, 194

Lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles, 1940, and in other universities in the United States, Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay. Also the U. S. National War College, the U. S. Army College, the U. S. Defense Intelligence School, and the Inter American Defense College.

Columnist for "Bohemia", "El Mundo", and "Avance", of Havana, till 1961 and for a number of periodicals in the United States, Spain and Latin America, since 1961.

Radio and TV news commentator on international affairs since 1939, Cuba and in the United States. With The Voice of America since 1961, and with Radio Free Americas since 1967.

Travels: The countries in Western Europe, Canada, the United States and all of Latin America.

Decorations from Brazil, Cuba, France, Haiti and Spain. Also the Mexican "Alzate" award.

BOOKS: "Historia de Cuba en sus relaciones con los Estados Unidos y España", 4 vols., first edition, Havana, 1941, second edition Miami, Fla., 1969.

"Céspedes, el padre de la patria cubana", Madrid, 1931.

"Narciso López y su época", the story of the filibustering expeditions in the Fifties, Havana, 1952-1958, 3 vols.

"What Have the Americas In Common", University of Chicago Press, 1942

"On the Civilization of the Two Americas", Black Mountain College Press, 1938

"Colonial Backgrounds of Municipal Institutions in Latin America," University of Florida Press, 1957.

"Cuba and the War of Independence of the United States", Havana, 1949.

"Report on Cuba: 1971", Washington, D. C., 1971.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. H. PORTELL-VILA
REGARDING STATUS OF
CUBAN LONG-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES
FROM JULY 1961 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1967

In a taped interview with Dr. Hermenino Portell-Vila, a former Guggenheim Fellow in the 1930's and Chubb Fellow at Yale University in 1957, Dr. Portell-Vila reveals that Intercontinental or medium range ballistic missiles were in Cuba as late as 1966 -- four years after the so-called October 1962 missile crisis and two years after President Kennedy's death. Dr. Portell-Vila's credentials are unquestionable. He was a grantee of the Rockefeller Foundation from 1960 through 1961 and is considered the elder statesman of Cuban history. He has lectured and taught at the National War College, the United States War College, the United States Defense Intelligence School, and the Inter-American Defense College. In 1964, because of his extensive history and background of Cuban affairs, he served as Cuban advisor to the Republican National Committee. In addition to the above, Dr. Portell-Vila has written extensive books on Cuba and Cuban-American relations, has been a TV and radio commentator on international affairs since 1939, in both Cuba and the United States, as well as the Voice of America and Radio Free America.

The following are actual excerpts from Dr.

2.

Portell-Vila's interview with me on Tuesday, May 25, 1976.

Morrow: Dr. Portell-Vila, you are familiar not only with the Bay of Pigs but also you state you were very familiar with the missile crisis.

Dr. Portell: In 1961 I worked for a Cuban magazine then being printed in New York called Bohemia, at that time supported by the CIA. Shortly after the Bay of Pigs, I wrote something about what had taken place and the FBI wanted to find out where I had gotten the information. We began to talk and then I told the man (the FBI agent) that I couldn't divulge my sources now as he is still down there (in Cuba) and his family was my guardian angel at the time. Then I told Mr. Vogel (the FBI agent) "I have something which is more important than this." "What is it?" he asked. "It's about the missile bases being built by the Russians in Cuba." Then he slapped me on the shoulder and said Portell, "All Cubans are crazy with that. There is nothing to it." With that, he said, "Goodbye," and left.

Morrow: When was this, sir?

3.

Dr. Portell: In July of 1961. Then two hours later, Mr. Vogel called me again, asking, "Mr. Portell, I want to talk to you again. This thing you said about the missile bases in Cuba. Are you serious about it?" "Yes," I replied, followed by, "I will and want to pinpoint them on the map to you. And I have a map. One of them was at a place in the Pinar del Rio Province called San Christobal -- that was the same place that our friend Adlai Stevenson placed the missiles in October of 1962 at the United Nations. The other one is on the bay overlooking Guantanamo Naval Station."

"Well, are you sure," I asked. And he replied, "Yes," then asked, "Could you tell me who is sending you this information?" "Who?" "No, I can't do that."

Morrow: Was one of those bases situated in the Camaguey Mountains?

