

## CHAPTER 1

# THEY'RE GOING TO KILL KENNEDY!"

**Miami, Florida: November 22, 1963**

*Hearing a piece of coverage of the president's travels on the radio, John Martino exclaimed to his wife, "Flo, they're going to kill him. They're going to kill him when he gets to Texas."*

John Martino knew that President Kennedy was going to be killed in Dallas. He didn't know all the details but he knew the people who were involved; he had helped them during his trips to Dallas that fall. Martino was nervous that day, wanting to distance himself from what was going to happen and knowing that he couldn't.

Perhaps nervous energy prompted him to announce to his family that he would paint the breakfast room. He asked his son, Edward, to stay home from school that Friday. No reason given and no explanation offered. During the morning Martino asked Edward not to help paint, but instead to watch television and notify him immediately of any special news or bulletins.<sup>1</sup> When Edward ran to his father with the news of the shooting in Dallas, John Martino said nothing; his face simply went white. He immediately went to the family phone and began making and receiving calls, which continued for hours. It was clear to Edward that it was best he stay away, his father clearly animated and engaged in heated conversations. It's impossible to say who the calls were from or to. Martino had numerous Cuban friends in Miami, but at least one close exile associate was in Dallas that day.

For decades Martino's wife, Florence, along with other members of his family kept Martino's remarks and activities of that day strictly to themselves. Unknown to them, the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) had been given a lead by one of Martino's close friends that Martino had inside knowledge of the assassination. When questioned by the Committee, Florence denied that her husband had any foreknowledge. However months before her death, Florence finally revealed the details of the truth to author Anthony Summers, with confirmation from her son. Martino's actual involvement only became popularly known with the publication of Summers' article in *Vanity Fair* magazine in 1994.<sup>2</sup>

In 2000, the author came into communication with John Martino's son, Edward. Edward Martino personally verified a number of things that his mother had initially described, including events immediately prior to and on November 22, 1963. He also provided more detail on his 1959 trip to Cuba with his father, John Martino's arrest, and Edward's detention by Cuban police. Edward states that when his father returned from Cuban prison, he was a

changed man. He recalls visits and debriefings of his father by government officials, including a man named “Rip” whom his father seemed to like. John and Rip continued to maintain contact with each other. Edward was present when Eddie Bayo and Gerry Hemming visited John at home, and he accompanied John on a visit to members of the Cuban exile Brigade 2506. John Martino was clearly proud of becoming part of the crusade against Castro.

In regard to the day of the president’s assassination, Edward confirmed that his father came to him that morning (Edward was a high school senior in 1963) and told Edward that he didn’t look well and that he should stay home from school. This was a surprise to Edward, but a day off school was nothing to protest. He was also puzzled at his father’s request that Edward should watch TV and come get him from painting if there was any important news. During an earlier newscast on the president’s Texas trip, Edward and the family had heard John Martino remark that Kennedy would be killed if he went to Texas. During our conversations, Edward had come to the conclusion that his father was concerned that as an outspoken youngster, he might have blurted out something in public if he heard about the assassination at school. Edward also clearly recalls his father being on the phone all afternoon that day, and conversations that Castro had been behind the killing of the president.

As will be discussed in this chapter, John Martino eventually provided more details about the conspiracy to murder President Kennedy than were indicated by his remarks to his family. He did so only to two people. One was a close friend and business partner; the other was one of the reporters who covered Martino’s return from imprisonment in Cuba. In both cases, he talked about the matter almost in the manner of a confession and only in the last months of his life. In order to appreciate and evaluate Martino’s remarks, it is necessary to fully understand the life of John Martino, his associates, his activities in 1963, and his activities immediately following the assassination.

### **John Martino, History and Associations**

John Martino was born in 1911 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. As a youth he was arrested for being involved in gambling. In 1935 he moved to Miami and was arrested for running a lottery. A year later he married Florence Williams in Miami Beach. In 1943, John and Florence moved back to Long Island, New York, where John became involved with racing sheets, and was arrested for loan sharking. Clearly he was making his living as a petty racketeer. Self-taught, he also learned a great deal about electronics and electrical equipment, specializing in gambling-related electronic paraphernalia. From repairing slot machines and casino vending machines, he moved into security systems (“bugs” and a variety of devices used to tilt the odds even further toward the advantage of the house).

In 1955 the couple and their two sons moved back to Miami, when Martino began facing medical problems that required special kidney medication. He continued his electronics work and in 1956 traveled to Havana, Cuba, at the invitation of Allen Roth. Roth was involved in the management and operation of the new Deauville Hotel and Casino that was leased to Roth by Santo Trafficante Jr. and Everisto Garcia. In his HSCA testimony, Roth stated that Martino was involved in various jobs during the casino’s construction.

The Castro revolution eventually resulted in the closure of the Deauville, but over the period of 1957-59, Martino became very much involved with the casino and the FBI

reported that in 1958-59 he made an extended series of trips back and forth between Havana and Miami.<sup>3</sup>

#### DEAUVILLE HOTEL AND CASINO ALUMNI

The Deauville Casino itself had some very interesting alumni. They include Irwin Weiner, a silent stockholder in the Deauville Hotel and reportedly a financial money agent for organized crime in Chicago.<sup>4</sup> When subpoenaed by the HSCA, Weiner proved a very difficult witness. First, he admitted that he had told unidentified individuals about owning an interest in an unnamed Cuban hotel and “losing his shirt to Castro.” The HSCA had previously determined from FBI files that Weiner’s gambling holdings in Havana arose as a result of his friendship with Trafficante. For a while Weiner tried to rescind the remark about his business interest, claiming that his several trips to Cuba were mere vacations, until he was finally forced to admit to business dealings in Havana.

Further, Jack Ruby called Weiner on October 26, 1963, and when contacted by the FBI on November 27, 1963, Weiner simply refused to speak. Weiner testified to the HSCA that Ruby had called him about a bond that Ruby needed issued in Dallas. Weiner said he told Ruby he had no ability to issue a bond in Texas and had no connections that could assist Ruby. But the HSCA determined that the bonding for the Dallas Cabana Hotel and Restaurant was handled by one of Weiner’s Chicago bonding associates, Sol Schwartz.

