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HALL, LORAN EUG  
ASHMANN, CHARLE  
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9 January 1968

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SUBJECT: HOWARD, Lawrence J.  
aka ESCURIDO, Alonzo  
(See also HEMMING, Gerald Patrick, Jr. and  
HALL, Loran Eugene) - #348627

ALLEGATION:

CIA CONNECTION:

Lawrence J. HOWARD of Los Angeles was subpoenaed by GARRISON as a material witness on 29 Dec 1967. He was ordered to appear before the New Orleans Parish Grand Jury on 1 and 2 Feb 1968.

None

SOURCE:

Newspaper clippings dtd 29 Dec and 30 Dec 1967.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

Negative except for a reference to Subject's name in a newspaper clipping dtd 5 December 1962 in the file of Gerald P. HEMMING, Jr. The article reported that 13 men were arrested at Sombrero Key, Florida on charges of violating U. S. neutrality laws by "an attempt to form an expedition to invade a foreign country". Gerald Patrick HEMMING was identified as the leader of the group and Lawrence J. HOWARD, Jr., 27, Pico Rivera, California as one of the band. The "invaders" claimed they were an independent unit not affiliated with any Cuban exile organization.

DETAILS:

The WASHINGTON STAR newspaper clipping dtd 30 Dec 1967 (attached) described HOWARD as a welder and fitter who was reported by his wife to be somewhere in Mexico and unavailable for comment regarding the subpoena by GARRISON.

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9 January 1968

**SUBJECT:** HALL, Loran Eugene  
aka PASCILLO, Lorenzo  
aka HALL, Skip  
(See also HEMMING, Gerald P., Jr.)

ALLEGATION:

Loran E. HALL, 39 year old resident of Kernville, California was subpoenaed by GARRISON as a material witness on 29 Dec 1967. GARRISON alleged 10 men were arrested in Dealey Plaza in Dallas minutes after President KENNEDY's assassination and released quietly later in the day.

SOURCES:

Newspaper clippings dtd 27, 29 and 30 Dec 1967.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

Subject's file reflects that OO/Contacts requested an ad hoc clearance in July 1959 to debrief HALL at the time of his return to his home in Wichita, Kansas after his release from a Cuban prison. The FBI interrogated HALL for two hours at the Wichita FBI office on 16 July 1959 and released him. They had no objection to the Agency's contacting HALL after that date but from the FBI it was learned that HALL was an unlikely subject from which to obtain truthful information and his value was considered questionable. The request for clearance from OO/Contacts was, therefore, cancelled on 29 October 1959. The reports of FBI interrogation of HALL in Wichita dtd 28 July 1959 are contained in his file. He stated he was in Cuba from approximately 17 March 1959 to 15 July 1959 and was incarcerated from 15 April 1959 to 15 July 1959. He had left Wichita, Kansas for Miami and Havana initially because he was unable to obtain work in Wichita. HALL said he was not recruited by any one in the United States and he went to Cuba on his own initiative hoping to get into the Cuban Army. When he eventually made contact in Cuba, he was given the job of training men for an invasion of Nicaragua.

His file also contains a copy of an OO report dtd 12 and 18 September 1963 concerning a polygraph examination of Lorenzo PASCILLO aka Loran