Dr. Portell: Yes, in Jucaro in southern Camaguey. There is a man here in Pasadena, California, whose name is Lorenzo Medrano, landscape architect, a graduate of the University of Chicago, the University of Havana, and the University of Luvane in Belgium

who was a student of mine. He came here in 1966, called me over the phone and said, "Dr. Portell, remember me, Lorenzo Medrano?" "Yes." He was one of my very best students. "I want to talk with you." "Why don't we have luncheon?" I then invited him to the old Occidental which was then still open. During lunch he said he wanted to unburden himself. "I was the landscape architect who concealed two nuclear bases somewhere in Jucaro -- Jucaro is in the Camaguey. I was working for the Minister of Public Works and I was in charge of all the gardens, so with my ability they asked me to camouflage them in such a way that they couldn't be detected from the air; and I did it. In three weeks I had completed San Julianis -- San Julianis in the western most part of the island. The other one was Jucaro. Because I felt that this was such a serious matter that I am going to ask for permission to discuss this over the Voice of America. When I told the man in charge, he said 'What? No. You can't say that. Those bases were liquidated. Nothing is there.'"

Medrano left Washington and when he reached St. Louis there were some agents of the CIA waiting for him. They wanted to talk to him.

5.

So they learnt about what he knew.

Morrow: This is regarding the missile bases?

Dr. Portell: Missile bases? This is the missile bases --
nuclear missile bases.

Morrow: And what year was this, sir?

Dr. Portell: 1966. You see I have the habit of keeping a
diary. I can give you the exact day, and year,
and month when he passed through here.

Lorenzo Medrano was in Washington June 18 through
the 22nd of 1967 and was, at that time, with the
Pasadena, California Municipal Architects Office.

Morrow: This is in an FBI report or a CIA report some-
where?

Dr. Portell: I haven't seen that; I don't know.

Morrow: He was interrogated by the CIA?

Dr. Portell: By the CIA? That was what he told me afterwards.

Morrow: What you're effectively saying, Doctor, is that
the missiles were never removed, even partially
so?

6.

Dr. Portell: Well, they are there. They are watching, aimed at the United States with them. But not only that, as I was telling Mr. Forsyth yesterday, they have been replacing the warheads regularly with new ones. And I was able to find out about this one in Mayari, in Oriente province, where the Soviets had put them up there.

Morrow: The missile capability that we were concerned about in 1962-63 were intermediate range missiles that could go as far as New York City.

Dr. Portell: That was the one in San Christobal; it was going to reach at least Philadelphia.

Morrow: Are these missiles still in Cuba?

Dr. Portell: They took out a few of them. But they don't want to admit that here (in the U.S.). They don't want to admit it; they consider.... I have those reports presented by Congress about the appearance of men representing the DIA, representing the Chief of Staff and so on. I have those reports. I keep them. This report was given to the press; but the press never printed it.

7.

Morrow: Now, let me ask you a question. Those long range missiles, do you feel they are still in Cuba or do you feel that they've been removed?

Dr. Portell: They haven't been removed, they are still in hiding. They are kept there because if at any time it is necessary to use them, they will use them. About the missiles, this is very important. I don't know whether you have this, but I do have what Kruschew said to the Supreme Soviet about the missiles in the Spanish edition of the reports of the proceedings in 1964 -- "We have missiles there and we are going to keep them there. We had some of them as tokens taken out." That was Kruschew. I don't mind giving you a copy of it.
(See attached report.)

At this point I shift to the interview to the time prior to the Bay of Pigs when Dr. Portell-Vila was host at a reception for Richard M. Nixon in Cuba in 1955 at the time the Vice President visited the island. After several minutes of reminiscing about the Vice President and his actions while on that tour, I asked specific questions about if he felt if Mr. Nixon knew anything about the missile sites being constructed in Cuba at any time during the latter part of his and then President Eisenhower's

administration.

Morrow: Dr. Portell-Vila, in your opinion did Mr. Nixon in 1960 not anticipate losing the election -- at least that is the information we had when I was a contract agent working for the CIA -- do you feel that Mr. Nixon knew at that point (late 1960) that the missiles were starting to be constructed in Cuba?

Dr. Portell: It is possible that he could have that information at that time. I don't have the means to verify that. It is possible because in Cuba we knew that that was going on. It is very likely that he could have known too.

Morrow: Dr. Portell-Vila, in regard to President Nixon now, or at the time he became president, do you feel he was aware that there were missiles in Cuba and that they had not left?