When asked how Jack Ruby would have known of Schwartz, Weiner stated that Ruby’s brother, Earl, was a longtime friend of Weiner’s and must have directed Ruby to him. When asked about Weiner and Ruby, Earl Ruby stated that he had no knowledge that Weiner knew Ruby and mentioned nothing about ever talking to Jack Ruby about Weiner.<sup>5</sup>

Irwin Weiner was far from being the most important Deauville connection to Ruby. Two of John Martino’s co-workers at the Deauville were R.D. Matthews and Louis McWillie. Ruby visited McWillie in Cuba in 1959 during the time Ruby was actively engaged in exploring opportunities for supplying Castro with arms and materials.<sup>6</sup>

This was the same time period when Ruby temporarily became an active FBI informant. During this period, Ruby contacted Robert McKeown, one of the major Castro/Prio gun runners who was doing business from Texas at the same time Frank Fiorini, a.k.a. Frank Sturgis was working for Castro buying and smuggling in arms and materials for the movement against Batista. At this stage, that movement constituted an alliance between Batista’s deposed predecessor, Carlos Prio, and Fidel, Batista’s eventual successor.

Although apparently out of touch for approximately four years, Jack Ruby began making numerous phone calls to Louis McWillie at the Thunderbird Casino in Las Vegas. The calls began in May and continued through August of 1963. Several casino employees and others in Las Vegas reported that Ruby was in Las Vegas circa November 17, only days before the assassination.<sup>7</sup>

#### THE ARREST

On July 29, 1959, John Martino and his son Edward were arrested in Havana, Cuba. Dr. Esteves, a Castro supporter and house physician at the Deauville, informed the authorities that he had heard Martino make unsympathetic remarks about Castro and Castro’s communist leanings. Martino was accused of attempting to arrange the escape of Batista-

connected Cubans. He claimed that he was simply carrying news from Miami Cubans to their relatives, while on a business trip to set up a new electronics company in Cuba.

The end result was a trial that left Martino imprisoned in Cuba from 1959 to 1962. He received virtually no support from the American Embassy, partially because FBI headquarters had previously advised its legal attaché that Martino was engaged in “criminal or revolutionary activities.”<sup>8</sup>

Hugh Kessler, welfare officer at the embassy, reported Martino as being addicted to drugs, demonstrating a total misunderstanding of Martino’s kidney ailments and related medical requirements, which apparently caused the embassy to refuse requests to assist Martino in obtaining medicine while in prison.<sup>9</sup>

While in prison, Martino encountered and became acquainted with numerous Castro opponents. He was eventually imprisoned along with David L. Christ, a.k.a. Daniel Carswell, a senior CIA electronics (bugging) specialist whose team had been captured while in Cuba on a mission to obtain Chinese communist codes. The CIA first considered hiring Cuban criminals to help Carswell’s team escape, but later turned to legal representation. The legal mission was headed by James Donovan, the New York lawyer who had negotiated the exchange of the Soviet spy Rudolf Agbel for Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot. It intervened on behalf of several of the Americans still in prison after the negotiated release of the Bay of Pigs prisoners. This group approach was used in order not to focus attention on Christ/Carswell’s team, all of whom were released (along with Martino) in October of 1962.<sup>10</sup>

### Martino’s Connections In 1963

Upon his return to Florida, Martino publicly announced that his business was gone and he had no income. He quickly became very much involved with anti-Castro activities in Miami and related a variety of prison horror stories to various reporters, including John Cummings of the *Miami Herald*. Cummings would become one of the two individuals to whom Martino would eventually confide his involvement in the Kennedy assassination. He became a public spokesman against Castro and associated with other Miami based activists.<sup>11</sup> Martino was also visited by CIA personnel, specifically by Rip Robertson.

After his release, Martino came to be associated with many of the non-CIA aligned activists in Miami including Felipe Vidal Santiago, Eduardo Perez Gonzalez a.k.a. “Eddie Bayo,” and Gerry Hemming. He also met and was in communication with activist Frank Fiorini/Sturgis, who since 1960 had been a CIA informant reporting to Bernard Barker and to José Joachim Sanjenís Perdomo, a.k.a. “Sam Jenis.”

Later we will explore the relationship of Sanjenís with David Morales of the CIA and his role with the covert exile group that has been popularly described as “Operation 40.” Since 1962, Fiorini had been assigned to associate with, and report on any anti-Castro activities not directly under CIA supervision. He reported on unsanctioned exile operations and rogue activities, and generally acted as a “snitch” for the agency.

Martino himself referred to his association with Fiorini and Vidal when being interviewed by the FBI. He was careful to deny them as possible sources for his stories about Oswald being prepared *in Cuba* for a role in the JFK assassination. Martino specified that his

source was neither of the two men. However, at the time Fiorini was actively promoting the same information in regard to Oswald.<sup>12</sup>

For future reference, it is also important to establish some background for Bernard Barker in the context of Miami anti-Castro activities. Barker was a former Batista Secret Service policeman who became a CIA employee reporting to E. Howard Hunt. He served as liaison and paymaster to many exile groups. Reportedly he also played a liaison role with Operation 40.

Operation 40 was the unofficial designation for a Cuban exile intelligence and action team that was to accompany the Bay of Pigs Brigade as it advanced into Cuba. It has been rumored that selected exile activists were to identify and target Castro and communist cadre, neutralize, and if necessary eliminate them. It is also rumored they were encouraged to target leftist exile leaders and politicians following Castro's anticipated overthrow.<sup>13,14</sup>

Barker was also associated with Miguel Suárez of Ameritas, a Miami real estate partnership and cover for exile actions. Ameritas made the hotel reservations for the Watergate burglars, including both Barker and Fiorini/Sturgis who were among those arrested in that affair. Shortly before the Kennedy assassination, Cristina Suárez, Miguel's sister, had told Nurse Marjorie Heimbecker that President Kennedy would be killed by Castroites.<sup>15</sup>

#### THE BAYO-PAWLEY MISSION (OPERATION "TILT")

Eduardo Perez Gonzalez, a.k.a. Eddie Bayo, fought against Batista under Raul Castro and had demonstrated extreme tenacity and bravery in combat. He turned against Castro's communist regime and served on the CIA sponsored infiltration ship, the *Tejana III*. Bayo was also reportedly involved in an assassination mission against Raul and Fidel Castro that was organized out of the Guantanamo Naval Base. He later became an organizer of Alpha 66, leading that group's raids against Russian elements in Cuba.

After John Martino's release sometime during the winter of 1962, Bayo became the major proponent of a very significant story then circulating in the exile community in Miami. The story was that *two Russian officers inside Castro's Cuba wanted to defect*; that the officers were in contact with anti-Castro forces in Cuba, who in turn had advised Bayo of the situation. In addition, the Russian officers had information indicating that, though the Missile Crisis had been resolved months before, several atomic warheads and missiles were still in Cuba.<sup>16</sup> The story had supposedly emerged in a letter from an underground cell in Cuba whose members had been smuggled out through Mexico City and Spain.<sup>17</sup>

Other proponents of the "Russian Officer" story included Howard Davis of Hemming's Interpen group, who established contacts in Washington through a New York financier named Theodore Racoosin. Davis introduced Racoosin to Bayo, who claimed that the Russians were with his underground group hiding out in the mountains in Cuba. Racoosin later returned to tell Bayo that his contacts in Washington had been unable to find anything to support this story and encouraged Bayo to take an intelligence agent into Cuba to verify the story. Bayo refused on the grounds that his men no longer trusted the CIA and he would need support to go in alone.