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Eugene HALL on "Invasions of Cuba". This examination was given by a Mr. Robert BERRICK, President of the West Coast Lie Detection Center, 842 Redondo Avenue, Long Beach, California. At that time (September 1963) PASCILLO (HALL) had made a speech before the John Birch Society in the Long Beach, California area and he was referred to the West Coast Lie Detection Center by one Bill TERRISON (phonetic), a representative of the John Birch Society. PASCILLO (HALL) was trying to raise funds for an alleged invasion of Cuba on 12 September 1963. During the polygraph examination PASCILLO (HALL) was reported as saying there were three groups planning to invade Cuba on 18 September 1963 and that these groups were supposedly non-Communists. PASCILLO (HALL) stated that the CIA was aware of this fact and that the three leaders of these groups were supposedly anti-Communists, although, they were former Communists. PASCILLO (HALL) went on to say that they are not actually former Communists but still active in the Communist Party as of that time. The purpose of the invasion had political aspects, he said. Also, he remarked that the upcoming (1964) election would be between KENNEDY AND GOLDWATER. KENNEDY, he said, was trying to play down the Cuban issue while GOLDWATER was trying to ride on it politically. PASCILLO (HALL) stated that the purpose of the invasion by the three groups was to oust the CASTRO regime and place a new man as a figurehead in Cuba but maintain a Communist regime after the invasion. PASCILLO (HALL) continued with the statement that he was to lead a group into Cuba on 12 September 1963. He was to blow up some refineries, utilities and things of this nature and at the invasion on 18 September 1963 by the three other groups, PASCILLO's group was to fight these three groups; take films during the operations; and return to the United States to go on another fund-raising crusade.

PASCILLO (HALL) revealed himself to be vehemently anti-Jewish during the polygraph examination and expressed his view that of 142 top advisors in the U. S., 104 at least were Jews and that the man directly under J. Edgar HOOVER at that time had at one time been deported from the U. S. for Communistic activities. The polygraph report stated that PASCILLO (HALL) had been arrested for forgery.

(NOTE: The fact that the above polygraph examination of HALL was paid for by the John Birch Society is interesting because of GARRISON's allegations that the extreme Rightists are responsible for the alleged assassination conspiracy and his subpoena of HALL may be for the purpose of supporting his theory.)

A contact of the Los Angeles Contact Field Office, a Mr. Michael R. RILEY, Investigator, U. S. Treasury Dept., Coast Guard Intelligence Branch, Long Beach, California, who had reviewed the report in BERRICK's office, furnished the substance of the report to the Agency and requested that his source remain confidential.

DETAILS:

The CI summary on Gerald Patrick HEMMING, Jr. (Encl. 14) contained the following information on PASCILLO (HALL). On 23 November 1963 one Richard

HATCOCK, Allied International Detectives, Suite 310, 6605 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, told an FBI agent that in approximately November 1962 HEMMING and HALL appeared in his office. They told HATCOCK they had been directed to HATCOCK by one Dick WATLEY who had known HATCOCK for several years. HATCOCK lent HEMMING and HALL money, accepting golf clubs and a rifle as security. HATCOCK said that HEMMING and HALL were violently anti-Communist and anti-CASTRO. They told him both had fought with CASTRO in the mountains in Cuba but fell out with him after the revolution and returned to the U. S.

A NEW YORK TIMES article for 27 December 1967 reported GARRISON stated Loran HALL of California had inside knowledge of the assassination the day it happened. GARRISON said Government officials had not called Mr. HALL before the Warren Commission. The article stated Loran Eugene HALL of Johnsonville, California is mentioned in the Warren Commission Report. Allegedly, HALL told the FBI that in September 1963 he was in Dallas soliciting aid for activities against the CASTRO regime in Cuba.

(NOTE: A check of the Index of the Warren Commission Report failed to disclose any mention of Loran Eugene HALL or any of his aka's.)

An article in the WASHINGTON STAR for 30 December 1967 quoted HALL, a bartender, as denying he ever knew anyone connected with the assassination and said he would fight the subpoena.

An article in the CHICAGO DAILY SUN-TIMES for 30 December 1967 reported that GARRISON in court papers contended that HALL was a part of the "Free Cuba" movement in Florida, Texas and Louisiana and that he was an associate of David FERRE, a pilot who, before his death on 22 February 1967, was a target of GARRISON's investigation. HALL, a bartender, when informed by reporters that he had been subpoenaed by GARRISON, exclaimed: "You're kidding!" He said he had spent only a few days in Dallas and in Louisiana in 1963, but admitted joining the "Free Cuba" movement, taking part in raids on the island - "blowing up bridges, starting fires in sugar cane fields, knocking out radio antennas, anything we could do like that." HALL said he halted his activity when agents of the Central Intelligence Agency stopped a boat he was on and confiscated the material aboard. He was not arrested, he said. HALL said he planned to fight the subpoena in court in Los Angeles.