Dr. Portell: In my estimation, although I haven't seen him, he had to know, because he was privy to first class information we didn't have ourselves. He was being kept informed about what was going on. The

question is that there was a ban against releasing that information. That ban was set up and kept by the Kennedy and the Johnson administrations.

Morrow: So you feel that he, President Nixon, must have gotten the information. Of course he was briefed at the time he became president.

Dr. Portell: I'm sure he was briefed. The question was that there were the other problem to go back eight years as has been said here, the official truth and it was very difficult to destroy all that.

Morrow: Dr. Portell-Vila, would you be adverse to going out and seeing Mr. Nixon if the means were provided and discussing the matter with him to see if he would verify and discuss the matter of what you know about the missiles having been in Cuba as late as 1967.

Dr. Portell: Not at all, not at all.

Morrow: And you feel that Mr. Nixon would talk to you about it?

Dr. Portell: That I don't know, because those are very im-

portant matters of state and, of course, some of the things that for years have prevented the American public from knowing the truth have been repressed. I just would not know.

Morrow: How about Senator Smathers?

Dr. Portell: Senator Smathers ought to have a wealth of information because he was very close to President Kennedy. The two of them were very close friends. Also, Senator Smathers was very close to the Cuban colony in Miami, so one of the people who ought to know a tremendous amount of information about this is Senator Smathers.

Morrow: Do you have information about admirals and generals testifying about the missile situation.

Dr. Portell: Oh, yes. That has been published by the United States Congress. There have been members of the CIA, and members of the general staff and so on who have testified and they have disclosed some important things about missiles. The question is that that doesn't penetrate down to the general population and the papers don't print that.

Morrow: Did these generals and admirals, as you put them,

11.

did they admit that the missiles were still there?

Dr. Portell: The short range missiles, yes. The information regarding the intermediate range missiles has been deleted from the testimony and doesn't appear.

Morrow: What you are saying was that there was testimony? But, in other words, it was classified information.

Dr. Portell: Yes, classified information.

Morrow: When did this information appear, Doctor?

Dr. Portell: It has been going along for the last seven or eight years. The last one I would say was six years ago.

Morrow: And this was a Congressional hearing?

Dr. Portell: Yes.

During the interview I made references relating to the mission that I described in my book, Betrayal, on the night of the Bay of Pigs to see if Dr. Portell-Vila may have had information that related directly to it. During our discussion he admitted knowing about the diversionary force operated and run by Nina

Diaz, who was almost assassinated in January of this year by forces unknown. The following are excerpts taken from the same interview.

Morrow: Dr. Portell-Vila, did you know Nina Diaz and did you know he was the one who headed the diversionary action on the night of the Bay of Pigs?

Dr. Portell: Yes, he was sent from the Florida Keys to the eastern part of Cuba.

Morrow: Yes. Well, he was sent down there to be a diversionary force to our mission as we went into northern Cuba that night by airplane.

Dr. Portell: It was a small boat with about twenty-nine or thirty-five people.

Morrow: Well, we understood that there was to be one hundred-and-seventy-eight, but I don't think there were that many.

Dr. Portell: No, there wasn't. I learned that from Luis Alleva Leone, who was a member of the expedition and who is now teaching at Georgetown University here in Washington. He also claimed that when they reached the Oriente they found out that there



13.

was nothing to do.

Morrow: They had no idea that just because there was nothing there, what they were sent for?

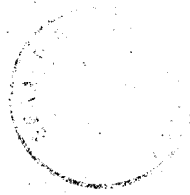
Dr. Portell: That appears to be the case.

Morrow: Weren't they surprised?

Dr. Portell: Yes. Yes, they were; but I remember one day Luis Alleva Leone was telling at a meeting at the Navy Department, the story of this diversionary attempt in the Oriente province because he had been a member of the group and about how they had left Florida, or one of the Keys in Florida, thinking that they were going to support the war that was going to take place in the central part of the island and then when they reached there they were told to go back.

Morrow: Did you hear any rumors that the CIA was trying to get information and confirmation of missile information out of Cuba at that point?

Dr. Portell: No, not at that point... about the missiles, no. The information about the missiles came sometime later. That is, by July 1961, we began to have



information about the missiles.

Morrow: In other words, you had more than enough information by that time.

Dr. Portell: By July 1961, I did have that information; and I gave it to American officials.

Morrow: Would you suspect that the missile installations had gone far enough that it was possible that they were actually under construction or starting construction back in April?