At that point, the Russian officer affair apparently came to a temporary end. But Davis was encouraged by Racoosin to assemble exiles in Miami who were willing to bring their issues with the CIA to the administration. President Kennedy and his brother Robert were apparently open to the idea that the CIA might not be sharing the full picture of activities

against Castro. To this end, Kennedy Administration confidant Bill Boggs, the chief Latin American reporter of the *Miami News*, and Hal Hendrix, who specialized in Latin American affairs also for the *Miami News* and an important CIA media asset, met with Racoosin, Hemming, Fiorini, local DRE members, and Martino.

During this time Martino had become a very visible anti-Castro personality.<sup>18</sup> Martino was then working with a politically conservative ghostwriter named Nathaniel Weyl, author of *Red Star Over Cuba*, 1961. Weyl was also working with ex-Flying Tiger and millionaire William Pawley on his autobiography.<sup>19</sup>

Martino arranged for two ex-CIA agents on Pawley's payroll to attend the second Davis coordinated meeting along with selected conservative Florida leaders. While the discussions focused on the shortcomings of the CIA, Martino had the chance afterwards to introduce Bayo and to float his Russian officer story once again.

The upshot was that a few days later, William Pawley himself received a call from Senator James Eastland, chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Eastland had been briefed by John Martino and felt the matter should be pursued.<sup>20</sup> With known intelligence connections and assets in Cuba (where he had owned the Cuban National Airline and other major businesses before the Castro revolution), millionaire William Pawley was on first-name terms with former CIA Director Allen Dulles. Pawley had been U.S. Ambassador to Peru and Brazil, and had served as special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State. He was also an extremely vocal and aggressive opponent of Kennedy Administration policies towards Cuba.<sup>21</sup>

So Pawley was asked if he could arrange to get Bayo into Cuba and bring out the pair of Russians to testify for Eastland's committee, an event that would have caused immense political embarrassment to the Kennedy Administration. It was an appealing opportunity for Pawley, who enjoyed extensive contacts with senior levels of the CIA. These included Richard Helms (then Deputy Director for Plans), as well as most of the other Deputy Directors and Hemisphere Chiefs, including J.C. King. He'd also had previous access to the highest levels of the Eisenhower Administration.<sup>22</sup>

With this sort of intelligence clout, Pawley decided to go directly to Theodore Shackley, the head man at the CIA's giant JM/WAVE station in Miami, and pursue the Bayo matter with him. Shackley decided to cooperate with Pawley and informed his immediate superior. Records show that Pawley himself was in direct communication with Marshall Carter, Deputy Director of Plans, in regard to the mission. It was Carter who gave the high level approval for participation by *LIFE* magazine, including photographic coverage. There is no indication that plans for this incursion into Cuba were passed on to the SGA (Special Group Augmented), the executive operations group headed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was in charge of all operations in the secret war against Cuba.

Though Pawley and Shackley privately described Martino as an unsavory low life, they did invite Martino to join the Bayo-Pawley mission into Cuba.<sup>23</sup> The CIA's involvement with Bayo-Pawley project (crypt TILT) is often minimized, but at least three agency military personnel were on the mission, including Rip Robertson of the JM/WAVE staff and Mickey Kappes.<sup>24</sup> Robertson was one of only two U.S. CIA operations personnel with Brigade 2506 at the Bay of Pigs.<sup>25</sup> He served as military advisor to TILT, supplying ample high-quality equipment and weapons.<sup>26</sup>

A native Texan, Robertson had played football at Vanderbilt and was a Marine Captain in the Pacific during WWII. He performed military support for the CIA in its activities in the Guatemala coup along with David Morales, but temporarily became an agency outcast to senior officer J.C. King when Robertson took his own initiative to bomb a British ship that he had mistakenly identified as possibly Russian. Robertson remained active in Latin affairs; he joined a gold mining venture in Nicaragua and eventually became a close friend of the Somozas.<sup>27</sup>

Robertson was brought back into CIA operations for the Bay of Pigs, commanded the supply ship *Barbara J*, and led exile frogmen onto the beach. He later became affiliated with JM/WAVE operations and was the officer who debriefed Martino upon his release from Cuban prison. Florence Martino identified someone she knew only as “Rip” making numerous visits to their house. (Robertson died in 1970, supposedly of the aftereffects of malaria contracted during service in Vietnam.)

The navigator and coastal guide for the mission was one of Robertson’s close associates, the legendary Eugenio Rolando Martinez. Having guided over fifty pre-Bay of Pigs penetrations, Martinez had become the chief pilot of Mongoose missions. A decade later, he would be arrested as one of the participants in the Watergate burglary (along with Barker and Fiorini/Sturgis).

Recently available documents also show that David Morales was one of the signers of an order authorizing the deployment of the CIA ship *Leda* to provide radar surveillance for the Pawley yacht.

The *Leda* was one of only two operational CIA mother ships, specially equipped vessels used to carry, service, and generally support the smaller craft deployed in maritime espionage and raids. The cover for both mother ships was blown when the *Leda* was captured, severely hampering the ability of the CIA to operate covert, deniable missions out of Florida. *Leda*’s sister ship, the *Rex*, would be compromised later in the year during a Cuban penetration, resulting in public exposure of both the *Rex* and the *Leda*, and a major public relations nightmare for the administration.<sup>28, 29</sup>

Another passenger on the expedition was one Richard “Dick” Billings, a *LIFE* magazine staff writer brought in through the Pawley-Luce connection. Given what we know about the extensive CIA operational involvement in the mission and the participation by several very key operations personnel (including Robertson and Martinez), it seems almost unbelievable that the CIA officers allowed a public photographic record. This was a direct violation of all operational security procedures and of course would have compromised both CIA personnel and assets. Pawley himself discussed the challenge in gaining high level agency approval for such media involvement. With CIA documents that became available in 2004, we can confirm the *LIFE* magazine participation was cleared at a level significantly beyond even that of Shackley and JM/WAVE.