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28 December 1967

SUBJECT: HEMMING, Gerald Patrick  
aka Jerry PATRICK  
(See also LABORDE, Lawrence J.)

ALLEGATION:

Gerald Patrick HEMMING, ex-Marine, soldier-of-fortune, was head of an anti-CASTRO group called Inter-continental Penetration Force (INTERPEN). He was acquainted with Lawrence J. LABORDE. LABORDE's son, Michael W. LABORDE, spoke to GARRISON investigators about a photograph which GARRISON has and which allegedly shows people standing behind a fence on the grassy knoll overlooking Dealey Plaza. Michael LABORDE suggested that "PATRICK" might be connected with the people in the photograph.

HEMMING also went to GARRISON's office on 8 July 1967 claiming that he was working for an unidentified magazine and wanted to get information for a story on the GARRISON investigation.

Michael LABORDE told the New Orleans FBI office on 18 July 1967 that his father and "Jerry PATRICK" had worked for CIA with anti-CASTRO Cuban groups in the Miami area.

SOURCE:

Memorandum dated 31 August 1967  
with Enclosure 14.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

Subject's file reflects an ad hoc contact clearance was granted on 6 March 1961 for debriefing on military, economic and political developments in various Latin American countries. At that time HEMMING was engaged in revolutionary activities in Nicaragua. On 2 June 1961 the Contact Office was advised that National Agency Name Checks on HEMMING disclosed no pertinent derogatory information.

CIA CONNECTION:

HEMMING was approved for an ad hoc contact clearance on 6 March 1961. He was the source of 15 contact reports on Cuba. His group, INTERPEN, had no Agency connection. Although, HEMMING is not accepted by leading Cuban organizations, he is well known to them.

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The WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS for 6 July 1961 contained an article concerning a Joseph Patrick HEMMING, leader of an anti-CASTRO group called Intercontinental Penetration Force (INTERPEN) who was identified as Subject. OS file on INTERPEN shows no Agency connection. Rather, it was investigated by the FBI in July 1961 for possible violation of U. S. neutrality laws.

In February 1962 HEMMING was the subject of a Los Angeles Field Office investigation. The Los Angeles Sheriff's office had recovered a U. S. pistol from a car in the area on 30 January 1962. HEMMING appeared at the Sheriff's office to claim the pistol stating that he was a CIA agent on a training mission in connection with a Cuban assignment. HEMMING was interviewed by the Los Angeles Contact Office concerning the incident, and according to the interviewer, Subject never claimed to have worked for the CIA. He had furnished certain information concerning activities in Cuba in the form of reports to the Los Angeles Contact Office since approximately October 1960.

Of particular note in Subject's file is a copy of an article by one Bill STUCKEY entitled "Anti-Castro Base Near Covington" which appeared in the New Orleans STATES-ITEM for 21 July 1962 (copy attached). It concerned Subject described as an American soldier-of-fortune, Gerald Patrick HEMMING aka Jerry PATRICK, who showed up in New Orleans in February 1962 "apparently at the invitation of local Cuban Revolutionary Council leaders and other Cubans who wanted to take direct action against CASTRO. With the help of anonymous U. S. patrons, the Cubans began supplying PATRICK with machine guns, explosives and other military supplies.

"PATRICK made regular trips here (New Orleans), slipping in and out of the port secretly in a modern, well-equipped PT boat.

"Last spring (1962) another anonymous U. S. patron offered the Cubans and PATRICK a large tract of land - complete with air strip on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. PATRICK agreed to set up a training base, handling classes of 50 or so Cuban recruits at a time. After completion of the training, the guerrillas would be like their Everglades counterparts, transported to Cuba secretly to work with the anti-CASTRO underground."

The article then states that the Miami Cuban Revolutionary Council "nixed" the Covington base for undescribed reasons.