Dr. Portell: Oh, yes. You see, Cuba is a tropical country and with tropical forests you can not put up a missile base in just six weeks. You have to clear out the forests, you have to build the highways, you have to do everything, before you can start the placement, the platforms for the missiles and so on. You can not just do that in two, three months. So that was being done months before. There was no possibility of doing that without preparatory work, calling for months. One of the first bases the Russians had in Cuba was twenty-seven miles west of Havana.

15.

I then asked Dr. Portell-Vila if he knew the names of the various pilots flying missions on the night of the Bay of Pigs, i.e., names of the B-26 pilots who went in across the beaches and which David Ferrie claimed he was a part. The following was his reply.

Dr. Portell: No. I don't have him here in my notes or in the book dealing with this matter by Captain Berrel. I'm sure that if that was the case, Captain Berrel would list him here (pointing to the book), because he has all of the pilots listed. Ferrie?

Morrow: David Ferrie. An American.

Dr. Portell: He has some Americans here, but he does not have that name.

Morrow: Do you know Captain Berrel?

Dr. Portell: Yes. He has a very curious story to say because he was not only at the Bay of Pigs but he was among the Cuban pilots who got Castro out of Bogota, Columbia, in 1948, when he was in a revolution there. The Cuban government at the time sent a plane to bring Castro out of Bogota; and he remembers that.

16.

It was apparent that David Ferrie never went on the mission of attaching ground forces. Although he claimed he flew against Castro at the Bay of Pigs that night, Ferrie didn't. The mission he flew is described in Chapter One of Betrayal.

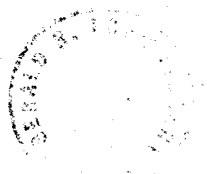


EXHIBIT 8

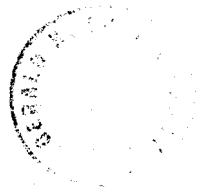


BEHIND BETRAYAL

The first in a series of articles revealing the real names and background of persons involved in clandestine operations involving the Bay of Pigs, the missile crisis, and the death of John F. Kennedy.

While writing BETRAYAL, I was faced with a more difficult job than actually writing the text -- namely, how could I reveal the real names of characters in the book without jeopardizing myself or innocent parties. Also, in order to give the manuscript complete credibility and verify critical portions of it, sufficient information had to be divulged regarding the actual Cuban missile status from 1961 through 1963.

The answer that I arrived at was that in the book, it simply couldn't be done. However, I felt by limiting the information to new, completely undisclosed data revealing for the first time the true story of the missile crisis, including the anti-Castro organizations and individuals involved, that the diligent researcher could rapidly come to his own conclusions if he had the desire to dig for himself, given this new material.



BETRAYAL was based in part on my own actual experiences and as such are related totally in the first person. The fact divulged by myself regarding the missile crisis, i. e., the fact that they existed in Cuba as early as 1961 and never left in 1963, should be confirmable through several sources other than the Cuban ones I currently have.

Another point in the manuscript that would normally stretch the reader's imagination is the data disclosed to me during several personal conversations between my case officer and General Charles Cabell. Cabell was the CIA deputy director who, as I understood it, was totally responsible for overseeing the Bay of Pigs operation.

Typical of a first time disclosure of sensitive data relayed to me during one of these conversations was the fact that I was told that "Harvey" (Lee Harvey Oswald) was deliberately sent to the Soviet Union to marry a Russian girl and that the operation was mounted in order to allow her KGB¹ uncle to defect. Among 1500 documents recently declassified by the

1 Russian Secret Police



Central Intelligence Agency was one numbered 113, dated 4 December 1963. The context related below seemingly verifies the fact that the Russian KGB knew Lee Harvey Oswald was sent deliberately to Russia marry a Russian girl (Marina Nikolaevna Pruosakova). The text of document 113 is as follows:

Source on (deleted) said he saw (deleted).
(deleted) reported SOVCONGEN told him
30 November that Oswald sent to USSR and married
Soviet girl under CIA instructions.

Mario Kohly's² experiences are as accurately described as I can recollect and in all cases were directly related to me by him. Not included in the manuscript was the information that Kohly's United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba (UOLC)³ at the time of the Bay of Pigs

2 Mario Garcia Kohly was known as the mystery man of Cuba. He controlled the underground insode of Cuba consisting of 45,000 persons and consolidated 115 anti-Castro exile groups in the United States. Combined together, he controlled the largest single group of Cubans fighting Fidel Castro.