It was actually authorized in personal correspondence between Pawley and Marshall Carter, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, who was later to become the head of the National Security Agency. In a letter on his own personal CIA stationery, Marshall Carter responded to a communication from Pawley that contained a *LIFE* magazine letter “in connection with the publishing of a story, apparently based on a conversation with Hunt” (George P. Hunt, *LIFE* managing editor). This letter was a follow up to an earlier personal exchange between the two men in which Pawley had refused to have any part in the “defector

operation” if it involved a story by *LIFE*. From the text of the letter it appears that Pawley was communicating the insistence of the Cubans to coverage of the project by *LIFE*. In a follow-up letter from Carter to Pawley on June 1, 1963, Carter states that Carter’s “people” in both Miami and D.C. had gone along with the idea of a *LIFE* photographer accompanying the Pawley boat mission. Carter did state that the CIA people were not to be identified to *LIFE* and if their CIA affiliation was exposed, *LIFE* must promise not to mention the CIA “in any way, shape or form in the operation.”<sup>30</sup>

Clearly, even the possibility of obtaining Russian defectors who would verify that missiles remained in place was seen to have justified the extensive security risks in this mission. Carter describes it as a “golden opportunity” even though he rated the chances as slim. Certainly the Cuban exile mission participants were aware and had absolutely insisted on their activities being photographed for publication.<sup>31</sup> They knew that they would all very likely receive the national visibility that had been given to earlier DRE and Alpha 66 missions by *LIFE* photo-journalists.

The photo coverage of the trip was extensive (as can be seen in a set of the photographs included on this book’s website) and included Eugenio Martinez, one of the CIA’s most experienced and renowned covert mission boat guides. Another TILT alumni, Richard Billings, the journalist on the mission, went on to have several connections with the president’s assassination. Afterwards, he was sent to Dallas to be a part of the *LIFE* investigative team. Then he played a lead role in the *LIFE* probe of the Jim Garrison investigation, establishing a close relationship with the DA, creating an extensive series of notes and spearheading what came to be a *LIFE* media critique of Garrison’s efforts.<sup>32</sup> Finally, Richard Billings was hired by Robert Blakey of the House Select Committee on Assassinations as the editorial director for the final report of the HSCA. Billings and Blakey would later co-author a book called *The Plot to Kill the President* on the Kennedy assassination.

The tiny Bayo-Pawley mission, like the Bay of Pigs invasion, was an utter debacle. The landing team disappeared inside Cuba where it was never officially heard from again. CIA assets reported no word of the team, or of the capture or death of Bayo. Nor did any such announcements appear in the Cuban press, where they would have been eagerly received; it would have been extremely inconsistent for the team to have been captured or killed without publicity within Cuba. An “after operations” CIA report concluded that the Russian defector story was false, and had probably been fabricated to garner bureau support in placing an exile team into Cuba.<sup>33</sup> A second JM/WAVE report on June 28, 1963 reviewed the TILT mission at length and mentioned that the CIA had invested \$4,000 in what they described as a “con game” to gain transportation and equipment. The report does cite some possible positive feedback. It was anticipated that William Pawley and *LIFE* reporters who covered exile activities might be less likely to “knock” CIA activities. Perhaps most interestingly, the report suggests that certain individuals were impressed by the CIA’s willingness to take risks (demonstrating that private individuals including Pawley, Sourwine, and Senator Eastland were aware of the mission, while the president and Robert Kennedy apparently were not?) and that ten well-armed exiles had been placed and were operational inside Cuba.

At that point there is no sign of the later speculation that the people on the mother ship felt the infiltrator boat might not have made it to shore. Given the type and quantity of armament carried by the Bayo group, its goal of simple Russian defector pick-up would have seemed questionable from the beginning. This leads to alternative speculation that the

Russian cover story was a “cover within a cover,” and the mission’s goal was actually to place a highly covert Castro assassination team inside Cuba. The timing of the event seems to be a match to a story which would later be told by John Roselli, of a CIA assassination team being captured by Castro and later turned against President Kennedy.

After his return from the expedition, John Martino completed his book, *I was Castro’s Prisoner*, and began a series of promotional and speaking engagements sponsored by various conservative and right-wing organizations. He was in New Orleans on September 27 and spoke in various Texas cities on October 1-3, returning to New Orleans on October 4, before going home to Miami. While in Dallas during early October, he spoke at a meeting attended by Sarita Odio and commented on the fact that the daughters of a former fellow prisoner, Amador Odio, were living in Dallas. This remark appears to have been a slip on Martino’s part, as his book relates that he was never on the Isle of Pines where Amador Odio was being held, and made no mention of Odio at all while detailing numbers of other Cubans Martino had encountered while in Cuban captivity. There also seems to be no simple explanation as to how he would have known that Odio’s daughters were in Dallas. Martino’s knowledge and interest in the Odio sisters will be examined in following chapters.<sup>34</sup>

According to travel receipts provided to the HSCA by his wife, Martino flew back to Dallas on Sunday, October 27, his second visit that month. The record shows no speaking engagements; thus Martino’s activities on that trip remain a mystery.

Martino’s anti-Castro connections and credentials were solid. He had served years in a Cuban prison, and although suffering ongoing medical problems, had made contact with numerous Castro opponents. He demonstrated that he could be an effective liaison between a wide range of individuals in regard to the Operation TILT project, and had put his own life on the line in going on the mission itself. He was actively involved in anti-Castro media efforts, on radio, in print, and even with a book that related his imprisonment and the terrors of the Castro regime. Certainly he was well trusted and in contact with a variety of activists, ranging from the most militant exiles to fellow travelers, including Frank Sturgis and Gerry Hemming.

Indeed, Martino was so visible that others may have used his activities as a type of cover. A CIA spot report in August of 1963 had Martino involved in support of a failed Cuban exile project to assist in the overthrow of the Haitian government. The goal would have been to obtain the backing of new leadership for a Cuban Government in exile in Haiti. Although the initial report talked of some 200 exiles, a follow-up report related that actually some 25-30 individuals moved through Miami and on to No Name Key to train for the project. One very high profile Cuban politician and militant anti-Castro exile, Rolando Masferrer Rojas, and Lawrence Howard appear to have owned the lease on the No Name Key property where Howard conducted a good deal of training, including training of Masferrer military personnel and other Interpen associates. A variety of individuals from different groups were involved in the project, and preparations ran into conflicts, one which involved a confrontation between men from Masferrer’s New York group and Miami individuals, led by the son of Tony Verona. The conflict ended with Verona’s son shooting one of the Masferrer group in the leg, resulting in the departure of the groups and the return of many of Masferrer’s men to New York. Martino was interviewed by the FBI in regard to his reported participation, and acknowledged meeting Masferrer in 1958 at the Deuvalle Hotel in Havana. He stated

he had not seen him since then and certainly was in no financial position to support any anti-Castro operations.<sup>36</sup>

It appears likely that Martino's media visibility led various parties to leverage the use of his name for their own purposes, in some cases attempting to add credibility to their own stories through introduction of his name. The author has made every effort to filter out fact from rumor in relation to Martino, in regard to both his associates and activities. That effort has been greatly assisted by communications with his son, Dr. Edward Martino.

