

~~SECRET~~

20 NOV 1957

MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: Garrison Investigation of Kennedy Assassination:
 Francisco Antonio BARTES
 Clarens (201-239835)**

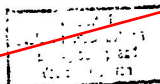
1. To date we have seen no published material which involves BARTES in the Garrison probe. Nevertheless, his former prominence in Cuba, his well-known opposition to Castro and his government, and his former position as head of the Cuban Revolutionary Council (CRC) in New Orleans may result in such involvement in the future.

2. We have examined Subject's 201 file and the CI/OA file on idm. The following highlights are extracted from these two records.

a. Subject was born on 14 September 1920 in Havana. He is married and has six children. His present address is 1603 Mason Smith Ave., Metairie, Louisiana. He sells real estate. He entered the U.S. at Miami on 4 January 1961. From 1953 to 1958 he was vice-president of the Consolidated Railways of Cuba, of which firm he served as president from 1958 to 1960. He also had large holdings in rice plantations and other enterprises and was wealthy.

b. Subject's 201 file shows that on the basis of favorable information provided CIA by a U.S. citizen and former employee of BARTES, William C. DAVIS, Headquarters queried Havana about him (DIR-40206, 15 July 1960). Havana requested a POA for his use in JMATE on 29 December 1960, and it was granted on 30 January 1961. Whether any paramilitary or operational use was made of Subject cannot be determined from the files listed above. (Comment: It is requested that WH/COG answer this question.) The POA was cancelled on 30 August 1961 at the request of WH/4, which had no further operational interest.

c. The New Orleans office of the Domestic Contact Service (DCS) sent to the Director, DCS, a 23 December 1960 memorandum, subject: "Possible Opportunity to Recruit Agent in Place in Cuba", from which the following is quoted:

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

"On Tuesday, 20 December 1966, I received a call from Mr. Frank BARTES, former President of the Consolidated Railways of Cuba. He is an alien but we have FBI approval to contact dated 14 April 1961. Mr. BARTES is the source of five reports on Cuba and we, as well as the FBI, have been in frequent contact with him." This memorandum added that BARTES proposed to recruit for CIA a cousin, a Cuban ballerina named Alicia CRUZ Bustillo who travelled with her group to many Communist countries, including China. The file does not show whether such a recruitment attempt was made. (Comment: It is requested that the office of the Director, DCI, ascertain from the New Orleans office the essential facts about its contacts with BARTES: when did these start, how many were there, on what subjects did he provide information, and has contact continued? If not, when did it end? To the present knowledge of the New Orleans office, has subject been questioned by Garrison or his staff? If so, any known details would be useful. It is not proposed, however, that BARTES be queried on this point if the information is not already available. It is requested that this inquiry be sent to the New Orleans office by a separate memorandum which omits all references to the ED/P and to any association between BARTES and the Clandestine Services.)

d. CI/R&A Memorandum No. 5, "Garrison and the Kennedy Assassination", 7 August 1967, para. cf, includes the following: "On 25 June 1962 Lawrence LABORDE, Gerald Patrick Hemming Jr., and Howard Kenneth DAVIS, paid a visit to a Cuban in New Orleans, Frank BARTES, and reached an agreement to train anti-Castro Cubans as guerrilla fighters and demolition experts."

e. An FBI report of 3 July 1964, subject: "Movimiento Democrata Cristiano (MDC)", stated that BARTES was the head of the CRC in New Orleans but that on or about 4 June 1964 he had received from the Miami headquarters a notification that the CRC was being dissolved. BARTES advised the

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

New Orleans office of the FBI that the New Orleans delegate of the MEC was Jose Manuel CUSCO, who was not very active, and that the Miami chief was Jose Ignacio RASCO. (Comment: There is no record of CUSCO in RI/Main Index.) A PRO II on BARTES shows that he was an FBI informant (dates not given) and that his contact was with Special Agent Warren C. deBrueys.

f. On 27 May 1965 SOD/AB/OPS/3 requested a POA on Subject to permit his use as a pilot in Leopoldville, the Congo, in Project WITRUSH. The POA was granted on 20 July 1965. A PRO II, filled out on 9 September 1965, shows that BARTES' file did not indicate that he knew personally any WOFIRM case officers except Roberto MEDELL, principal agent in Miami for the WITRUSH project.

g. An OA was granted 9 September 1965. Subsequent traffic from Leopoldville, however, indicated that Subject was not qualified for his assignment, and with the concurrence of Headquarters he was sent back to the U.S., where he arrived on 11 February 1966. He was "very unhappy over termination, claiming that he had not been treated fairly" In a memorandum of 16 February 1966 SOD/AB/OPS/3 stated that Subject was of no further interest and requested cancellation of his OA.

h. A memorandum of 1 March 1967 to Chief RI/DS from Director, DCS (Chief, Services Division), subject: "Alien Interview: Frank BARTES", includes the following: "This office has requested FBI approval to contact Frank BARTES, an alien national . . . and expects to exploit him as a source of foreign intelligence."

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3. It is requested that WH/COG and DCS provide any additional information on Subject which their files may contain. WH/COG traces on Jose Manuel CUSCO are also requested.

Donovan E. Pratt
DC/CI/R&A

Distribution:

Orig - DDP

- 1 - C/CI, DC/CI
- 1 - C/WH/COG
- 1 - Director, DCS
- 1 - Office of Security
- 1 - Office of General Counsel
- 1 - A/DCI
- 1 - R&A chrono
- 1 - Garrison file -- correspondence with DCS
- 1 - Garrison file -- correspondence with WH/COG
- 1 - Garrison file -- R&A reports

~~SECRET~~