3 The United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba (UOLC) was founded on September 7, 1961 for the purpose of uniting all the Cuban exile groups into one main organization which would represent a Cuban government in exile.

was headquartered at 2750 - 32nd Street N. W., Washington, D. C. It was a house leased by myself from a Mrs. Woods and was located next door to Senator Mike Mouroney of Oklahoma and two doors above former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' home.

In BETRAYAL, the person portrayed as Manuel Rodriguez, Mario Kohly's trusted aide, was a composite of two people, the first being Eladio Del Valle and the second, Bill Grosch. Del Valle in real life was Kohly's trusted friend of many years. Kohly and Del Valle were not only long time friends but were both politically active in Cuba before Castro. Del Valle was a wealthy congressman and Kohly a wealthy entrepreneur and banker whose father was ambassador to Spain. At the time of my trip into Cuba during the Bay of Pigs, Del Valle was a close working associate of Dave Ferrie, a CIA contract employee pilot, and during 1961 had accompanied Ferrie on many clandestine flights into Cuba. Four days prior to the time New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison sought to indict Ferrie in JFK's death, Ferrie had a massive cerebral hemorrhage, under what could be termed unusual circumstances. That very same day, Del Valle was

murdered in Miami with a gunshot wound through the heart and a hatchet through his head.

Victor Marchetti, former executive assistant to the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has already confirmed the fact that Dave Ferrie and Clay Shaw worked for the CIA. Ferrie was also on public record by stating he flew into Cuba on the night of the Bay of Pigs while giving a speech before the Military Order of World Wars in New Orleans. He did not divulge the reason behind his particular mission or the fact that he actually landed. He just claimed that the gunfire was too heavy, indicating he was supporting the invasion on the beach. However, if one takes the time to check, all the pilots directly involved in the Bay of Pigs landing operation are known. Ferrie was not among them or he would probably be dead. All the B-26 support planes were either shot down or destroyed on the ground. Ferrie was in Cuba that night; but with me.

Although Del Valle is dead, I didn't use his real name in BETRAYAL in order to protect possible surviving relatives who were active delegates to Kohly's United Organ-

izations (UOLC), i. e., Israel Del Valle of Lidere, organization no. 44.⁴ Ledere incidentally also had a delegate by the name of Francisco Gil who is related to one Manuel Gil, who was on the ill-fated Bay of Pigs executive council, known as the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Manuel Gil was also a director of the Information of America organization whose Edward Butler interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald on New Orleans radio.

Eladio Del Valle himself headed Cuba Libre, e. g., The Free Cuba Committee, which was organization no. 8 of Kohly's UOLC. The Free Cuba Committee was funded by the CIA through Mullen & Co., a public relations firm in Washington, D. C. which was stated by myself in BETRAYAL and later confirmed by Charles Colson, formerly of the Nixon White House staff.

Cuba Libre funded both Del Valle and Dave Ferrie and indirectly controlled their Cuban activities. In late

⁴ See confidential UOLC list of organizations and their delegates.

1961 when the Kennedys directly stopped Del Valle and Ferrie's Cuban flights, Ferrie actively went to work in New Orleans for a spinoff operation of this group set up in New Orleans by Guy Banister⁵ called the Citizens for Free Cuba Committee which he located at 544 Camp Street -- Lee Harvey Oswald had this address on both his pro and anti-Castro literature.

The man known as Hart in BETRAYAL is Loran Eugene Hall,⁶ who was closely tied to an anti-Castro organization known as Interpen and Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis' International Anti-Communist Brigade. Interpen head and self-admitted CIA contract agent Gary Patrick Hemming claimed that a rifle Loran Hall had and which an FBI witness reported as looking like Lee Harvey Oswald's gun

5 Guy Banister headed the Chicago bureau of the FBI and after retiring went to work as a deputy superintendent of New Orleans' police department. After several years he retired and formed his own detective agency at 544 Camp Street.

6 Loran Eugene Hall is a soldier-of-fortune type who fought with Castro until he turned communist, then joined in the anti-Castro exile activities during the early 60's. He was paid through the exile organizations who were funded by the CIA.



(LA 89-76), was really his (Hemming's).

Hemming also stated to Senator Frank Church's Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that he pinpointed Hall as being in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Hall himself admitted to the FBI that he was one of the men who visited Sylvia Odio⁷ and the report was included in the Warren Report on page 324. Hemming also claimed that Hall was directly connected to the assassination. Hall was also connected to the Committee to Free Cuba (Cuba Libre). The check he used to get Hemming's rifle out of hock was a Free Cuba Committee check.

