

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Tampa, Florida, 33609
November 8, 1963

VISIT OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY TO TAMPA, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER, 1963

On November 5, 1963, TP T-1, a Cuban exile who has furnished reliable information in the past, and who is familiar with activities of anti-CASTRO organizations in the Tampa, Florida area, advised that representatives of anti-CASTRO organizations who meet weekly on Thursday evenings, have continued to discuss some sort of activity planned for President KENNEDY's visit to Tampa. Some of the individuals favor making up placards stating what KENNEDY has said at various Cuban functions, and using them in the form of a picket. Other persons do not favor the picket type demonstration. Plans are not definite yet as to what the anti-CASTRO groups will do upon the President's arrival.

On October 21, 1963, TP T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that there was a meeting of State Officers and E.C.s of the United Florida Ku Klux Klan held at Orlando, Florida, on Sunday October 13, 1963. There were about 125 to 135 persons in attendance when the meeting got underway, and during the meeting CURTIS BENEFIELD talked of a plan to make some signs and picket the Armory at Tampa on November 17 or 18, 1963, when President KENNEDY appears for a dinner and to make a speech there. The plan is being devised to show KENNEDY that he is not as well thought of in Florida as he thinks he is. BENEFIELD talked of getting about 500 Cubans to march in one group, with Klansmen, State's Righters, White Citizens' Council members, and others, to march in another, with the hope of having about one thousand marchers all together. It was suggested that those who participate leave their Klan membership cards at home, so that if they happen to be arrested, the cards will not be found on them.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
TO TAMPA, FLORIDA, November, 1963

JIMMY HARRISON gave a talk concerning the White Citizens' Council at Bradenton, apparently to advise the Klansmen how active the group is. He said that some of the members of this group would undoubtedly be glad to help in picketing the President, and they would leave their membership cards at home. HARRISON announced the date of the next meeting of the Citizens' Council at Bradenton, same to be held at the Women's Club Building at which the editor of the Augusta, Georgia "Courier", believed to be named HARRIS, will be the principal speaker. All Klansmen are invited to attend, with tickets being priced at \$1.00 each.

A characterization of the United Florida Ku Klux Klan appears in the appendix attached hereto.

Sources who furnished information set forth in this characterization have furnished reliable information in the past.

On October 16, 1963, TP T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that a regular meeting of the Forrest Club, United Florida Ku Klux Klan was held in the pasture of H. W. GRIMES, Highway 33, Lakeland, Florida, at 8:00 P.M., October 14, 1963. During this meeting O. V. BOATWRIGHT, Klaliff, mentioned that JASON KERSEY, Grand Dragon, wanted all units to send men over to Tampa when the President visits Tampa in November. No members are to carry identification of the Klan, and are to peacefully picket in the area outside the President's meeting place, carrying signs protesting KENNEDY's stand on integration.

On October 16, 1963, TP T-4, contact with whom has been insufficient to establish reliability, advised that a regular meeting of the Forrest Club, United Florida Ku Klux Klan, had been held in the pasture of H. W. GRIMES, Highway 33, in Lakeland,

VISIT OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
TO TAMPA, FLORIDA, November, 1963

Florida, on October 14, 1963 at 8:00 P.M. According to TP T-4, O. V. BOATWRIGHT, Klan Klaliff, stated that the Klan is supposed to go to Tampa when the President speaks in Tampa in November, 1963, and peacefully picket outside the building where the President speaks. They are to carry signs protesting KENNEDY's stand on integration. All Klan members are instructed not to carry Klan identification cards.

On October 22, 1963, TP T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that there was a regular Klan meeting of the Fellowship Club, United Florida Ku Klux Klan on October 19, 1963, at 8:15 P.M. at their Klavern near Plant City, Florida. According to TP T-5, JASON KERSEY, Grand Dragon, made a report on the State Officers' meeting held in Orlando, Florida, on October 13, 1963, and told of the plans made to have a lot of people picket the President when he gets to Tampa for a speech. There were ten men present, who said they would help on the 18th of November, 1963.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

APPENDIX

1

UNITED FLORIDA KU KLUX KLAN JACKSONVILLE (UFKKK)

A source advised on August 20, 1955, that a new organization known as Florida Ku Klux Klan (FKKK) had been formed at Macclenny, Florida, on August 14, 1955, by former members of the Association of Florida Ku Klux Klan (AFKKK).

The objectives of this group, according to a second source, are to oppose integration in the schools and to fight communism.

Regarding AFKKK, a third source advised that a former official of the Association of Georgia Klans (AGK) formed an organization on July 7, 1953, known as AFKKK. The "Morning Tribune", Tampa, Florida, newspaper, in its August 11, 1955, issue revealed AFKKK disbanded on that date.

A fourth source advised on October 25, 1956, that AFKKK operated under the same principles and bylaws as the AGK. The AGK has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A fifth source advised on February 17, 1958, that the FKKK was operating and maintaining the same objectives as set forth above.

The sixth source advised on June 28, 1961, that at a meeting held in Orlando, Florida, on June 25, 1961, the FKKK and the United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., in Florida, consolidated, and the new organization is known as the UFKKK.

On May 17, 1962, the sixth source advised that the UFKKK is still in existence in Florida and maintains the same objectives set forth above.