For additional background, readers are encouraged to explore the extensive Martino HSCA file collection now available online at the Mary Ferrell Foundation site.<sup>37</sup>

### **After the Kennedy Assassination “The Big Lie”**

Other than the above, we have little concrete detail on anyone else that John Martino might have been associating with during the fall of 1963. The next time he went on the public record was immediately after the Kennedy assassination.

In 1963 and 1964, Martino very publicly told a much different story—a story of Lee Oswald as a Castro-sponsored assassin. That same story was repeated so frequently that it eventually began to sound very much like a script, with other individuals touting similar claims. At the time it was striking enough to bring Martino to the attention of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. This was fortunate for us, since it is the FBI inquiry and its related documents that provide us with much of the background we need to put Martino in the proper historical perspective.<sup>38</sup>

At that time, both he and Nathaniel Weyl actively promoted the story that Oswald had been in Cuba beforehand and that he had been in contact with Cuban intelligence, and even Castro himself. Their story described Castro's motivation as revenge for continuing attempts on Castro's life by the United States Government.<sup>39</sup> To substantiate Castro's motivation, Martino wrote that the Kennedy Administration had “planned to eliminate Fidel Castro... through a putsch (coup)...a left wing administration would be set up.”

Martino would not have been privy to the level of information on covert U.S. assassination plots against Fidel Castro that he claimed to know. Much later, one of the individuals directly involved in those operations, John Roselli, began telling a story that was very similar to the one Martino was relating in December of 1963. However Roselli was actually in a position to know about these highly secret Castro assassination attempts. He himself was the gambling syndicate associate recruited by the CIA in 1960 to use criminal resources and personnel to kill Castro.<sup>40</sup>

Roselli was involved in Castro assassination activities before they became part of the official Mongoose program, and he continued to be involved in them after the project was assigned to William Harvey, the officer in charge of CIA activities in support of the Mongoose project.<sup>39</sup> During these activities of late 1962 and 1963, Roselli became the personal confidante of Harvey. We also know that Harvey was authorized by Richard Helms to continue operation of the CIA's Executive Action (assassination) program, ZR/RIFLE, during 1963.<sup>41</sup>

Immediately following the assassination, FBI and CIA informant Richard Cain (an associate of Sam Giancana and participant in the very early Roselli organized attempts against Castro) began aggressively reporting that Lee Oswald had been associated with a FPCC (Fair

Play For Cuba Committee) group in Chicago that had held secret meetings in the spring of 1963, planning the assassination of President Kennedy.

Cain speculated that Oswald had been in the Chicago area in April just prior to his purchasing the gun used in the assassination. Because Cain's report was circulated within the FBI and included a reference to Oswald's gun in the memo title, it has wrongly been stated that Cain was involved in locating the source of the Oswald rifle in the first hours after the assassination.<sup>42</sup> Other reports out of the Chicago area attempted to associate Jack Ruby with a communist party cell outside Chicago, and had him in contact with them during his Army enlistment in WWII.

Following the assassination, John Martino and Frank Fiorini/Sturgis of Miami, and Carlos Bringuier of New Orleans, all began telling the same story about Oswald visiting Cuba and being a personal tool of Fidel Castro. Strangely enough, on the afternoon of November 22 after Oswald's arrest, J. Edgar Hoover also related that the FBI had monitored Oswald on visits to Cuba.

Hoover wrote in a 4:01p.m. EST memo on November 22, "Oswald ...went to Cuba on several occasions but would not tell us what he went to Cuba for." Hoover repeated this information again an hour later in a memo of 5:15p.m. EST. Of course, this is only one of many *officially* incorrect pieces of information in the Hoover "first day" memos.<sup>43</sup>

But unlike random pieces of information coming from Dallas, it would seem to be something that would have to come from FBI files or prior knowledge and suggests unreported FBI contacts with Lee Oswald. As we will see in a later chapter, there are indications that Oswald did attempt to go to Cuba on multiple occasions and that the FBI was aware of these trips and investigated them.

#### THE PEDRO CHARLES LETTERS

In another effort to link Oswald with Castro, a letter was delivered to Oswald's Dallas Post Office Box after the assassination. It was signed by "Pedro Charles" and postmarked Havana, Cuba, November 28, 1963.

The letter describes seeing Oswald in Miami and urges Oswald to close up business, remarking that he would receive a warm welcome in Cuba afterwards. This letter and two other letters mailed to Lyndon Johnson and to RFK, identify Charles as a Castro G2 agent responsible for using Oswald to kill Kennedy. But the FBI found that all three letters were typed on the same typewriter and mailed in envelopes from a single batch. They suggest a reactive and amateurish plan to tie Oswald and the assassination to Castro.<sup>44</sup>

With one exception, virtually all the propaganda moves to tie Oswald and the assassination to Castro were poorly organized and, like Martino's efforts, had no credible sources. This lack of verifiable sources eventually caused Hoover and the FBI to reject Martino's information, although it was investigated intensely. Hoover even expressed a desire to take Martino to the Warren Commission if his Oswald information could be verified. But Martino could produce no identifiable sources and his story was eventually viewed as discredited by the FBI.

The exception referred to above relates to a series of CIA informant reports that placed a young pro-Castro member in Chicago, Tampa, Dallas, and crossing the border into Mexico as soon as it was reopened after being closed following the assassination. The young man, like Oswald, had Russian connections, had made a trip to Mexico City earlier in the fall

of 1963 in relation to traveling to Cuba, and had gotten into a fist fight that summer over his pro-Castro sympathies. Gilberto Policarpo Lopez, the subject of many mysterious CIA memoranda, held a job on one of the president's November motorcade routes, and was reportedly in Chicago, Tampa, and Dallas during the president's scheduled motorcades and was investigated for possible involvement in the assassination.

Gilberto Lopez represented a suggestive lead in regard to Cuban involvement in the assassination, and several authors have argued for that view. However, a closer examination of the various CIA reports suggests that many of them are second and third hand. It also appears that some of the first reports originated with David Morales's shadow intelligence assets. Other CIA memoranda suggest there may have been some interest in approaching Lopez (before his trip to Cuba to visit his ailing mother) because he had a brother who was undergoing military training in Russia.

All in all, the saga of Gilberto Lopez probably reveals more the creation of another Cuban-associated suspect than a lead to a Cuban conspiracy. Clearly, it would be an example where someone with access to CIA intelligence assets would have had to manage the positioning of Lopez as a suspect. Lamar Waldron examines these reports and the story of Gilberto Lopez at considerable length in his 2005 book, *Ultimate Sacrifice*.<sup>45</sup>

#### MARTINO TALKED

John Martino died in 1975. In the last months of his life, he related his participation in the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy to two individuals. The first was John Cummings, the former Miami *Newsday* reporter who had covered Martino's return from Cuba and who had stayed in contact with him over the years.