Sylvia Odio, who came from a very prominent upperclass Cuban family, came close to persuading the Warren Commission that a conspiracy was possible. Her parents were in Castro's prisons in 1963 for having originally been affiliated with another defected former Castroite named Manuel Ray. Although Ray had defected, he was suspected

7. Sylvia Odio came to national prominence in 1964 when she claimed that three men visited her prior to the assassination -- one being Lee Harvey Oswald -- and that they claimed Oswald was capable of killing Fidel Castro. Her credentials were excellent, but the Warren Commission determined Oswald was out of the country at the time of the incident and chose to ignore it.



by Kohly as still being a Communist. Kohly was the person to originate the slogan "Fidelism without Fidel," referring to Ray. Like Ray, Sylvia Odio escaped Cuba, and once in the United States, switched her alliance from Ray who was head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council to Kohly's UOLC. She then began to work with Aureliano Sanchez Arango. Arango headed the Democratic National Front (UOLC organization no. 84). Ironically, the name Leopoldo mentioned by Sylvia Odio as one of the men who visited her along with Lee Harvey Oswald and then, according to the Warren Commission, telephoned her the following day, is the first name of Arango's co-delegate in the Democratic National Front -- Leopoldo Morffi Machado. To my knowledge neither Arango nor Machado were ever interviewed by the Warren Commission.

Shortly after John Kennedy was killed, another member of Kohly's UOLC by the name of Dora Causa, a delegate from organization no. 50, the Union of Cuban Anti-Communist Mothers, linked Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo,⁸ the

8 For about one year after Castro came to power,



leader of Alpha 66 to the Kennedy assassination. However, in a later interview with the FBI (MM 84-35), she vehemently denied it. And, with good cause, Kohly concerned that the Cuban exiles would be blamed for the assassination put out the word that no one should say anything that could jeopardize the UOLC and its affiliated groups (e. g., Alpha 66, Interpen, International Anti-Communist Brigade).

Prior to JFK's death, Menoyo was a violently out-spoken critic of Kennedy and his treatment of the exiles. A man selected by Menoyo by the name of Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro⁹ ran the Dallas unit of Alpha 66 and overtly controlled

Major Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo had commanded his forces in the Escambrey Mountains of Las Villas Province. After a disagreement with Fidel, he fled to Miami along with a dozen of Castro's top military men and set up Alpha 66.

9 Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro was president of several anti-Castro organizations in Dallas, i. e., the 30th of November Movement, Alpha 66, the Second National Front of the Escambrey (SNEP), and the Peoples' Revolutionary Movement (MRP). He had worked for Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Cuba up until 1958, then joined Castro's army. After Castro took power, he resumed work with Coca-Cola in Cuba, working against Castro. In November 1960 he escaped to the U.S., where he worked as a dishwasher in a Miami hotel. In September 1963, he registered as an alien in Dallas. Orcarberro voiced himself to be violently anti-Kennedy and was interviewed on many occasions by the Secret Service.

the Harlandale Avenue operation which I feel was the headquarters for the assassination teams in the JFK assassination plot. Orcarberro was known to have worked very closely with Kohly's Free Cuba Committee, Banister's Citizens for a Free Cuba Committee, and Loran Hall's funder, the Committee to Free Cuba, etc., according to an FBI informant in Dallas and revealed in an FBI report to the Warren Commission (CD 1085). On November 23, 1963, a Dallas County Sheriff's Department supplementary report noted the activities of 3126 Harlandale Avenue in November of 1963.

As noted above, from the day of JFK's assassination to the time of his death in 1975, Kohly was afraid the anti-Castro exile groups would be branded with the Kennedy assassination and did everything to place the blame for the assassination on Castro, including giving a deathbed statement to that effect.

