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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System  
Identification Form

Date: 4/17/201

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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90139-10162

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 109-12-210-3089

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : HQ  
TO : CIA

TITLE :

DATE : 05/22/1961  
PAGES : 2

SUBJECTS :

CIA LIAISON MATERIAL

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 1B; 1C; 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/28/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : LET

9446

SECRET

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Donahoe
- 1 - Mr. Mullins
- 1 - Liaison

COPIES MADE DATE 5/28 BY  
 RE POLITICAL MATTERS C. 6/7  
 REVIEW AT TIME AND/OR DELIVERY  
 RE REQUEST DATED 3/28  
 (SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

May 22, 1961

CIA HAS TO BE DECLASSIFIED  
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 RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION  
 IN THIS DOCUMENT, KP 5-18-98

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
 Director  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Administration Building  
 2430 E Street, Northwest  
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dulles

We have recently received information from a source who claims to have a personal association with Paul Rea, Cuban Foreign Minister, and to have had an official position in the Castro regime in Cuba until recently. Our contacts with this source have been limited but we are checking on his validity and on the possibility of continued contact with him.

According to this source, Rea has stated that while in the United States subsequent to the elections here, Rea was visited in New York City by Mr. Chester Bowles, now Under Secretary of State, or a person representing Mr. Bowles. The official opinion of Rea was sought as to what reaction could be expected from Fidel Castro and the Cuban Government if President Kennedy were to make a statement indicating the United States would be willing to negotiate differences with Cuba. It was suggested to Rea the United States would want to re-establish diplomatic relations, negotiate a commercial treaty, negotiate payment or recognition of debt relative to confiscation of American properties in Cuba and, in turn, would expect Cuba to stop its anti United States propaganda campaign in Latin America. Rea said Fidel Castro found these unofficial overtures unacceptable.

Rea also reportedly stated that in late December, 1960, the Soviet Intelligence Service had told Rea the United States planned to attack Cuba and change the Cuban Government prior to January 20, 1961, in order that President Eisenhower would not have to leave this problem to President Kennedy for solution. Rea said the Soviets claimed this information came from a Soviet contact in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Note: Cover memo Donahoe to Belmont prepared on 5-19-61, same subject, by SBD:dmd. Classified Secret since disclosure of (8) Bowles aspect and Soviet contact in CIA aspect could have seriously adverse effect.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

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MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

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5000 5000  
 7-4-68 (FFA)  
 566854/106  
 11/13/67  
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