

MEMORANDUM

October 5, 1995 [amended by TJG January 23, 1997]

To: Jeremy Gunn

cc: David Marwell

From: Doug Horne

Subject: Cuba Project

1. This is in response to your memo of October 2, 1995 requesting a summary of Warren Commission and HSCA contacts with Cuban Government officials, identification of all records that relate to those meetings, and identification of all records that were given to the Warren Commission and/or HSCA by the Cuban government.
2. **Warren Commission contacts with the Cuban government.**

I can find no evidence in the Warren Report, or in the 26 volumes, of any contact between the Warren Commission and the Cuban Government. (Sources: Warren Report, WR Index, and the Sylvia Meagher Master Index.) However, researchers Anthony and Robbyn Summers claim that Earl Warren dispatched Assistant Counsel William Coleman on a classified mission to Cuba to investigate the possibility that Castro was behind the assassination. When asked about the trip by Anthony and Robbyn Summers, he said, "I can't talk. It was top secret." When asked to confirm or deny that he had met with Castro, he said, "no comment." Coleman did tell the authors that his mission helped convince him that Castro had nothing to do with JFK's death. (Source: Vanity Fair, Dec 1994 issue, page 105.)

3. **HSCA meetings with Cuban Government officials and accompanying witness interviews.**

Selected HSCA Committee and Staff members made two trips to Cuba; all contacts with Cuban Government officials occurred in Havana. The times, locations and names of Cubans with whom HSCA personnel met are summarized below (source: Lopez Report, Appendices 1 and 4):

Cuba Trip #1

March 30, 1978 to April 4, 1978

Cuban Officials

President Fidel Castro Ruz

The Honorable Oscar Fernandez Mell
Mayor of Havana

Dr. Armando Torres Santrayll
Minister of Justice

Ricardo Escartin
First Secretary and Consul
Cuban Interests Section
Washington DC

The Honorable Jose Ramon Fernandez
Minister of Education

Capt. Felipe Villa
Ministry of the Interior

Juanita Vera
Cuban Government Translator

Aramis Guetierrez
affiliation unknown

U.S. Officials (other than HSCA)

Senen Buergo
State Department

Witness Interviews conducted by HSCA

Eusebio Azcue Lopez
Former Cuban Consul at Mexico City who met with Oswald

Cuba Trip #2

August 25,1978 to August 29,1978

Cuban Officials

Dr. Armando Torres Santrayll
Minister of Justice

Ricardo Escartin
Cuban Consul in Washington DC

Capt. Felipe Villa
from Ministry of the Interior

Juanita Vera
Cuban Govt. Translator

Nellie Ruiz de Zarade
Cuban Govt. Translator

Aramis Guetierrez
affiliation unknown

U.S. Officials (other than HSCA)

Senen Buergo
State Department

Witness Interviews

Juan Nilo Otero
??

Maria Teresa Proenza
Third Secretary, Cultural Affairs, Cuban Embassy in Mexico City

Alfredo Mirabal Diaz
Former Cuban Consul at Mexico City (replacement for Azcue) who saw Oswald

[Allegedly Cuban intelligence official]

Jose Verdacia Verdacia
former Captain of Police at Trescornia prison

Orestes Guillermo Ruiz Perez
former Head of Commercial Delegation at Cuban embassy in Mexico City
married to Veciana's cousin

Rolando Cubela Secades
former CIA agent codename AMLASH
former Cuban Cabinet Official then in prison

Antonio Hernandez
prison guard escort for Rolando Cubela

4. **Identified HSCA records that relate to meetings with Cuban officials or witness interviews:**
(Sources: HSCA JFK Task Force Index and ARRB Open Database)
- A. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") stated that "Cuban Interviews are in Box 913", but did not list an agency file number.
- B. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") revealed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers, **for which there are *no* matching RIFs in the ARRB open database:**