In addition to silencing the UOLC membership, as in the case of the Dora Causa incident, Kohly ordered the Free Cuba Committee to disseminate the rumor that an



"admitted Castro agent" had been arrested a week before the assassination for plotting to kill John F. Kennedy. Two other UOLC connected exile organizations, the Student Revolutionary Directorate (DRE)¹⁰ and Frank Sturgis' International Anti-Communist Brigade (IAB), acting for Kohly through Eladio Del Valle, were the source behind a letter signed by one Pedro Chalres postmarked "Havana, November 28, 1963," which arrived at Oswald's old post office box in Dallas (26 H 148). Unless Oswald had been working with or closely connected to the IAB or DRE, how would they have had Oswald's P. O. box number on the day of the assassination. Common sense would dictate that it would take several days to accomplish the following, i. e., compose the text, get it into Cuba, mail it from Havana, and for it to reach Dallas. I have the morning and evening newspapers from Dallas dating from the 22nd of

10 The Student Revolutionary Directorate was originally formed inside Cuba in the Escambrey Mountains in order to help Castro overthrow Batista. When Castro took over, the DRE was given the cold shoulder and eventually headquartered in Miami to overthrow Castro.



November 1963 through the 25th. Oswald's P.O. Box number was not divulged in the Dallas papers or for that matter given any attention other than for being a drop for receiving his mail order rifle. It has been reported from a number of sources, however, that Oswald had Dave Ferrie's library card in his pocket at the time of his arrest.

The bogus letter stated that Charles saw Oswald in Miami. This charade was even confirmed by Frank Sturgis and company. The letter then went on to say that he (Charles) had told his supposed chief about Oswald's marksmanship. Charles recommends he "close business as soon as possible," finishing with the fact that he is awaiting Oswald's arrival in Havana. Almost simultaneously, other letters were sent to Robert Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, allegedly from someone in the anti-Castro underground in Cuba who wanted to inform on Charles. The Kennedy and Johnson letters claimed Oswald was an agent of the Cuban Security Department and that Oswald killed the President on Castro's orders, ostensibly hoping the blame would fall "on



the Texas Republican Party." This wild story is part of a Secret Service report in Miami dated 11-24-63 and 12-4-63. The clincher is that these letters were typed on the same typewriter and the FBI dismissed the whole thing as an obvious fraud.

Another friend of Kohly's, Salvadore Diaz
Berzon?, made a similar pitch. A former officer of the hated Cuban Military Intelligence Service under Batista and the president of the Anti-Communist League of Cuba (organization no. 88 of Kohly's UOLC), Berzon said that Castro had put Oswald up to it. Berzon states that a close friend of his was a director of an anti-Castro radio program called the "Voice of Cuba," which was sponsored by the CIA's Mullen & Co. It is likely that Berzon's close friend in the Voice of Cuba was Nirso Pimentel or Jose Cabrera of the Anti-Communist Revolutionary Voice of Cuba Organization (UOLC organization no. 80). The New Orleans head of the DRE who worked closely with the UOLC, was Carlos Bringuier, a good friend of Salvadore Berzon. Aside from his well-noted street brawl with Oswald, Bringuier is credited



with trying to prove that Oswald was a Castro agent after he had been gunned down by Jack Ruby and couldn't deny it. Bringuier said that another letter from a disgruntled member of the Christian Democratic Movement (CDM; UOLC organization no. 67) was sent to the Cuban Ambassador in Mexico City and that the informant was hoping to be allowed back into Cuba in return for the information contained therein on the activities of the anti-Castro exiles. CDM discovered this treachery and got the man to confess the falsity of the contents of the letter by tightening a garrot around his neck and putting a gun to his head. Bringuier also claimed Oswald tried to infiltrate the DRE (Student Revolutionary Directorate) prior to the 8th of August, 1963, and that he (Oswald) had found out about the Lake Pontchartrain training camp¹¹ from a confessed spy.

As stated before, the Free Cuba Committee or

11 This training camp was funded through Mullen & Co. of Washington and was under the partial influence of organized crime. The McLaney brothers who had lost their Havana casino interest also had a stake in this operation.



Cuba Libre (Eladio Del Valle's UOLC organization no. 8) funded Dave Ferrie, Guy Banister, and Clay Shaw through Mullen & Co. and was supposed to control their Cuban activities. As I described in BETRAYAL, it is my contention that the Citizens for a Free Cuba Committee set up in New Orleans by Guy Banister, got out of control and perpetrated the President's assassination.

And, last but not least, Jack Ruby and Kohly's friend, Carlos Prio Socarras, were partners in running guns and at least one gambling casino in Havana in the 1950's (Atlanta FBI Report 105-3193 dated 12-1-63). In arms deals, Ruby acted as bagman. In 1959, Prio and one Robert Ray McKeown were indicted and given suspended sentences and put on probation for illegal arms sales. Ruby should have been involved, but McKeown and Socarras would only admit Ruby was negotiating with McKeown for a letter of introduction to Castro. On the CBS "Assassins" aired on November 25th of 1975, McKeown claimed Oswald came to him two weeks before the assassination trying to buy four high



Behind Betrayal

17.

power rifles. He never told this to the FBI or Warren
Commission in 1963.