The second was Fred Claasen, Martino's business partner in Latin America where they had teamed up to sell various sorts of military gear in the decade following the Kennedy killing. Martino himself had spent a good deal of time out of the country during the years immediately following the assassination, as had many of the more radical Cuban exiles, and many of the JM/WAVE alumni. These individuals generally ended up in either Latin American anti-communist activities or in Vietnam.

Martino himself spent time in both Guatemala and Honduras, initially representing the Roths (formerly of the Deauville Casino in Havana) with real estate interests, but eventually going on to organize deals for both guns and bulletproof vests with the Guatemalan Government. (Claasen was his partner in the vest deal.)

Martino's role was actually brought to the attention of the HSCA by a very hesitant and concerned Fred Claasen. At first, Claasen approached the Committee under an alias, but eventually revealed himself for the record. The Committee took him seriously and verified the general background of his statements and his connection to Martino. However, its only direct source for verification was Martino's wife Florence, who allowed them access to some of Martino's papers. She refused to give the Committee any corroboration to the conspiracy story.<sup>46</sup>

Martino's statements to his wife and family, and those to Cummings and Claasen, were very consistent. First, he simply stated that there had been a conspiracy and that he was involved in a very peripheral way, serving as a courier and delivering money, or facilitating matters. He certainly did not represent himself as a planner or organizer, and what observations he had were limited and in line with his own contacts.

Considering the potential ramifications and her husband's recent death, Florence Martino's silence at the time is easily understood. What is perhaps less easy to follow is the committee's failure to go beyond the most elemental work on Martino's background.

In addition, it appears that HSCA Cuba specialists, such as Gaeton Fonzi, were not aware of Martino's JM/WAVE connections. Had they been given access to the details we now have on Martino, and especially the level of his contacts, including congressmen, JM/WAVE personnel, and established exile military leaders such as Bayo, their investigations might have ended quite differently.<sup>47</sup>

At this point, available information passed from John Martino to Claasen and Cummings, as well as from Martino's own family, gives us the following insights to the conspiracy. These insights involve the Cuban exile participants, and the contact with and management of Oswald which seems to have been the area in which Martino performed his tasks.<sup>48</sup>

- Cuban exiles played a significant role in the conspiracy, managing Oswald and incriminating him as a Castro-sponsored assassin (the "story line" for the plot). Two of the exiles performed as shooters in Dallas. Given Martino's role, he would know about exile shooters. This does not suggest he knew the full plan and all the possible participants.
- Oswald was approached and manipulated by anti-Castro exiles that represented themselves as pro-Castro operatives. At the time he was contacted, Oswald was being "run" in a counter-intelligence operation by a U.S. Government agency, without doubt the FBI, but possibly as part of a joint agency operation.
- Oswald was part of the plan, but not a shooter ("hit man" was Martino's term) and was supposed to meet an exile contact at the Texas Theater. Oswald's understanding was that he was being taken out of the country. The actual plan was to kill him—apparently outside the country, and very possibly in a location and fashion that would tie him to Cuba and Castro. The killing of Officer Tippit was definitely not part of this plan and indeed aborted the contact. One of the shooters was actually waiting in the Texas Theatre to contact Oswald and was released by the police after Oswald's arrest. According to Martino, the planners had to have Ruby kill Oswald, indicating that Ruby definitely was under the control of the conspirators.
- The motorcade route was known in advance and the attack was planned in detail before the assassins arrived in Dallas.

### Summary

John Martino had pre-knowledge of the plan to kill John Kennedy in Texas. John Martino "talked" in a very believable and credible fashion. At first he talked only to his immediate family, nervously, hesitantly, and excitedly. Shortly before his death, he talked with two longtime friends—part confession and part simply recollection. He made no grand claims, downplayed his own role, and limited his statements to things he personally came in contact with in playing the role he described with the Cuban exiles whose cause he was

demonstrably devoted to at the time. His story is consistent with his documented activities and personal associations in 1963. Martino's personal involvement also helps us to estimate the start date and time frame for the plot.

- Martino's method of relating his knowledge of the conspiracy is credible and consistent.
- Martino does not exaggerate his position nor claim knowledge beyond his described role.
- Martino's switch from his post-assassination public crusade to his private confession is significant and consistent with his overall remarks about his role.
- Martino was demonstrably connected to the anti-Castro people he implicates.
- Martino offers a unique insight into Oswald's role, associations, and manipulation—one that can be investigated for corroboration.
- Martino provides insight into tactical details in Dallas that can be investigated for corroboration, including the elements of advance personnel on the ground; a motorcade route known in advance; and figuring in the tactical plan, Oswald as a patsy tied to the route; Oswald framed as a Castro connected shooter; and a planned meeting and extraction of Oswald from Dallas.

John Martino provides a unique view into a conspiracy by anti-Castro elements to kill President Kennedy in revenge for his perceived betrayal of the exile cause, and to tie the president's murder to Fidel Castro and Cuba in a manner that would trigger an American invasion of the island. The immediate question is whether or not the historical record has sufficient evidence to support Martino's information. The larger question that we will examine later is how this Cuban exile milieu and its conspiratorial efforts fit into the agenda of the individuals who appear to have been driving the action of the Cuban exiles.

According to one source who will be quoted later in this book, "the street level Cubans felt JFK was a traitor after the Bay of Pigs and wanted to kill him. People above the Cubans... wanted JFK killed for other reasons."

As a starting point, we will examine the record for evidence that Oswald was not the "loner" portrayed by the Warren Commission and the media. Chapters 2 through 7 explore who was doing what in regard to Cuban affairs 1963, and how certain individuals may have come in contact with Lee Oswald. Chapters 8 through 10 examine key individuals involved with or having some knowledge of the conspiracy. And in chapters 11 through 14, we explore the sequence of events that produced the conspiracy targeted on President Kennedy in Dallas.

The evolution of the conspiracy is followed by an examination of how a true investigation of conspiracy was forestalled and how the official story line of Lee Oswald as a "lone nut" was developed and supported. Special attention is paid to Lyndon Johnson's role in limiting the investigation and suppressing evidence of conspiracy. Finally in Chapter 19, "End Game," a scenario that pulls together elements discussed throughout the book and presents suggestions for further research.

Some readers may want to read Chapter 19, "End Game," first in order to test the concept as it is developed in the book, others may prefer the discovery approach of taking it chapter by chapter. All are encouraged to read the final chapter, which deals with a variety of subjects, each of which could actually be of considerable importance.