The article further states that although the "PATRICK" guerrilla base plan fell through, the New Orleans STATES-ITEM confirmed in April 1962 that "Cubans were trained here (New Orleans) at the old Algiers ammunition dump, for the Bay of Pigs invasion." (This was the Agency training locale - not Lake Pontchartrain as alleged by GARRISON).

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DETAILS:

Subject is a 40 year old soldier-of-fortune who served in the Marines from 1954 to 1958; was with CASTRO's guerrilla forces in Cuba in 1959-1960; served with the Nicaraguan Revolutionary group in 1961 and then organized his own anti-CASTRO group in 1962 (INTERPEN). This group dropped out of sight after the FBI began checking to see if they were violating U. S. neutrality laws. He has not been affiliated with the Agency except for the 15 information reports he furnished the Los Angeles Contact Office. A list of these reports was furnished to the FBI in August 1964.

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26 December 1967

**SUBJECT:** ASHMANN, Charles R.  
(See also HEMMING, Gerald Patrick)

ALLEGATION:

Charles R. ASHMANN, Miami attorney, appeared on a radio show in 1962 over Miami Radio Station WQAM, together with Gerald Patrick HEMMING, Steve WILSON, Leroy COLLINS, and Howard Kenneth DAVIS. After the program, the radio station received a telephone call from a man who said he was from New Orleans and gave a name such as "Harvey LEE, Oswald HARVEY or Oswald LEE." Howard Kenneth DAVIS aka "Davey" took the call and although the caller did not identify himself, DAVIS recognized his voice as that of the son of a dealer for Miller's High Life beer in Ft. Lauderdale. DAVIS said that there was no reason to believe that the caller was Lee Harvey OSWALD.

CIA CONNECTION:

NONE

SOURCE:

Memorandum No. 5 dated 7 August 1967,  
Enclosures 2 and 14.

OS INDICES RESULTS:

Subject does not have a security file but limited information concerning him appears in reference files. He is described as a 33 year old attorney with the law firm of GUILMARTIN, SCHNEIDERMAN and ASHMANN of Miami, Florida. In September 1960 ASHMANN representing the Harris Advertising Agency of Miami, Florida attached planes belonging to the Cubana Airlines and garnished funds belonging to the Cuban Government because the Cuban Government refused to pay \$429,000 which it owed the Harris Advertising Agency. At the time Fidel CASTRO was attending the 1960 meeting of the United Nations and when ASHMANN confiscated the Cuban airliner which had taken CASTRO to New York, CASTRO was forced to obtain a ride back to Havana in Premier KHRUSHCHEV's plane.

Most of ASHMANN's clients were Cuban exiles and anti-CASTRO commandos. He had stirred up speculation in the press that he was employed by the CIA because of these activities, but ASHMANN denied

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any affiliation with the Agency and in fact stated that most of his clients were outspoken in their hostility to the Agency.

In January 1963, a cable describing ASHMANN as "publicity seeking Miami attorney" was representing Jerry Patrick HEMMING who had been arrested on charges of violating U. S. neutrality laws by an attempt to form an expedition to invade a foreign country. HEMMING had been training Cuban guerrillas at No Name Key Island, Florida Keys. HEMMING's group was an independent unit not affiliated with any Cuban exile organization. The U. S. attorney in the case was of the opinion that if HEMMING were able to identify Agency personnel ASHMANN would subpoena them if trial occurred. The U. S. attorney was thanked for calling the matter to Agency attention and was referred to Internal Security Section, Department of Justice, for guidance.

DETAILS:

ASHMANN represented HEMMING in January 1963 on charges of violating U. S. neutrality laws and at the time was described as a "publicity seeker." He appeared on the radio program in November 1962 with HEMMING in which they were interviewed about the training of anti-CASTRO troops in the Florida Keys. HEMMING went to GARRISON's office in July 1967 saying he was working for an unidentified magazine and wanted information to do a story on the GARRISON investigation.

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