BEHIND BETRAYAL II

The last one that wanted Fidel Castro dead was John F. Kennedy and the last person who wanted John Kennedy dead was Fidel Castro. After the Kruschev/Kennedy pact when the missiles were agreed to be left intact in Cuba, it was imperative that Kennedy and Castro normalize relations between the two countries to preclude CIA sponsored exile groups from regaining possession of their country and finding missile hard sites still in place. Through two emissaries -- one being Ambassador Atwood, the other a French reporter by the name of Daniel -- the young president had implemented secret negotiations with the Castro regime to re-establish relations between the U.S. and Cuba. These negotiations were due to bear fruit on the very day Kennedy died. Ironically, the CIA directly opposed any such plans and, after discovering that Kennedy had almost succeeded in reestablishing relations, was not adverse to blaming Kennedy's assassination on Castro. In fact, the CIA was delighted when the famous Pedro Charles letters appeared -- done under the auspices of

the anti-Castro exiles. It was imperative that the anti-Castro Cubans perpetrate the theory that Castro was behind the assassination in order to take the heat off of the real culprits -- namely, right wing elements loosely tied to both the CIA and underworld. For this reason, Kohly, to his dying day, swore that Castro was behind the assassination (see Behind Betrayal). This had a two pronged effect -- if the American public were convinced that Castro was behind the assassination, it was judged by both the CIA and exile groups that feeling would run high enough among the American public to force the Johnson administration into mounting an invasion by United States armed forces. Secondly, it would take the onus off the guilty parties.

In early 1964, however, Lyndon Johnson didn't know the full story behind Kennedy's moves to make peace with Cuba and inadvertently trapped in a bad situation. It is my firm belief that things got so out of hand with the exile groups during the 1964-1965 period that President Johnson exploited the Vietnamese War to avert another full scale Cuban crisis. This diversion resulted in half a million

troops being shipped to Vietnam and the complete shutting down of any exile group activities. It also stopped the CIA from supporting any new effort toward the Cuban situation.

In my presence, Kohly agreed to commit his vast underground forces and his three to four hundred man army in the Escambrey mountains to join up with the boys going into the Bay of Pigs. For this the Company agreed to let Kohly's UOLC organization take over the island once the invasion had been accomplished. Miro Cardona and his leftist exile government, supported by the State Department and the Kennedy administration, were to be held isolated down in Opa Locka, Florida, without the knowledge of either the Attorney General or the President. This group was to be turned over to Kohly's people for elimination once the operation had been completed. It was also my understanding that Manuel Artime, who was with the 2506 Brigade, would be killed by a sniper after the invasion was successful. I found out much later that this was the main reason Kohly agreed to send in Elladio Del Valle to bring out the photographs his underground had taken of the missile site construction going on in

the Camaguey as early as 1961. This was the reason for our particular operation. On the night of the Bay of Pigs invasion, Senator Owen Brewster informed Kohly that no air cover would be provided for the boys on the direct orders of the President. Kohly was incensed and immediately got in touch with his son in Florida to radio the underground leaders not to participate. In addition, he ordered his forces in the Escambrey not to join up with the doomed invaders. Unfortunately, our mission had already commenced, radio silence was in force, and there was no way of notifying us to turn back. Today, it appears painfully clear that we were betrayed by a double agent. Fidel Castro knew our operations were commencing on April 17th and was prepared to repel the CIA invasion force. He almost succeeded in having one of his World War II Sea Fury fighters shot down our unarmed twin engine plane.

In 1963, as a last desperate CIA sponsored gesture, Kohly attempted to smuggle into Cuba \$50,000,000.00 worth of counterfeit pesos, undetectable from the originals and secretly marked. These bills were to be legalized once Kohly's forces had successfully bought the loyalty of Castro's lower

echelon army officers to defect to the new regime. They would then disseminate some of this cash among the lower echelon troops, thus literally buying Castro's armed forces. Another small percentage of this counterfeit money was also to be used to buy political prisoners out of jails. When the Kennedy's thwarted this operation, I feel the President's death warrant was sealed.