Agency File Number	Identifiers
012221 Re: (10/2/78)	Cuban Govt. Questionnaire; Memo
012211 (10/2/78)	Cuba Trip, Memo by Lopez
012254	Cuban Trip 1-Transcripts (10/2/78)
006857 Document-Memo (4/3/78)	Cuba Trip, Classified
009998	Cuban Visas: 2 Visas (7/18/78)

- C. HSCA Index (under "Cuba") revealed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers for which matching RIFs *were found* in the ARRB open database (RIFs are attached to this memo):

Agency File Number	Identifiers
007512 (4/26/78)	DOS document re: visit to Cuba
"HSCA" ¹ 012209 and unidentified	Interview-Castro/HSCA (10/2/78) Photos (Castro w/ Louis Stokes
members)-(10/2/78)	HSCA
006950 Lane, Lyle F. concerning "Cuba Trip"	Withdrawal form-for document by
006945 Alex Schnee, DOS, Subject: "Cuba Trip"	Withdrawal form-for letter from
012212 (10/2/78)	Cuban Trip 2-memo by Lopez
012215 for the Cuban Government (Questions to ask Castro)	HSCA's Illustrative Questions
015025 (3/20/79)	Proposed Staff Trip to Cuba
010300 re: Cuba Trip (7/27/78)	Letter from Blakey to Escartin
013237 re: leads and information (11/3/78)	Letter from Blakey to Escartin
007347 Interview of Proenza, Teresa and Proenza, Alvarado (4/14/78)	Memo from Fonzi to Blakey re:
013779	Withdrawal slip-re: Permission to

¹HSCA Index indicates Agency File Number is 012223, but in the ARRB Open database, this number cannot be found, and the transcript of the Castro interview is listed instead under an agency file number of "HSCA".

enter Cuba (passports and visas)-(12/19/78) 006984 DOS (Schnee)(3/29/78)	Outside Contract Report from
002679 ² Fenton re: Manuel Abella (10/20/77) 008317 ³ Holmes (5/15/78)	Memo from Gonzales & Fonzi to CIA withdrawl form on Russ
010369 to Escartin (7/31/78)	Letter in Spanish text from Blakey

5. Identified records that were given by the Cuban Government to the HSCA (in each case, the HSCA JFK Task Force Index, under "Cuba," listed the following agency file numbers and associated identifiers, for which matching RIFs *were* found; all such RIFs are attached):

Agency File Numbers	Identifiers
014421 HSCA questions (1/24/79)	Cuban Government responses to
012204 Government (10/2/78)	Statement of the Cuban
Transcripts from Cuban Trip #2 (in Spanish) (9/29/78)	012208
Government Accuses CIA of Attempting to Link Them to Assassination of JFK" (10/2/78)	012216 Cuban Government correspondence from Youth Tribunal re: "Cuban
012175	Summary of translated document

²Found in HSCA Index under "Cuba" (as opposed to "Cuban Exiles"); it is unclear whether this document is related to interviews, or proposed interviews, of Cuban nationals, but its location in the index indicates the subject matter is not Cuban exiles *per se*.

³Ibid.

regarding Santo

Trafficante (re: Appalachin meeting)--attached

document in Spanish-(9/29/78)

012219

Cuban Government Statement

(essay): "Imperialism's

...Organizations and Agencies of Crime, Such as the
CIA" (10/2/78)

6. **Other Cuban documents identified which relate to the assassination:** Appendix 4 of the Lopez Report mentions two additional items passed to the HSCA during Cuba Trip # 2, for which neither HSCA JFK Task Force Index entries nor RIFs could be found:
 - A. Photographs taken by the Cuban Government of CIA photographic surveillance base against Cuban Consulate and Embassy in Mexico City; and
 - B. An article entitled: "Finally We Have Eliminated that Pinto in the White House, Said Bob, When He Heard About JFK's Assassination."

I am not aware of any other documents transferred to the HSCA by the Cuban Government.