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Memo No. 225

2 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: DC/CI

SUBJECT: Lee Harvey OSWALD

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1. The following very tenuous connection between Subject and Olga P. FERRER is brought to your attention for possible discussion with the FBI.

2. Beginning in April of this year the FBI has submitted several investigative reports on one Olga Prjevalinskiy FERRER, a professor of Russian and Spanish at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. Mrs. FERRER, twice divorced, was born in France in 1912, spent her early childhood in Russia, came to the United States from France in 1949 and became a naturalized American citizen in 1955. The FBI's interest in Mrs. FERRER was apparently generated by a phone call she made to the Soviet Embassy in Washington sometime prior to 29 January 1963, at which time she requested information concerning the possibility of American students and teachers travelling in the Soviet Union at reduced rates. Considerable background information on Mrs. FERRER has been made available by the FBI, covering her period of residence in the United States.

3. Independently of the FBI investigations, Mexico City station reported that one Olga P. FERRER rented an apartment in that city in August of this year and had arrived there as of 2 September. On that day she was in telephone contact with Nikolay Sergeyevich LEONOV, an Assistant Cultural Attache and Third Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and a long-time KGB officer. She made arrangements to meet with LEONOV later the same day. Prior to returning to New Orleans on 17 September, Mrs. FERRER was in attendance at sessions of the Thirteenth International Philosophy Congress being held at the time in Mexico City, and she was observed to be in contact with several other Soviets.

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4. No conclusions have been reached by the FBI as to the nature or extent of Mrs. FERRER's involvement with communism or the Soviet Union. From the information presently available, however, it appears to this Office that she is at least a Soviet sympathizer, if not a recruited agent. On the basis of several gaps and inconsistencies in her pre-1949 background, we have been investigating the possibility that she could even be a Soviet illegal. While there is nothing specific by which Mrs. FERRER could be connected with Subject's case, we feel that certain items of information, obtained through the investigations of the FBI and Mexico City Station, are of interest in light of the revelation in the newspapers of certain background information on Subject. We note especially the following:

a) Mrs. FERRER's residence in New Orleans.
Subject evidently spent considerable time there.

^{OSWALD}
b) The fact that Mrs. FERRER's uncle, one Boris S. DE MERING, who has had a mail address in Shreveport, Louisiana, since the early 1940's and who is associated with an oil company there, actually resides in Houston, Texas.

c) Mrs. FERRER's trip to Mexico City. She returned from there on 17 September and Subject went there on 26 September.

d) Mrs. FERRER's occupation as a professor. The "Fair Play for Cuba Committee", of which Subject was reportedly a member, was evidently made up largely of students and "intellectual" types.

e) Nikolay Sergeyevich LEONOV's actual status as a KGB officer. Subject also was in contact with another KGB officer in Mexico City. Of further interest in this regard is LEONOV's background. His personal calling card was found in the possession of Fidel CASTRO at the time of the latter's arrest in Mexico in 1956. LEONOV at that time was an employee at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. He departed shortly thereafter and, with the exception of a trip to Cuba with MIKOYAN in 1960, presumably remained in the USSR until the

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summer of 1961, when he returned PCS to Mexico City. In the spring of this year, at the time of CASTRO's visit to the USSR, LEONOV went on home leave. While there he was photographed several times in the company of CASTRO and KHRUSHCHEV, and supposedly served as CASTRO's interpreter. LEONOV's principal task in Mexico City has been the smuggling of arms to insurgent groups in Latin America, especially Guatemala.

f) The fact that Mrs. FERRER's 18-year old daughter, Marisol, is working in a French Quarter night club in New Orleans and was at one time reportedly associated with a group of juveniles who were using dope. In this regard we note the fact that Jack RUBY was the owner of at least two night clubs in Dallas and apparently has had connections with organized crime.

John W. Whiteley
SR/CI/I

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