# ENDNOTES

**RIFs:** The JFK Act of 1992 required agencies that held assassination records to document information about these records on Record Identification Forms (RIFs) for input into a master database. A copy of the RIF is also attached to each document. Those RIFs are used here when possible to guide the reader to assassination records/documents utilized in this book.

**Exhibits:** References to “Exhibit” in the endnotes refer to the master set of documents available on the SWHT website [larry-hancock.com](http://larry-hancock.com).

## CHAPTER ONE: THEY'RE GOING TO KILL KENNEDY

1. Martino's wife, Florence, and other members of his family kept John Martino's words strictly to themselves for decades, initially denying any such remarks when questioned by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The Committee had been given a lead by one of Martino's close friends. However, months before her death, Florence Martino related the truth and details to author Anthony Summers with confirmation from her son.
2. Anthony and Robbyn Summers “The Ghosts of November.” *Vanity Fair*, December 1994. Martino's foreknowledge has also been verified by Bill Kelly and Larry Hancock in personal communications with surviving members of the Martino family.
3. The FBI reports were largely prepared by Special Agents James O'Conner and were obtained and published by author A. J. Weberman. They include FBI # 64-44838-1, -2, -3, -4 and Summary Report 105-82555-3995.
4. Ibid.
5. Reference HSCA executive session hearing interview with Weiner on May 16, 1979, as well as preparation notes by HSCA staff.
6. Eva Grant, WC, Volume 14: 429 and Volume 15: 321. Also, Lamar Waldron with Thom Hartman. *Ultimate Sacrifice: John and Robert Kennedy, the Plan for a Coup in Cuba, and the Murder of JFK*, (New York: Carroll & Graf. 2005), Chapters 24 and 28.
7. Seth Kantor, *The Ruby Cover-Up*, (New York: Zebra Books, 1978), 58-63.
8. FBI reports in 64-44828 series. See also: Exhibits 1-1, “Cubans Jail Beach Man.”; “Cuba Frees Jailed Boy but Daddy Must Remain, Castro Captive and Only 12.” 1-2, “U.S. Businessman on Trial in Cuba.” articles from the *Miami Herald*.
9. Hugh D. Kessler, Protection Officer of American Embassy advised on September 24, 1959 that “he is aware of Martino's condition; his principal trouble appears to stem from the fact that he is a dope addict.” FBI 64-44828-2; Summers 615-616.
10. HSCA report from Fonzi and Gonzales to Fenton (in web site Exhibits), as well as the Carswell incident overview in Alan J. Weberman and Michael Canfield, *Coup D'Etat in*

- America*. San Francisco, CA (Quick American Archives): 1992. 156-157. See also Exhibit 1-3, passport office inquiry connecting Martino to Donovan mission.
11. FBI 64-44838-1 series.
  12. Fiorini's remarks are taken from newspaper interviews: his remarks are also mentioned in the FBI reports on Martino's claims, W C documents CD 349 and CD 295 and FBI file #DL 100-10461. For details see Exhibits 1-19 and 1-19A.
  13. Exhibit 1-8 White House Memorandum. Schlesinger to Goodwin (June 9, 1961). Sam Halpern information on Operation 40 and Sanjenis.
  14. Arthur Schlesinger memorandum for Richard Goodwin (June 9, 1961): "Sam Halpern, who has been the *Times* correspondent in Habana and more recently in Miami, came to see me last week. He has excellent contracts among the Cuban exiles. One of Miro's comments this morning reminded me that I have been meaning to pass on the following story as told me by Halpern. Halpern says that CIA set up something called Operation 40 under the direction of a man named (as he recalled) Captain Luis Sanjenis, who was also chief of intelligence. It was called Operation 40 because originally only 40 men were involved: later the group was enlarged to 70. The ostensible purpose of Operation 40 was to administer liberated territories in Cuba. But the CIA agent in charge, a man known as Felix, trained the members of the group in methods of third degree interrogation, torture and general terrorism. The liberal Cuban exiles believe that the real purpose of Operation 40 was to 'kill communists' and after eliminating hard-core Fidelistas, to go on to eliminate first the followers of Ray, then the followers of Varona, and finally to set up a right wing dictatorship, presumably under Artime. Varona fired Sanjenis as chief of intelligence after the landings and appointed a man named Despaign in his place. Sanjenis removed 40 files and set up his own office; the exiles believe that he continues to have CIA support."
  15. WC Document 301 p. 280. See also Exhibit 1-8A FBI report November 30, 1963: Marjorie Heimbecker interview.
  16. William Hinckle and William Turner, *Deadly Secrets: The CIA-Mafia War Against Castro and the Assassination of J.F.K.* (New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 1992) 188-197.
  17. *Ibid.* 189.
  18. Exhibit 1-9, *Hear Two Great American Patriots* speaker program May 8, 1963.
  19. Based on 2004 exchanges between researcher John Simkin and Nathaniel Weyl, the following should be noted: Weyl, although strongly anti-communist, did not consider himself to be right wing. In fact, he had broken association with the John Birch Society and advised Martino against speaking tours sponsored by the John Birch Society. An account of how Weyl became involved with Martino is provided in his autobiography *Encounters with Communism*, (Xlibris: 2004). Weyl had also agreed to work with Bill Pawley on a book in 1964 or later, although Weyl did not feel that describing him as a ghost writer was totally accurate. He also pointed out that Bill Pawley was not himself a flyer, but that FDR had given Pawley the task of creating the Flying Tiger organization in the months prior to Pearl Harbor. Weyl thought at the time that the Kennedy assassination probably had Cuban or Soviet links, but his only information on Oswald's possible Castro associations came from a reporter at the Sun Sentinel. Nathaniel Weyl, *Encounters With Communism* (Xlibris, 2004).
  20. It appears that Martino was introduced by Weyl to Julian Sourwine, chief counsel to Eastland's committee, and that Sourwine arranged the briefing meeting with Senator Eastland.
  21. Exhibit 1-10, "Pawley Is Named Man of the Year" – 1959; 1-11, "Kennedy Blew Chance in Cuba, says Pawley;" 1-12 "Overthrow Castro – Pawley;" 1-13, "Plan Had Castro Blocked – Pawley." *Miami Herald*.

