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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : LEGAT, MEXICO (105-3702)

DATE: 3/17/64

FROM : SA WADE E. KNAPP

SUBJECT: LEE-HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 PWT/AHR
ON 3/18/85

MANUEL VICENTE PORRAS RIVERA (u)

On 3/2/64, HARRY KUSHNER, Consul, American Embassy, San Jose, Costa Rica, determined from his records that MANUEL V. PORRAS RIVERA was issued a B-2 (Visitors) visa on 9/13/63, valid for multiple entries until 9/13/67. This individual was in possession of Costa Rican passport #6093-63. He was born 3/21/37 at San Jose, Costa Rica. He was described as white, male, 5' 7", with brown hair and brown eyes, a Costa Rican citizen and single. His address was shown as 500 yards south of El Oriente Grocery Store in Escazu, Costa Rica. He requested the visa to visit Miami for 15 days as a tourist and said he expected to depart on 9/15/63. (u)

On 3/2/64, Captain GONZALO ARAYA, Second in Charge, Security Agency, San Jose, advised that MANUEL VICENTE PORRAS RIVERA is a Costa Rican citizen in possession of Costa Rican Identification No. 1-254-529. He was born on 3/21/37. His parents were VICENTE PORRAS and RUTH RIVERA. (u)

Captain ARAYA advised that approximately six months ago PORRAS had contacted him and stated he was going to try to go to Cuba. He wanted to know whether Captain ARAYA was interested in his making the trip as he said he wanted to furnish information he might obtain in Cuba. Captain ARAYA advised that PORRAS' parents have a bakery in Escazu, a small town located just outside of San Jose. He said that he considered PORRAS more or less of a vagabond and did not encourage him to make the trip. He was unable to state whether PORRAS had tried to travel to Cuba but stated he would make him available for interview on the following day. (u)

On 3/3/64, GERMINAL MONGE LAZCARES, Section Chief, Immigration Department, San Jose, advised his records reflect (u)

WEK:mms
(1)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP3TEK/RH/AHR 7-5-79
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2, 1,3
DATE OF REVIEW 3-17-94

105-3702-468
SEARCHED INDEXED
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that MANUEL V. PORRAS RIVERA left Costa Rica on 9/15/63 for the United States. He returned to Costa Rica on 10/11/63. (u)

On 3/3/63, MANUEL VICENTE PORRAS RIVERA was interviewed and furnished the following information. (u)

He advised his father owns the PORRAS Bakery in Escazu, Costa Rica, and said that he is in charge of the bakery during the night shift. He advised that the Communist situation in Cuba has worried him and said he decided he would try to make a trip to Cuba in order to ascertain the true conditions there to make this information available to interested authorities. In furtherance of this idea, he left San Jose in mid-September, 1963, for Miami, Florida. There he contacted an anti-Castro Cuban and volunteered his services. He was put in contact with several other individuals who advised that they did not believe he could be of any service to them. Thereafter, he left Miami for Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, where he contacted the Cuban Consul on several occasions and tried to get a visa to visit Cuba. When the Cuban Consul in Merida refused him a visa, he traveled to Mexico City and registered at a small hotel located about three or four blocks from the Palace of Fine Arts. On a Saturday, the exact date of which he did not recall but which was apparently 9/28/63, he called at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City but was stopped by a guard or watchman outside the building and informed that the Embassy was not open. He was told to return on the following Monday. PORRAS RIVERA did not again try to contact the Cuban Embassy. He said that several days later he left Mexico City at about 8:00 or 9:00 P.M. by bus for Nuevo Laredo. He recalled that shortly before arriving at Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, he changed buses to Nuevo Laredo where he left Mexico and entered the United States at Laredo, Texas. He was unable to recall the time he arrived in the United States but said the time was about 3:00 or 4:00 P.M. on the day following his departure from Mexico City. At approximately 4:00 P.M. on the same date he boarded a bus at Laredo for Dallas, Texas. This bus, he recalled, was of the Greyhound Bus Line. He spent several days in Dallas and then traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he remained for four or five days and then returned to San Jose, Costa Rica. (u)

He was shown a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD but stated he was almost certain he had not seen the individual pictured therein either while he was trying to establish contact with the Cuban Embassy, Mexico City, or enroute to the United States. In fact, he felt quite certain he had never seen the individual pictured therein. (u)

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A photograph of PORRAS RIVERA as contained on the visa application which was made available by HARRY KUSHNER on 3/2/64 is being made an exhibit in this file. (u)

EDWARD BASTIEN (u)

On 3/12/64, ROBERT CORRIGAN, Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy, Guatemala City, Guatemala, advised he was acquainted with a number of American priests in Guatemala but had never heard of EDWARD BASTIEN. He personally contacted the Franciscan Order and was advised that EDWARD BASTIEN was not known to the members of that order in Guatemala City. (u)

On 3/12/64, records of the Citizenship Section, American Embassy, Guatemala City, were checked by FRANCIS ARENZ, Vice Consul, without locating any identifiable information. Mr. ARENZ advised that there was no record that BASTIEN had ever registered as an American citizen at the Embassy, had not applied for a passport there, or requested any other service. He said the American Embassy, Guatemala City, has not issued identification cards for about five years. There was no complete record of those which had been issued by the Embassy in the past. (u)

On 3/12/64, Mr. ARENZ telephonically contacted the Maryknoll Fathers in Guatemala City and was advised that they had never heard of EDWARD BASTIEN. (u)

On 3/12/64, CHARLES MAHER, Sales and Traffic Manager, PAA, Guatemala City, checked the manifest of PAA Flight 502 from Guatemala City to Mexico City of 10/1/63 without locating the name of EDWARD BASTIEN among the passengers. He also searched the publication of the American Society in Guatemala but found no record of BASTIEN. (u)

On 3/13/64, EMILIO AGUIRRE, Head of the Foreigners Section, Immigration Department, Guatemala City, checked his records without locating any identifiable information on BASTIEN. He advised that he felt certain BASTIEN was not a resident of Guatemala. (u)

On 3/13/64, OCTAVIO SERRANO, Consul General of Mexico in Guatemala City, ascertained from his records that EDWARD BASTIEN had applied for a tourist visa (FM8 #362357) on 10/1/63. (u) ↓

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After his name, BASTIEN listed the initials "B. M. T." He showed his age as 56 and birthplace as Montreal, Canada. He claimed to be a United States citizen and a tourist in Guatemala. He displayed Identification Card #67145 dated 9/26/50, not further identified. His Guatemala City address was shown as Plaza Motel. ~~(u)~~ ↑

On 3/13/64, ABIGAIL DE CASTILLO, wife of the owner, Plaza Motel, ascertained from her records that EDWARD BASTIEN had arrived at the motel on 9/27/63. He registered showing his nationality as American. He stated he was 56 years of age, a priest, and was from Elgin, Texas. She said he was in possession of Guatemalan Tourist Card #45801 issued in Tapachula, Mexico. Mrs. CASTILLO stated that she felt certain that he had arrived by plane. Her records showed that BASTIEN did not stay at the motel on the night of 9/28/63 but returned on the night of 9/29/63 and remained there until 10/1/63. She said she felt quite certain he had left Guatemala by plane but was unable to furnish his destination. She recalled BASTIEN as a tall individual with a rather red face, and she said he spoke good Spanish. ~~(u)~~

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