22. Exhibit 1-14, March 1960 CIA contact memo; William Pawley meeting with J.D. Easterling.
23. Ibid.
24. David Corn *Blond Ghost; Ted Shackley and the CIA's Crusades* (New York & London: Simon & Schuster, 1994) 101.
25. Grayston L. Lynch *Decision for Disaster; Betrayal at the Bay of Pigs* (Washington & London: Brassey's, 1998) 89-96.
26. JM/WAVE support for Operation TILT is described in JM/WAVE report 9342 June 5, 1963; details of the mission are reported and illustrated in "The Bayo-Pawley Affair," *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, February 1976.
27. Peter Dale Scott *The War Conspiracy* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1972) 112.
28. WAVE-9343 Dispatch; Maritime After Action Report, June 5, 1963, from Chief of Station to Chief Special Affairs Staff. (Leda After Action file)
29. WAVE Dispatch: WAVE-0438; UFGA-9733; WAVE-9712; WAVE-9342 and COS memo UFGA-14348. Exhibit 1-15, Martino CIA 201 cover sheet; Exhibit 1-16, Martino CIA Code Names; Exhibit 1-17 Martino photo with Bayo team on mission; 1-18 Bayo mission photos from Soldier of Fortune article including Martino, Bayo, and Martinez.
30. Letter from Carter to Pawley, June 1, 1963 (See Chapter 1 Exhibits)
31. Ibid.
32. Billings' New Orleans notes are online at <http://www.jfk-online.com/billings2.html> courtesy of David Reitzes.
33. CIA FOIA 18462 to Chief Special Affairs Staff, from COS JM/WAVE, June 28, 1963 RIF 104-10312-10178.
34. John Martino *I Was Castro's Prisoner* (The Devin-Adair Company, 1963) Reprinted JFK Lancer, 2008. CE3108, November 29, 1963. Sylvia Odio FBI interview describes Martino's remarks relayed by her sister to her. Martino reportedly stated that he had been on the Isle of Pines for three years with Amador Odio and that he knew that Odio's daughters were living in Dallas in late 1963: "John Martino spoke, who was an American, who was very clever and brilliant. I am not saying that he is lying at all. When you are excited, you might get all your facts mixed up, and Martino was one of the men who were in Isle of Pines for 3 years. And he mentioned the fact that he knew Mr. Odio, that Mr. Odio's daughters were in Dallas, and she went to that meeting. I did not go, because they kept it quiet from me so I would not get upset about it. I don't know if you know who John Martino is." <http://www.jfkassassination.net/russ/testimony/odio.htm>. 380
35. The FBI reports were largely prepared by Special Agent James O'Conner and were obtained and published by author A. J. Weberman. They include FBI # 64-44838-1, -2, -3, -4 and Summary Report 105-82555-3995.
36. CIA cable, August 13, 1963 as shown in FBI file 105-95677-337; FBI memo on John Martino, RIF 124-90033-10054, confirmation of Martino's difficult financial position confirmed by the author in discussions with his son, Edward Martino.
37. <http://http://www.maryferrell.org/mffweb/archive/docset/getList.do?docSetId=1229&page=1&sortBy=title>
38. FBI Report 124-10035-10367. Exhibit 1-19, *John Martino, Cuba and the Kennedy Assassination* (Human Events, 1964). [http://www.cuban-exile.com/doc\\_226-250/doc0237.html](http://www.cuban-exile.com/doc_226-250/doc0237.html); Exhibit 1-19A, FBI memorandum, Miami, Florida May 8, 1964. Efforts to locate Cuban Source of John Martino's information regarding Oswald's activities in the Miami area.

39. September 24, 1960. Initial meeting is held between CIA Operational Support Chief O'Connell, mobster John Rosselli, and Robert Maheu, a private investigator with CIA ties, at the Plaza Hotel in New York for the purpose of planning assassination of Castro, Church Committee Report, "The Assassination Plots." See also, FBI Memo to Attorney General, May 22, 1962, Subject: The Johnny Rosselli Matter, FBI 62-109060-4984.
40. JFK authorizes a major new covert action program aimed at overthrowing the Cuban Government. The new program, codenamed Operation Mongoose, will be directed by counterinsurgency specialist Edward G. Lansdale under the guidance of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. A high-level inter-agency group, the Special Group Augmented (SGA), is created with the sole purpose of overseeing Mongoose. The Cuba Project, March 3, 1962; Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders, November 20, 1975. 139, 144. See also JFK Lancer <http://www.jfklancer.com/cuba/>
41. "Executive Action Capability;" i.e., a general standby capability to carry out assassinations when required. Executive Action program came to be known as ZR/RIFLE.
42. Reference RIFs 104-10429-10223 and 104-1048-10216, CIA Segregated Files.
43. Peter Dale Scott *Deep Politics III, The CIA, The Drug Traffic and Oswald in Mexico* (History Matters, 2000). [http://www.history-matters.com/pds/DP3\\_Overview.htm](http://www.history-matters.com/pds/DP3_Overview.htm).
44. WC Document 59 and 961.
45. Waldron 657-658; 676-677 and index 887.
46. Exhibit 1-20, HSCA March 1977 memo on Martino and Pawley expedition, Exhibit 1-21, HSCA August memo on initial contact by "Fred" and his detailing of Martino's comments on his involvement in the Kennedy conspiracy, Exhibit 1-22, HSCA October memo on contacts with Martino family.
47. HSCA Martino investigation memos from Fonzi and Gonzales to Cliff Fenton; Record Number 180-10096-10238 and supplemental report.
48. Summer's *Vanity Fair* article and HSCA memo from Lawson to Fenton on John Martino's Cuban Connection, Record Number 180-10105-10173.

#### CHAPTER TWO: ...AN EX-MARINE, AN EXPERT MARKSMAN

1. Hinckle and Turner 116. Also Fonzi 109-110.
2. Hinckle and Turner 52, 53, 366-367; Dick Russell, *The Man Who Knew Too Much: Hired to Kill Oswald and Prevent the Assassination of JFK*, (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1992), Chapter 19; Also, Bernardo de Torres, Bay of Pigs veteran, Brigade 2506 intelligence officer and investigator for DA Garrison stated in his HSCA testimony that he was aware of the existence of Operation 40 although he himself had not been part of the group.
3. WC volume XI: 372; overall Odio testimony: 367 – 389.
4. WC volume 16: 834 and HSCA: 138-139; best coverage is in Gaeton Fonzi *The Last Investigation* (New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 1993), where Fonzi relates his in-depth investigation of the Odio incident for the HSCA.
5. Joan Mellen *A Farewell to Justice: Jim Garrison, JFK's Assassination, and the Case That Should Have Changed History* (Washington, D.C: Potomac Books, 2005) 220-221.
6. The Odio incident at the very least destroys the official history of Lee Oswald as a "lone nut." If Sylvia Odio had gone to the authorities with her story on November 22, her story would have supported conspiracy charges against Oswald and also would have implicated the suspicious Latinos—Latinos who had confidential information about her father and who could have easily been Castro agents. Her failure to do so may have been based on fears for